

Interview with Kenneth Dale Jaykka  
Date of Interview November 28, 1998  
Interviewed by Keri Murray

Me: I am interviewing Kenneth Jaykka

Me: What is your full name?

Kenneth: Kenneth Dale Jaykka

Me: Did you have any nick names?

Keno: Yes it was Keno

Me: What do your Family members call you?

Keno: they still call me keno

Me: Where were you born and when?

Keno: I was born in Detroit, in 1933

Me: Do you remember your grandparents describe there lives?  
What did they say?

Keno: They had a real hard life and they didn't have a  
lot money around and it was really hard for them.

Me: Can you remember your great grand parents?

Keno: No I don't

Me: Who was the oldest person in your family as a child?  
What do you remember about them?

Keno: My grandmother was the oldest one that I can  
Remember and she was very humble and she raised me she  
Was very nice.

Me: Was there a chore that you really hated to do as a  
child?

Keno: I hated to make wood I had to make wood because  
That's what we burned.

Me: How is the world different now from when you were a  
Child?

Keno: Well you can buy a lot more now then when I was a child like a TV and you had to walk to most places because there weren't a lot of vehicles. So a lot different now because you have a lot of things.

Me: Do you remember a favorite bedtime story or nursery rhyme?

Keno: No I don't

Me: What were your favorite toys?

Keno: I had little tiny trucks that I could put dirt in, dump trucks and little cars that were my favorite toys

Me: what were your favorite childhood games?

Keno: kick the can was one of them and we had rubber guns

Me: Rubber guns?

Keno: ya we had rubber guns

Me: What are they?

Keno: They probably don't know what they are what I'm talking about. We would cut part of the inner tube and then we would make our own guns out of wood then we would stretch the inner tube on there then we could shoot them. That was one of the games we would play.

Me: Like slingshots?

Keno: It's like a slingshot ya

Me: What were your schools like?

Keno: The schools were nice

Me: Were they big or small?

Keno: No I came from a small school.

Me: How did you get to school?

Keno: I walked.

Me: How far away did you live from school?

Keno: Not very far it was real close

Me: What were your favorite subjects in school and why?

Keno: History was my favorite subject because that's where I had the best marks.

Me: What subject was the easiest subject for you?

Keno: History was.

Me: what was your least favorite subject in school and why?

Keno: Math because I didn't like it and I couldn't do it.

Me: Who was your favorite teacher and why were they so special?

Keno: Mrs. Mahanna was my favorite teacher she was an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and I used to do work for her and she would give me good grades cause she liked me.

Me: How do some of your old class mates remember you?

Keno: Well, they remember me because we used to play a lot of games together so I still have some of my friends left there that I used to play with in Michigamme and we visit each other once in awhile.

Me: What school activities and sports did you participate in?

Keno: I was in track and I played some basketball and baseball.

Me: Did you and your friends have a special hang out where you like to spend time? Where was it and what did you do there?

Keno: It was a pool hall down town from where I lived and we used to hang out there and play a lot of pool.

Me: Were you ever given any special awards for your studies or school activities?

Keno: No

Me: How many years of education have you completed?

Keno: I graduated from High school.

Me: Did you get good grades?

Keno: Average grades

Me: Did you like school?

Keno: NO

Me: What did you like least and most about it?

Keno: Well I didn't like going for one thing but I had to go because my grandmother made me go.

Me: What did you usually wear to school, describe it.

Keno: I wore jeans just a regular pair of jeans and a shirt

Me: How old were you when you started dating/

Keno: 18

Me: Do you remember your first date? Describe the circumstances.

Keno: I can't remember my first date.

Me: Name a good friend that you have known for the longest period of time? How many years have you been friends?

Keno: Uh Donald Paquette was my best friend we grew up together as little children and he past away 2 years ago.

Me: How did you meet the person that you would later marry? Describe them.

Keno: I met her at Champion Beach there was a bunch of girls in a car and they had a flat tire and they ask us boys to change their tire that's how I met my wife.

Me: Describe them.

Keno: Well she is very sweet and is really easy to get along with.

Me: Do you remember where you went of your first date with your spouse?

Keno: Probably went to the EverGreen drive in theater.

Me: How long did you know them before you got married?

Keno: I knew her about 2 years before we got married.

Me: Describe your wedding proposal.

Keno: I can't remember how I proposed but I think we did it jointly. (laugh)

Me: When and where did you get married?

Keno: We got married in Ishpeming in the Bethel Lutheran Church in Ishpeming.

Me: Um Describe your wedding ceremony who was there?

Keno: Well my grandmother was there and my mother and my brothers and sisters and my wife's mother and father and her sister and a lot of their friends and our friends were there. The reception was in Diorite at the Township Hall.

Me: Did you have a honeymoon, if so where did you go?

Keno: Yes we had a honeymoon and when went to um Copper Harbor.

Me: How would you describe your spouse what do you admire about them most?

Keno: Well she is such a lovely lady She is very easy to get along with like I said earlier and I love her very much and um she is wonderful.

Me: How long have you been married?

Keno: 47 years

Me: What wise advice would you give a grandchild on there wedding day?

Keno: What was that Ker I didn't hear it?

Me: What advice would you give a grandchild on there wedding day?

Keno: Be nice to your spouse and always try to be as nice as you can to her and then she'll treat you the same way as you treat her.

Me: How did you find out that you were going to be a parent for the first time?

Keno: I knew I was going to be a parent cause I got drafted into the service and my wife was 3 months pregnant when I got drafted in the service and the baby was born when I was over seas.

Me: Do you remember anything that your children did when they were small that really amazed you?

Keno: oh let me see I can remember a few things we used to have a sandbox right out side of our kitchen window and we could watch them in the sandbox and they used to but sand in their mouths and we used to holler take it out of your mouth. (laugh)

Me: How many children did you have altogether?

Keno: Three

Me: What are their names, birthdates, and birthplaces?

Keno: David my oldest son, Diane is my oldest daughter, and Carolyn is my youngest daughter. When you ask me birthdates and that I cant remember. (Laugh)

Me: Ok um what was one of the most unusual things that one of your children did regularly when they were small?

Keno: I can't think of anything really.

Me: ok What was one of the most funniest things that one of your children said or did?

Keno: I can't remember Keri.

Me: Were you a strict or lenient parent?

Keno: Um I was strict in something's but I would look at both sides.

Me: If you had to do it all over again would you change the way you raised your family?

Keno: No I wouldn't

Me: What did you find most difficult about raising children?

Keno: Actually to me it really wasn't that difficult to raise them because we got along so good that a it really wasn't that difficult to raise them.

ME: What did you find most rewarding about being a parent?

Keno: well they were real nice to us and we could see that they loved us very much and we loved them back so it was real nice.

Me: Did you feel that you had to treat each of your children differently? If so, why?

Keno: we didn't have to treat them differently we treated them all the same.

Me: How did you first hear that you were going to be a grandparent for the first time how did you feel about it?

Keno: Well my wife told me that we were going to be grandparents from our youngest daughter and I was pretty happy.

Me: What advice do you have for your children and grandchildren?

Keno: well my advice to them would be try to be nice to everybody cause usually if you treat somebody nice then you get treated back nice yourself.

Me: As a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

Keno: Um I really wanted to be a forester but I never had the opportunity to go to college and I had to work right away when I was younger so I never had the opportunity to go.

Me: What was your first job.

Keno: working' in the mine underground.

Me: What kinds of jobs have you had?

Keno: Well I work underground in the mines for 30 years then I worked another 13 years in security for the mine too.

Me: How did you decide on your career?

Keno: you don't decide when I went to work I was 18 years old you just went to work cause there were all kinds of mines around here and you would just pick one mine because they paid the most.

Me: How did you make to live comfortably?

Keno: The wages were good.

Me: Um how long did you have to work each day at your job?

Keno: I worked 8 hours a day.

Me: What were the hardest choices you ever had to make? Did you feel you made the right ones?

Keno: Well I never really had to make any hard choices everything seemed to come pretty good to me so I didn't have any hard choices to make.

Me: Who is the person that made a real positive influence on your life who were they and what did they do?

Keno: um I would say my grandmother had the most influence on my life because she always treated me very good and she told me to make sure I treat everyone nice to.

Me: Is there a person that really changed the course of your life by something that they did?

Keno: No there's nobody that did no.

Me: Do you remember someone saying something to you that had a big impact on how you lived your life? Who was it?

Keno: No I can't remember anyone saying something.

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Me: What wars have been fought during your lifetime? How did you feel about them?

Keno: I didn't like the wars at all it's a shame they had to happen. So many young people got killed for nothing.

Me: What was it like to cook in the Korean war?

Keno: Oh I enjoyed cooking in the war. I a cook in the service in Panama and um it was easy. I went to cook school for 16 weeks then when I came out it was very easy.

Me: Did you have to go through like boot camp just in case you had to fight? If so, what was it like?

Keno: Yes I had 16 weeks of infantry training in camp Roberts California.

Me: Where were you stationed?

Keno: I was stationed in Panama when I was over seas and I was in camp Roberts California before I went over seas.

Me: What kind meals did you cook?

Keno: Well over there we cooked a lot of Spanish rice, stews and um we had fish once in awhile, stuff like that. And every morning we always had eggs and pancakes and stuff like that, and for the lunch we would have sandwiches.

Me: Where did you go get trained for cooking?

Keno: I went to Balboa Panama

Me: What U.S. President have you admired the most and why?

Keno: I would say Harry Truman cause he was very honest and when he said something he meant it.

Me: As you see it, what are the biggest problems that face our nation and how do you think they could be solved?

Keno: Well the biggest problem facing our nation right now is there's to many people that get in trouble and the courts don't seem to really have any can't do anything about it. The crime is just getting really bad and if they

don't to something pretty soon it going to get worse and I don't know what will happen.

Me: What color hair did you have when you were a young child and then as an adult?

Keno: I was blonde when I was a child then it turned brown as an adult.

Me: What color eyes do you have?

Keno: brown

Me: What kind of car was your first car? When did you get it?

Keno: My first car was a 1941 Ford Cope and I bought it form my future father in-law.

Me: How did you get to school everyday?

Keno: I walked

Me: When did you get your first T.V ?

Keno: I got my first tv when I came out of the service in 1955?

Me: Was it a color T.v?

Keno: No it wasn't?

Me: Well when did you get your first color T.v?

Keno: Oh probably in the 60s

Me: Did you have a radio before there were TV's? If so, when did you get it?

Keno: Ya we had a radio when we were first married but I don't remember where we got it from.

Me: How did you go your laundry when you were younger?

Keno: We done it with old washing machines the first one's that came out.