

Interviewee: Glenda Hildenbrand

Interview Date: April 5, 2026

Writer: Addison Gogel
8th grade, HHMS

Glenda Kay Hildenbrand is my grammy on my mom's side of the family and is one of, if not the best person I know. Growing up in the 60's and 70's, she learned to work hard yet live life to the fullest. Our interview focuses on early childhood adventures to becoming a married wife at just 18!

Q: Starting off easy, what is your birthday?

A: September the 14th. Now I'm gonna tell my age... 1957!

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up in Gentryville until I was about 14. Then we moved out to the country until I was around 16. My parents got divorced and so that's when we went to Dale and I moved with my mom and sister Sherry. My dad got a different place on the outskirts of Dale.

Q: Did you see your dad very often?

A: Not a lot. He remarried pretty quickly, and unfortunately his wife was not very nice and jealous of the kids. I would go visit him because at that point I had my drivers license but he never came to see me.

Q: Did you have any relatives that you loved spending time with?

A: Yes! We did not take family vacations like what people do now, but my aunt and uncle lived in Detroit, Michigan. Every summer I would look forward to visiting them for one whole month by myself. They took me on a big boat for the first time, kind of like a ferry, and it took us to Boblo island near Canada and I was mesmerized cause I was probably only 10 or 11. Aunt Marge would take me to the zoo and shopping! There

was also this neighbor boy named Mike and he looked like a good little kid, but I had a crush on him big time!

Q: What happened to him?

A: Back then, people wrote letters and so Aunt Marge wrote to my mom and she told me that Mike was killed in a car accident. It tore me up. That was probably one of my first experiences with death.

Q: How old were you?

A: I was probably 14 and he was 16.

Q: Did you hang out with your cousins all the time?

A: Some of them more than others. I was closest to Jerry and he's the one who eventually married my best friend Tina. I worked with her out at Nickerson Farms as a waitress and so I invited Tina to a family reunion and hooked them up on a little date. When we were younger, Jerry and I would ride horses and go on double dates to prom and he was kind of like a boy best friend. It's perfect because they're not jealous and you can tell them all kinds of things!

Q: What happened to Jerry and Tina?

A: They got married but unfortunately for only 10 years since he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease and passed away. Now she is married to Phil!

Q: What did you and your friends do for fun?

A: We would ride horses, or drive our cars to get something to eat. We would hang out at little parties or go to the movies, the drive in, and roller skating at Jasper!

Q: What things about your room did you like?

A: My purple black light, lava lamp, and some of those beads hanging in the doorway.

Q: What about clothes?

A: Definitely bell bottoms, mini skirts, blouses and shirts tucked in with belts, coats with fringe hanging off of it, leather, and the wet look with really shiny jackets.

Q: What did you do in the summer?

A: Make homemade ice cream and play hide and seek in the dark. One time I was on the front porch right by the highway, counting until 'here I come!' and I opened my eyes and this horrible scary man was staring right at me. I ran to the backyard screaming and we later gave him some food because he was a 'hobo' or homeless.

Q: What was your first car and did you remember any stories from your family?

A: A cream Volkswagon, and actually in my grandparent's generation it was very common for the women to not have their drivers license.

Q: What jobs did you have and how much did you get paid?

A: At 14 and 15 I would babysit for the weekend and make around \$10. Once I got my drivers license, I worked at St Nicholas (which is no longer in Santa Claus) as a waitress making \$2 or \$3 an hour plus tips. After I was married, I babysat until I "retired" and just started watching my grandbabies.

Q: How did you and Papaw start dating?

A: I had always known him from middle school at Dale but once we got to freshman/sophomore year we started talking more. He actually started hanging out at my locker a lot and I found out later that a friend of mine told both of us that we liked each other. Whenever we started dating, little fights and break ups were common and he actually broke up with me going into senior year because he wanted to hang out with "the boys". Once we got back

in school, we started dating again and I knew that all I really wanted was to have babies and a family with white picket fences rather than chase my original dreams of being a stewardess.

Q: How did he propose?

A: We were at a hot summer car race and he gave me a little box and told me he loved me. Inside was a Lindy Star ring and I started crying since it wasn't at all what I had envisioned for my engagement. Later on he took me shopping for actual rings but I ended up losing the one he bought 5 years later while skiing.

Q: Where did you go on your honeymoon?

A: We went to Gatlinburg and actually shortened our stay by 2 days which made me as happy as a peacock! I was only 18 so I was very homesick and cried secretly because I didn't want him to think I was having regrets.

Q: Wrapping up, did you think your life would turn out the way it did?

A: It actually turned out better. There were a lot of times when I was young where I was scared about how my life was going to turn out but I have been very blessed! 18 is too young to get married though!

Q: If you could give any advice to kids now or your younger self, what would you say?

A: I wish I would have tried harder in school. The things that seem big right now won't even matter later. Whatever career you choose, choose it because you enjoy it, not because of the money. After all, you will be doing it for a good amount of your life. Don't ever be caught up in doing something just because somebody else makes you feel bad about what you really want to do.

* Thank you Grammy for letting me interview you and congrats on your 50th anniversary!!

Early Life of Joseph Harney

Interview Date: Apr 4, 2026

Writer: Kate Miriam Harney
8th grade

Heritage Hills Middle School

The person I interviewed was Joseph Harney, he is my grandpa and he's 68 years old.

This interview focuses on what his goals and achievements were when he was younger. The interesting things you may learn about him are his amazing athletic accomplishments, and what he did in his everyday life.

Q: Were there any relatives you loved spending time with?

A: I loved to spend the weekend with my uncle.

Q: Why did you like spending time with him?

A: They live in the country, and we rode bikes everywhere.

Q: Who was the funniest person in your family?

A: My younger brother Perry, because he

was very uncoordinated and he would fall down, then roll and I would start laughing.

Q: Do you remember any stories from your grandparents?

A: Yes, my grandparents had a chicken farm and a goat farm, the goats were always funny, they would come and try to button you if you crossed their fence.

Q: What was a normal day like in your home?

A: All day we would play anywhere we wanted, as long as we were home by dark, unless it was a school day.

Q: What type of foods did you eat when you were younger?

A: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and corn.

Q: What is your earliest memory?

A: Going boating and going to an island where we would eat fried chicken or sandwiches everyday when I was about 3 or 4.

Q: What did a perfect day look like when

you were younger?

A: I would get up in the morning, eat a bowl of cereal, then we would play baseball until lunch time, then we would go home and eat lunch, after that we'd go back and play baseball again, and we used to compare our favorite players... mine was Johnny Bench.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories from childhood?

A: Beach ben park in Bowling green Kentucky.

Q: Why was it your favorite?

A: It was a family outing, it had tons of rides, games and go karts, my favorite was bumping cars.

Q: What are your best school memories?

A: Playing sports.

Q: What was your favorite sport?

A: Football.

Q: What position did you play?

A: Running back, and I was the MVP my senior year.

Q: What sports/extracurriculars did you do?

A: I played track throughout middle school and I set all the track and field records like the 200-yard sprint 400 yd sprint, long jump, hurdles, and shot put.

Q: What other jobs or responsibilities did you have before your 20s?

A: I worked on a farm and I worked on a body shop, then I got married at 19.

Q: Okay what job did you have on the farm?

A: I cut tobacco down and worked with plants.

Q: What did you want to be when you grew up?

A: A race car driver, because my neighbor was a NASCAR driver, Darrel Waltrip

Q: Hopes in your dreams before you turn 20?

A: I still wanted to play pro football, but then reality hit and I had to go to work.

* Thank you for letting me interview you!

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