

Russell Magnaghi Interview with Frank Williamson

March 17th, 2010

Russell Magnaghi (RM): Alright, what we would like to do today is to focus the interview on your life at Northern, we can get the years down, and then I would like you to tell us about your days in cheerleading here.

Frank Williamson (FW): Okay.

RM: Or should I say your pioneering in cheerleading. When did you, let me get a little bit of your background, where are you from in Michigan? Maybe give us some of your background, and what you said when we talked on the phone, how you got into cheerleading in high school.

FW: Okay, I came from Waterford Township High School which was around the Pontiac Waterford area. When I was a sophomore or junior I was into wrestling, but I had a biology teacher who was into cheerleading over at the high school. She kind of convinced me that I didn't want to go into wrestling anymore, because it was just too physical and it was doing me in. So she convinced me to try out for the cheerleading squad. We had twelve girls and two guys and that was in 1963. Yeah, '62 or '62. So that is how I got started.

RM: Now wait a minute, just as a little back up. At that time were male cheerleaders common?

FW: At universities there were some, but there were none in high school. There were none. There were no male cheerleaders in high school. University of Michigan and Michigan State had cheerleaders but they were all gymnasts. It was a novelty that gave us a little more depth, because we would do more things with guys. So that is how I got into it. It was because of Mrs. White my biology teacher and she got me started.

RM: What was her first name?

FW: Margie. We weren't supposed to call her that though.

RM: Usually at that time, yes.

FW: Yes, Mrs. White was what we called her, but her name was Margie, Margie White. She was a neat gal and a good biology teacher. That is also how I got interested in biology when I came here. When I got here to Northern...

RM: So you had how many years as a cheerleader?

FW: I only had one year before I came to Northern. So when I came to Northern they had tryout and I figured, okay I'm going to do this. At that time there was Ron Walsby and he was the other guy that did it. There was a third guy through the years. I was there for all four years at Northern. Let me see, there

was Ron; he has there for two years, and then there was, he's in the yearbook but I can't remember his name.

RM: So you came to Northern in '63?

FW: '63. I started in September of '63.

RM: Now did they...so Northern did have...By that time did Northern have cheerleaders?

FW: Ron and I were the first male cheerleaders that I know of. That was in '63. I was here and they had at least two male cheerleaders from '63 up until '67.

RM: Okay, and then before that you don't know?

FW: As far as I know, no. There were no male cheerleaders before that.

RM: We could probably check the yearbook and that could tell us...interesting. So they were...when you came...was this something that was already established?

FW: Well, they had a cheerleading squad and they had tryouts and I just decided to go.

RM: You mean they had it for women?

FW: Oh yeah, but Ron and I showed up for tryouts and we were guys. So they were like, oh this is cool.

RM: So they were aware that males were getting into cheerleading?

FW: Oh yeah, well University of Michigan had them.

RM: Because we have an alum, Don [Hurst] who goes back into the '50s and he was a cheerleading at the University of Michigan back then. Probably a gymnast...

FW: If you look back and see most of them at that time they were gymnasts. My sister went to the University of Michigan so that is how I knew. They did a lot of that trampoline work and that's what we did here too, we did tramps. We had two mini tramps and that's what I did a lot of, mini tramps.

RM: Okay. So the two of you then were part of the squad?

FW: Yes, the squad. Ron and I were for about two years. Then I don't know where Ron went, I don't know the other guys name but I would have to look it up in the yearbook.

RM: Don't worry about that. When we transcribe this we can look it up.

FW: That was like in '65 or '66. Did '67 have the cheerleaders in the yearbook? I know '64, '65, '66 have the cheerleading squads in the yearbook, but the '67 yearbook does not. I checked that out.

RM: Yeah. Then what kind of, in general for that time both the male and female, what kind of training practice did you have?

FW: We practiced two or three times a week and we met on our own.

RM: Was there an adult there?

FW: We had an advisor and his name was Meyers, Mr. Meyers. He had come from Michigan and he was a gymnast.

RM: Oh okay.

FW: I can't remember his first name right now; I would have to look that up. Meyers, he was our coach, but we did most of it on our own. We did most of it, but he was our advisor. You know, there were some things that we did. See the administration building over there was the field house and that's where we used to practice over there.

RM: Yeah. So you have trampolines?

FW: Yes we had trampolines but we had to buy our own uniforms. The guys we wore white slacks and white tennis shoes. Then we had our, well, we changed the colors. You know that Northern's real colors were olive green and dirty gold. So we changed it to a forest green, we kept the dirty gold, but we changed the green to a forest green because olive green was gross. I've seen some of those old alumni jackets.

RM: Actually we have found the flag, and that is about the green...

FW: That green is a lot better than the green we had. When the girls went, the last two years we had bright gold and bright yellow sweaters and white numbers with white pine. All three years we had different uniforms.

RM: Do you still have yours?

FW: I went back and tried to find it. I have the sweater but I don't have the pin with all the moves I've had and everything. I moved about 5 or 6 times during those years and somewhere along the line they got misplaced and I don't know what happened to it, but I do have the old white sweater that I wore. You can see where the pin was on the sweater. Back then I was little, I was a size medium. I wasn't very big.

RM: So then the male cheerleaders were all gymnasts?

FW: Well, kind of. We weren't very big. When I was here I probably weighed about 135-45 lbs. Rob was a little bigger, he probably weighed about 160. The other kid probably weighed 130. The gal that I was paired up with most of the time was Patti [Wachtol], she graduated in '67 too.

RM: What kind of routines did you come up with? Was there some piece that you were working with?

FW: Well you know, back in those days we were, we didn't go more than two or three high because we didn't have enough people. Most of it was hand and vocal cheers. We had those old megaphones, you know, "Ra-ra-rhi -kick-em-in-the-knee!" You know. {laughs}

RM: We actually preserved some of those.

FW: You know, so we were out there, and football was out on the old cinder track there with the wood bleachers over there where the, what is called now?

RM: The Berry Events Center.

FW: It was down there, you know. I was looking at pictures, and I was looking at Bob [Burtran] who was a football player at that time. There was a picture of him sitting on the sideline and it was the muddiest thing you'd ever seen. It was like, "Oh my god." We wore white. I mean you didn't do a lot. In those days you just stayed off and tried to stay as clean as you could. You were on that cinder track at that time, and the track was around the outside of the football field and it was all outside mud.

RM: You were on the cinder track?

FW: Yeah, we were on the cinder track. A few times I was "Willy" too because "Willy" was sick or something and the old "Willy" costume looked like a spotted leopard. I have a picture of him. I got to do that a couple of times. "Willy" was fun to do because you got to go up in the stands, but you can't talk. You cannot talk, you have to do everything mimed and that type of thing. I mean you are doing stupid things in a suit. I didn't do that very much. I wasn't known as "Willy" I just filled in for him, that's all. The "Willy" today he has class, he's nice. I like the way they have him looking.

RM: Yeah. That was over the years and they improved the mascot.

FW: See back then we didn't have a hockey team. We cheered at football and basketball.

RM: Now did you go on the road with the team?

FW: No. Oh, yes we did go to Milwaukee one time. I think St. Margaret's was in Milwaukee.

RM: No, they were in Green Bay.

FW: Green Bay? Maybe it was when we played Marquette way back then. We went to Milwaukee one time.

RM: That was it?

FW: That was it.

RM: You didn't travel otherwise in all four years?

FW: We may have gone to Tech a couple of times, but that was all on our own.

RM: Oh, so you could have gone, just on your own?

FW: Yeah, and we didn't want to have to go on our own nickel. The nickel I think they paid for us when we went down to Milwaukee to play against Marquette. That was a big to do. I mean we were going down to the big city to play against this big Marquette team. Well back then I mean, you know, you won

against CMU, St. Norberts, you went to Houghton, I can't remember anymore, Northern or Southern Illinois? I think there is a little school down there. I have the books, the homecoming program and it was when we played CMU, Central Michigan University. I mean they were hired to come and visit us, because we were not close.

RM: So I guess you could say that it was a time of evolution?

FW: Oh yeah, we were evolving. When I first came here there were 2,500 students. When I left there were 8,500 students. Dr. [Hart] took this school and put it on the map. Not that long before that we had just become Northern Michigan College, or Normal?

RM: It was Northern Michigan is College, and then in '63 it became a university.

FW: Through that period the Bottums were here, and the first year I was here I stayed in Carey Hall, and then they started building the new dorms, which were Spalding and Spooner? No Gant and Spalding and then they went and build Payne-Halverson. Then they went and built Magers and Meyland.

RM: Yeah.

FW: After my first year I stayed in a new dorm every year. I went from Gant to Payne to Meyland.

RM: Yeah, that is sort of the thing you forget about, that there was a new dorm opening each year.

FW: Yeah, I tell people that the area where the library is, that was the end of the earth right there. That was parking lot A. Student parked their cars and left them there.

RM: It was also...

FW: Tundra! {laughs}

RM: They had a tennis court. There were two or three tennis courts out there.

FW: Yes.

RM: It was a trashy lot.

FW: Yeah, it was just cinder.

RM: Then the other part of it there. I don't know if they talked about it or used to the term, but the custodians who had been in WWII called that trail up from the University to Human Resources and all that, [Hornet road]. When people describe it...

FW: There was nothing out there.

RM: No, but I mean it wasn't even a paved, a maintained drive. I think it was just kind of gravel, at most a gravel trail out there. Then you had, the other part of it was you had to come all the way to Kaye Hall.

FW: Right because most of your classes were in Kaye Hall

RW: So your first year you would have classes at Kaye, and then you would move to West Science.

FW: Right

RW: But then West Science would be out there by itself.

FW: The library wasn't there yet, and all those other buildings in that plaza or what do you call it, that mall weren't there yet. Here we are out there with our new greenhouse that looks like it is ready to go to space. I like to call it the space ship.

RW: Yes.

FW: That's gone since, yeah okay. The New Science building or the New West Science, I mean that was state of the art, that was a neat outfit. I spent a lot of days over there working in that building.

RW: I can see how if you were a student there you may not have noticed but, all of the equipment and the benches and what not for the labs had all, what happened was, they built the building and then didn't have enough money to build the lab benches. So they took the benches from Peter White Hall of Science and brought them over there. So that means those benches and all went back to about 1906 when they built Peter White.

FW: I know that when I was transporting that glassware and stuff that we brought over. I know that stuff had been around for a long time. I mean we cleaned out that whole basement of Kay Hall.

RM: Then you also had up in the attic, I don't know if you got that, but they had the old stuffed animals and what not.

FW: Yes, I've been up there.

RM: Then a lot of that, it is kind of interesting...

FW: I used to walk across the floors of Kaye and they'd go "creak creak."

RM: Yes

FW: Dr. Harden's office was right there in old Kaye Hall too.

RM: Yeah, I taught there for a semester to two and yes, you would walk across the room and it would be very creaky.

FW: What was the building that was attached to Kaye?

RM: Oh, over on this side? Longyear.

FW: Longyear, yes I had several classes in Longyear too. I had my sociology classes in Longyear.

RM: See the interesting thing that I was going to say...{funny noise on tape, skipping perhaps?}

FW: ...like American government and western civilization before and after...

RM: Now I would like to ask you, since you were here and people kind of brought this up with different ideas. When you were here, you were saying that there was this great expansion in enrollment and so on. As a student, was it disruptive with people coming in, or did it just kind of work out?

FW: It just kind of got bigger. I wouldn't call it disruptive?

RM: So you would have lines waiting for things?

FW: You mean, like when you went to get your classes? You always had lines back then. That was the running joke that when you went to college, you had to wait in line, to get in your class and then you run around and you grab and card and hope that you can get in. It was the old FORTRAN days, you know where you grab and card and if you had all your classes on these cards, then they took them and ran them through the computer and then you got your classes.

RM: When you were standing in line, what did they call it?

FW: Registration?

RM: A bull pen?

FW: {laughs} Yes, and they had it over in the field house. Then there was a big board at the end, and you would be standing in line to sign up for a class and then you would look at the board to find out that one or two of your classes had been cancelled. I mean filled. Yeah, filled.

RM: So then you would have to get out of line and try and work out something new.

FW: Yeah, right.

RM: Then get back in line and hope to God that they did fill up.

FW: See students had to change their classes most of the time, but me I didn't mind getting up in the morning, so I usually figured out most of my classes. You either had a Monday, Wednesday, Friday class or a Tuesday, Thursday class. I always liked to get them in morning because I was a skier and then I would go skiing in the afternoon. But, oh man I remember that though, you'd go around and you'd get a card and then you would sit there and some classes filled up fast and others didn't. Oh gosh, yeah you were always waiting in line waiting around. Now you just online and try to fit it in you know. I look at my son's classes and man he almost has a perfect line up, I mean he doesn't start until 4:10pm and then he is done by 5:00pm. I mean golly that's...you know. I mean me, I always went for the 8:00am or 9:00am through 11:00 in the morning, that's what I wanted to do because I liked to get mine over with. But you know, I look at Northern and think that it gave me a chance. I came out of high school and I came from a class A school and I wasn't in the top. See back in those days to get in those big schools, you had to be in the top 10 percent of your graduating class and I wasn't. When I got here, it gave me a chance. I tell anyone who thinks about coming here; you know your professors, I came here with my son last spring to check it out and he said, "I can't believe the Dad. Everyone is so friendly." I mean if you look like you are

lost someone will come over and ask if they can help you. That is the way it was been and I got a good education from here. I mean my background; I eventually went to Michigan State. I have a good background and I attribute it to this school right here, even though it is a small school. Or course you know I have my gripes about this or that, but it was a good school. It still is good school.

RM: How did you find Northern?

FW: Through my advisor in high school. We had an advisory department and I had some people who had actually graduated from here and gone to Northern. They encouraged me to try Northern.

RM: Did it have anything to do with the fact that your father had a camp up here?

FW: No.

RM: Did that give you some connection or...?

FW: Not really. I mean it really came out of the advice of my high school basically. I had applied to several junior colleges and stuff and this was the largest school that actually accepted me. Then when I got done here, I went, wow what am I going to do with this degree? Then I went the Eastern Michigan University and worked on a Masters degree in biochemistry. Then I thought why don't I do something in agriculture? That is basically how I wound up doing veterinary. So I went to Michigan State and while I was there I went to med school.

RM: So you took classes at Michigan State before going to med school?

FW: Yeah, I got a degree in animal husbandry that I did in one year.

RM: So you developed a good background for veterinary medicine.

FW: Right, I was a biology and chemistry major here with a minor in history and French. I was a double major and a double minor. Then I went to Eastern and I worked on biochemistry there. Then while I was there, I was there for two years, but I didn't get my degree from Eastern, I worked on it, but I didn't get it, I didn't finish it. All I had to do was finish the thesis, but I didn't. When I went to Michigan State I had to get all of my prerequisites done to be in the clear. So I was on an accelerated program. I was taking 23-24 credit hours while most kids were taking 14. So I had to get everything done, and I got everything done except one course and I got that done when I was in Med School which was genetics. No, wait actually it was nutrition.

RM: Could you comment on your professors in biology? You mentioned Robinson?

FW: Lou Peters was our department head and he and I got along okay, and Gordon Gill, he was my mentor. I had his micro class and then I went to work for him. Robinson was my advisor. I had him for...see I had Lou Peters for biology 100 and then I had Robinson for 111 and 112 and then Gill for microbiology, for ecology class I had Robinson again. Then I did a lot of work with Dr. Griffith in chemistry and Dr. Heath in chemistry.

RM: That's right.

FW: I'm trying to remember some of the others, Kapinski? I am not sure if I took class with him or not. Gosh, I could look in my transcripts.

RM: So you were also here then, you haven't talked about this on the tape, but you were also here when they closed the science building, the Peter White hall of science. Then it moved to west campus. Could you talk about the facilities that you were at for a year and then what you went to?

FW: Well, it kind of reminded you on one of these Dr. Jeckel and Mr. Hyde kind of classrooms where everything was old. It was an old facility. We were due for a newer building. See I got, because I did really well in 100, 111, 112 see I was shooting; my roommate and I were shooting for the top grade in that class. We competed heavily for that and once they found out that I was heavily interested in biology I was offered a position and I started working that spring of '64 with Anita, I can't remember her last name, and she was graduating and they were kind of handing me the ropes, and I was working with her. I stayed over late that spring to help pack up everything that we could; glassware, all that stuff, it had to go in the box and it had to be labeled with the amount that was in there; the biurets had to be in there. Then all the movers had to do was take everything over to New Science.

RM: From West Science?

FW: I came up a week to ten days before to start unpacking.

RM: Oh so nothing had been touched?

FW: No. See I was working for Dr. Gill and I had to ready, I had to learn the new building and I had to unpack and have everything ready for the classrooms for the first week.

RM: So this was the material you were unpacking...?

FW: In my specific area. I mean there were other people in 100 and 111...but I was just doing it for microbiology.

RM: Oh okay.

FW: I was in charge of the stock cultures and making all the media for the classrooms. So if you were going to need a [baconky] or a blood agar plate, I was making those plates.

RM: Okay, so you had rolled your sleeves up and really got involved?

FW: Oh yeah, I was getting paid. I mean I was making, what like a \$1.25 an hour or something like that back then, I don't know what it was, but I was getting a check every two weeks.

RM: So you weren't just a biology student that was taking courses and that was it.

FW: Right. I was taking courses and I was working in the biology department. I think...Anita Hanson...yeah, she graduated and then I worked there for the next 3 years. I would work on the big old

cooler where all the stuff was kept and I would keep rotating stock. You know if things got dry, we would have to make it up. Then to make blood agar plates we would go and get spent blood from the hospital and ring it over and make our plate out of it. Triple sugars, plates, etc. most of the time I would work there alone. I would do a run and then they would put me in the cooler and keep me there to rotate the stock because students would be handed an unknown and to backup the unknown they would have to back it up through the process to find out what I gave them. I might be really nasty and put fluorine in, or I might be nice and put nothing in.

RM: Right.

FW: Gill didn't like me do to nothing, he wanted me to put at least one in there, and then they would have to come back and report to me and tell me which ones they had.

RM: So you did this for three years?

FW: Three years. I spent a lot of time in West Science.

RM: But, again you were kind of out there by yourself because the building was...

FW: Yeah. It was. We were out there, but then they started building dorms out there and we got company.

RM: Yeah. So it was a whole different place then?

FW: It was like a glorified high school when I got here. I mean 2,500 students? I had over 3,000 in my high school when I left you know. When I left my hometown we had about 3,000 in our high school. Ed Hart did a fantastic job with this school. I mean then he went on to Michigan State. I knew him personally because my roommate and his father were on the...[bank court?...]...and he was a very-very nice person and he helped put this school on the map.

RM: People tend to forget that a lot of activity on the campus was down on this end kind of in a quadrangle, right in front here. The president was kind of on one side of the quadrangle and...

FW: That's where we used to have our winter carnival out here with statues and everything. One year we didn't have any snow, so they imported it all. We still had our statues.

RM: Yes. Now did you work on that?

FW: Oh gosh yes. I worked on the homecoming floats, in one yearbook there is a picture of my stuffing flowers into a home dorm float.

RM: Oh okay. Now do you have pictures, I mean there are pictures in the yearbook, but do you have some of you own pictures?

FW: I have some, but not very many of them. I kept an old scrapbook.

RM: Oh, is that something you could share with us or make a copy of or something?

FW: If I can find it. It is at home someplace.

RM: It is something to think about because a lot of times people have this false idea that everything is kept and preserved and it is there, and then the reality is that it isn't. So when people are looking for things, the best picture might be on in the yearbook, which isn't always the best...

FW: I think I might have a bunch of old slides, you the old kind. I still have those. I know where they are at, but I don't have any way of looking at them anymore.

RM: Well, see one of the things that we are doing now at the Center for U.P. Studies is we are going to get some equipment to copy the slides and digitize the slides because today it is almost impossible to find a slide projector.

FW: Yeah I know.

RM: If you have one, it is kind of rare, and as you were saying it is hard to look at thing without one. So we want to go and take...and then of course the cellophane gets old.

FW: Yeah, I don't know if they are any good anymore or anything.

RM: Yeah. Sometimes they turn yellow or red or something when they get old.

FW: Or to dust.

RM: Yes, but they can be digitized and improved. It they need to be lightened up or we can bring the color back...{Tape skips?}... Yeah, you're talking, it went through a number of names and I think it still there.

FW: It is?

RM: I mean the place is still there, I don't think it is used for anything like that. I don't know what they called it, but it went through, at one time it was like a mini student union.

FW: Yeah, you could go there and you could get a coke and sit down and you know.

RM: Yeah sort of more of a recreation area. It was more...when I was first here it then turned into like a coffee, something like that, and then it became and coffee type thing.

FW: So that would have been in like '66 or '67?

RM: Yeah. Then it had a nautical theme for a while, the Mariners Den or something like that?

FW: I thought it was the Golden Lion Den or something like that, Gold Cat, I don't know.

RM: Yeah, it was the Golden Wildcat Den, Something like that and then at one point in the nineties or late nineties maybe when they were redoing the Peter White Public Library the library moved in there. It was quite nice for us because our office was in Magers Hall and if you needed anything in the library you could just walk down the hall and you were there. Again it was...

FW: See Meyland was a male dorm and Magers was a female dorm. Gant was a male dorm and Spalding was a female and Payne and Halverson were both male dorms.

RM: That is interesting, because they were all named after people of the sex that they were housing.

FW: Was it?

RM: Yes, and then Spalding...

FW: You had a girl's down here up on the hill...

RM: West Hall and Gries.

FW: Yes, that was West. Gries was guys; which was mostly jocks. Then you had the Spooner.

RM: That was guys.

FW: Carey was guys.

RM: Guys too.

FW: After I left here, it turned into what, Job Corps?

RM: Oh that's right.

FW: They put Job Corps in here and then I just asked someone the other day, "What is in Carey?" and they didn't even know that Carey existed.

RM: It is like a mystery place now.

FW: Oh, so there is nothing in it?

RM: No, it is an old building and it was asbestos problems and then there is Carey and then there was Lee Hall. You were here when Lee was divided up, and it was originally.

FW: Was that at the end of Kaye?

RM: No, it was the place between Carey and Spooner.

FW: There was nothing in there when I was here.

RM: No, because what had happened was that had been sort of the student union place and I had a large kitchen in the center, which is still there. Then out in the front was like a cafeteria area and then they had a dining room because men and women would have dinner together.

FW: Oh I know {laughs}

RM: And so the women were in the Carey Hall section and the men were over in the Spooner Hall with the kitchen facilities in-between. By the time you came they had begun the process of building the wings on the...

FW: That's where we went to eat. You had like three hours in the morning when they were open and then they closed and then here and now they are open all the time.

RM: On the first floor you had the Wildcat Den.

FW: Yes.

RM: Out of the back you had the food...

FW: Down there where the bookstore is that was basically the Wildcat Den. Then upstairs was where you ate.

RM: Yes, there were the dining facilities for the dorms.

FW: Well in that day, for that first year everybody ate there.

RM: Oh yeah because there were no dorms down there.

FW: Yeah, down there no. Then when you went down to Payne, Halverson, Gant, Spalding you had it in between.

RM: Yeah. Then they started yeah. So you were in that transition?

FW: Yes, I actually worked in the kitchen sometimes when I was down in Gant-Spalding. I would clean pots and pans and clean dishes and then I got moved to the front line.

RM: Was that a grade up?

FW: Yes, I thought so because I hated pots and pans. I mean you wore these gloves that were this long and the stuff they used; that detergent was so coasty and then you had this rubber apron on and you were bending over this big old thing where they threw the pots and pans. You just hated lasagna day when that stuff was all baked on there. Then when you worked up to the line, if you worked on the line, it was just cleaning off the dishes and stacking them up and putting them in the dishwasher. Then there was the day without power. We worked without power. Something happened back there and everything went down and our disposal system was shut off and we had food stacked up.

RM: Because people kept eating?

FW: Yeah, and we could cook but out facilities were all down in the back there. Oh God that was a mess. I mean when the plastic garbage cans got full, were shoveling stuff out of there with shovels. Afterwards we had to clean it up once we got power back. It was like, what I am getting paid is not enough here. Like I said I think the maximum pay back then was like \$2.00, at maximum, maybe \$1.25 I don't know.

That was something. But you know that the town hasn't changed very much. I mean it has in that everything has moved out west here in town, but basically the old town, a lot of it is still there.

RM: Yeah you can still go up Third Street and pretty much see the old shops and whatnot.

FW: The Tip Top is not there anymore though.

RM: Yeah, that was, sort of, too bad that was going, it was the Tip Top and then it became 10 o'clock Charlie's.

FW: Is that what it was?

RM: Yeah, and then he would go...and it still was a big campus focal point, lots of people went there.

FW: Well they had this gal, Big Gert, and she used to sit there and she knew everybody.

RM: Big Gert, yeah.

FW: She knew if you were old enough or not old enough. You'd walk in there and she go, "Nope you're not old enough, you can't drink." But once you got pegged as old enough you were fine by Gert.

RM: So you would have been there for that.

FW: Oh yeah, and then the Togo, the old days when Togo's got here. It's still here. They had just started Togo's back in those days. Someone decided to open up and name the sub place Togo's.

RM: Oh yeah, and then it was still there when I got here in '69, right where Vangos is, was a place called Bimbo's Pizza.

FW: Oh yeah.

RM: So it was there when you were?

FW: Oh yeah, then there were the Elite.

RM: Yes.

FW: I never went there.

RM: Then downtown there was Andy's bar across from there.

FW: I didn't go to those. I don't remember Andy's. I do remember Flannagins was around.

RM: Those places like Flannagins weren't so much for students.

FW: No, those were for townies. I had a lot of friends that lived in town too. I was friends with the Clarks, Oliver Clark. Dave Clark was his son; I think he has since passed away. Pam Clark, Barbra Clark, oh gosh, Anna Cumby; she married my roommate, and then he died and I don't know if she is still around or

not. We used to go to the town dance on Friday or Saturday nights down there off the wharf down there, right off of Front Street there.

RM: Right on the corner there.

FW: Yeah, where the L.S. & I. was.

RM: Now it is Latitudes'.

FW: Yeah, right, it is up above and then down the corner they had student dances down there.

RM: I heard they would have high school dances, but they had college dances as well?

FW: Anybody who wanted to go could come. I mean heck, we were still in high school back then basically, we'd just come out of high school and we acted like we were still there sometimes. Once you become a sophomore then you became a college student, until then you were still in high school. But, that is where I met a lot of the townspeople and I also met a lot of them out at the ski hill.

RM: Yeah

FW: Seth E. [Herbert Larson] was here then, and the Chalet...Tom [Orlohoff]

RM: Tom [Orlohoff]

FW: Tom [Orlohoff], yeah he built that.

RM: Yes, so you met him?

FW: Oh yes, I skied under him, he taught me, he was one of my instructors.

RM: Oh, okay I didn't know that.

FW: Then I was really good friends with the Marquette Senior High School ski team and the Northern Michigan University ski team. A lot of the guys I knew, I skied with them all the time, we even went to Colorado together.

RM: So the two, the high school team and the...

FW: They practiced together

RM: Oh so they kind of worked together?

FW: Oh yeah, they practiced together.

RM: Interesting.

FW: There was that picture that was published in the *Peninsulan* of the NMU ski team, the notorious picture? Because all of the guys were sitting going like this.....they got put in the Marquette Mining Journal, and actually the picture made it all the way to the Milwaukee Times.

RM: Oh really? Does appear in the yearbook?

FW: Yes it's in the yearbook too.

RM: Interesting {laughs}

FW: I knew those guys and they just thought that it was their signature on the whole thing.

RM: So they had no idea it was going to go that far?

FW: No, but it did. I mean it went all the way. You know, nothing was said about it, only how this team won and that.

RM: Oh, so you are saying that it wasn't an expose about them...

FW: No, not about what they did...

RM: It was just the...Oh my God, okay.

FW: Yeah! But it got all that weight, it went that far.

RM: Yeah.

FW: Until all of the sudden people started looking at this picture really close and these guys were all doing this... and they are sitting there going...{laughs}

RM: {laughs} So if you looked at their faces you would have no clue?

FW: Nope. They were just sitting there smiling because they...you know. You had to know those guys.

RM: This was what year then? I will have to go back and look at the yearbook.

FW: It's is somewhere in the '60s.

RM: Right, because it was when you were here.

FW: Yeah I know, it was probably somewhere in '64, '65, or '66, one of those three. It is in there.

RM: Now were you on the ski team?

FW: Nope. I just loved to ski and those guys were really good and I learned a lot from them. I used to follow them.

RM: And they all practiced...?

FW: They all practiced up at the old Cliff Ridge, which is now Marquette Mountain.

RM: That's right.

FW: Back in those days it was pommels and rope tows and now they have chair lifts.

RM: How many runs were there?

FW: Oh, if you go out there and look straight up the hill, basically everything over here was there. Everything here wasn't.

RM: Okay. Then some of those back trails they have now, those weren't there.

FW: No they have added some of those. Mostly everything when you are right in front and you look in front there, that White Bear that used to be the steepest part. Right here and then when you went to the top, that was a pommel and then you went off this way most of the time.

RM: Okay.

FW: Most everything to the west was basically there.

RM: So you were here at a very interesting time then?

FW: Oh yeah, I saw change. I mean it was during Vietnam so, you know.

RM: Speaking of Vietnam and when you were here. Do you remember when the fraternity put up the rock out in front on the north side of the university center honoring veterans?

FW: I don't remember. I think that was after me.

RM: Sometime in the sixties it was put up, but I don't know what time exactly. See they put the rock up, but what was interesting about it was that it went from a rock, and they had a little plaque on it...we should finish up...Yeah just briefly and then we will finish up, but let's just briefly focus on dorm life.

FW: Oh the first year was Carey Hall. You had two rooms; a sleeping room and a study room and the faculties and showers were down the hall. The first semester I had three roommates. There were three of us; John Meyers, I don't remember the other name, but that is...you know. After the second semester I got a new roommate whose name was Steve Coleman. John and Steve and I, we clicked, we did well. Steve and I were in the biology together and we competed, well anyways. Then the next year I was in Gant; brand new facility, brand new dorm. My roommate down there was Fred [Copenhagen], who was a graduate student in history. Then the next year I was in Payne, the second floor of Payne and I had Fred [Copenhagen] as a roommate again.

RM: So now you were down to two to a room?

FW: Two to a room, yeah, four to a suite. That was, I mean, we thought we had died and gone to heaven because we now had all this room. I still had these kids, not the kids so much, but the parents who would say, "These rooms are so small," and I would think, "What do you mean?" You know, when I moved into those new dorms in Payne and Halverson I thought, "Golly, this is a lot of room." Then the last year I was here, I was in Meyland. Actually I don't remember my roommate then, because I wasn't there that much. I was a senior and they were underclassmen you know. I wasn't in the same click as them. I was just basically there to sleep, because I spent most of my time in West Science. It was great

to have a new room requirement every year. I mean we had, a couple times we had to deal with a little bit of construction because they weren't finished, but we got through it.

RM: Now when they renovate it's done in 90 days. So they start as soon as the students leave, and a week before all the students arrive everything is cleared out.

FW: My son came here and he asked me what I thought about the dorms and I said, "I'd go for the one that just got refurbished." So we put down his first choice as Magers and I think Van Antwerp or whatever it was, and then one of the other ones, because I have been through some of those other dorms and some of the hallways have been painted dark green and they have their names all over it. But, the halls in Magers are all bright and shiny.

RM: See then for, oh about a few years Magers was offices.

FW: It was?

RM: Yeah there were offices down there.

FW: Really?

RM: Yes, history, political science, philosophy, foreign languages, union offices, the Dean's office, the school of business and education, they were all down there. It was a whole different world. Everything was at that end of campus and this was totally forgotten about.

FW: It that why they went and built this building.

RM: No that was then an [old find] that they decided to refurbish and turn it back into a dorm.

FW: So during the decrease in enrollment...

RM: Yeah, they kind of shut it down, which is kind of self destructive, because if you have declined enrollment and you shut it down...so the president decided that the factually needed offices and that might have been part of it, that the faculty needed offices and they might as well use the building. It had been kind of abandoned for a number of years. I think there was one woman who had an office down there because she couldn't take the fumes that felt were going though the building here, so they moved her down there. She was the only person in three stories. I mean, she was by the door, but still it is kind of a grim situation.

FW: Yeah, I would think so.

RM: So there was all of that now that went on, which people now forget about. When we moved out somebody said, are we going to have souvenirs? I was department head and I said, "Well we have these" you remember them, the toilet stalls, so I went and...

FW: We used to make them out of indestructible.

RM: Yes, so Magers Hall was faculty offices from 1988 until '05.

FW: Wow.

RM: There were lots of offices down there and it was like you talking about, you move into these places and it is like, oh my god this is fantastic.

FW: Well yeah. It is brand spanking new and we have all this room.

RM: Yes, so when we moved down there we were in small 10 by 12 spaces in [...] resources with it open so that air and heat could circulate. So it wasn't very private. Then we went to the formal dorm rooms and we had our gown windows, and of it was fantastic and then you were there for five years and running out of space and it could be better. Then we eventually move over here which is kind of improved, you know we don't have cinder block walls and whatnot, and people don't have too many complaints and whatnot. People are happy. Then there is talk about renovating the building.

FW: This building?

RM: Which would then make, they are going to do a state thing where everybody gets a tiny room. They are going to pack people on the third floor and whatnot. Hopefully we don't want the economy....{TAPE ENDS}

