

Interview with Mickey Johnson, Marquette Michigan, July 25, 1994

RMM: OK, well get started Mickey, and the first question we have for you is what is your date of birth?

MJ: April 28, 1904

RMM: OK, now could you tell us a little about your background, growing up in Marquette prior to attending

MJ: don't put this on

RMM: No, NO it is just starting, OK

MJ: To get into the Northern Hall of Fame one would more or less assume that you would have to be a football player, a basketball player, a track man or something like that. So I was really surprised when my name was proposed for the Northern Hall of Fame. I had been inducted into the Upper Peninsula Sports of Hall of Fame, but to get into Northern I had no idea, and yet I was inducted into the Northern Hall of Fame. And I want to tell you one little incident that occurred when I was in my last year at Northern. A fellow student and I were working at the bookstore and this guy Roberts is his last name from Negaunee was a good trackman at Northern, and that morning he said to me "Mickey" he said "Mr. Hedgecock told me this morning that he was trying to line up a couple cross country races with Michigan Tech and we need a couple more guys to run" he says "why don't you do it?" because he knew I was into playing basketball and I was in good shape. And I said "I have never, never ran any cross country." Well he said "we are going to have a couple of trial runs, why don't you come out and see what you do?" I said ok I'll do it. So I went out with Roberts and there was no real you know what you call route but we started from Northern and we went out on Wright Street and way out past the cemetery and finally we went out to the Dead River road there and we ran and we ran and when are we going to turn back and he said maybe in another mile or two. Well we came back finally to Marquette, and I said no way am I going to run this is killing. Well he says, but Hedgecock says well if you run two races you can get a letter, and of course that fairly odd. So in between halves of one of the football games we were to arrive back and I went on that run that Saturday afternoon and I was fit to be killed, coming down College avenue there was a little slant and then there was a little grade and now were at the bottom you know where the building is that is where the football field was at that time and I remember coming over that little knowl and then tumbling across the you know it was really sensational, well anyhow I said oh my gosh we got one more race to get a letter. Well the next week it snowed, and it snowed, there was no cross country race in Houghton so I never did get a letter, and I told that story the night I was inducted, and of course that was really the big thing but I said "and here I am and I am getting inducted!" But I was inducted because of tennis and . But not because I was an athlete. But we tried, that was the highlight and I never did expect that that

would be coming up 20 years later. But it is true.

RMM: Were there any other, do you have any other stories about yourself or things that happened with students around Northern, funny things? Like I know there are some humorous stories told about Professor Chase and others do you have any others, sort of the humorous end of Northern?

MJ: The first year that I was there, they were still carrying on what they called "Rushes", and I don't have the details that classes would capture you know the other class and keep them more or less in captivity just to get them out of circulation and there was one and I know I don't know the exact details, but the story was told that one of the classes captured one of the opposing classes and took them over to Partridge Island and left them there. I don't know if you can ever run that story down, but there were these rushes, they called them rushes, and later on of course they began to develop into like tug-of-wars and contests like that you see, greased pig, and stuff like that.

RMM: Didn't they also have the big ball.

MJ: Oh yeah, yeah, those were the aftermath, but at one time they had a little different atmosphere as far as capturing them, stealing. If you could run that down that would be interesting.

RMM: I did read about in the 1910 yearbook they told about the Junior class having a picnic on Presque Isle and the and no, no the Senior class was having a picnic and the Junior class came in and disrupted it and smashed everything up and there was numerous incidents like that.

MJ: Yeah, this would have to be after 1910 because it seems to me that William Morrison was a very good football player was one of the guys was induced. That would be a very interesting thing to find, but I don't know who would ever be able trace that down to authority, but I can remember the one year there was a so called rush, but it was more on the basis of these contests.

RMM: Rush actually meant then the term meant rushing the other people then grabbing them?

MJ: Yeah, yeah

RMM: ok I see. So this lasted, you remember in 1921 they were still doing this.

MJ: yeah, yeah there was a rush in 1921, but I wasn't, but there still was a continuance of that in 27 when I was there. Because Al Ronberg who was a football star, I can recall that they tried to get him someway or another, but that is, so, and I think there was a carry over of some of the things that were done at other colleges or universities in those days.

RMM: any other humorous things that you remember?

MJ: I suppose when you go I will think of some, but life was different and there is no question about it and you know we had no radio, we had no television, well radio had come in 27 as far as our home was concerned but there was nothing like tv, changed the whole thing. And when you could buy a meal for 35 cents it made a difference didn't it? Board and Room might be a dollar a day for board. I forget what my mother charged for rooms, but it was very reasonable, there were usually two in a room. We had a pretty big house so there were always three or four students.

RMM: Now did she serve food now too?

MJ: No, no. She had enough to feed her own family. That was part of growing up, and that life story I have to tell about having a built in babysitter because my mother's mother, my grandmother, was living with us and she lived to be 96 years old, so we had a built-in babysitter.

RMM: OK sounds good

MJ: Well your a good writer, you can

RMM: Well looks good thank you

RMM: OK Mickey could you tell us a little about we will start with the end of your high school years and then we want to get into your years at Northern so could you start with that high school graduation period and we will take it from there.

MJ: In 1921 there was a mild recession, I graduated from a commercial course in high school and I no doubt could have gotten a job in the office somewhere in town but my dad at the time was project engineer in Houghton County and I said Dad could you get me job this summer, he says impossible because these are all men that are married it is a WPA project or whatever it was and their on relief and for me to get you up there in Houghton County would be very difficult and I live Cohoughton like that for a week and finally when he came home the next weekend he said well the engineers said that if you want to come and work for eighteen cents an hour they will take you the other men were getting twenty five cents an hour and it was a ten day labor and I went up there and I worked all summer and I came back to Marquette with forty eight dollars as my net earnings because I had to pay a dollar a day for room and board so out of that \$1.80 a dollar already came out and if I didn't work of course I still had to pay but I was satisfied. Then what to do? Then some of my friends were going to go to Northern that we had graduated in June and without any counseling without anything in mind I enrolled and I took straight course that was difficult common red one, common red two, common red three for the first year and a little psychology but I didn't enjoy it I wanted to pursue my commercial and I had already you know been a pretty good photographer we had had an excellent course in high school. So that first year in Northern I really didn't enjoy it, I did have of course the luxury of having friends in Marquette, I think I spent more time at the Palestra's skating with the others than doing any studying. I didn't do to well but in the fall of 1922 I went back and no additional commercial courses were offered so I continued I had my final semester in French I guess but then in March I had a chance to take a job in Palmer township, or it isn't Palmer township but it is in the area of Palmer. A friend of mine was going to go to Ferris institute and he said why don't you take this job and in those days you didn't have to have even a well if you had a it wasn't a life certificate but you had to have something something at Northern and I qualified and I finished out the three months in this township and then since I had taught for a while for three months Mr. Fatzenbener who was delivering milk to us said why don't you come and work at Marquette township so the next year I had a job at the the Marquette township and I enjoyed that but I still was determined that I would turn to commercial work. And so I got a job the next year at the CCC Lumber Department and that I enjoyed except I wanted to have more training than that and so I was determined that I was going to take Civil Service Exam. I took the Civil Service Exam and in a matter of about three months I got a notification that I could have an assignment downstate and I would be given I think it was thirteen twelve or something thirteen twenty. And at the time I was making

more than that at the you know Lumber Office and I was staying home so I turned it down and then I got another one and I turned that down and then finally after another month I got a notice from the Four Spots Laboratory in Madison Wisconsin of an opening same salary thirteen twenty and I didn't answer it because it didn't appeal to me you know with that pay so in another week I had a telegram and a they said we haven't heard from you and I telegraphed right back I will come for fifteen hundred and I got a reply report August 1st. So August 1st I was in Madison Wisconsin and there in that environment staying in a rooming house where there were a lot of other U of W students I said to myself I am going to the university and get a diploma or get my certificate in maybe accounting or whatever. Then my dad got hurt on the job and I said I need other subjects why don't I go back to Northern and you know take those and then come back to Wisconsin so that's when I came back to Northern in the fall of 26. No commercial credits could be earned there but I took the regular subjects and among the subjects was American History and my teacher was Dr. Chase a fine, fine teacher and I did well in those courses I got an A in the first semester, my other grades were not very good. And I took the three it was semesters in those days they had semesters see, I took A, B, and C and got three A's. Then I said my other minor was Geography and I had another excellent teacher I was just gifted with good teachers I had Dr. Whiticker another excellent teacher. And I kept interest in Northern and I decided I would continue in December of 1928 I had my AB Degree, major in History, minor Geography.

RMM: Oh, OK

MJ: And then

RMM: Wait a minute, let's go back now to your years at Northern

MJ: That was so sloppy I mean it was you don't need all that junk there see

RMM: Oh that all right, what is a could you tell me a little about Professor Chase as an individual what his classes were like, what he was like as a teacher.

MJ: Don't put this down coming into Dr. Chase's class was for me rather difficult. I had had casual American History course in the eleventh grade in high school but we had one text, one assignment and that was it and then to come into a class taught by supposedly a blind one gave me a different impression and I knew that I was in a class where if I was attentive I was going to be a real real learner. There was something about this man that made you want to learn there are some teachers who teach and some teachers who just ramble on but he excited me I don't know what there was but the very fact that he wanted us to go way beyond the textbook, he wanted us to read the current affairs and how we could adjust them and relate them to the past and then look to the future. I don't know there was something in a vision that I received from his

classes and it continued through the whole year and I had him in the second year that I was under his toolage. A master teacher, and I went out in the field and I think in what I had absorbed in his class I put into practice. I tried to excite the kids so that they would not me but they would earn and learn and have a feeling toward the subject. Now this same thing happened over there in that Geography department it was something about Dr. Whittaker I at the time was taking a course in techniques of instruction, it was a good instructor but when I was in the class of Dr. Whittaker's I learned more about the techniques of teaching than I did in this other class because he would take you at a point where you were, he would pick you up, we had assignments everyday, but he had a way of getting back a little bit in order to first go forward, one step back then three steps forward. And the techniques that he used I fulfilled or I carried out in my geography assignment in Wakefield. Lesson plans yes, but they were with an intent to be of interest and be a sort of press of state, this is what I think I got out of my years, my first year at Northern, the fact that sure this was a teachers college but I'm sure there were a lot of the students who went there didn't get that same reward that I got. I was blessed with super teachers, somehow or another it stuck with me and so for forty two years I became a teacher.

RMM: OK

MJ: NO that's a lot of junk you take what

RMM: NO that's good. Were there any other teachers that you want to you could comment on in terms of leaving an impression on you, or some that might not have left an impression on you

MJ: no there we some that aah

RMM: Well let me just name some of them off and see if you remember

MJ: Oh I remember

RMM: Well for instance one that pops up here is Mildred Majors, you had here for a class?

MJ: NO, I did, I did when I came back one summer aah to complete that common red that I didn't have that. Aah let's see, in my freshman year when I was not really thinking in terms of what am I here for I had Dorris King, and she is not there, she left. She was a sister of Bart King who is memorized on Sugarloaf. And she was my common red teacher and she was good and I didn't like her. But like I say when your going to school and you don't really have any purpose, so there was a skull in geography he was ok. Professor Brown who stayed at Northern for the longest, a psychology teacher, I liked him. He got you involved in the class and I think that is where I began to feel that if your going to be a successful teacher you have to get your class involved and they have to share you know. Let's see.

RMM: Did you ever take Ebersal in History?

MJ: Oh yeh, he came in the second round that I was there, and I had professor Ebersal he was a good instructor but more of a lecture than being involved but I got to know him pretty well and we did o.k. And I had Dr. Madell during a couple of summer terms that I went back there but that I think my critic teacher, they were called critic teachers in those days, I had my practice teaching at John D. Pierce, Ms. Millage, I had two, I had a Freshmen class in practice teaching then I had and eleven thirty, Ms. Milage, is she right there

RMM: NO, oh yes I see, yes, yes. OH, in history

MJ: Yah, it was kind of interesting, when you went into practice teaching you always sort of went into like what is going to happen this is going to be a struggle, this is going to be hard, and some of those teachers were pretty well known as pretty stiff ones, and I belonged to the Beta Fraternity, and there were fellows in there that said oh your going to have Millage, she's tough. That was the fear I had, there was another girl that was also in that teaching assignment and we went into that first day both I'd say trembling with fear. We sat in the back row, and it was maybe five minutes, and the class was getting you know, they were talking all over and , and finally I said to this girl who was an A student in History, I said go up and take care of the classes, she said no, no you go, you go see , sort of like. Finally I got up and I called the class to order and just then Ms. Millage comes in. She was standing out by the door waiting to see what would happen, she told me after, and the class was big enough that it was going to be divided into two sections. And the next day she announced the class roll, and I got the better students. About a week after class started she was, like I say she has lesson plans and you had to have the questions and the answers you know questions on one side answers on the other, but anyhow I had fulfilled all my assignments but I was tipped off by some of my fraternity brothers you know get close to here get close to her, and one day she wasn't there and the word of it was that she was in the hospital, she has an , and you know what I did? I went over to visit her. And from that time on we were good pals, she gave me an A. I mean there are tricks to every trade and I had I not been tipped off on that I perhaps would have been a very sheltered individual. I was beginning then to get a little bit more into the game too. Well you don't have to them what happened, it was interesting then Dr. Bottom was our principal at the time and I have known him every since high school days he is superb. He is still living, somebody reported, I think his son was here for the county fair's class reunion this past week, and he says dad isn't doing as well, I think he is ninety-seven, ninety-eight.

RMM: How about did you ever have dealings with Harry Leed, the Dean of

MJ: Oh Yeah, he was the dean, oh yes, yes. One of my good friends

after I had been into Wakefield a few years and we had been doing pretty well, I wrote to the Johnny Pierce, lab school, and I said if there is any possible chance for me to get another job, because I had been in Wakefield and it was already, we had already gone through three years or four years into the depression and it was and the mines were beginning to fail. And I wrote, and I got a letter right back, he called me , did you know you have one of the choice jobs in the Upper Penninsula and we did because we were not getting any script or anything we were getting paid in full and I was getting seventeen fifty, and that was good pay, you know seventeen fifty a year, I started at sixteen fifty it was a differential at that time, women were fourteen fifty and men were sixteen fifty. And I went up at a no sixteen and fourteen but I was given fifty because I was going to be a master. And then we had a raise the first year and I got a hundred dollar raise so I had seventeen fifty and that was for two years and then we were going to have a, so I was kind of interested and when he wrote me and said you'll have one of the safest jobs in the Upper Peninsula, I couldn't get you anything better. But I've got along with Dr. Lee very well. And of course Ms. Nimsmore was tops she's up at Lake.

RMM: Could say something about his personality? How did he interact with students? Was he a pleasant individual?

MJ: He worked hard to get you placed where he thought you could be a success. I think that was one of his strong points, he didn't want to make any bad moves for you. He made it possible for me to get that first job. I was at the time working for the light and power department. As I said, I had graduated in December. There were no opportunities, there were a couple of times that I passed fifty cents an hour or something. I was out reading electric light meters, come off of a house on Harison Street, and a woman called and said, a woman just called from Northern, and they want you to come out, the superintendent from Wakefield is here interviewing candidates and they want you out there, Mr. L office called. I said I'll call and get a ride from one of the guys at the city hall. When I got out there Mr. Beamer had already left but he had talked to Dr. L and that's the way it was arranged. I had the job already. I certainly give him credit for that. He was unique in many ways. He was tall, more of a Ickabob Crane charater like, but he wanted his students, he wanted people who graduated from his college, to be a success. And he has made sure that when you got a job that it was going to be of your liking. There was something about the teachers at Northern, the very fact that we were together in one building. There was just Kay hall, there was Hall, there was Peter Hall, and the class were in that area. You saw your instructors in the hall. It's not like today where they're scattered, and I think we met every deed, too. That was another feature. So you were very close to your teachers and they called you by your first name. The graduates, I think there were maybe 25 that graduated in 27. Not to many compared to the hundreds that do now. Very, Very personal. And the fact that the faculty, we had what we called, the men had these get togethers and the faculty we

on one occasion I went in there and he had something. But he was a good President.

RMM: Do you remember anything about Cabe President Cabe?

MJ: No except that he was a scholar. We had these I don't know if they were weekly assemblies but always had something that was a little bit more. I think he came from Scotland, anyhow he gave you of course that impression I am a scholar and I want you to listen to a couple. Very quite, you know the thing that I can remember of the faculty, the best of all I think are those Christmas sessions that we had there in the forier. That hugh, hugh forier with three different levels and at Christmas it was decorated with Christmas trees and with bows and to come out there and lean over that balcony and watch the students come in and I don't know, there was something special about that forier. And I remember a picture and it was in the historical of the magazine, this was before my time, where the faculty are seated there on the steps leading up. They had a lot of, you know, fun together.

RMM: Now you were talking about the activities, where there any other activities in that forier area? Was it just the Christmas party, or other times when they?

MJ: No all the other activities were in K auditorium, all the band concerts and orchestra we were fortunate we had some good liecium numbers that came to the auditorium too. Marquette had very little in the way of a good auditorium, we didn't have all the time so most of the activities were held there at K auditorium all the bond drives that were held, were held there at K auditorium. Anyone that came to speak, Eleanor Roosevelt was there, aah some of the great violinist and pianist, you know, were there. So K auditorium was really the center of a lot of cultural activities.

RMM: Now your saying.

MJ: We didn't have the acoustics that Cocklind auditorium had but if you, you know avoided sitting under the, you know, the second balcony you were alright.

RMM: Now your saying these were entertainment activities and so on for the community not just for the college?

MJ: Well they were open to the community but they, you know, being there the, but there were some that were just devoted to the, to the students too. We had, we had pretty much in the way of weekly doings in the auditorium, as I remember. And I mentioned, you know, Dr. K as one of the speakers, I think if you look at that a little closer in the aah they have a month way in the back there, there's activities I mean they go by month is what was happening, way back, way back. By the month. See there there it would you would find starting in January starting in in September you would find pretty much

had Dr Klukus and we had Hurst and they put on wrestling matches for the men. I mean they were a part, we had baseball games, with the faculty against the faculty. We couldn't do that today or you could but you know, this is a messed up affair. It was so different.

RMM: Do you remember in front of a thing called Heart of Northern in front of Longyear Hall there is a little piece of it left do you remember, on the ground?

MJ: Yes, Yes. That was a little added, you know, cultural

RMM: Shaped like a heart and maybe we could quickly kind of go

MJ: We had a certain I suppose commemorative you know exercises or special affairs out there. I can't remember, but it was there for that very purpose to sort of give a little touch to Northern.

RMM: Did the, you said you had affairs out there. Were those University affairs, or fraternity affairs?

MJ: No they were University affairs to my knowledge, I mean they were something special.

RMM: You mean like the faculty and students.

MJ: I can't remember so don't quote me on that, but it was utilized for special purposes. And it was sort of sacred ground in a way, something special. But we had Presidents like in 21 it was President K. and he was just a scholar and then we got later when I came back then it was John Munson. I was working in the this should be an interesting if you want to listen to this, I worked at the bookstore, and got to know faculty pretty well, because they came in and sometimes they would make their orders and give them to Professor Mattson who was my boss. But I never did see John Munson except on this one occasion, and Mr. Matson told me earlier in the morning that there was a gas leak, could you smell it? I couldn't smell it but he said there is a leak in the gas meter up there on the wall. And in comes Dr. Munson, he walks back and he's not looking up but I thought that he was looking because he was all over the building and he was a guy that knew more about things that and when he didn't find it I said to him Dr. Munson if you're looking for the meter it's right up there. And then he said something, Who's looking for the meter? He turns around and goes out.

RMM: But he was looking for the meter?

MJ: No he wasn't. But with that I thought oh my God I'm going to get fired. And I told Mr. Mattson when he came in a few minutes later that I had this confrontation and he said don't worry. And I never heard anything more about it. But anyhow that's the kind of guy he was in a way he was he wanted to be in everything. and he knew everything too. But when you went in there, he also was pretty much straight forward. I had no real occasion except that

RMM: Oh I see in the like here.

MJ: Yes and the student girls

RMM: Yea and then it has

MJ: Yea and you'll you'll find out's union?

RMM: OK yes it has assembly, Dr Baker and so on. I see OK.

MJ: That was that was a little added, you know, cultural

RMM: Yea Now what were the aah maybe we could quickly kind of go through these activities and make some comments. Do you remember what the aah, what the football team and so on was was like in the 1920s? Much of a much of a team or

MJ: Fair, when when aah Hedgecock came he comes I forget what the year there will be aah he's there in 25 or 26. Well in in 21 it was Professor Gant and he was the coach of all sports it it was very, very little aah maybe we played four or five games and two of them would be with Michigan Tech. But when Hedgecock came there was a resergance as far as the, you know, the activities but but there was only football, basketball, and track. Nothing as far as the women.

RMM: Now how did you get involved with tennis, then?

MJ: Oh, that comes in my later, in high school.

RMM: Oh.

MJ: Yea, Yea, No we didn't have, there was a tennis club, and I was a member but I don't even remember what what we did because we didn't have any, they had some some cinder courts out there behind the behind the aah boiler room but aah there wasn't any activities. There was just, it was limited. Music came in and was given a real shot in the arm the second time I won and they had Dr. Peters, who was the you know the music and then Ms. Craig was the aah, you know, very, very good. They were here for a number of years so that well Ms. Craig I think was here until she retired. But those were good musical events. And they traveled the the they got organized back in the second 28, 29, they were making the road trips. So there was a lot of good. You can take that along because because it was it was.

RMM: Now there was a glee club, they had a glee club

MJ: Music with aah Peters was outstanding.

RMM: Now some of the organizations that they had here do you remember much about them the mens union?

MJ: Well it, no I don't, it was just a sort of a bridge between

the faculty and the students.

RMM: OK and the student girls

MJ: Yea they had that too

RMM: Was that comparable to the men's union?

MJ: Yea

RMM: And then data omeata

MJ: Oh those were sororities.

RMM: Uh huh, were they real active at the time

MJ: Well they they would have usually a sorority and a fraternity would put on a dance during the years so they were socials but but they were well attended because we didn't have all the other outside activities. There was a brocten and there was a Lark as far as outside entertainment and the dance hall and there was flest room. But being so close to, you know, the University there wasn't a girl's dormatory, you know, close to the time that I was there that had already gone out of business and so girls and boys from out of town stayed at homes in my own place, in my home own my mother had students oh years and years and so but it was a different atmosphere but very close because the activities as I said would be involved, would rotate around, you know, the class members.

RMM: Now there was, you said you were interested in commercial activities, there was a commercial club, did you belong to that, or?

MJ: No, I didn't belong to that because what they had was less than I had had in high school. Professor Wiggins was an excellent teacher but he was the only one that was teaching the course, of course they had no CPA, or anything like that. Oh today, you know, their really strong on that course.

RMM: OK then there was a club here aah I'm going to miss pronounce it Setracatti?

MJ: I don't even know that one. What the heck is it?

RMM: The study of portraits, figures, I guess it was a aah art

MJ: Oh it must of been, yea, yea.

RMM: Do you remember any of those art people? Ms. Spalding, Grace Spalding?

MJ: I remember, I had no courses from her but she was well known aah goal, art was so well. People had graduated from, but very

few. It was a four year course, it was mostly a life certificate in those days, strictly a state, you know, a teaches college, you look, turn to back there of the graduates, alright look at the, very few have degrees so it's all usually life certificate or elementary, high school.

RMM: A few, but mostly

MJ: Yea, it was mostly, of course when I the first two years it was just Marquette normal and then it became a teachers college and then it was one more step before it became the Northern Michigan University. So it gradually evolved in. A good school, I mean there, there's a commencement and I graduated now you can see how many, this was a graduation for 1929, I suppose but they would include those graduated in December. I graduated in December you see. Am I not there under and see there was even, there there are aah what would you say maybe 50 at the most, for the whole year.

RMM: And the bulk of the people the bulk of the people are have life certificates.

MJ: Yea, yea because we went out to teach.

RMM: But you had, you actually graduated with a bachelor of arts degree.

MJ: Yea, yea

RMM: A bachelor of science, sorry, sorry

MJ: well the teachers usually had the and then Northern after the GI came back then Northern started some courses that would lead eventually to a masters and so that is when I got involved late in the 40s and in order to get your Masters the arrangements were that you could take all your subjects at Northern and they would be usually over the weekend but you had to take one summer at the University of Michigan and then you got your degree under Michigan. And so in 51 Paul Codalla who was then a Biology teacher and I headed Ann Arbor and we both learned our masters so I got a masters in 51 which was a long time after 28 even, there was no incentive, when I came to Marquette I asked Mr. Whitman oh after I had been here a couple of years, what about getting my masters, cause I did go to Wisconsin 2 years. And he said your not going to get anymore for having a Masters. And the reason for that was the superintendent had a and he didn't want to see any teachers with a Masters. But of course that came from Harvard and it carried weight. And he taught courses at Northern so he didn't have to worry about it, but he didn't want to see any of his people have Masters so when I finally had gone 2 years to Wisconsin and I was married then and it was tough going and I said well we'll wait and it wasn't until the GI's really began to show a little prominence that they went after salary schedule. And then I benefited because those two summers I had at Wisconsin began to count up see? And I was high on the totem pole because I had about

12 hours that nobody else had. But anyhow it was a little strange as far as salaries in Marquette, Mr. Whitman was a superattendent that was so different. But anyhow, I liked him, I got along well with him.

RMM: OK, let's see there is , I wanted to ask you something. OK, could you tell us about the difference between being a student coming from Marquette living in Marquette, coming from Marquette and your not going to know the other half but what was that like opposed to the student that was from out of town living in Marquette and attending Northern?

MJ: Well you have a sort of divided loyalty, if you were coming here and stayed as a full time student most of your activities mostly centered around the university or school. In my case I became involved of course in scouting, I have been a scout for years and years and I continued to work with that and we had aah in fact in those days in the middle of the 20's there were no senior scouting programs but our scout master for some way or another kept us active and he even had us play or form a troupe basketball team and this happened when I was I think aah the first year back to Northern, seems about to be the timing and we were a pretty good outfit I guess cause we played up at Hancock at the Hancock Naval Reserve and played at L'anse we were a travelling outfit and our scout master was able to arrange a game with the Hancock Naval Reserves as a preliminary to the Osh Kosh- Northern game and we played and I think the score was something like 14-12, in those days you didn't have any scorers and the next day we had the headlines in the Mining Journal and that was the last game that Mr. Hedgecock allowed us to play at Northern. But that was ok cause I liked Hedgecock and I went out for basketball when I was there the second year, the second time and he said if you were a little bit taller you would've been on the squad but your not tall enough and the same thing Mr. Hurse said that said that if your were a little bit taller so I enjoyed. But we had intermural basketball and that was the thing that I really played so I spent a lot of time there and I met a lot of fellows there, but like I say when you live in town your loyalty is kind of divided and I was quiet active in our youth movement in our church so but I think there was a bond that we had with the students through the Saturday nights were really well patronized by students and city folks at the you know that for twenty-five cents you could get in to the well skating started about 7:30 - 8:00 and then after a skate for maybe an hour and a half then there was a dance would start. And so from, for the whole evening 25 cents you had skating and dancing. And that's where a lot of the students spent their Saturday nights. You didn't have to take your girl there, you, she was there with other girlfriends and sometimes maybe you would take to the so called um wicker shop up on the corner of that would be Prospect and Third and that's where you would get a maulted milk, you'll get a cheese toasted sandwich for maybe 15, 20 cents, so you had a, had a very cheap evening for less than a dollar, you had everything. But that was, I think, Northern students patronized the plestra very, very well, especially if they

were here for the weekend. That's where I skated, that's where I enjoyed some of our friends at Northern good skaters, a lot of those kids were from you know the Upper Peninsula naturally, and they could skate. We just loved to skate.

RMM: Now did you say the ulser had dances at the

MJ: Yea, Yea.

RMM: Where did they do the dances?

MJ: Up stairs. They had a bad fire, you know a few years ago and you remember the front of the building was just kind of left but that had been a portion of the that was the dance hall.

RMM: Oh yea there was later on, before they tore it down, there was like a little lobby in front, that had been at one time the dance hall.

MJ: There was a big dance hall and we had big bands come in here to serve, you know, the public. And like I said ah when you got through skating you just went up there and it was the same admission for the whole evening.

RMM: Oh and did they have refreshments in the building, or?

MJ: Yea Yea not much but you could get a little, you could get, usually like I said we would walk up to Third Street and go to the wicker shop or there was another another one. Now wait on the corner of Ohio or a Hewitt Ave too. But very few cars in those days. In 27 I purchased a model T and that kind of served me as far as my dates that I had in 27 or 28.

RMM: So were you one of the few people that had a car.

MJ: One of the few people that had a car, but I was you know local. And it was more for my own but, but we went to quite a few problems with that little buggy.

RMM: Now did you use the car year round, or

MJ: Yea Yea

RMM: So the winter as well, by that time.

MJ: Winter you put it up because, you know put it up on blocks.

RMM: So then you still had to walk though?

MJ: Yea, yea, yea, to the plestra I didn't have a car when I went to the plestra because that was winter. But there was also a street car that could you know get.

RMM: Did many people use that?

MJ: Oh yea, yea, but there was one Saturday night that there was a tragic accident. A car left the Plestra and by the end of the path of the they got in between of the two rails and the street car hit head on. I think there were two of the students that were killed. Very tragic accident. But every, every place has it's accidents now and then.

RMM: Were there any problems, now that when you were going to school there, it was a time of prohibition. Where there any problems with, not problems but just use of alcohol, drinking or anything else?

MJ: Yea there was some but it was really Moon Shine. And it wasn't very evident we had very little of that in evidence. I can't remember, there were camp parties, but I didn't attend any of those, so I don't know but naturally, I mean, it was prohibition days and Marquette had it's supply of Moonshine. There's no question North Marquette had all kinds of you know places, what do they call them?

RMM: ?Trinkesess?

MJ: Yea they were something like that. You could get it.

RMM: Know what did you say? You called them camp parties, and students go around and

MJ: Oh there were camp parties in those days like there are now.

RMM: Now you said you belonged to a fraternity?

MJ: I did Yea

RMM: And what were some of the activities associated with

MJ: This fraternity was able to purchase a Koffman house down on East Arch Street. And that became the rooming place for out of town thedas, but they also had had a hand full of home and that was a real social gathering. We had usually two dances a year at that particular house. I don't, I don't think you had any memories of the Koffman house down on East Arch Street.

RMM: East Arch and

MJ: East Arch and Cedar

RMM: Yeah I can remember the place

MJ: Beautiful, Beautiful place

RMM: A big place

MJ: yeah, and I can remember when we first went into the house naturally we were looking through all the closets and all the recesses to find something the Koffman's had left there, and we found it, it was a bowling alley in the basement of that home and you can imagine what a treat it was to have dances at that particular place. But like I said in time it just couldn't pay for itself. Mrs. Editor of Mining Journal

RMM: Russell says he did the secretary, he was secretary.

MJ: Yeah Russell, she lived right next to the fraternity house. She was the one who payed for a tennis court to be built right between her home and the Beta house.

RMM: She lived to the west then?

MJ: Yeah, she lived to the west, and that home is still there. But that became the center of activity and I played there, that's where I played more than I suppose anywhere else. But that was nice, it was kind of a short, it was regulation but you didn't have too much on the side, but she paid for that whole thing, she was so interested in having you know the guys there because having and then to have a bunch of boys there, but that was a good social gathering and then there was the Tri Mu they also had a home and they were located just east of the Marquette County Office on College

RMM: oh ok. Across from St. Micheal's School and a art degree, that

MJ: right, and the Tri Mu house was the first one in that home was later Bill Brady who coached at Marquette High School purchased that house and it is now up on West Ohio by the old school and I don't know if the Alpha Delta's had a house or not, they may have but we had the classic of course. The Tri Mu's were the ones who were the football players. Most of the football players kindof cram into the Tri Mu's and I don't know what the Beta's they had a lot of quality students but they also had dumb ones too like myself. But anyhow there was something that had a union binding them I enjoyed my association with the, but I was never a what you call a social activist, I had friends and dated, and one that I dated pretty regularly for about a year and a half, good skater/ good dancer so.

RMM: You know there's a name that I've seen here, he shows up early here and then he was in Alpha Delta, Peter Guvannenee?

MJ: he's an artist

RMM: and was there a brother or something

MJ: there was Pete and Joe

RMM: Joe, and Joe was teaching at Northern

MJ: one of them is the artist, I don't remember which one it was now. There was one of them that was a big one, was that Joe? And the other one was Pete?

RMM: Do you remember where they were from?

MJ: It would say there wouldn't it?

RMM: it just says he did the secretary, he was secretary.

MJ: oh it would be back in, there would be, they would be listed there somewhere, either juniors or seniors which ever it would be. I should have known, maybe you can find them there

RMM: Oh I see you can go and look through the

MJ: going back now I am sure that they are listed there, what year would they be

RMM: Oh here it is, Iron Mountain

MJ: Oh Iron Mountain

RMM: Peter was, Joseph was too

MJ: they are brothers

RMM: yeah Joseph had a music degree, Peter had a art degree, that is interesting

MJ: that's interesting I went through it just to recall where some of, of course most of them are dead, unfortunately, buy aah

RMM: I think that, I'm just curious, but I think that Joseph was probably the first Italian-American to teach at Northern

MJ: is that right? Yeah that would be interesting, one of our few people that came back to do that. Bill Savola graduated from Marquette High School in 1928, he went to Northern in the fall of 1928 and his picture is there in the band and the orchestra I guess, he graduated from Northern and when Mr. Bathwell was reminiscing about people of the past and the Graverette he mentioned that Bill Savola had something like 56 years of perfect attendance starting back at the grades of Marquette, 4 years of High School, plus 4 years at Northern, plus all the years he taught and worked at Marquette High School.

RMM: Oh my Lord

MJ: He is pictured there, and then of course his son comes along and he has been tremendous and quite an importer of everything under the sun, he came back from where was it, Thailand or someplace. But some interesting characters, but the music was really, really something special there were the , and

the , of God, so many of those.

RMM: yeah I see that name.

MJ: I had him in my practice teaching class, in 1927, he was then a junior in High School. I remember 27 because that was the year that Lindburg flew the Atlantic. In those days, like we have today, instantaneous coverage, you just read it in the Mining Journal or heard it on the radio, but you didn't know until that it even happened you see, but we followed that flight oh months, and then years after when I went to New York and Washington D.C., every year I would take the kids into the place where we could see the spirit of St. Loius. Boy what a thrill. Today everything is decided for you right away, turn on the radio there, and it is too bad, you can't use your head anymore. The thing is all done on the television, but we are of that old school where we know waited but we discussed it, and I wonder what is going to happen? We don't know.

RMM: Well OK do you have any other, something else you want to add, or?

MJ: in

RMM: NO

RMM: this has been great

MJ: hope you can make sense out of all this

RMM: oh yeah, its good