

Thy Peters
with
Thomas Peters

Me: This is an interview of my father Thomas Peters.

Me: Well where were you born dad.

Dad: I was born in Torium Michigan in August 1942.

Me: What was it like growing up when you where a kid.

Dad: I guess it was alot like growing up now except we didn't have a tv or anything like that. In the evening we would all sit around and listen to the radio and radio shows

like the shadow, lassic, and the Lone Ranger and stough like that but we did alot more family things.

Me: what was it like when your father was gone off fighting.

Dad: Well I don't remember alot of it but I do remember when he came home from the war and he had a steam train standing there and I remember him coming down and he picked me up and we had an old car and we drove home in that old car we use to live way up in the Copper City those days.

Me: Well dad how did you make money when you where a kid

Dad: Well I use to shovel snow and I use to walk around town with a snow shov and I would go around asking people if they wanted there paths shoveled and in the summertime I use to pick strawberries and in the fall we would pick potatoes that's how we made our spare money there wasn't alot of money to go around.

Me: And what was school like back then.

Dad: Oh I imagin it's alot like know except we didn't have computers and a alot of conviniences you have now. Well one it was so convenient to get around ~~because~~ we use to have to walk a long way to get to school and I remember a dog named sport and after school me and sport would walk about five miles down to a place called the river bottom and we would hunt rabbits but I had a real good time and I had a real good friend called Willey and me and him would go after school we would go down to the river bottom in the same area and we would go swimming and jump in the river and I guess we use to have fun in our own way because if you don't have something like to you don't miss it. and I remember one day when me and Willey were coming home from school and we stopped at my grandmas house we seen an airplane coming through the sky and then it was followed by three more airplanes and they didn't have motors on them and we were hollering that we seen a jet and we were hollering outloud and all the neighbors came running outside and there they were there was four jets flying around for a airport dedication in Houston County in 1948 or 49 and there was jets and thats was a real exciting thing to see when you were a little kid a jet airplane the first ones we ever saw you know we heard about them but it was the first one I ever saw

Me: Did you ever do any farming

Dad: Well they didn't have any laws against having animals

Dad: and most people in town had a cow or rabbits or chickens and they had big gardens and after school most of the kids worked on the farms. Because strawberry farms you had to keep them weeded or it will kill the strawberry plants you know we use to weed the plants all summer long and then we would pick the strawberries later on in the year. I remember we got a nickel for every quart we turned in and we we got a dime for a hundred pounds of potatoes we turned in. and sometimes we use to make forty dollars a week and we thought we had alot of money and it was. Also we use to go fishing there was alot more fish in the rivers those days we use to catch speckled trout 2 or 3 pounds speckled trout that was alot of fun. And it was alot like you got it except it was I think time are a little slower because I don't think life was quite so fast past. And there wasn't alot of jobs well after you grew up you had to go out and not to many kids went to college because we didn't have enough money those days so if you wanted to go through you had to work your way through.

Dad: and it was hard so most of us usually moved away and went to the city and get a job in the auto factories or we would go in the service and I joined the army in 1960. And I stayed in the Army for six years and I liked the army but then after a while I tired of it and that and I guess I wanted to back out and go home to be with my family.

Me: Well dad where did you go when you were in the army?

Dad: Well when I first went in they sent me on a train to Milwaukee and that was the first big city I was ever in and after our physicals and everything in Milwaukee they sent us down to Missouri where we had basic training and I went into what they called a combat engineer and after that I was sent out on the east coast out to Fort Belvoir Virginia and after Fort Belvoir ~~and then to~~ A.P. Hill where we trained West Point cadettes and then I went to Fort Lee Virginia and then I got out of the army and then I reenlisted in the army shortly after I got out and then I went right back down to Virginia to Fort Rucker and I stayed there and it was boring there. Except one morning we woke up and the band was playing outside our barbed wire.

Dad: and we had what they called an A bag and an B bag
well they were bags all full of your equipment and we
never ever yoused the A bag because that was just for war
and our sargent came in and said ok everybody grab A bags
and outside so we all grabbed our A bags and ran
outside and he said ok were having inventory we had
to check everything in there and then we repacked
them and then he told us that we were going off to a
hot zone and we didn't know what it was so we were
brief later on that they were having a revolution on a
small island that they called the Demetrian Republic
half the island is the Demetrian Republic and the
other half is Hatti - so we went down to Norfolk and
got into these huge landing craft only real huge like an
ocean going vessel and we loaded our whole battalion on
these thing and I guess 92 airborne division was going
by plane so we got in there first and they flew
there later. We were there just a little over four weeks
and I learned alot of things how people live in other
land and it was quite interesting and I felt sorry
for the people I saw there were starving and they had
a rough life - and I guess that they were trying to
make life better for themselves but alot of people were
getting killed and things so we had to go there and
stop it.

Me: Dad were you scared at this time.

Dad: Scared ya I was scared but I wasn't scared at first because I thought I was going of a big adventure and I was all excited about it but after ~~Ditson~~ a few people hurt or dead well then I started thinking wait a minute this could happen to me and thats when I started to get scared.

Me: How old were you at this time.

Dad: I was 22 years old.

Me: How old were you when you got out of the army

Dad: I was twenty three years old when I got out of the army. Then I went back to the Upper Country and I got a job in the mine I worked underground in five mines but in those days they had alot of mines working up there in that are and I worked in the Oriola B, Amek 3, Alaway 3, Hersurge shaft, and the Sentenial shaft.

Me: About how deep were those mine shafts

Dad: Well deepest mine I ever worked in were North Amek 3, that was 7,600 feet deep. It was the deepest telephone system in the world at that time. That was kind of different. They were real dangerous mines there in hard rock mining because it alot different then open mining that you have around here but I suppose alot of guys worked here underground like in Mother Band I imagine it was kind of similar to that

Me: Oh well lets get back to the school days.

Dad: OK what would you like to know about the school days.

me: Where you involved in any sports or anything like that.

Dad: I played football and I played basketball. The first year I played football there was no face mask on the helmets. But the second year I played there was a state law that you had to have them. They were made out of white clear plastic and I think face masks were a real good idea for saving injuries.

me: Oh lets get on to basketball and tell me what position you played.

Dad: I played guard.

me: Where there any other sports you played

Dad: Yes I played ice hockey that was my favorite sport ice hockey I loved ice hockey and I still like to watch ice hockey on tv. Hockey is a real good sport and I'm glad to see that it's taking hold around the Schepmeyer and McQuinn area.

me: Alright talking about hunting again are there any other hunting traditions.

Dad: Well we use trap shot for a little extra money we use to trap muskrat, beaver, mink, otters, weasel we use to get 50¢ a weasel. Then we would stretch them on the edge of a coat hanger. And like if you would go out into our barn the whole thing was covered with beaver and muskrat fur.

Dad: you would have to dry them and stretch them.. and
I guess now days people don't like trapping so much.
because people are against fur. In those days they did it
for a little extra money to buy something for yourself and I
real still don't see anything wrong with trapping it just
that it's just another sport its no different from hunting or
anything else.

Me: Did you ever do any deer hunting.

Dad: ya we use to go hunting.

Me: what was the biggest deer you ever shot.

Dad: It was a six pointer but a real big big six pointer, and
the biggest deer when I was ever with someone I was with my
dad he shot a 6 pointer one year that weighed 240 something
pounds. That was the biggest deer I ever seen. There was
alot more deer in those days but now I think the deer are
coming back there are alot of deer now and back then they
use to do alot of logging up where I lived and then I guess
the deer really thrived in them logged out areas and there
was alot of deer that you would see alot of nice bucks.
Me: Well its sounds like a live of pretty interesting life

Dad: ya its been alot of fine and I am still having alot of
fun and I hope to have alot of fun for another 47 years.
meaning I am 47 years now.

Me: Alright well I had a real nice time interviewing you.

Dad: I guess I enjoyed it myself its been alot of fun. So lets
so hunting.