

Interview with John Limback 3/27/96

by Abe Walter

AW: John can you tell me where you are from?

JL: Calumet Michigan

AW: Calumet, What kind of background do you have?

JL: What level.

AW: just like education, formal training.

JL: ??? something with computers. Took a few courses in the Air Force, ahm, got out of the Air force, applied for jobs in the U.P, got a job at Northern Michigan University in the ? time.

AW: what year was that?

JL: in 1971

AW: oh 1971, way back

JL: way back.

AW: What was your first position here?

JL: was a computer operator, operations position, did you want a ?

AW: yes, who was your boss first of all?

JL: David Johnson, and Robert ?,

AW: and that was the computer center.

JL: That was the computer center.

AW: For academic computing.

JL: There was some basic academic computing going on, but just primarily for administrative purposes.

AW: What type of system or equipment did you have?

JL: It was an IBM mainframe system, with terminals attached, and ? ?

AW: Was it located in the ? hall at the time?

JL: When I started it it was located in ?.

AW: Was ? ? furthering your education still in effect?

JL: probably administrative tasks.

AW: When did computers become available to students on campus?

JL: Well let me back up a little bit. When I said I started in January of '71, couple of years beyond 1974. Students at that time would have access to key punches. some type of credits, ahm that would be brought over to the computer center and students that were working there and this is from ? computer programming. They would put there program on cards, somebody would run it over to the computer center and someone would basically make ? ?.

AW: Then the output would be dropped off to West Science or where ever the ? students were.

JL: That was from a book that was in 1971 or 74, maybe around 1975 terminals(?) were added to the West Science area. That is where the key punch machines existed. We had 24(?) key punch machines that sometimes students would sometimes sit down and type up a program put them in a box and send them ?. Then in about 1975 terminals were placed in West Science building. I think there were 25,(this sentence is slurred), students would come into that area and sit down work on their program, or whatever they were working on, save their program to storage, would not have to carry this program around with them. Their program or whatever they were working on.

AW: PC's

JL: I think, our first PC's for students came about 1982.

AW: Before that it was, only

JL: Actually before that, maybe it was 1980, we had a couple of the early ones, it was we had a couple of radio ? ? ? and that was the start of the PC's, microcomputing. Then in 1982 I think we began with maybe 25 of the ? IBM PC's. Then they stayed