

J. PAT FARRELL  
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Interview with P. Farrell by Nathan P. Mellott

INT: I have to do a paper on the History of the Geography department and I did some research in the old bulletins and I would of like to talk to ?. But, I came up with a couple of questions in my research, one is I was wondering if you could tell me a little bit about Lynn Halvorson and about her stresses and what she wanted done in this department and how she ran it.

PF: he was a dictatorial kind of guy (a lot of rattling of paper, machine noise, could hardly understand either person) He was a person with eternal force, doing things his way. I came to Northern during the period of 35 years ago, 1960, and ah he pretty well told you ? about structure and how you teach, and pretty much everything else. He was from the old school. He, I can remember we were here when I came, only one person, that was Dr. Hinonen, he was the department head at the Geography. Halvorson had him pretty well controlled, tell him what and what not to do. ( I cannot understand this whole sentence, it is all muddled) But he was a good department head, I had no problem with him, because I was just going to do it my way, no matter what he said, because I have developed my own way.

INT: you said that ah Dr. Hinonen was the next one

PF: He was the next department head in Geography. I think over the years, I think I was in the department for about three years and then he left. ?

INT: Didn't he come back after a few years, Didn't Halvorson come back after a few years?

PF: NO, he didn't come back.

INT: Oh I thought he came back.

PF: No he left, left the area and settled down state and Traverse City area and died at 85 years later. Alumni records probably would have all the information.

INT: Then you also worked under Dr. Roine and Dr. Hughs

PF: yes, and I left the department and I was director of research and development for Northern. but I only taught here one course, for a period of 3 or 4 years during the 60's and I came back ?(I think Dr. Roine) was department head, sometime in 73 ? died, but before he died Dr. Hughs was the ? (spoke so softly I could not make out what he was saying). After him was MR. ? and he became department head, they were looking for someone, (there is so much background noise, slamming doors people coughing close to the mic, this is really hard to understand in parts) and ah the administration caused complications and nobody else wanted the job on the terms they took ??? (cannot make this out) finally retired and Dr. goldby took it then and he went up to the Vice

Presidents office and I took over as department head, not that I desired the job at all, but I was someone on campus that knew what was going on.

INT: Now was back in the ? ? ? ? Now back in the 60's were the students, basically majoring in Geography or was that was that?

PF: There was no planning, they were Geography or conservation. previously when I came in the 60's Conservation was government and had a lot of agriculture in it. Was an egg crate curriculum during the 50's and 40's and when that went out conservation was left hanging, that was prior to the Geography department and something in the ? ? it became Geography and conservation. Then about 15 years ago ? ? called a tropical ? ?

INT: Ok, and now the job placement how has that changed over the past 30 years?

PF: It's always been difficult for a job in conservation. ? ? students and I think most students ? doing take the major ?? people are going to get jobs with the better students ? ? but Geography will open up if your trying to work in that area keep looking that's all. In geography most I think probably 50 percent of the students go for ?

Int: Said that's the main focus yeah.

PF: And the other work in environmental ? but probably run about between twenty and forty majors in geography or I think we have twenty seven now, every year three or four or five graduate from geography and then ?? half ?? and I never tried it it's the same thing the number that go to grad school the other ?? is the ?? environmental studies and the other thing is quite a few get into the teaching ??? and the last

Int: I can figure that out.

PF: In the first year I would say between 80 and 85,90 find jobs the first year

INT: Now with the growing concern with like environment and the conservation movement has the students gone up pretty much?

PF: At that time and I can't give you a date on this but it started way back in the late 60's we had one year we had 614 majors in conversation but these students ? in that period people ?? the whole revolution of young people and this idea to get out become part of the environment again ? most of these students came to us for two semesters and then left I called them all backpackers their on a hike and took a pit stop along the way but the availability of jobs and environmental area depending on whats the government doing when the government is really concerned with environment and federal problems ? ? you find that there is great demand and federal and state government

people who understand the problem and ? up and down ?? with money at the federal state level so even though in the last couple of years the administration talked about development and talk of a good game as far as I'm concerned but there has been very little money and ? regulations and now we may have no regulations if you don't have regulations and the problem for the conservation major is there is very few jobs now ?? if you look at them as long ?? I don't have a problem because I'll die in ten fifteen years you people have a problem, and you've seen all this movement in this Country is based on individual life. If your interested that is what you got to do. If you want to ? quickly that is how you have to do it. You have to be concerned with the whole life of the collection and the collection I am talking about the ? communist collective, I mean the ? ? ? the most.

Int: When you were teaching did you teach basically geography?

PF: I taught ?? over the years, ??

Int: Why did you guys decide to make the planning the major ?

PF: We felt the need for it and we wanted some experteece ?? and myself all felt that do something there major that provides ?? SOMEONE IS BANGING ON A TABLE OR SOMETHING NEAR THE TAPE RECORDER AND IT IS HARD TO HEAR WHAT THEY ARE SAYING!!! Planning and language planning are really an offshoot of Geography, something different and we thought we could move on to say major which could provide for real good students an area to go into, with probably one job to do. Professional interest and with expertise on the part of myself, and ? and ?. At the same time it was a concern with the other program (cannot understand the person) same job with the majority of the ?

Int: A major part of the, a major part of the program has to do with lab work, there is extensive amount of lab work.

PF: there is but most of it is Geography, the exceptions are geology, ? , ? for the geologists. The rest of us are trying for Geography. In Geography there are two sub fields, those people who are official geographers look at cultural ? this on top of, the other is physical factors, ? ? how that interact with culture, another group who are physical geographers, who got to look at the physical aspects ? ? in times have very little to do with the human aspect. But there are no other fields which tries Biology, botony, zoology, soils, ?, ? they all go together. Geographers do they are concerned about the association. We talk to a biologist today and ? ? talk about enviornmental science and human relevance. We are a problem were not part of the situation, ? nitch for the ? plants and animals and so forth, were one of the animals so we look at it differently. So there are a lot of lab courses, ya. But I wouldn't say they are lab and ? like biology and that type, not like political science either.

INT: Now what I was saying there was a lot like with cartography and all that and map senseing and ?, zoology, you have so much lab. and I read something about a room or something, do you know anything about that? It was in the 30's or 40's, it was in the basement of this building I thought it was.

PF: I wasn't even here, I was only 20 years old.

INT: I thought I read something about a certain class, but maybe I was wrong.

PF: I used to teach a class in the locker room at Kaye Hall, the cartography lab was in the old Kaye Hall which is gone now. They took the gym and made lecture rooms, I took the mens locker room, in fact the shower room was my office, they took out all the fixtures and made it into an office. It had a slidiny ? feeling you couldn't stand up in it all the time. I had drafting tables and cartography stuff in the locker room and at the other end biology had lab for some kind of botony. That is the only thing I can think of. The geography department was in partially in Longyear and partially in Kaye Hall, when I came that were we were housed. As long as I can remember. That building was built in the early part of the century. It is tore down now.

INT: How about the Geography club, are you active now?

PF: There has been many many geography clubs, there was one I found the first one, called the Fernander's, many were formed not that they needed a club, but the University rules were you coulldn't use the University center for classes. And I had a seminar with Mike and we could have coffee, Longyear hall was a pit, so we get over there and I said well lets form a club and the club had the rights to use the University center, so the students got together and we formed a club and we could have our class over there every tuesday nite or something. so that was the first club and that was for a period of time and than it disappeared and started and disapeared and then we started another one planning kind of adventure mayabe a year and had a chairperson. Then lately a whole bunch of them, seems to be pushed by Dr. Warner(?) then found an honor society called ? epselon then ? and charter members ? and faculty and a bunch of students. Then but all have a problem ? ? ? the criteria to get into that are very very high. I am a believer that everyone should have the opportunity to participate. They have two clubs now, the other one is just fine, Geography, they have to get back. Some of the people are in one of them and the others in both of them. Looks like pretty ? ?.

INT: In the honor one, is that just the geography majors?

PF: No that could be anyone, the people outside the field, I don't have the requirements but they have to have taken so many courses in Geography and a grade point average of 3.20 I don't know what it is. You have somebody in the club Andy Macheny is

the president, or Carl Pitman is the vice president, working in the map room down there, probably has a copy of the requirements. so that, the two clubs provide one the larger club, with no 3.0 average and some of those people are honors because of the 3.0 grade point average to get into the other one. My feeling is that you have to provide for all students. Our club is the Superior Geography and the other one is ? Epsilon. Nationally recognized.

INT: The department has obviously grown, up and down, for the most part up, do you have any thoughts for what the future is going to bring.

PF: Oh yes I think it is going to go ?, we would be growing if we could get more staff, we are overworked and underpaid, no we are overworked right now, not underpaid, but we don't have time for do any extra things we like to do, research, ?, of course there are some of the ?, yes we are going to go laboratory's are the biggest things to get built ? ? . Ah the trend over the years, 5 or 6 years ago there were about 194 majors, last year we had 180, year before that we had 60 it is going up. But we are basically we are truthful we don't know if there are jobs that produce the given. The same with the public. I have come to the conclusion that were really friendly in this department and saying something that is important to the students and we are doing a good job. the faculty is, were going down, ? ? ? ? students like us.

INT: that pretty much covers what I was going to ask. Kind of like the story in Longyear hall, do you have any other interesting that I could maybe splice, I am going to have to kind of squeeze,

PF: yes, first occupiers then were two geographers and a ? ?. Fletch that is how proud of it we are. I smoked and ? smoked, and ? a language professor who didn't and we would drive them all out of the office. The secondary smoke in this University at that time was really something, it was old and ? ventilators were, ? ? ? we didn't have much in terms of ? ? ?. The whole university was in one building, the whole faculty, business, and old Kaye Hall, Longyear, the Library was at the other end, there was another building there, what the hell was it called, ? oh ya. I can't remember. Everyone over there, when you went for coffee, they sat all over the place, now I hardly get a chance to talk to the people over in political science or english they are all over the place. That situation over there was ? a small school, I would rather be class of sophomore and junior classes of 50 or 60 at that time. But you look at the ? you have done, the education of students ? ? which means you have more students in classes, not because we up limits, to get more people through the curriculum, you don't have more people in the class room it takes five or six years to get done.

INT: Okay thank you very much.