

RM: Interview with Dr. David Dickson, Marquette, MI. via telephone. February 18, 1997.

DD: We stood against the president and I was after all was his, what became the Academic Vice-President ??? ??? and that was very hard to do so I took another offer.

RM: I think at the time even if you did not have that McClellan controversy and all things were kind of in a general uproar here as they went from the small thousand student school to 6,000+ and there were a lot of rapid expansion, a lot of disruption.

DD: That is right. The president was a wonderful human being he just had some sensitive which I think as I grew older I agreed with on the behavior of the faculty. The chap in question was of course, I won't hold you any longer, was somebody I had known as a youngster when I was at Michigan State and I won't get into all this. But when I first married I couldn't find a place to live because of my racial background. The Episcol ??? Sneder, the tradition I was in at the time. I had me, my wife, and our little fellow was about to arrive and we stayed at the chaperon couple at the Episcol College Center where they had some international students including Bob McClellan who was one of those boys from a polite, wealthy background but who had a deep feeling for the under dog and always has. He was a fine, fine teacher just, I think that the president felt in the political situation he was that this.. Bob McClellan stood up you see for one thing and there were also problems with another fellow. But Bob always believed in helping the under dog whom he felt were the people that could not get homes that they'd like to have and this college taking over the land. I still respect him and he is a great guy. And then there were a couple of other fellows who were good faculty people but who's behavior was disturbing to even a lot of us.

RM: Oh I see. Oh, so there are other stories besides McClellan's story that is out there? Problems with faculty?

DD: Yes, it came from an old tradition, which I don't want to be unkind in generalizing. When a high school principal is quite different then a college president and having been one for 13 years I understand better then I used to. Well Okay good give me a ring and I hope that I will be all ready.

RM: Okay

RM: I guess just go down the list if you feel if you want to very from the question or something or add something go right ahead.

DD: Okay.

RM: This is just kind of a general guide line.

DD: I think that I mentioned last time that I don't remember and I just had my 78th birthday on Sunday and my memory is not what it was when I could use it handily. Whether or not I had ever sent a copy of my little memories to your library.

RM: I don't think so.

DD: If I didn't I will send you a copy.

RM: Okay, we would appreciate it.

DD: I have only a few, frankly, it was only a vanity press affair which made my family, my academic family right but a it a that I have a couple of copies left in the library but I taught at several places and that will give you some things from my own perspective beyond what I can give you right now. Let me just tell you, you see back then my career and I'm long winded member I was a old English teacher and I live by the word written and oral. I was born in Portland, Maine. My parents were British west Indian. They came there in 1011 and 1912. My father and mother married there but they came and they had five children. They had a passion this explained a lot of things my limitation and strengths. They had a passion for higher education. My dad came up with what we call it middle family and he owned land and he had aunt and sisters who were teachers this will explain something this isn't so true to Northern but I hope you'll bear with me cause they had a lot of influence on probably lots of good things on my background. They were my dad had uncles and aunts and cousins who went on to England which was the place to go United States was third behind Canada if you wanted to call ? and he was never sent to school beyond the public schools only age fifteen but I think gave him something about as good as what the freshmen college get these days. So he had five children all of whom through scholarships which we got and dad working two jobs we all went on to higher education and I was two of the boys became physicians, a third was an optometrists and I was the only one who did what my father didn't want us to do in this country which was be responsible to other people and myself for whatever progress I made. They were what they called in the British allies "colored people" rather than black people. We all know about South Africa, the same is true in Jamaica. There were minority but there were people of mixed background. They all had uncles, I mean parents or grandparents who were European as well as African and in my case, these included a Jewish grandfather from Central Europe. My dad's grandfather, one of my dad's grandfather's was a Scot that is where ??? comes from. My mother's father was an Irishmen and then there was.... I guess all the continents were represented.

It had something to do with a certain snobbery which I afraid those people had towards folks who were poorer and blacker and all of that. It had to do with a lot of the things that I had to grow up with. Well I went... ??? ?? and me we were all pushed to become good students, that was necessary to win scholarships and we all went to private colleges in those days; all five of us. Because we could get scholarships, we could get them very largely by competitive examinations and also in case you had need and we did well. So after Boyden College, where six of my family had gone I was a straight A student I was number one in my class so I was a very bookish character. I was in debating and all of that stuff. I then moved on to Harvard, graduated from Boyden in 1941 and then Harvard, did a three year stint in the Army it was the medical group that was made up of people of limited service, I was because of my eyes. And my graduate work was around before and after a three year stint in the Army and I started at Harvard and finished my course work by 43' went into the Army went to OCS out in Texas and then spent two years as CO of the medical detachment what meant really, the hospital enlisted people at Tuskegee Army Airfield which people have heard about. Came back to Harvard and finished, I was a teaching fellow there, a graduating assistant teaching fellow which the law orders, you know, a student's that have probably passed their orals and working on their thesis and who handles quiz sections and little small sections of large classes on Friday. So I grew to love teaching and I decided that was what I really wanted to be.

It was difficult, frankly, in those days, pardon me for begin long-winded, I kind of void it all together. I decided that I wanted to teach I looked around for a place to teach, course all of us would loved to taught at the Ivy League. Northern New England are very prevential in their feeling if you are not in the Ivy League, your the small liberal arts college like, William, Amores, Wesley, Oberland and such, you don't quite belong, I got over that fast. So I, in fact, I hoped to stay at Harvard where one or two of my colleagues did but at the end of our department at Harvard in english told me, you have to remember that Harvard is still a very prejudice place, even James Brian Conan who is a very distinguished organic chemist and a Harvard man that came from english ancestry, who came over however, at about 1800 so they didn't belong to those that came over in 1660. And there were a very few Jewish professors at Harvard in those days and many of those had married colonial dames and many of them denied being Jewish like the Schlesinger and son who were distinguished historians. There was no chance for me eventhough I was one of the better graduate students, I actually thought, to become a assistant professor at Harvard. So people searched around for a place for me to go, it turned out that Michigan State under John Hannah and of course his influence and the influence of his colleague who became president while I was there was tremendous to me. I found that a land grant college did things begin a "cow college" was not insignificant. When Michigan State got its Phi Beta Cappa of course Ann Arbor fought it every way possible. But it has become a distinguished and John was an amazing man. I couldn't get a house, these things may effect me but if I am being to windy just tell me.

I went there as a single fellow and I met my wife, my first wife who died twenty-one years later who was a student at the time. And so when I left the single/married housing I couldn't find a place to live to get an apartment. So the Episcopal College Center had a center on campus and they had rented some rooms to boys some of them from over seas who were undergraduates and my wife and I served as sort of the chaperon couple there. and later on when my first son was coming along we found that we couldn't find a place to live anywhere in East Lansing or anywhere in the vicinity. John Hannah helped us to find a house, so I had very fond feelings for the openness of the state fund universities. I was for about eight years the first and only black professor on campus. I might say that 15 years after I left, after John Hannah retired the president was a Harvard graduate who later on became Chancellor of the State University of New York and a colored fellow with a privileged background. But it was difficult in those days but I had always lived in mixed situations I felt very comfortable with most folks and folks of all sorts. I enjoyed being at Michigan State, I have been there from 1948, after I finished my doctorate, until 1973. I had moved up very quickly to assistant professor into associate

but I didn't become a full professor because I didn't publish as much and of course Michigan State was giving Ph.D.s and like so many of the larger universities publication is valued more then, really valued more then graduate teaching as for moving upward. I felt a little disgust because I felt a lot of the scholarship frankly, was not at the caliber I knew at Harvard. A lot of it was what I call commercial scholarship where you find something that will sell quickly and most Dean's and graduate folks don't know the intrinisiy and quality of disciplinary work only their colleagues know that. So I got a little restive but I could have stayed there forever.

But then something developed and how I come to my Northern days eventually. By 1963, when was it when I left, yes. 1963 when I left Michigan State largely because one of the professor's there was a man that I never met but deeply revered and that was the man that wrote four books which his autobiography which I recommended to you, Dutch Barlett. An amazing human begin, a great scholar, a marvelous teacher, and almost the acme of independence and courage and decency of the old New England type. And of course he was a favorite of Dr. Harden until he and I stood up

for Bob whom I had known from the ??? college days. I went to Northern as chairman of the english department succeeding Dr. Thomas. I enjoyed that, I had never thought that I would be much of an administrator I am not sure that I had much political sense. I enjoyed the job, I found at Northern the dedication to the student that reminded me of my days at a small college. They loved you to do good scholarship, they pushed you but my goodness you really had to work with the youngsters. Sort of thing that you are doing right now with this young man.]

Things went rather well, there were a lot of splendid people there in many fields. The music department was very good, the english department was surprisingly good with people from Indiana. We had some excellent scholars, Dutch probably begin the most distinguished, the same thing was true in history the academic vice-president, Milton Bird was a very innovative guy before he went off to become president of Chicago State. And they were interested in, John Hannah was, in what was called Common Learning redesigning the undergraduate curriculum so that it would be comprehensive and John Hannah encouraged all of this, I mean Harden, I always mix it up. I was perfectly happy there. My wife found it very pleasant and we got a nice house up on the brow of the hill I forgot the name of the street now. And again some local, some neighbors weren't very happy to have a black or negro family near them. But John Harden and quitted the one who happened to be an employee of the college in an administrative job. We were very happy, we were active Episcopalians and I was on the board of the church all that sort of stuff. I enjoyed it I don't think that I would have left, I think I could have spent my life there. It reminded me of Northern New England which I loved, I was born a 100 yards from the main coast and the whole life of it I came to respect your students. One young lady who came from the Upper Peninsula helped my wife after she had a broken ankle and raise our kids. I came to admire the Scandinavian, in this case, the Finnis group. A little girl who was asked by somebody who knew little about the Upper Peninsula "Did your family like to hunt?" she said "Yes." he said "were they successful?" she said "Yes, they had to be but we didn't hunt for sport we hunted for food." Well they had something that I call that no-nonsense respect for decency, hardwork which I thought was the best of the American tradition ????? felt they sponsored it.

Thoroughly happy, I felt that so many of the faculty were first rate. The young fellow, after gaining chair of the department, and academic vice-president who worked with me, Tom....his name is still in the chemistry department he may still be there.

RM: Tom Griffith.

DD: Tom Griffith who is still around. And I felt that it had a good faculty I thought by this time I had come to respect the kind of public university, land grant desire that you served all the people of the state or your area as best as you could. You didn't feel that you needed to know Latin to be respectable. And both the sciences, music department were excellent, the speech department a fellow who was head of the theater. There were so many folks there that I thought were as good as any young middle aged scholars that I had seen Harvard, Boyden or anywhere else. I don't think that I would have left except for the events of the last year or two that I was there which I think was 67'-68' And your probably familiar with the fact that Ed Harden who was a splendid human begin but had some limitations. He had this ability, he had great political sense, he believed deeply in public education he did many good things for the area. But he was in some sense a stubborn man, when you asked about how things function I don't think we had the kind of participatory democracy which some schools try and I having been a college president I can understand why some didn't try. But he was open but when he felt that people got in the way of some of his like "Right to Try" and

many other things here in the community he stiffened up. The young fellow that precipitated a lot of problems in 1966-67 I had known because him and his wife were students at Michigan State and they lived in the Episcopal college center where I had been. He's become a Episcopal priest, he's become an expert in Oriental history and so when he...he also was one of those upper middle class boys who came from the outside of Chicago, they both came from privileged, wealthy families. In the 60s they were deeply concerned with the poor, the helpless, and the afflicted. So Bob took a big interest in the humble folks that worked in the charcoal factories and other things around Marquette. And when the school was expanding as it needed to with all the growth both physical and human which Harden was doing, he stood up and felt that these folks even though they would get fair price for their property were not able perhaps in that town where there...all small town differences between the comfortable and the hardworking folks and he took up with them and he was just bold enough he never has been happy with the world, and he had worked with them and Ed said that you shouldn't do that your blocking the necessary expansion of the college. College was split, the head of the history department stood up, Princeton ??? stood up for him and some of us did, and of course I was not a happy camper, eventually as Harden flies.

When my assistant vice-president and I stood up for them and tried to talk to Ed, Ed said "I won't listen." It was the first time that he had ever been brusque with us and he respected both of us and we liked him enormously as a human being that made me a little uneasy. Then when Bob was let go and left and when some other people had left I was ready I think to decided to say that I might be available, that availability came when I got a chance to be invited the provost at a new first really public college Area College in Washington, what was called Federal City College, which is called now the University of District Columbia. Howard is not really a district agency it is a federal agency founded however by a Boyden man back in the 1860s. That school was not built on how it should have been on the teachers college foundation because a lot of subject academicians have a certain scorn for teachers colleges which I think is kind of absurd, I had to learn that eventually. That proved to be not really suited, it gave me a chance to work as Mariame said "for my people." and we were going to have a inter-racial institution with a lot of white students from the suburbs and with very low tuition, splendid faculty in the beginning. But it fell into a whole lot of trouble and I was there as, eventually I became academic vice-president and I was there about two years when the president and I were both let go and the job was given to a fellow who became the second president but was just really a self-promoter and didn't last long. So then that gave me pause and I left there and went up to State University of New York in Stony Brook which was a growing college out there on the island with a great physics and science department, they had a great science think tank there now it has a medical school and all, I think one of the top University of Chicago, University of California probably the best multi-purpose system in the country nearly so. I was there for five years and I eventually became the academic vice-president over there while still teaching a course or two in Milton and literature of the Bible, 17th Century Renaissance and 18th century poetry. Then I was invited eventually, I had offers from various other places but my life was out at the island and then I went to Mount Claire State. I was Mount Claire State's president from 73 until 84' and I retired as president at age 66 and I stayed on as distinguished professor until 88' when I fully retired. So that is the history of my own background it is probably to full somewhat but... my first wife died in 79' and that was very difficult from cancer and remarried later on with second wife had three kids. That is my own life I don't know if that is very vital but it gives the background.

RM: Can I stop for a second, I want to get some dates and some specific information. What is your birthdate?

DD: I am in Whos Who and all of that is there and all of those things are up to date and quite specific. I was born in 1919.

RM: If it is there I can check it.

DD: Are there other sort of specific details that might not be in that kind of book. If so I would be glad to give it to you.

RM: Then the one that is probably not in there, the name of your parents.

DD: My parents were David and Mary Dickson. My mother is Mary Dailey-Dickson and I was one of five children growing up in Maine which produced two physicians, one eye specialist, myself as a professor, and my sister who is a very prominent person in education. Used to work for the head of the testing agency down in Washington for years so they educated their children, thank the Lord, very well. Other specific autobiographical things, I think that will give you all that you need.

RM: No, that is fine.

DD: I thought the physical plant was somewhat lacking when I first went there to Northern but of course Ed was great builder and they developed a new athletic building, developed dorms and I think he assembled a good faculty. I don't think that he ever pretended to be a benevolent dictator he was you see he didn't have....I don't think the faculty had a forum in any formal fashion I think the most organized they called in the AAUP and the boss came. But he was genial man, he was a dedicated man he represented the best in what I call Mid-Western America but he also was a man of some limitations. He worked like a dog, he brought good people in for both the physical plan and education, he had people consulting and everything. But he tended to do what he thought was best. There were two problems there, there was a young man in our department, Ted Richard, you have probably read these books that..Ted Richard taught was a dramatist he taught creative writing. Was a charming person but Ted did two things along with the problem of Bob in history began to lead some of the faculty to be unhappy. One of the things that he did was he presented a play, it would've troubled anybody in Paris probably even in Brunswick, Maine but there was little bit of undress and language which didn't please him, a dedicated, middle-western methodist if I am being to categorical. Of course when Bob who, Bob was just, when he began to speak for the poor folks and too help to prevent the expansion of the college and never would let up. Bob is one of those idealist who feels he has a certain amount of pride for people that don't stand up for the poor and the afflicted, and as a Christian clergymen he was all better for that. Then the faculty and some of our faculty leaders including some of... head of the history department fine Princeton graduate and some others stood with Bob and Harden just said no and some of us left. And the fellow who came in, this is one of the reasons that I left, Johnson was a well meaning fellow, a school principal but I had a notion that school principals or superintendents tend not to permit their to have ideas that differ from them and who get into things other than teaching. And he wouldn't even talk to me because he knew I was on the other side that is why I was ready to go.

RM: Oh so you mean after....

DD: Harden retired.

RM: Right, but I mean things kind of settled down there was still a hostility towards the people that had been supporting McClellan?

DD: Oh yes. The....

SIDE B: TAPE ONE

DD: In the mean time after the fellow, Milton Bird left I succeeded him as academic vice-president and Milton went on to become president of Chicago State. I got along beautifully with Ed until that broke up and he was never mean to me at all. It is just that he left to go into business and his successor I think was a man, a decent man but infinitely less imagination for the growth of a college in so many ways as Ed had and that is why I left. I found that the physical plan improved a lot but the faculty was remarkably good. I grew up with a normal notion of the teacher's colleges were ??? contempt and you only get a doctorate in education it meant somebody who couldn't become a doctor or Ph.D in history and all of that is nonsense. I have now grown to feel that the as I read in the Sciences yesterday that the kind of teachers colleges and the fact that at many institutions, at many small institutions if you spent too much time with your students then you will not get promoted. One of my best friends at Michigan State was told to stop spending so much time with his students and publish, publish, publish. Some of the publications if you want to find an old letter in your grandmother's belongings you can get it in the regional historical side and people who are far away will regard that as something important a, doing something inessential. So I think the faculty was a dedicated faculty and a good one, in music, in history, in foreign languages, I thought it was a remarkably good department generally. The students, I loved I have always loved students. They were the kind of students that generally not wealthy, were moving up the ladder financially but also keeping the virtues what I think one of my teachers said, "The morality of any nation is not among the upper-class and the middle class, but among the folks of the lower middle class." and I respected them.

The administration was good, I think. The faculty as a whole were I think, some were more patient and less outspoken but I thought it was a good school, it was improving and while I was there the quality, for example, the quality of the music. We couldn't afford to bring in symphonies but we brought in chamber music groups, I learned to love chamber music, not at Harvard, not at Michigan State but at Northern. So it was a fine place a good place for kids to grow up but then I left.

I have always respected Ed Harden and after he left we had some exchanges and I came to believe that he was as we used to call him "Big Ed", other than his own stature. But he was ..we never had anything like a faculty council we didn't meet much with him. He did things largely by his own desires and most of them 90% of them were first rate. But he was not in any sense a person who had a council and I gather that his board didn't run him he ran the board and directed them. I wish that I could have done that more effectively.

The English department was small, of course, we were an English and foreign language department. We never felt that the right to try was bad, I changed my notion, the notion that if you look in U.S. News & World Report they evaluate colleges but I really think that it is related to their means the scores of the students which are important, but a lot of it is statistical rather than an evaluation of quality in a profound sense. So the expansion of the student body, the development of the four course idea, and the common learning were all to the good and I came to have a lot of

understanding of Ed Harden when I became a college president. In that, the board should give policy but should not interfere in administration. They ought to get a president whom they respect and let them do their own but when they get involved in the political processing and start running down to the capital on their own for the best purposes in the world you are in trouble. I think that he got very good people on the board, people of varying sort, blacks and other folks you know who were on the board who had normally not been on boards of public institutions or private for that matter. So I think that the expanding student body never disagreed with the fact he would take students who wouldn't be accepted at so called prestigious places. I came to respect this, I never had in my own upbringing a public higher education that offered a varied curriculum which also enabled students to grow while they were college if they hadn't had all the advantages before. Some of us had to know that she had to be valedictorian to deserve any credit. So as I look back on Ed, he could have, if he could have moderated his stand and let Bob have his head but not just shut him out I think it would have gone better. Of course, I became the dean of arts and sciences when as I sent my...the fellow who was a very lively fellow went off to Chicago State and I respected enough to do that briefly.

But there were very few black under number seven, there were very few minority people in town or we always had while I was there all the prominent black even in the lower peninsula on the board. Ed was if he latter showed when the job corp came in, which I think was under him, that he had a concern for the lesser brother. And I went into administration, I suppose, not with any great enthusiasm but when I hadn't been.. I might say as I think Sam Johnson said "So he had little more money to spend on his family." And I also felt in many ways to become that it indicated that a person of my background could do administration as well as be a teacher and probably be fairly good at it. But I always much preferred teaching, I taught even during the 11 years, I always taught one course. That was my chief love. I don't.. there were some problems, as there would be in almost any place, when there were blacks around in the job corp. This is through the whole country, yet I feel that some of the folks that were there they had some very prominent people from the lower peninsula who were black, in a sense those folks were not inferior in their attitudes and if they weren't ??? they might be. I didn't know much about the job corp crisis which came after my time.

I suppose that I talked about the McClellan controversy? Well Bob was a superb student he had lived in...he knew oriental studies he brought a special kind of learning and understanding that broadened the whole history offerings. He was a head strong idealist but I bless him for that. I don't think that John McCallful who ran the newspaper was extradent and I am not a real leftist, was a very conservative man and I think he influenced the public attitude in the town so I never knew whether they realized Bob McClellan was their closest friend. He made noises and there was another case where people whos morals by public were not very good, were not given much sympathy. The head of the math department, it eclipse me now, a brilliant fellow had had a liaison with the wife of a professor and that sort of thing, I did not support that but I don't think.. I think that you had to permit faculty to be human as long as they didn't do anything that brought the police into the situation and that is hard in a small town. So I talked about the McClellan controversy, I said that i would have liked to stay and have my kids grow up in the U.P. but I just felt that I became ??? non grata. I don't think the internal forces is what pushed me out but I think it was really was that and I took a vertical move in administration because I went from vice-presidency at a place that didn't work and then I later became department chairmen and a full professor in places ?? so it didn't and I moved to administration eventually but I must say I found NMU, it gave me respect for teacher education if I also learned at Mount Clair which had a very high reputation along

with ? college in California and Albany, New York then I realized that we suffered very greatly now because good ? have a notion that teacher graduates are important you don't want to spend those time with the youngsters spend your time almost all together that way I say that again if I may say just one other thing all my children went to Ivy League places out of my New England background and my sons had a ph'd from Harvard in history. He's taught colleges, fellow without much ability to relax and when he got straight A's from ?? almost glorified that thing but in the beginning of his sophomore year he was so tense he was following in the foot steps of his uncles and all that stuff he got straight A's the first two semesters when he went into his classes his sophomore year into his exams he blacked out completely the dean of students who was the British historian, who knew him, you can know a person at a small college came to him got the deferral or whatever they call it sent him home and I've seen to many students who were pushed if they were in my family you know were just cracked up and that would never happen at the big places you never knew the youngsters they were just people you had sixty or seventy of them forty or fifty and you can't do it with a group of psychologists who were around or it has to be somebody who knows them as students and as people so I have a deep respect for the college to stay small enough to regard all of those human relations as important along with purely academic ones and I think that Northern Michigan up in that part of the state has been a meaningful and splendid institution and I think of it very fondly and of course there are people like the Hilton's, Jim Jones, and our panel and I don't know if those folks are still there.

RM: Yes, there still around, retired but still in town here.

DD: And of course the lady who's husband is a specialist in internal medicine who has been on the board.

RM: Katie Wright?

DD: Katie Wright, there among our best friends and still are. I got to love those folks and we have kept in touch with most. Though it was a somewhat unpleasant, there was some unpleasantness I consider it a tremendous part of my life. I don't know if I have been too verbous and candid.

RM: Oh no this has been perfect.

DD: But it gives you a little sense, in fact, I regret that I was put on one of these boards, committees that was studying Northern and I never really functioned in that. That was a few years ago. But I would have liked to been more helpful to the college which gave me a chance too, I don't know, grow but to vary my talents.

RM: Yes, it is interesting what you are saying because a lot of that was started by Harden, the Right to Try and so on. Even now we are doing a presidential search and that did enter into a question that we are going to ask the candidates what do you think of the right to try? It's been modified but we still hold to that and also the whole thing to interact with our students.

DD: Oh, I think that is vital.

RM: And that has been maintained< I've had one of my students had some friends come up from the University of Wisconsin and he was telling them that we had the kids work for us and what not and these kids from Wisconsin said "My word, we would never, never, think of talking to our teacher or full professor" and so on, maybe the graduate assistant but never the chief instructor.

DD: Someone said and I don't know who accurate it is, what percentage of the undergraduate courses at Harvard and at similar, great so called distinguished major public universities are taught by graduate students. I would say this for Harvard and the Ivy League I know them, one of my kids went to Princeton. Is that the Ivy League with all of its snobbery hasn't got over it, always insisted that their full professors either be related to the houses at Harvard, colleges at Yale. You couldn't....you might teach, might work in the labs, you might teach a Friday quiz section but you never were a substitute for the full professor and I think that is important. That when you get to much of this done by folks that are just feeling their professional oats, just working along haven't quite figured out how to arrange what is deliverable and what isn't, how you grade and how you don't then I think you lose the human quality. That is why I feel that, except for students that are very mature, I encourage students to go to a college that is small enough so the full time faculty interact regularly and I have real doubts about anyone who wasn't emotionally and academically mature who goes to a big state university. That is a bias of mine.

RM: No, I see it with my daughter she will be graduating from the University of Michigan and has had probably through the four years has had mostly graduate students.

DD: Even at full time responsibilities or were there some of them that did quiz sections?

RM: Yeah, well some of them were sections but some of them were courses were taught or they brought in, when she took language they brought in a speaker of Italian from Italy to come in and teach the course and I don't know what the person's but it kind a sounded like to was a...just kind of like a adjunct that was brought in because they were a native speaker. I don't know what their teaching ability was, so I have seen the in some ways I wish that she had come to Northern because as we promote, we provide the students, but the students don't realize this but we keep telling them, we provide them with a small college almost private college environment.

DD: Yes, and that is so vital because a lot of us as students have crisis, physiological or otherwise that might have developed into something and you had a kind of parental discipline and parental affection. I guess, I think that so vital in the growth of people and you can come to respect as human begins and not as great scholars who had books, as wonderful as that is, as human begins you cared for them and that I hope is never lost.

RM: No, we have hung on to that it is just part of the philosophy of Northern now and I don't that will be; it would have to be a radical change.

DD: And you are looking for a new president?

RM: Yes.

DD: What is the population, what is the size of the place now?

RM: We pretty much pleated at about 7,000. They would like to get up to 8-9,000 because it would look good to the state legislature and so on. But were kind of maintaining, we didn't...well a few years ago we didn't put enough emphasis on the recruitment and we kind of let that go for a year or two then we also had K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base close down and we did have a drop of several hundred students which you know added up to five, six, seven, percent decline because of that.

DD: Head count is important to the legislature.

RM: Right, oh yes. So now we are kind of rebounding from that, kind of a psychological effect of Sawyer closing and all of a sudden losing, I don't know we might have lost about 500-600 students. And you know out of 7,000 that is relatively high.

DD: A high percentage.

RM: Were also trying to direct our energies into developing and into new programs, for instance, I am now the Director of the Center of Upper Peninsula Studies we just got it going.

DD: Is that history and across the board.

RM: It will be across the board.

DD: The economics of the place.

RM: And the idea is to work with the local tourist agencies, with the local businesses to promote the Upper Peninsula, promote tourism and wherever we can help out. For instance, up in Calumet now they are putting up, they developed the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

DD: It is the most beautiful places in the country, Calumet.

RM: And so what we are doing now, I just made some preliminary trips up there to talk to a local Lutheran minister who's gotten all excited about developing a ethnic museum and possibly we can lend our talents and pull talents together to help them out because they are kind of up on their own because Tech doesn't really want to get into all that stuff.

DD: I think the Finnish, the history of the Finns and the other Scandinavians is very fascinating and I still think that those folks are the soil of the earth.

RM: Well they had this last summer, we had wonderful time. They had Finn Fest here in Marquette they had 10,000 Finns came to Marquette for this four day, it was just spectacular. The weather help doubt because it was just a beautiful set of days in August, perfect. Then they had some 200 academic lectures, they had sports, they had art, they had music, they had theater, they had just general dancing. It was just a spectacular festival, and people were saying "Gee we should have that every year" well it took a lot of time to put the thing together but it ended up being an experience. I am not Finnish but I went and enjoyed the sessions and it is something that we are going to try and do when we get this Center for U.P. studies up and running, it just got organized or

ok'd by the Board of Control in August. But for instance, to have a folk life festival in the summer time that would highlight the life and the community of the Upper Peninsula and then bring in dancers and not have an elaborate program like the Finns did but have something like that to have a focus of activity during the summer time.

DD: Well you know I think that it is so vital that in this country that has marvelous opportunities for interrelationship among peoples, you know from everywhere. To begin an appreciation of something other than the regional notions, you know, in New England, if you were to be Italian or Irish in Boston is to start with a handicap. I'll just tell one more story and I won't hold you.

One of my dearest friends from Boyden came from a family where his father was related to Jonathan and his father had graduated from Boyden, three generations, he was a wealthy man. He married a lovely lady with an Italian background, happened to be wealthy Italian cause they had they imported Italian cultural products to Boston but she was Italian, so we were in the when Kennedy? they had a summer place still do my dearest friend with Charlie and his family and he got to know the Kennedy's when Kennedy's were in the news was when father was named to the ambassador of St. James somebody after we were taking showers after track practice one of the fellows said Charlie your folks must know the Kennedy's I said oh yes we slept over there house in the summer, they still have their place up there somebody said but a I but then even Charlie came ?? said something he said you know we didn't think much of the Kennedy as people they we sort of they had been chatty Irish not so long ago then some outspoken fellow track men said but Charlie if your name had not be Edwards but you mother's name you would have been a wap. You know we've got to get rid of that cause a lot of those Italy was the fountain head for philosophy, science, art and everything civilized northern Europe and we've got lets hope that I think colleges like Northern University god bless them.

RM: Well were out there keeping up our traditions and a trying were going to try to the centennial to pull all of that together

DD: And when is that going to be?

RM: 1999

DD: 1999? Not to far away.

RM: No just well we started in 1994 to get going and it was good to get started that far back and were on a nice roll here so we should have a pretty spectacular celebration.

DD: Well I want to get up there again so Hilton before they all die off.

RM: And were going to be inviting past faculty staff, administrators everybody to come back for that celebration.

DD: That'll be great and I hope all goes well, in fact, if I could be helpful I would be glad to

RM:: Well thank you for this interview. I really appreciate it and I'll get a copy of it made and then I'll get back to you for revisions, additions, etc. Ok Thank you.