

Ken Björk's Interview (1)
with

Grandpa Sleeman

Me. What did you do for fun when you were a kid

Grand. Well when we were kids I had a friend that was called Ski Binder. He and I were having a little war one day and he was over on forty-second street and I was by the Post Office and we went down to the _____ and got some lead out of the targets they used in World War two for practice. They had lead in the targets, so I had a pocket full of lead and I had my sling shot with me and I took it up thought there was no way I could hit him in this range and I fired it across forty-second street, to forty-second street and hit him in the head, and bleacked him right there.

(2)

Me. What stores were around when you were young?

Grand. ~~There was~~ Jonsons was a big store and was the first modern store. I remember the Bucher stores always had sawdust on the floor. All the meat tasted rotten. Ishpeming had two theaters

Me. How much was a bus ride from Ishpeming to National Mine?

Grand. It was ten cents for a bus ride from Ishpeming to National Mine.

Grand. When we were kids we went to see Mummy Returns it was a movie down at the Ishpeming theater and every time this mummy came out and walked about the frogs would start to croak in the swamps. So on the way back home we had to walk ~~through~~ over Badger hill and on the other side of the hill was a swamp, when we got in the middle of the swamp a frog

Started crokin we took off and ran all the way home.

Grand. You talk about tough girls, Jim Petro was teasing these two girls from the school and they put up with him for a while then they finally grabbed him and put him in a boy car and locked him in there, this was in the fall of the year it is cold, lucky I knew where I was because he would have froze to death. They left him there, they went home.

Me. Where was your first job?

Grand. Well I worked at Frank Tassons gas station. Then I graduated and went to work for _____. I worked there for _____ years then I went to the Moris Mine that was the best job I really had, Its fun working the mines, lot of nice people to work with and lots of money, Kiddon around fooling around you know.

Grand. When they closed moris mine down, I went and got a job as a Corection officer. I ~~and~~ worked 27 years there, It was a good job, a clean job. It had its rules, I retired early because I had a state job, now I live the good life, I do what I want go where I want, when I ~~what~~ want.

Me. Did it you work at 3 prisons?

Grand. ya, I started down state, I started at pelston, then went to camp porkipine, then they closed that down, so I moved back up to Ishpeming.

Me. What kinds of things did you do for enter-
namment?

Grand. We went skiing, we had a ski club, we had base ball teams we made up ourselves, ~~we~~ went fishing, played kick the can. ~~We~~ went and raded apples.

me. Did you get in lots of trouble when you were growing up?

Grand. Not realy, just kids stuff. One time we found a bag of onions over by the post office, and that was also a store, and someone

Grand. had to throw onions at a car, and they didn't know there was a rock in there and broke someones wind shield. We never got caught because we would always run.

me. Did you get along with your brothers and sisters?

Grand. yes, well, ya I got along with them, me and jone had a fight once and a while, she thought she was the boss, and I didn't want her to be the boss.

me. Did you have lots of chorse when you were growing up?

Grand. ya, I had to get the cows, then I had to start milking the cows, thats after the farm was gone, we only had a couple cows. We had to get the wood in, I had to split the wood, Kept us ~~busi~~ busi, Kept us out of trouble. feed the chickens.

Grand. One time I, mom feed the chickens when I was working for the state and Ma was feeding the chickens, and one chicken attacked her, scratched, and bit her. Dad came home from work, and ma well, I'm not feeding the chickens any more, because that chicken attacked her, so I went and feed the chicken the next day and he attacked me. Pa came home, I told him look it, if you want to keep that chicken you got to feed the chickens because I will have to kill him, he said you are just like your mother, I will feed the chickens, It went on for two weeks, One saturday we had the toughest little chicken you ever seen, he was tough, Pa had to kill him. They are fighters that is a gaurntee.

Grand. Back in 1935, I was a young kid and we got trapped in the farm 9 days because of a big snow storm, we couldn't get out for 9 days, a guy came out with a big tractor with a big V-plow on it and plowed a road for us.

Me. How long did you go to school, like how long each day?

Grand. We started at eight, and got out at four.

Me. Were you teachers very strict?

Grand. Some were, I had some really good teachers, and some bad teachers. I didn't mind a strict teacher as long as they are fair. Some teachers could not keep your attention so you wanted to fall asleep.

Me. Did you get in a lot of trouble at school?

Grand. No not really, some times you would get in a scrap.

Me. What was the funniest thing you ever did?

Grand. One time we were out radsn apples we were up in a apple tree and this Old guy, that we know couldn't catch us and we knew it, and he come out and say get out of them trees you Kids. I ~~told~~ told you to get out of those trees, and what we didn't know that his son was home from the service, and he ran after us and caught us, He gave us a good wack on.

me. Did you ever go on any adventures with out telling your parents?

Grand. Only once I was about 3 or 4 years old and I ran away from home and mo, Caught me across the feild, and come up to me and she had a stick. Every time she caught up to me she gave me a wack on the but. I never ran away from home again because I was scared to.

Me. Who was your favorite person when you were growing up?

Grand. I think petro in the service was pretty important to look up to. Maby, alot of ski jumpers, like Clay Hill.

Me. How long did you ski jump?

Grand. I ski jumped till I graduated. Last time I jumped I ended up in the hospital, and I decided that was it.

Me. Did you enjoy ski jumping?

Grand. Oh, yes, I loved it.

Me. When did you start ski jumping?

Grand. When I was 11 years old.

Me. When you were growing what situation got you in the most trouble?

Grand. Just kids stuff, One time I got expelled from school for smoking.

Me. How old were you when you got your first job?

Grand. I was 16 years old I think.

Grand. The last cow that we had, Cookie we called her and she was a nasty cow always kicking the bucket over. I hated that cow, every one else did to. So we decided to kill the cow that winter, we took her out side and tied it to the lock, we had this 32 revolver. Never used the thing I brought it out, all I hear is bang, my sister sitting in the window. He shot her ma, she didn't go down, bank he shot her again. He shot her again ma she didn't go, my mother didn't want to know. My dad come sailing to the house and got the twenty-two, shot her once, she went down.

me. How long did you live at the farm before Tilden bought it from you?

Grand, I don't remember what year we build the farm, but we sold it 1970. First they, the Tildon came up with ~~\$5,000~~ \$1,000, we said no that was

Grand. They came back with another offer
 \$,900 get out of here we can tend this
 land if we have to, well we will see you
 in court. They came out with a doc out offer
 then.

Grand. Did grand pa ever tell you the ghost story
 Liver, and Lights, One time ~~Johnny~~^{Johnny} had
 liver, and lights for dinner, went to bed
 that night, and fell asleep at twelve,
 he heard a thump, Johnny I am on the
 first step, Give me back my liver and lights
 Well the story goes on for 13 steps, Johnny
 I am on the second
 " " " " third
 " " " " fourth and so on, finally
 he was on the 13 step, Johnny I am on the
 landing, Give me back my liver and lights.
 Johnny I am by the ~~bed~~ doorway, give me back
 my liver, and lights, Johnny is really scared
 Johnny I am by the bed give me back my liver and

Grand. lights, He says Johnny I got you, every kid would sail to bed crying.

Grand. One time we had my dad, the game warden and my self, I think jimmy was with us to. Any ways four hunters went out that day to hunt in the swamp, It was after deer season. When we got there it was 10:00 Am and we had the dogs driving like mad, we started shooting rabbits, we came back at ~~12:00~~ 12:00, to eat our lunch, and we had a little fire to warm up, we got to the car and threw all the rabbits in a pile I had to go and count them, I think we had 25 rabbits, ~~and I said to the game warden~~ ^{The game warden said} ~~how many rabbits do you got there?~~ I said I don't know and I don't want to know, but I know we are Quitting right now.

Me. How many generations does the camp go back to?

Grand. My dad and my brother jim built the camp in 1953. We had to haul all of the lumber in on a ~~horse~~ horse.

Grand. When, we bought the land with the camp on it it was \$100, with 80 ackers. Well noone had \$100 so my dad and his two brothers, and a brother and law bought it.