

Kevin Kari's interview with
John Healey

Intro: Kevin Kari interviewing John Healey on
February 9, 1993 at the Ishpeming
Police Department.

me: When and where were you born?

John: I was born in Ishpeming Michigan, October 31, 1943,

me: What were your parents names?

John: John and Margaret Healey

me: What are the names of your brothers and sisters.

John: Patrick Healey, Mary Kari Shirley Bjorn Joseph Healey

me: Are you married and to who, when, where?

John: Yes, To Jeanne Bertucci August 7, 1976 in Ishpeming

me: What did your parents do for a living?

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John: My father was a prison guard and my
my mother worked at the bozzard
and a housewife

me: Where did you go to school

John: Grade school I went to St. Johns
and High school I went to Ishpeming
High School.

me: Did you go to college

John: NO.

me: What special memories do you
have of growing up in Ishpeming

John: I remember building ski hills and doing a lot of ski jumping when ~~you~~ I was young

Kevin: What special features do you remember about the Ishpeming and Negaunee Area when you were younger?

John: They were always friendly communities?

Kevin: Have they changed in any ways

John: Yes they have.

Kevin: How.

John: There seems to be a lot more crime. Criminal conduct.

Kevin: Anything else?

John: The drug scene is worse now ^{in the UP} than it has ever been.

Kevin: What did you and your friends do for entertainment when you were young.

John: Very Seldom did we ^{ever} come to town, I can

Remember my Parents giving me 50¢ on
a Friday night and I would go to

the American to have a hamburger,
fries and a malt and head for

home. Most of the time, at

home, I was in bed before

Dark (laughing) We used to do

a lot of ~~ski jumping~~ ski riding.

We built our own hills.

We Also went up to the bluff

and used to sled down it.

In the summer, we would do

a lot of fishing, swimming and

camping

Kevin: Where did you and your friends
go when you went to town

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John: We never went to town

Kevin: Do you have any humorous stories
about Ishpeming + Negaunee?

John: I can't think of any off hand.

Kevin: How old were you when you
found your first job

John: About 13,

Kevin: What was it,

John: I worked in a gas station.

Kevin: What duties did you perform
there

John: I worked at the st. Clair Station
It used to be in town here

John: I used to get 10¢ per hour and I
shoveled snow, cut wood and haul
it into the station for winter.
My next job I worked at
Benzie's Highway Standard I
had a big raise making 60¢
per hour and I even bought
A car

Kevin: Did you do the same duties.

John: I pumped gas, changed oil, greese
jobs,

Kevin: What stands out the most
About your first job

John: When they had a big tire
sale, open 24 hours

John: At the Highway Standard, there was
a big tire sale and it was open
24hrs and I had to work
All night.

Kevin: Were you ever in the military?

John: Yes

Kevin: What was your experience there?

John: I was in the Navy. I went through
Boot camp at Great Lakes. After
I got out of boot camp I went
to the Naval Air test center
at Patuxent River, Maryland I spent
A year there. Then I went
Aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid,
A Aircraft carrier. The Thing
that stands out in my mind
there is when I saw

John: was the first jet I ever ~~saw~~ seen
to take off from a carrier that
didn't ~~take~~ make it ~~off~~ and
the pilot ejected and a helicopter
picked him up and there wasn't a
scratch on him

Kevin: Were you in any wars?

John: NO, I was in Cuban Crisis in the
60's

Kevin: How many years have you worked.

John: I started working when I was 13 and
I'm 49 and still working

Kevin: Where were you employed the
longest?

John: Right here at the Ishpeming
Police Department.

Kevin: How or why did you choose your career

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John: I always wanted to be a police officer when I was growing up. That was my big deal to be a police man I was working for CCI in 1970 ~~when~~ I

saw a add in the newspaper where the city of Ishpeming was looking for a police officer so I applied for it and got the job, I've been here ever since.

Kevin: Describe the main Duties of your Job?

John: The main Duties of my job is running the police department budgets, staying within the budgets, Making Sure the officers are trained

John: Just trying to stay on top of
old everything in the city and make
it a safe place for citizens
to live

Kevin: what kind of training is required for
this job.

~~Kevin~~ John: When I first of 1971 January 1, They
required a basic Police Academy
440 hrs, that went into effect
Jan 1971, I started in March
1971, Then I went to the
police Academy At Northern
in the summer for 440 hrs, I
graduated from there and that's
the training I had during
my time, I went to a
Drug investigation school
put on by the FBI in
Escanaba back in 1974

John: In 75' I went to an advanced regular training I think in 76 or 77' I went for a month of Advanced criminal training school down in Bay City, Michigan at Delta College

Kevin: Do they have the same training for the new officers?

John: Yes

Kevin: Is there any special equipment or clothing for your job.

John: During the winter they wear warm clothes, Bullet proof vests or body armor, they do carry weapons

Kevin: Does this job have any special rules or regulations to follow

John: lots of them, we have to obey all laws very careful even when not working to obey laws otherwise we stand out in peoples eyes and we have our rules and procedures here when we work everything we do has a rule that we have to follow

Kevin: What is the most rewarding part of your job

John: Catching Bad people especially if they are harassing older people and doing stuff like that

Kevin: What is the most challenging part of your job

John: The most challenging part of my job is trying to cope with drugs in the area

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Kevin: How have the duties of your job changed over the years?

John: When I first started at the police department for training we used to go out on a lot of foot patrol mostly on foot, now it is mechanical done in police cars, your hands are tied on what you can do

Kevin: Did any other family members choose the same career

John: NO.

Kevin
Did your job put you in many

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Dangerous positions.

John: Many, One time we had a call with a man with a gun in a bar we had to diffuse the situation by taking away the loaded ^{shot}gun one time I was on a chase that turned out to be OK. I've probably had 4 or 5 incidents that involved guns

Kevin: Please Describe what your co workers are like

John: I work with ~~5~~ ^{the} patrolman most of the people who I work with are good people I don't have any problems with any of them

John: I work now tobs with the
Sheriff the police Chief of
Marquette, and Negaunsee. We
Have Monthly meetings to
discuss what we are going
to doo I work with the
City Manager and council
I don't have any problems
with them at the present

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Kevin: Could you describe some
humorous events in your career

John: One of the humorous things I
had was when I was a
Young patrol man, I was with
an older patrolman we were
checking buildings out and
he was trying to show me
the right way to do. At
that time when you found
a open door you would Always
draw your Revolver

John: For your own safety, I was walking behind the older officer, I was just learning the Pops and all of sudden I heard "what are you doing in there" and there was a guy who had broken into this business sitting on the toilet. Another time the same guy was on his feet and I was in a car he was whispering on to the radio to meet me at Hickeys Bar because someone broke into a garage over there I went and parked the car on the other side of the street and be very quiet and I walked in the door and I kicked the door It hit him in the face broke his nose

Kevin At Anytime did you feel like changing your career

John: NO

Kevin: Why

John: I always have something new to
Do each day

Kevin: What are your biggest responsibility on
your job.

John: Making Sure police officers
Are trained, I have a full crew
on making the streets safe
trying to clear up the
Drugs

Kevin: Have you received any special
Awards

John: I was patrol man of the year
once Back in the 70's about
77 or 78

Kevin: What are your favorite hobbies
of your free time

John: I like Fishing.

Kevin: Do you have any special stories about Fishing.

John: I was fishing out on Sequa lake one time we were in a rickidy boat I was with my cousin he had brought a boat from down state we took it out on the lake we rode it across Sequa lake and we were fishing for 45 minutes and I told him that my feet are getting wet so it was dark and I got a flash light and looked on the bottom of the boat and he said to start bailing I bailed water for about 15 minutes and water kept coming up I said we better get out of here so we started going back

John : When we got back to shore, I
cd looked and I saw a hole that
There was a hole that I could
stick my finger through

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Another time we were out here
in a different boat a storm came
up we just had oars we were
out here in rain, thunder, lightning
and hail we tried to get the 2
boats 2 people in one and 3 in
the other the wind was bad
and every thing got bad as
we tried to turn the boat
around to get ashore and
we broke an oar so we
had to go across the lake
with 1 oar so it was a
fun ride

Kern: Have you been involved
with any clubs or
organizations

John: Not lately

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Kevin: Over all what is your fondest memory of your working days?

John: It was probably in the year 1975 when I made 100 arrests with possession of marijuana.

Kevin: What year did you become Chief of Police.

John: 1983.

Kevin: Are you a member of a Union

John: NO

Kevin: ~~What~~ IF you could do it over again would you choose the same career.

John: Yes because I like the challenge something new every day I had

~~the~~ 3 jobs in my career the Navy, Hercules Power Company for a couple months then I went to CCI to love. I really like this work

Kevin: What did you do At Hercules Power 21

John: I was a labour I loaded and unloaded Semi's

Kevin: Did you like it

John: No

Kevin: Do you have any other stories about your job

John: I can remember when me and another patrolman were on midnight shift. There was a car on the wrong side of the street ahead of us on 1st street he turned in front of us so we turned the red lights on to stop him he didn't want to stop so we went from 1st to empire, empire to 41 and he started to go west on 41 we were behind him with lights and siren on trying to get him to pull over but he wouldn't

John

he was throwing beer bottles out
the window trying to give us a flat
tire so back in those days, when
you went past the 41 club you
were without radio contact no-
one knew where we were we
chased this clown all the
way to Michigami trying
to chase him up and down
Main Street with our lights
and siren on finally some
citizen came out of his house
and we finally got him stopped
and my partner was banging on
the window with his gun trying
to get into his car, and he thought
we were shooting at him so he
jumped out of his car with his
hands up but we weren't really
shooting at him that's one of
the humorous stories that I
can think of

Kevin: Have you worked for the Ishpeming Police Department all your life.

John: Yes, since March 5, 1971

~~Kevin:~~ Do you have to do a lot of paper work

John: Yes lot

Kevin: Do you have to do a lot of research.

John: Yes, I have had a detective on for about a year. He does a lot of research he does a good job. It gives me a lot more time I'm in the process now getting a computer people laugh because not to long ago I was asking for electric typewriters. We also need a fax machine for search warrants rather than running to Marquette

Kevin: Do you go to a lot of Conventions

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John: There are a lot of chiefs meetings
but I can't get to many because
I don't have much time, and save
the city Money.

Kevin: How many officers are on duty?

John: Now I have 3 on, after 11 I'll
have 2 on and vice versa
Days there are 3 people on and
a dare officer at Phelps

Kevin: Do you wish you had more officers

John: I sure did when I started there
were 15 patrolman 4 sergeants 1 detective
9 day warden 2 meter maids and
2 dispatchers now I have 9 patrolman,
A sergeant detective and myself and
9 dispatcher

John: In 1992 there 384 Arrests In 1993
so far we made 33 arrests 1982
There were 207 arrests

John In 1985 there was a murder
in January of 85 and in
the Summer of 86 There
is a lot of suicide around
here; It goes in spurts It
seems that you get a rash of
it then it slows down

Kevin: Do you have any stories about
your job.

John: I remember at the Ski Tournaments
whether I wanted to or not
they dropped you off and you
wouldn't have a car to sit in
on foot patrol seeing kids drinking
and traffic control now they
sit in the car

Kevin: Were you involved in any clubs.

John: When we were young we
would have ski jumps
we built Furnace in Sulzburg
Slaughter in West Ishpeming and
another in Junction

John: By mooses on the bluff. At the
winter sports there were 2 jumps

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Kevin: Did you have a lot of fun

John: we had a good time we
go around after christmas
and collect all the trees for
a landing and bump

Kevin: What did you do in the summer

John: fishing play football and baseball
go upon the bluff, make
forts

Kevin: Is there any thing else you
would like to share about
the area?

John: I guess that has changed the
people complain that there is
not anything for the kids to
do But I think there is
a lot for them to do they just

John: I hope they don't do it. I remember
when I started the hangout was the
congress we had to have 3 or
4 officers there. But most
of the kids are decent

Kevin: Is there anything else you would
like to add.

John: no if I do I'll call you

Kevin: Thank you for sharing your
thoughts with me

John: OK

The End
