

Interview with Axel and Barbara Anderson  
Marquette, MI  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009

Josh McDowell (JMD): Interviewing Barbara and Axel Anderson May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. Tell me a little bit about yourself Axel. When were you born and your home town you grew up in?

Axel Anderson (AA): I was born August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1932 in Escanaba, Michigan. I'm the oldest of six children I was a sophomore at Northern, I just finished my sophomore year and then I got a call from home that I had a new baby brother, so there are six of us and we are really spread out, three girls and three boys. I attended Escanaba high school and participated in the North South All Start Football game after my senior year and was scouted by coach Money from Northern, who wrote a letter to me asking me if I would be interested in coming to Northern and playing football which I did.

JMD: And you Barbara?

Barbara Anderson (BA): I think it wasn't much of a choice for Axel to go to Northern, either, to go to college. He hadn't planned on attending college when he was in his senior year. Then we started going together, going steady, and I was going to enroll in St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Marquette, so when coach Money called Axel in that it wasn't too much of a decision he had to make. He wanted to go where I was going also, so that was one of your decisions too right? And he graduated Northern in '54 and I graduated from St. Luke's in '53.

JMD: Okay and what was your date of birth?

BA: My date of birth is November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1982 [supposed to be 1932?] in Escanaba.

JMD: What were some of the sports that you played in high school and what were the sports you were involved in, in high school?

AA: In high school I was involved in three major sports, football, basketball and track. Those were the three sports that I got involved in for four years, yea. I was offensive and defensive end in football. Basketball I was a guard. Track I pole-vaulted, which was my specialty. I was fortunate enough to win the Upper Peninsula championship in the pole vault as a junior. I also did the long jump and ran on a relay team and then my senior year I went pole vault again in the Upper Peninsula and also took second place in the long jump my senior year. Then we went to Ironwood which was the site of the U.P. championship that year and we only had nine individuals who placed. At that time there were no girl sports, so there were nine boys and we lost the U.P. championship by a fraction of a point.

JMD: Can you tell me a little bit about your home life or how it was growing up for you, because I know that a lot of these athletes were scholarshipped because of the fact that there wasn't a lot of money back then and what not.

AA: Yes as I said a large family, my father worked for the railroad as an ordinary repairman, repairing the cars that carried the ore. When they came in they had to be repaired occasionally. Mom was a housewife, very few women worked during those days. Most often than not my father was laid off

during the winter months and was able to get together with two brother in laws that were commercial fisherman and during the winter they would set net sunder the ice and fish mainly for white fish. We had one car like everybody.

BA: A little truck.

AA: It was a truck, so it was difficult with a large family getting around, except in the summer and we would go blueberry picking and the entire family would go. Two or three in the front the rest were in the back on the pickup truck and we would stay all day picking blueberries. There was no television. We would listen to the Packer games on Sunday on our radio. On Saturdays my job was to scrub the kitchen and bathroom floors which were linoleum and my reward was ten cents to go to the football game on a Saturday afternoon and once winter came it was another ten cents to go to the movies on a Saturday afternoon. Families were very close; very, very close not too many interruptions like today with all these activities that go on afterschool in the summer and the sports workshops in the summer, so summers were pretty leisurely, swimming and neighborhood ball games, things like this.

JMD: How did you come to Northern were you a scholarship athlete or were you - ?

AA: As Barb mentioned she was going to go to Northern and I had no intentions of going beyond high school my thoughts were to be a, continue professional fishing like my uncles did. I enjoyed that. I worked several summers at the Escanaba paper mill filling in for summer jobs, you know, people would take vacations, so every week or so I would be on a different job, which was nice. Getting back to how I got to Northern, as I mentioned I was in the U.P. All Star Game, there was a North team and a South team selected by local sports writers in the Upper Peninsula and it was there that I met Jerri Pangrazzi and Coach Money from Northern was scouting that game because there were supposedly the top athletes in football in the U.P. so he wanted to get a look at the crop and later on I received a letter from coach Money asking me to come to Northern and play football, which I did. The first year there were no scholarships, athletic scholarships, so I remember board and the tuition and books were all paid for by my family and we sacrificed quite a bit, I don't think there were nationally fenced loans or grants. The cost of college was low but the income that parents owned was also very low. You know, one parent working family with six children and my first year I stayed in a private home upstairs, a one room and I lived on Third Street which was almost a balls throw to the Yoooper Dome down in that area and Mrs. Chub who had a –

BA: She had like a boarding house and she served warm meals. Did you have breakfast there too?

AA: Yea, I had three meals.

BA: Three meals a day to a certain group of guys that signed up and they went to her home every day for three meals.

AA: Yea three meals a day.

BA: Do you remember what you paid?

AA: I really don't remember but the food was very good, plenty of food cooked by Mrs. Chub and then the summer as we mentioned I worked for the Paper Mill. I was able to earn some money to continue coming back. My sophomore year I pledged for the Tri Mu fraternity which was not too far from

campus, a couple blocks and I lived there with the Tri Mu. A lot of them were athletes, that's how I got pledged and continued eating at Mrs. Chub's boarding house and that was my sophomore year and my junior year is when they started the first grant and aid scholarship program for athletes and we paid our tuition and books and my senior year, I don't recall my junior year, but my senior year tuition was 75 dollars a semester and Coach Money got the 16 athletes that were involved in the program. The first program had 16 athletes and we all had jobs which paid for our board, our meals and I was working in the cafeteria with Jerry Pangrazzi, fellow Barracks Boy and doing dishes, working in the kitchen, pots and pans this sort of thing about two hours a day after football or basketball or track, I was in all three sports and some of the other athletes worked in dormitories sleeping, cleaning bathrooms, working in the gymnasium, locker rooms. Coach Money had a little thing going, if you were working in his office, the gym, or the shower room, or the locker room. He put a penny down on the floor here and there and if that penny was there the next day he knew that you didn't clean your area.

JMD: What year did you enter Northern as a student?

AA: '50 – '51. The fall of '50.

JMD: So you were there before the Barracks Boys program started?

AA: Yes, yes my first two years as a student.

BA: Can I interject one thing? When Axel graduated from High School, as we said he had no intentions his senior year of going to college, so in the summer then when he decided he really wanted to go to Northern, he didn't have the right credits from high school. He had taken a lot of technical courses and in those days you either took a college prep courses or more technical, they had lots of technical classes and one of his technical classes was radio, was called radio. He didn't have any chemistry to get into college. He didn't have the history requirement, so when he entered Northern and started with the football practices and everything. He had to take his regular college classes and he had take to high school history and he had to take high school chemistry and this was during football and it went on through the whole year, so he was a pretty busy guy and I was always so proud of him that he never thought of quitting or saying it was too difficult and my kids got tired of hearing that, you know, if they were going to do this or quit that or something. I said, "Look at your father." And he didn't have any chemistry in high school so that was quite a challenge. So, he would come over to the Nurses Home and we would meet down in the Nurses Lounge. It was private nurses home there, well it was run by the hospital and he would bring his chemistry over and I tried to help him with it because I had taken high school chemistry and I was taking chemistry at college, so we got him through it. I think he might have had a D+ or something but he passed and I'll never forget that he never wanted to give up on anything.

JMD: For the first two years you were off campus and you stayed in a single room. Did you move in the second year to the fraternity house?

AA: Yes I did. I moved to the fraternity house, as I mentioned most, the majority of the Tri Mues were athletes and the majority of the people eating at Mrs. Chub's house were athletes and I guess that's how I got connected with the frat house, Tri Mue House.

JMD: So there was a common bond there, you were all pretty much athletes?

AA: Yea we knew each other.

JMD: Was Northern at the time serving meals in the cafeteria or was there a cafeteria there or was it just cheaper to eat at the - ?

AA: Yea there was a cafeteria but it just a girl's dorm for the first two years I was at Northern. In fact, I'm sorry there never was a boy's dorm when I was at Northern, it was just the girls.

JMD: So was it just the girls in Bedville or just the girls?

AA: No, the girls lived in Kerry Hall which was a dormitory and the cafeteria was right there. The men had to live in private homes or frat houses and get their meals elsewhere. I believe in that paper that you have like this, it mentions that after four years of the Barracks Boys ended because a men's dorm was built and everybody then, the Barracks Boys moved into the dormitories, so it was four years of barracks

JMD: Do you know the name of the dormitory they built?

AA: I think it was Lee Hall.

BA: We have a history book on Northern somewhere. The girls lived in the dormitories and when they first opened up the cafeteria for you guys to go there for breakfast. All the barracks boys trooped over there for breakfast and the girls were used to just coming down in their house coats, their hair up in curlers and they all stopped dead and up the stairs they went and from that day on they all came down all set to go because the Barracks Boys were there.

JMD: Were you one of the women that lived in the dormitory?

BA: No I lived in the nurses' home at St. Luke's that was only two blocks away.

JMD: What sports were you involved in at Northern?

AA: All three, football, basketball, and track. Same things I mentioned in track, pole vault, long jump and relay team. I lettered, varsity lettered in football and track my freshman year and the next three years I lettered in all three years. I earned 11 varsity letters out of twelve. There are two twelve letter men in the history of Northern, George McCormick who was a senior when I was a freshman and Burt Gustasen who was from Newberry. Who went on to be an assistant coach with the Green Bay Packers?

JMD: What positions did you play in football and basketball?

AA: Football an offensive, defensive end and then my senior year I played a little bit of defensive linebacker and end. I had good hands and fairly good speed, wasn't very big but - .

JMD: And in basketball?

AA: Guard, yea. I didn't score a whole lot but I had a lot of assists every game and a lot of rebounds. I was a good rebounder and a lot of assists, setting up other players to score, yea.

JMD: What teams would you play in football, basketball and in your track meets what teams would you run against?

AA: Well our biggest rivalry was Michigan Tech home and away. We played Oshkosh University, not every year but once in a while. Northern Ohio, Ohio Northern I think it was and there was a team from Joliet Illinois. We played Ferris State, and then it was Ferris State, Wayne state we played. In the UP I don't think we played any other teams. We had a game with Sault Tech one year, my freshman year and it was snowed out, it was at the end of the year and it was cancelled.

JMD: Was that for football?

AA: Yes, football and we traveled to Ohio and to Lower Michigan and Wisconsin that was about it as far as schedule. A lot of schools our size, Northern was a smaller school then. My freshman year we were a little over a thousand students and then the next three years it went lower yet. My freshman year there were a lot of seniors that were vets that came out of the service and graduated and after that and when I was a freshman most of them were gone and there were a lot of them.

JMD: Since there were a lot of vets was the age higher than the normal college students these days?

AA: Yes, yes, they were. Some of them were married and had children; they were on our ball teams.

JMD: So that must have been quite unusual. They must have been in their late twenties?

AA: Yes.

JMD: There was quite an age difference than.

AA: Yes and I think the thing I remember most is they were almost like father figures, you know, they really took us young kids under their wings and they really helped us, very helpful.

BA: Some of them were drafted right while they were in college and spent four years in the war and then came back.

JMD: Which war would that be?

BA: World War II, we call it The War. The Big One. Remember one of your friends, the one that lives in Gladstone, Axel, with the prostate cancer, well anyways he was drafted later and some spent more than four years. You just didn't get discharged the day the war was over and you know he was a friend of John Petersons too. I remember telling about some of his experiences and they would tour off quickly, you know what I mean. Axel was able to finish Northern before he got drafted, this was during the Korean War and the draft wards kept close contact with everyone and telling you when you were going into service and Axel got a deferment the last few months of his senior year and then when he graduated there happened to be enough volunteers coming in, so his time was put to August and you entered in, in August right? It was mandatory then.

JMD: For basketball was it the same teams too, that you played?

AA: Pretty much the same, we played Suomi at that time they had a basketball program, Finlandia; yea it was pretty much the same. One year we played University of Mexico came here and Wayne State came here. We played our games at the John D. Pierce high school which was part of Northern, the training school for teachers. The gym was very small and it had a balcony around it, a lot of the old schools had

balconies around and on each end of the gym there were large steam pipes underneath the balcony and Wayne state, several, two or three times we were pressing them to take the ball out of bounds they'd hit that steam, they would throw the ball and they would hit that steam pipe. They were very frustrated playing in that little cracker box and we beat them; they were a much bigger school than us at the time.

JMD: Did you move into the old barracks that were on campus or did you stay with the fraternity?

AA: No, no we stayed, all the Barracks Boys stayed right in the Barracks, there were 16 of us. I was part of the original, the first group to live in the barracks and there were 16 athletes. Some, several played three sports, some were two sports and some were one sport and the Barracks had in the middle of the was the entry way and there were 8 athlete students lived on side of the barracks and 8 on the other, bunk beds. We had bunk bed too up and down. In the middle of the Barracks were the restrooms, showers, couple showers, couple toilets, couple wash basins and a big oil burner. The oil burner, that was our heat for the winter that one oil burner and the Barracks at the time, this was 1952, 53 they were old at the time and they were not very well insulated and I think they had a skirt around the bottom of it to keep the cold air from coming up underneath but that was our home and there were a couple desks, also, on each end for studying with lamps and most of us went to the library to do our studying because it was always goofing around. Somebody goofing around and noise and laughing and so if it was a serious test or that coming up, we'd get out of there and go to the library. We paid a dollar rent a year, a semester and we worked as I said, we all had jobs to do and that covered our food, which we ate at the dormitory and the oil, the oil we had to earn for ourselves also pay for the oil and we did that by working for the concession stands at Northern in ball games. I didn't have to work because I was involved in three sports but some of the guys that were in two sports or one sports had the time off, they would work at the ball games, selling hot dogs, popcorn and pop, and ice cream and the money we made, profits we made from that went into paying for the oil. Our parents had to come up with tuition, which was 75 dollars a semester, and the books which were reasonable at that time, very, very expensive now as you know compared to what we had to pay for.

JMD: Where did you play football, what was the stadium or where was it?

AA: We played at Memorial Field, Marquette the high school field. We played our ball games there and as I mentioned basketball was in John D. Pierce High school.

JMD: Where would track be held?

AA: Track was at memorial field but Coach Money, I believe in my junior year Coach Money and a group of athletes with the help of some of the professors at Northern that could give us some expertise, we built a track. Which at that time was right near the Barracks, a brand new track and then my senior year we ran track there, that's all gone now.

JMD: Where was the Barracks? Was it just one building or was it multiple buildings because you only said sixteen of you?

AA: Yea, it was called Vet Ville because there were a number of them, they are called Quonset huts, and the married vets that were going to Northern lived in those with their families they were like apartments. Probably had an apartment on each end, they weren't very big.

BA: And there are several of those Quonset huts down near Harvey on the river, they moved down there after they closed down Vet Ville at Northern. I can't tell you how to get there, but they are down there right by the rail road ridge in Harvey. Yea they were very small, one or two bedrooms and families. You guys lived in one of those buildings on the outskirts of Vet Ville or on the end or something like that nearby?

AA: Yea, nearby on the end. It was by itself but it was near the Vet Ville area.

JMD: With the scholarship was it contingent that you live in the Barracks or could you live anywhere?

AA: No you had to live in the, you stayed right there.

BA: It's called Grant and Aid right?

AA: It's called Grant and Aid Scholarship.

JMD: Was C.V. Money, was he able to get it from the state of Michigan or the United States Government or the grant?

BA: It was just a term, he arranged for them to live in the barracks. He arranged for them to get their jobs. He did everything. He arranged for these fellows to be able to go to Northern if they could come up with their own tuition and books, so it was just grant and aid was just helping them to be able to go to Northern, but there was no scholarship for the tuition or books.

JMD: So was it a scholarship or was it just grant money that would provide them for the housing?

BA: Somewhere probably, something had to be paid for, for the barracks but the fellows never received any money or any vouchers or anything like that.

AA: Nope, No, Josh on this paper, what you have it says the first Grant and Aid, parenthesis, Athletic Scholarship program at Northern began in the fall of 1952, so it was a grant and aid but it was also an athletic scholarship for athletes. I don't know how to better explain it, I don't think it was a federal grants that were coming from the-

BA: Something C.V. Money came up with to get the boys, to get the athletes from the U.P. To be able to go to Northern and to be on his football, he ran the whole program. He did all three sports. He was athletic director. He did the newsletters. He did the programs. He typed up the articles for the newspapers. I don't know when that guy slept.

AA: And he taught classes.

BA: He taught classes.

JMD: So he was kind of a do it your selfer?

AA: He'd go down to his office in the evening, like if you were working or that and Coach Money would be in the office with his old type writer, hunt and peck, hunt and peck that's how he did it, no computers.

JMD: So what was the relationship between the athletes and C.V. Money?

AA: Well he was like a father to us. We didn't really appreciate him as much as when we left and then thought back of everything he had done for us and at the time, you know how you are when you are young and take things for granted. When you sat down and realize like Barb just said everything he did for the university, then he had an intramural program that he ran also in the evenings and the athletes, the basketball players were referees. I can remember refereeing intramural games, so he had the whole program. He had some assistant coaches, not many but he ran the whole shebang and did a wonderful job doing it really. A very professional person and I think he majored in English and was very good at grammar and spelling and writing.

BA: Writing wonderful articles.

AA: I remember sitting in class, we had theory of play, theory of basketball, theory of track, and what else, you know, all in the phy ed department, but phy ed majors that would like to be coaches would take those classes from him, but he did that also, unbelievable.

JMD: In a previous interview with Mr. Pangrazzi he said that there was a sense of community between Northern athletes and Marquette itself, whereas you guys would go out and volunteer. You would clean up yards, were you quite involved with that also?

AA: Yes I was, that was expected of us, it wasn't a requirement in writing but coach Money encouraged us to do those volunteer activities and sometimes it was working crowd control for something going on at a high school, working at a high school track meet, helping out, putting up storm windows for elderly people, doing some raking and just volunteer. I think there was a good rapport, then, between the Barracks Boys and the Marquette community, because I think we did get a little PR once in a while in the newspapers, it was very nice.

JMD: Were all the athletes in the Barracks or were there still some living in the houses off campus?

AA: There were others that were living off campus that were because you know they had 16 men there in the Barracks and you had 36 on a football team or 40, so there were others. Students that lived in Ishpeming, Negaunee, Marquette itself community every day, they played sports went back home in the evening, so there were other athletes yes.

JMD: So it was mainly just athletes outside the Marquette area that were in the Barracks itself and more or less was it due to money or also distance or a combination of both?

AA: I think Coach Money handpicked people that he thought would be successful in his athletic program and maybe as you look at the roster here, Sandy McLane lived in Marquette. I think that's the only one that I see on here, in the four years that it was in existence. I think his thoughts were to select people from outside the area that would profit by living in the Barracks, cost wise it would save them money. The other kids would commute back and forth.

JMD: What was the atmosphere of the games like? Was it come and go? Was it exciting? Was it pretty normal, what you see today?

AA: Yea, course when you got it in that little gym, you know, it didn't take a whole lot to get that place fired up. The acoustics were bad and the noise level was high, more so then if you were in a field house



or a big college gym. I was just looking through one of the papers I had and it showed that Michigan Tech Northern game that we won 1918. It was a picture of the stands in Memorial Field and it's packed because it was a big rivalry. Yea, I'm going to say that the students, we had a good following because I don't think there was a whole lot going, to do. Nobody had a car to speak of, I always went back and forth from Escanaba with someone from Northern, I hitch hiked and in those days people were more apt to pick you up hitchhiking than they do today, but on the weekends when we had a ball game the student body really came out and backed us up, a lot of enthusiasm. Pep rallies, we had pep rallies.

BA: Snake Dances

AA: Snake Dances. Go down the Front Street with the student body going single file walking in and out of businesses, you know, we had a good time.

JMD: Did you go to many of his games and meets?

BA: As many as I could go to, however when you're in nurses training, in those days it was a three year course and we got our in and so when I went to St. Luke's by the first day we were there we were issued our uniforms and that and within a few days we were working in the hospital and we worked 7-3, 3-11 or 11-7 and somehow I got a lot of night duty and 3-11 on the weekends, so I didn't get to see as many games as I would have liked too and I missed the big one when we beat Tech 19 to 18, but I could hear from the hospital the roaring of the crowd. The hospital was just several blocks away and oh I had wished I was there, but it was exciting anyway to be part of that.

JMD: How was travel to the other colleges, I know you had one bus for football, was it?

AA: One bus for football, packed in there. We would wear uniforms, pads, shoes and everybody had their little take on with their goodies and their snacks and basketball and track we went in individual cars. Coach Money had a car and assistant coach and a car. I think we maybe had three cars and we traveled together, stayed in a hotel. After the next day traveled back to Marquette.

JMD: How was that, was that pretty developness closeness?

AA: Between semesters, if you were on the basketball team like I was for four years, between semesters they always had game schedule, so you never got to get home like the rest of the student body did, you only had like ten days or two weeks of between first and second semester then and we would go down state, we'd go down and play Ferris, Detroit Tech, Wayne State, and travel by car winter time. When the last game was over you came back and I remember one year we went down to Wisconsin area to play basketball and on the way back we were going through Escanaba, my hometown so coach dropped me off and I spent a couple days at home, but most of the time during the break we were on a trip, basketball trip, yep.

JMD: How was the relationship between the athletes and the student body within Northern and even the professors?

AA: I thought it was excellent. The faculty supported us hundred percent, the student body supported us hundred percent. The school paper that was written by the students, we got a lot of good ink from the student writers, very good, so I yea I had nothing to complain about there. They were very cooperative and very supportive.

JMD: So what did you graduate with at Northern, or what was your degree?

AA: My degree was a major in health and physical education and one minor in biology and one minor in guidance and counseling and went on, after I got out of the service, I went on to the University of Michigan, did my graduate work there and then taught maybe four or five years social studies and physical education and then got into counseling, which I ended up 20 some years in counseling.

JMD: What school districts were you part of?

AA: My first job was in Hudson, Michigan which is down there between Adrian and Hillsdale.

BA: It's very near the Ohio Border.

AA: And I mentioned there were five of us in Escanaba. Five Escanaba graduates ended up at this small classy school in Hudson, so that was nice. They helped me out my first year, did some coaching with those other four people. Hudson at that time had a spectacular football program, the year before I came there they had won 18 straight and then my year that I was there they were 9 and 0 and then I left, but they had a high school record in Michigan. I think it was 172 straight games they won and at the end they were also, the playoffs started in Michigan, you would keep playing until you got done with them, Lansing, Ford Field, and the team that knocked them off the 173 game, it was Ishpeming right over here. This little team that beat them and so then from there I became the, I taught at Stevenson high school which was near my hometown, 25 miles, 30 miles away and taught there for ten years. Taught, coached football, basketball, track and was counselor and then in 1970 an opening came in counseling at Menominee high school which was a much bigger high school. When I went to Menominee there were almost 1200 kids 9-12 and at Stevenson it probably was 400 and they had a much better academic program. Our children were at the junior high age where they were ready to almost get into high school and they had much more offerings in academics and music, so and fortunately I got the job there as a counselor in '70 until '89, almost 20 years there.

BA: You were head of the department.

AA: Yea I was department head of the guidance and counseling office.

JMD: Did you end up retiring then?

AA: I retired from there in 1989, I had 31 years of teaching and if you want more years and you been in the service, you been in the military service you can buy so much, it will cost you so much money to buy extra years to go on to your retirement. So I bought two years of my army time from the state of Michigan and ended up with 33 years towards my retirement. The more years you have of course, the more you will earn in a monthly check the rest of your life, so that's what I did.

JMD: With Korea going on and ending during your time there, were many of the athletes drafted towards the war or into the war?

AA: One of the Barracks Boy went to Korea and got killed over there. He's one of the original, Tiny Anglem.

BA: And he was Big.

AA: Called him Tiny, he was from Iron Wood I believe, yes and there were others that probably were in the service too. Tiny had a wife and children.

BA: I might add too that the Barracks Boys were always on the Honor rule and took pride in that.

JMD: So there was a strong sense of academics not only athletics program?

AA: Yes.

JMD: Was that because of Red pushing you or because?

AA: Yea I think he kept a pretty good track of us. Very seldom he'd come over there. We had a house, what we called a house mother. One year I was house mother and one year Guido (Cannellie) that passed away recently, was a Barracks Boy, he was a house mother and what you did is kind of keep track of things, order the oil and pay the bill, seeing if too much hanky panky was going on with the guys, almost like a counselor. Usually you were a senior when you were in charge, but yes the athletes had a good reputation for academics and they were not all in physical education classes. One of the original Barracks Boys on here John (Bomiere), who was an Escanaba native, a year ahead, one or two years ahead of me in high school went on to become a surgeon and a very, very successful. He's given a lot of money to the Escanaba high school athletic program and Northern. He's got the Heritage Hall now, is that what it's called?

BA: Heritage Museum.

AA: Museum, gave a lot of money to the Yooper Dome locker room when it was built.

BA: Whenever these fellows get together they always say, "If it wasn't for you, if it wasn't for you." They looked after each other and they encouraged each other and that's what they talk about, what they would have been if they hadn't gone to Northern and lived in the Barracks. They all attribute their success to being one of the Barracks Boys.

JMD: So there's a pretty strong between you and the others?

AA: Yes, I would say stronger than if you were a team member and you played on this team for a year. I mean there's always strong ties, but this group here you eat together, you lived together, you slept together, you played together, we worked together, so it was very close.

JMD: So would you say that also being in the Barracks would help you develop certain skill sets that you normally wouldn't at that age, because you said you were the Barracks Mother and you had to pay bills and things like that, that you normally wouldn't do at that age?

AA: Yea and we did some counseling with some of the guys that needed it at the time, you know death in the family or break up with a girlfriend or whatever and I think we all hung together that way.

JMD: Do you have anything else you would like to add, either one of you? Experiences or stories or anything else you feel like I might not have asked?

AA: Can't think of anything.

BA: Well we walked all over Marquette, we walked down to the movies on Sunday night, and we walked home way back up to Northern. One friend, Guido in the Barracks, he was the only one with the car.

AA: Yea he was a vet that came back.

BA: It was one car for 16 guys and he shared it a little bit, but otherwise you just walked everywhere, winter, summer, up the hills. We walked all over in high school too. He walked to football practice after high school, he'd walk another mile out to the athletic field and practice and practice and then walk back to the high school and then another mile home and that was just accepted.

AA: Yep, good for you.

JMD: I want to thank you for your time.

AA: Yep, thank you, enjoyable, very nice.