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Macy Chapman's Interview  
with Michael Chapman

Me: This is Macy Chapman doing his interview with Michael Chapman

Me: When and where were you born?

Mr. Chapman: I was born on October 16, 1944 at the Bell Memorial hospital in Ishpeming Michigan.

Me: What are your parent's names?

Mr. C.: My parents names were Mason Chapman and Gertrude Chapman of Ishpeming Michigan.

Me: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Mr. C.: I have four brothers and no sisters. My brothers names are Neil Chapman the oldest, Alan Chapman, Bruce Chapman, and my younger brother Ray Chapman.

Me: What did your parents do for a living?

Mr. C.: My father worked 38 years for Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. He worked in the Cliff Shaft in Ishpeming Michigan. My mother worked as a nurses aid for many years at the Bell Memorial Hospital. Then she worked as a nurses aid at the Palmer Nursing in Palmer, Michigan.

Me: Where did you go to school?

Mr. C.: First I went to school at the Central School up until grades 3. In grades 4 and 5 I went to the High Street School in Ishpeming Mi. which has been torn down to make room for the Phelps School. After grade 5 I went to

Mr. C.: grade 8 at the Grammar<sup>school</sup> on 2nd Street in  
Lalpering which has since burned down. Then I went  
to high school in Lalpering and I graduated in  
1962.

Me: What were your favorite sports growing up in this  
area?

Mr. C.: In the summer I liked to play baseball and I loved to fish  
and in the fall I loved hunting. In the winter I  
liked to skijump and skate and play hockey.

Me: Did you participate in any sports with your brothers?

Mr. C.: My older brother Allan was a very good skijumper.  
In the winter he and I skijumped together and he  
was my coach from childhood until the end of my career.  
Later on in life my brother Ray took up skijumping  
and we skijumped together. All of my brothers and  
I played baseball growing up together along with my  
father who also coached us in baseball. My brother  
Neil showed me how to hunt and fish.

Me: Did your parents help you in any ~~sports~~ other sports  
than baseball?

Mr. C.: Both of my parents did not approve very much of our  
skijumping because they were always afraid that we would  
get hurt.

Me: Do you have any special memories of these sports?

Mr. C.: My fondest memory is of skijumping. When I used to skijump we had over 75 members in the Dalpeming Junior Ski Club. On given weekend there was at least one Junior Ski Club tournament in the U.P. Every Saturday we would travel around and participate in skijumping tournaments. I have memories of traveling around in the U.P. in the back of a pickup truck in a cab of five boys in the front of a pickup truck, and it was just great fun. During the week we would practice after school until it was dark. After dark we would put on our ice skates grab our hockey sticks go over to the hockey rink and skate. Those are my fondest memories of sports growing up.

Me: What was Dalpeming like when you were growing up?

Mr. C.: The committee of Dalpeming was very large at that time. We had over 10,000 people in the City of Dalpeming alone. The Dalpeming school system was rated as a class B school which Westwood is today. There wasn't any of the new areas that form the Westwood school district around those days. The downtown area was a very thriving business area there was many stores and the downtown area was very busy. There was many restaurants going on. All and all the community was much busier at that time.

Me: Did you do anything else than sports when you were growing up?

Mr. C.: Yes, when I went to school I got involved in music and I got to perform in many bands. When I was of course I continued that. That is about it.

Me: When did you graduate from high school?

Mr. C.: I graduated from Dalpeming High School in 1962.

Me: Did you attend any ~~universities~~ universities after graduating?

Mr. C: In the fall of 1962 I attended Northern Michigan University and majored in music education.

Me: Do you have any special memories from college?

Mr. C: I have lots of special memories one of which I watched was NMU grow from a small small college. When I was starting there there was one classroom building and a library and two dormitories and a cafeteria. I watched them doing the big renovations of buildings. Building all of the dormitories and all of the extra classrooms and a new fine arts building. One of my fondest memories is having to be part of watching NMU grow from a college to a university. I also watched the attendance at NMU double each semester it seemed like for the 3 years that I went there. I also have some special memories of the music program at Northern and I remember going to the University of Detroit and playing halftime at a football game down there. I also remember going to a Packer game and playing there.

Me: Did you go into the military after college?

Mr. C: In 1965 I joined the U.S. Navy.

Me: How many years were you in the Navy?

Mr. C: I was in the Navy for four years. In the music program and the Navy Band.

Me: After the military where did you work?

Mr. C: After the military I came back to the Ishpeming area. I became an apprentice carpenter for Kielinen Sons of Ishpeming.

Me: Do you have any memories why'll working for Keilenen's?

Mr. C.: I would have to say that Keilenen's were probably the biggest influence on my life. They taught me all of my carpentry skills and all of my work habits. They also allowed me to continue my ski jumping and help me with ski jumping and other sports.

Me: Did you get married after?

Mrs. C.: Yes, in 1971 I got married. My wife's name is Teri and I have two children. I have a daughter Angela who is attending Northern Michigan University and my son Mack who is attending National Mine.

Me: Did you continue to participate in sports?

Mr. C.: Yes, I continued ski jumping in competition at the senior level until I broke my leg in 1972. I also took up the sport of bowling which I continue up to now and I devote all of my free time to bowling. For summer recreation I play horseshoes and I play softball.

Me: Other than the Lapsening Ski Club and bowling are you in any other clubs?

Mr. C.: I belong to the Lapsening Elks Club and the Lapsening Amvets.

Me: Do you have any memories of the Elks and the Amvets?

Mrs. C.: Only my memory of the Elks is that my four brothers and I and father are all members and we made national news when we all became members.

Me: What do you do for a living now?

Mr. C.: Now I work for Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co., and I am a laborer at the Tilden Mine.

Me: If you had to do your life all over again would you do anything different?

Mr. C.: If I had to do my schooling all over again I would definitely graduate from Northern, I would pay a little more attention to my ski jumping and I would train better and I would be more physically fit because I came very close to making the Olympic Team and I think if I had more training I could have. As far as any other sports I wouldn't change a thing. Growing up in this area has been great.

Me: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Mr. C.: No, not really.