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Mike Hill's
interview with
Ken Hill

I am interviewing my father Ken Hill in twin Pines subdivision Ish, MI.

Me: When and where were you born?

Dad: I was born on March 29, 1937 in the Wakefield hospital but I grew up in a country area called Dunham which is near Meransco MI.

Me: What were your parent names?

Dad: My father's name is Ernest and my mother's name is Fanny.

Me: What are the names of your brothers and sisters?

Dad: My brother's name is Carl Hill and my sister's name is Maryann she is now married and her married name is Maryann Meredith.

Me: Were you married if so when and where?

Dad: I am married and I was married in December 21, 1968 in Hancock MI

Me: What is your spouse's name?

Dad: My wife's name is Pirjo and her last name was _____.

Me: What did your parents do for a living?

Dad: My father worked in the woods and my mother is a housewife.

Me: Where did you go to school?

Dad: I went to school in Marquette MI.

Me: What special memories do you have of growing up in that area?

Dad: I was raised on a small farm and I remember especially remembered the farm duties things as milking a cow cutting hay loading hay haying potatoes going to get the cow every evening to be milked and in the winter I especially remember pumping water for the cow and at nights if I had to walk home from town I can remember the cracking of the trees in a crisp cold night.

Me: What kind of things did you and your friend do for entertainment when you were teenagers?

Dad: I played basketball which was my main form of entertainment. Sometimes we would go fishing and that was pretty much it.

Me: Do you have any interesting or humorous stories to share from your early days?

Dad: I don't remember any humorous stories at the moment

I remember stories spoken by my father about his childhood.

~~My own~~ My own childhood I remember raising rabbits which I used as a business for a while. I was only 12 years old and I would raise rabbits butcher them and bring them to grocery stores to be sold.

Me: How old were you when you found your first job and where did you work?

Dad: Well I had jobs in the high school such as working for the forestry and sometimes helping for carpentry work, I joined the service after the service I went to the college and after college ~~that~~ I found my first permanent job teaching school and an area called _____ Minnesota.

Me: What types of jobs did you perform on your first job?

Dad: Well my first job was teaching at a country schoolhouse. a one room schoolhouse where I had 2 grades and I was the only teacher there so I had to be playground supervisor at all times and oversee the cooking at our noon meals and also be sure the school was cleaned after every evening.

Me: What stands out most in your mind about your first job?

Dad: Uh, my first job was, well it was kind of scary at first because I was there by myself so I didn't have anyone to

go to to ask questions of if I had any things that were troubling me. (12)

Me: Were you ever in the military if so, please describe your experiences there.

Dad: I joined the navy immediately upon graduating from high school

I was in the navy for 4 years and I was in the branch called cb's. which was the construction division of the navy I would travel with an Italian and we would travel to bases to repair houses build up airstrips and build new homes repair roads and so on.

Most of my time was spent on Island in the Pacific.

I was served on _____, _____, _____

and _____. Plus I stopped at Hawaii, 2 times I believe I went to Hongkong on my vacation, stopped in Japan once and I spent part of my time in California.

Me: During your lifetime where were you employed the longest?

Dad: My longest employment was with the Addams Township school district which is near Houghton Michigan, I was there for ten years. teaching elementary school.

Me: How or why did you choose this career?

Dad: I chose teaching because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I knew I should go to college. I thought as a teacher

I might be doing something that could be doing something for people.

Me: In as much detail as possible please describe the main duties of this job.

Dad: Well as a teacher in Addams township, main duties were teaching science + math. Uh, the students that I taught were from grades 4, 5, and 6. We had one camping activity where we would go to Nezboth Lake at the end of every school year. Currently I am still working and I work as a teacher at Marquette Branch Prison.

Me: Did this job require any special training? if so please describe the training.

Dad: To be a teacher you had to go through Ironwood Community College and transferred to St. Cloud college in Minnesota for 1 year and then transferred to Minnesota State College and received my teaching degree there.

Me: What special equipment or clothing did this job require.

Dad: Well there is no special equipment or clothing for teaching.

Me: Did this job have any special rules or regulations to follow?

Dad: Uh, yes as a teacher you have typical work rules to follow getting to school on time getting your lesson plans ready preparing report cards preparing year end reports ordering supplies for next year and so on.

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Me: what was the most rewarding part of your career?

Dad: Uh! I suppose the most rewarding part of ~~my~~ career is seeing your former students going into college and seeing them do quite well

Me: what was the most challenging or difficult part of your job?

Dad: The most difficult part ~~of~~ is being able to solve all the different types of problems that came up every day

Me: How did the duties of your job change over the years?

Dad: Well my first job was teaching in a one room schoolhouse where I was responsible for everything from cleaning the school, whereas I was teaching at my last public school my duties covered pretty much science and Math. I was not responsible for Hot Lunch cleaning the school and so on

Me: Did your job put you in any dangerous situations?

Dad: NO, I don't recall any dangerous situations.

Me: Could you describe any interesting or humorous stories during your career?

Dad: When I was teaching in South Range which was part of the Addams Township school district every spring I would have the children tap the maple trees in the school yard to take the sap out and make maple syrup and also I had a beehive an observation beehive

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Dad: in my classroom so we could watch the bees make honey. The bees had to come in from an outside entrance and could not come into the room but one time when I was loading the hive with bees some did escape and for a while we had a roomful of bees until we were able to catch them all.

Me: At any time did you feel like changing careers?

Dad: At one time I was interested in business I had a store and there were times when I wanted to try business and I did try it for a few years but now I am back teaching at The Marquette Branch Prisons.

Me: What were your biggest responsibilities on the job?

Dad: Well I felt my biggest responsibility was to help children learn and develop an attitude where they wanted to learn their education.

Me: Did you receive any special awards from your employer? and were you recognized for your job performance?

Dad: I don't recall receiving anything special over and above anyone else.

Me: During your career and beyond what have been your favorite leisure activities or hobbies?

Dad: Well at one time I was involved in scuba diving where we would go diving in Lake Superior looking for sunken ships we did never find anything of value in some of the inland lakes we would go looking for lost boat motors we did recover two of them that had been underwater for many years other than that I don't recall anything now.

Me: Overall what are your fondest working memories of your career?

Dad: That's a hard question I guess I could find something I liked in all the years. And if the person wants they could find something they didn't like. But Overall I am very satisfied with the career I chose.

Me: If you had to do it all over again would you choose the same career? Why or why not?

Dad: I'm not sure if I would choose the same career or not. I would possibly look at engineering although I'm not sure, also I would like to teach Industrial Arts. Because I am interested in working with my hands I would like building mechanical work and so on.

Me: In closing would you have anything you would like to add?

Dad: Nothing in particular except that if a person is sure what he would like to attain just keep working at it and just don't quit and I am sure he will get there. In other words If there's a will there's a way.

Me: Thank you Ken.

Dad: Your welcome.