

Audrey Fredricksons Interview
with
Hank Kinnel

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me: when and where were you born?

Hank: September 14 1912

me: what were your parents names

Hank: My fathers name was Peter and my mothers name was Judy

me: What were the names of your sisters and brothers

Hank: My brothers name was Paul and my sisters name was

me: where were you married?

Hank: August 3 1942

me: where

Hank: Ishpeming

me: what was your spouses name

Hank: Anna

me: what did your parents do for a living?

Hank: My dad was a

me: where did you go to school?

Hank: He come from the old country and went to night school

me: where did you go to school

Hank: Ishpeming High School

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

Hank: What kind of special memories?

me: Was there anything special that happened a lot around here like events.

Hank: Oh I remember when I was a sophomore in high school I worked on the farm and I saved up enough money to buy a Model T car and my best experience was driving it back to Ishpeming

me: What special features stand out in your mind about the cities of Ishpeming and Negaunee and how they've changed?

Hank: Well the Iron Mines, Ishpeming was my hometown I enjoyed it very much

me: What did you and your friends do when you were younger?

Hank: We use to ski ride in the winter and we ~~see~~ fish through the ice Summer time we played ball and

me: Do you have any special memories?

Hank: Oh there's lots of them! I remember when mine flooded - killed lots of men

me: Did you know any of the men?

Hank: yes - I knew lots of them - neighbors, and

me: Where did kids like to hang-out in town or gather

Hank: Well in high school they like to play pool, eight ball. We use to like to skate

me: How old were you when you found your first job?

Hank: I was about 15 years old - I worked on the farm.

me: What did you do on the farm?

Hank: I drove a tractor

Me: Do you have any stories about it?

Hank: Well it was enjoyable ~~and~~ ^{but} you payed, it was not. worked long, then you'd eat, had to get up early in the morning - It was enjoyable!

Me: Did you work with anybody else or were you by yourself

Hank: Well there was a man to pitch the hay by hand

me: Where you ever in the military?

Hank: NO

me: How many total years did you work?

Hank: 38

me: Where were you employed the longest?

Hank: A self employed mechanic

me: Why did you chose this
career?

Hank: I enjoyed working on cars

me: Is there any special stories
about working on any cars
at all?

Hank: Well I remember the Model T
Ford cars. Cars have changed
so much now that they
didn't have no heat. There were
leaks where the cold got in
and if you went to Marquette

me: ^{by the time you got there you were cold}
Have cars changed in the way
you built them? ^{old cold}

Hank: ~~There's three things~~ Since my
time they've changed a lot -
all of them. The engines
were simpler and they weren't
all computerized like they
are now. Cars now are
luxurious!

me: How else?

Hank: Well the tires ~~at~~ weren't any good. If you went down the highway many, many tire blows and flat tires.

me: ~~Was~~ was there any special clothing or tools you had to work with?

Hank: Yeah, when you worked on cars you did everything - you overhauled and that and lots of tools

Me: Was there special clothing?

Hank: Oh yeah you had to have coveralls but you had to have fresh ones coveralls with insular buttons so you wouldn't scratch the car. Work shoes for on concrete

me: Was there any special rules or regulations you had to follow?

Hank: Yeah you had to trust yourself setting up the place the engine must be clean.

me: What was the most rewarding part of your career

Hank: Oh when a guy got his car fixed and asked for a ride and compliments real nice. So its like I did a good job. It runs like a charm parts like a kitten

me: What was the most challenging part of your job?

Hank: Well there ~~was~~ was nothing challenging if you knew what you were doing that's all. There was is what you were suppose to do.

me: Did you ever have an apprentice that worked for you?

Hank: Yeah I had some young fellows that helped me work in the garage - yeah

me: How did the duties of jobs change over the years?

Hank: Well the ignition changed and others but the engine is still the same. It takes 3 things to make it run. the ignition compression and gasoline

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me: Do you have any ^{special} memories OR stories of working on any cars?

Hank: Oh yes I remember working in the Ford garage and a lady bought a car a couple weeks before and said it was taking up too much gas and they had the gas on dash boards along with the choke a manual not automatic like they have now and in the car she had her purse hanging on the choke I told her what it was and she told me she thought it was there to hang her purse on. And then there was another one said her car was making lots of noises. First I thought it was the hood but no so I looked in the glove compartment there was a compact with a rattle in it that was rattling around in there

me: Did any of your family members work for the same company?

Hank: No

me. was there any dangerous situations in your job?

Hank: Oh yes - ^{quite a few} I had to make sure I when a car was on the jack that no one bump the car so that it wouldn't come down on me and you had to be careful of the gas fumes in the garage. You had to make sure no gasoline spilt or alcohol or antifreeze

me. Is there any stories about any dangerous situations?

Hank: Well there's quite a few of them we use to put them up on the hoisters like these ones. And an ~~apprentice~~ apprentice was working on a transmission and cleaning a pocket and it was just big enough to catch your finger in and his finger got stuck. Had to chase around to get him

me. Really? Did it ruin the car at all?

Hank: No The keys were around the more he twisted at the tighter the lock twisted it and pulled at it there he was - finger stuck. We used grease to unstick
me. What were your co-workers like

Hank: They all were good mechanics.

me: They were all good clean mechanics
Did you ever meet Henry Ford himself?

Hank: I saw him once in my life.
I was working on a car. Someone was talking to him - later I walked over and asked "who was that" and he said Henry Ford.

me: Really? Was there like any parties for the workers for holidays or anything?

Hank: Well always usually pitched in for a party. A little party out at camp.

me: What would you do there?

Hank: Oh we played cards + drank sodas
~~we~~ always found things.

me: Did you ever feel like changing careers?

Hank: I did once when I worked for my dad it was alright summer times because you worked outside.

me: What was the biggest responsibility of your job?

Hank: Well you were responsible to get it back on the road.

me: Did you receive any special rewards?

Hank: Well they tipped me sometimes. Sometimes in the garage. People tipped. One guy tipped me \$12.

me: What were your favorite hobbies?

Hank: Oh Jake Superior trout fishing, I enjoyed baseball + played football, track, + when go for a ride in the car.

me: Do you have any special memories of the nebbies?

Hank: ~~remembering~~ once I got ~~caught~~ a 25lb. lake fishing trout.

me: Have you ever been involved in any clubs?

Hank: Well there was 1 time I belong to the Marquette yacht club + the ARP after I retired younger days I belonged to the

me: What were the clubs like?

Hank: Well, they were good.

me: What would you do in them?

Hank: Well we go swimming, play basketball will deliver a meal on wheels for older people. it was fun

me: What were your fondest memories of your career?

Hank: Oh theres lots of them. Well I guess all the cars.

me: Where you ever any member in any union?

Hank: Yeah we had a mechanics union for a while

me: What was it like when you were in it?

Hank: Well there was mechanics questioning the union

me: If you had to do it all over again would you chose the same career?

Hank: I'd do it same exactly.

me: Why?

Hank: I enjoyed it

me: Is there any other ~~things~~ at all?

Hank: Oh I used to ski side, ran cross country fished alot. Enjoyed sitting on the porch watching people go by. I enjoyed life! worked hard. Well I guess thats all.

me: Thank you!

Hank: Welcome