

**Jodi Jacobson's interview with Richard Bergman
January 4, 1998**

Me: State your name and date of birthday

RB: Richard Charles Bergman Born on Oct. 8, 1925

Me: Where did you start your life

RB: Ishpeming, Michigan

Me: How many siblings did you have

RB: three, two brothers and a sister, the sister passed away at an early age

Me: Of your family who were you closest to

RB: Mother

Me: What was school like

RB: It was very strict, no smoking on schoolyard, no pregnant girls, no jeans, girls had to wear dresses

Me: Did you have any family traditions

RB: Go to Grampa's farm and camp

Me: What kind of chores did you do as a kid

RB: shovel snow, run to store for my mother, run errands

Me: what did you do for fun as a teen

RB: Play ball, softball, basketball, laughs and says proudly that he was the best shortstop until his son Roger came

Me: what style clothes did you wear

RB: shirt and sweater for school, when playing it would be "wiggly" pants that mom made him wear

Me: What was your childhood dream

RB: Have own basketball court, build own basketball court inside in my back yard

Me: did your dream come true

RB: nope

Me: Did you have any family members in WWI or WWII

RB: I had a brother in the army and I was in the navy

Me: Do you remember anything about the Great Depression

RB: We were on welfare and my dad was on WPA

Me: What is WPA

RB: It was a government sponsored to help workers and made work for them President Roosevelt started this

Me: How did this affect your life in any way

RB: I became very conservative, laughing.

Me: Did you listen to baseball on the radio

RB: after service I did

Me: How were you disciplined as a child

RB: My mother would hit me on the head

Me: who gave out the discipline most of the time

RB: My Mother

Me: Describe the house you grew up in

RB: It was cold, we had an old heat stove for heat, and outside toilet

Me: Did you have your own room

RB: Nope

Me: What was religion were you raised as

RB: Protestant, Mission Covenant Church

Me: Are you still the same religion now

RB: no, I am a Methodist now

Me: was religion important when you were growing up

RB: slightly, he would some times play hooky at confirmation

Me: What was the name of the school you went to

RB: Rich^{tbl} Street school, and the Grammer school, High School at Ishpeming

Me: What subjects did you study

RB: Manual Arts corse, included wood work , and machine shop

ME: what was your favorite subject

RB: Gym

Me: what was some of the punishment at school

RB: Kicked off basketball team if you got cought smoking, Not allowed at school if pregnant, stayed after school and write

ME: Do you remember anything about the Polio vaccine

RB: no, Kids had to get their shots

Me: What do you remember about world war I and WWII

RB: I was guncaptain on LST in service for two years, Three invasions in the Philipians, One being killed on ship he was close to , I went through a Hurican headed for Panama for five days, really bad , nobody on our ship got washed away but the ship behind us had three people washed away

Me: what do you remember about any family holidays

RB: go up to my grampas farm for Thanksgiving and cook dinner, Where foot ball field use to be for Neg. High school. Memorial Day was a big parade for the older kids, Dog sled races in the winter and lots of winter carnivals, there would be snow Balls(dances) and winter Queen, everybody would go to the Ice Rink ,Dog sled races on Main Street It was real big, crown queen in mather inn parking lot, and down at Ishpemings playground

Me did you ever go to the Ball:

RB: No we weren't aloud to we to young, that was when there was different classes either you had money or you didn't never the two shall meet

Me: what was your first job

RB: I had a paper route when I was eleven years old, Milwaukee sentinal, I had to do it before school everyday ,Gritt, Grocery store called DA Johnson's when 16, worked with CCI president delivering groceries to people I ended up a welder and he ended up the President for CCI, we would make potatoe sausage in the basement there once a week, Rode in a truck to deliver groceries in Strawberry Hill for the rich people

ME: where is Strawberry hill

RB: Isn't much now but up behind the library

4

Me: did you go to college

RB: no

ME: how did you learn

RB: home courses and courispondis courses for welding

ME: were you an athlete

RB: YES, basketball was my best sport, team ball independent ball, softball, football in highschool

Me; did you get a car when you got your licsense

RB: Yes 1935 chevorlet 20 years old paid 235 dollars cost me 235 dollars to get it running (laughing)

Me: did you have to walk to school

RB: yes ½ a mile

ME: what effects did the Korean War have on you

RB: none

Me: where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked

RB: Ishpeming, Michigan, Sunday around noon when the news broke out that the war had stated, President Roosevelt came on "It was a day of infamey" I can still hear him saying that

ME: what effects did this have on you

RB: I had to quit school and join the navy, then I went back to school and I got my diploma and am very proud, graduated the same year as my wife

Me: How did you meet grama

RB: At a bus station she was catch the bus out to deer lake where she had lived and my buddy was talking to her and her girlfriend and we became good friends and we got married and so did the other two

Me: when did you get married

RB: 1948, Sept. 11

ME: what do you remember most about your wedding

RB: small wedding in basement of Goldies had bar in furnace room It was really hot and couldn't afford to buy much wiskey and other stuff that a bunch of guys chipped in and got some wiskey

ME: What do you remember most about having my mother as a child

RB: first girl after four boys, she was beautiful and good, she was my little princess she could do know wrong, pocked eyes out of her brothers pictures though

Me: what did you like about your job

RB: I loved working with steel, blue prints, making something out of steel

ME: what do you remember about having a family of nine

RB: worked lot over time, painted all windows at a bar for 5.00 a window to buy my mom a bike

ME: what do you remember most about raising a family of nine

RB: no dull moments, never quit, fit over seats and you would have to say "saved" so nobody could take your seat except the parents

ME: where did you work

RB: CCI at the dental shop as a welder fabricator

ME: when did you retire

RB: Dec. 31,1987