

me: My name is Gina Grimm and I'm interviewing Mr. Reginald Joki at 96 Sunny Side my house today's date is November 8 1996. Are interview will focus on memories on the school board at Champaign school thank you.

me: OK, um when and were you born?

Mr. J: I was born in Nagane 1929 August of 1929

me: Did you or your family have t.v. or radios when you were young?

Mr. J: We had a radio but we didn't get t.v. until 1945 I believe it was.

me: What was your occupation as a young boy?

Mr. J: When I was young... well as a young boy I had to make sure that we had fire-wood for the winter. My father past away. He got killed in a ^{motorcycle} ^{accident}. um when I was 11 so I was responsible to make sure we had ~~the~~ wood throu the winter months. So that ^{basically} was my summer job a plus ^{I worked} picking potatoes um while going to school briefly at a hardware store in Nagane. um

me: Do you have any music that you liked best back then.

Mr. Joki: Apparently write now I like county
werturn thats my favorit

me: Did you have lots of different kinds of
candy and gum? If so how much were they?

Mr J: No, No didnt have hardly to be
quite frankly there was hardly any
gum or candy I cant recall I cant recall
during sc, school. Um that your talking
me. about ~~when~~ if gum was popular.

me: Kinda.

Q: No.

me. Did you have lots of different oh I'm
sorry.

me: what do you know about the Fier hall
witch one
Mr. Joki:))

Fire Hall
(What's this
about?)

Mr. Joki: This one

me: yea.

Mr J: I dont know too much about it other
then that I have ~~met~~ ^{went} there ~~man~~ ~~at~~ ~~occasional~~
there occasionally because ~~or~~ I'm on the school
cometly ~~mean~~ ^{and on the} school bord. And we went
a couple times at the fier hall for a comm-
unity board

me: how long have you been connected
to champion.

Mr. J: Well I moved to champion I believe it was about 1973 or 74. We had a large amount of children I mean big huge family huge. So we found a farm in Humboldt and we moved out there, and I'm glad we did. I grew up and had 15 children. My last son his Birthday Bytheday was the last one from that school. Or from our family to graduate from that high school. She

emphasize 15 children

Me: Well that's good.

Mr. J: ya, yes

Me: What year did you get married?

Mr. J: I was married twice. ya / was married on the first one was in the marine core ^{corp} But I got called back into the marine core in 1950 and I was married just before I got called back in. And we had two children. then I went on the Detroit Police force after I got out a year later we got divorced. Then I met my wife Carol a big part of my life

Mr J: In Nequnee and he we got married in he September 20, 1954. I think I got that right.

Me: Do you remember any pasific child that had gotten into alot of trolble.

Mr J: No we have been very ^{fortunate} fourchinet very fourchinet and I dont know what the ~~conversation~~ combination is um I have a very loving wife I think we acked very passunt that she staded home all the time she um didnt work/know I worked out I worked in the mines 38 years Ive always had a job. Ive never gone on unimpoyment. And the wife was always home with the children. And we never had what you'd call a scraper. I remember one son Eril and he works for EDS in General Motors wright now. But um I remember him as a young boy. mabe 4 years old. I remember I was Page 4.

Mr J: I remember scolding at him for ~~me~~ something he did, he didnt dare sass back to me. But he let spit dribble down his chin. To challenge me. I just had to turn around and walk away. But no trouble makers what so ever.

Me: Did you make any disaipline for the kids.

Mr J: No I want something to be understood. My oldest son Paul was the last graduating class at Champion 1974 I think it was. and my 2^{ed} oldest son Kim, was the 1st student + ^{council} president, at westwood. Then I had another son, Randy who was the student counsel, about 5 years later. Didnt relly have that much going on! Because the Champion school, clos or e ya my kids went from champion A to westwood. Then went we started haveing more. They started going to Champion, Ely They were skating. But I got on the school board I think it was 1975 or 76 76 maybe. Page 5

Mr J: And I was on there for 12 years
Then I got off then I went on agen
to peal down for ^{Ember} ~~Aho~~ when he
past away. it was a Tradition.
Then I was off agen. and This is my
2^{ed} year. I'm working on my 15th
year, as a school bord member.

Me: As a parent can you discribe one
of the things about champion that other
people talked about then the people
remembered.

Mr J: No thats were I'm going to Stear
you. to talk to my sister-in-law
Mary because she has lived in
Champion all her life. And her father
I talked to her on the phone. And her
father I belive has all kints of photos
And hu. I already called her for you.
Did you follow-up on this?

Me: That good,

Mr. J: ~~to there~~ and made that clear.

me: Thats much easier. Page 6.

Mr J: Exsactly. thats why I think you know I dont know how valuable this would be. But Im still going to stear you to Mary Joki.

Me: OK.

Mr J: OK.

Me: Can you explain any programs that your children attended.

Mr J: Programs?

Me: ya.

Mr J: This being the 15th kid to graduat from are school district.

All my boys, Paul was on a basketball team. My son Kim was on the first wresaling team at west wood. But all my sons all my 5 remaining sons will say 6 but I had 7 sons. 6 of them were all on the wresaling team, they all... year after year after year they wen on the wresaling team. And what I liked about that is is that people can blame anybody ealse about if you would've gave me the ball we would of **WQA**. Page 7.

Mr T. when you wrestle your only on the
matt. If you get off the matt its your own
falt. So thats when I said Joey when
you come home and he said I have to
get in better shape I have to get
in better shape. And that what I liked
about wrestling.

Me: As a school-board member what was
your duties for the children at Champion

Mr J: When I got on the schoolboard the new
school district already been consolidated

when I 1st moved in the district in
72 or 73 There was all seprif schools,

Here I think it was around 74 then
when they started talking about consolidation

Maybe it was that time period. After
consolidating was a year or two back

~~so~~ that is when I decided to drop that
so I don't know what that schoolboard

partikularly implying to Champion because
when I got on- there it was already
consolidated.

me: what was the most difficult thing about working as a school board member?

MrJ: Budgets, Budgets ^{that?} was a problem it seems like we always cutting and your resources were you get your money going is wedeling for instant busing we used to rec'd berst about 69% for busing the busing is still the same now we only get berst 30 or 38% so thats enoph money. But it still comes out as budgets. That one thing and another thing comes a problem is special education because you need to educate everyone the budget keeps on getting bigger and bigger and bigger

include + quote

me: budgets

MrJ: yep budgets defanetly

me: what was the most rewarding thing about the school board?

MrJ: I dont know if I can even answer that I dont know what to call rewarding seems like were always in trouble

Mr J: But, But when you resolve the problem when the district decided to pass millage to build this new school for us that was the main ~~the~~ real reward. Because that the best thing that could happen in this district or any district in the neighborhood were very fortunate

include & quote

Me: um describe the public's reaction from the closing of Champion school

Mr J: That was the toughest decision that I think I've ever made. I think I've faced about keeping it open. And ~~opening another school closing a different one~~ during the democratic process that's the way the system works the school was closed and I was angry, sick because the school was going to close

Me: I wa...

Mr: it a it

Mr. J: It turned the west end of the district all apart. It tour the district all apart. Because we new we were gonna have to make buait cuts approved to get a book a big one \$400⁰⁰ one in a year. and the only way ~~were~~ were going to do that. it was a matter of desiding, and when it was desided to make a new Champion threw the west end, ~~however~~ however because it was a tuff desistion. It was carried out and then soon after knowing the serceness of buaet how bad it was going to be. with the ~~declining~~ ^{declining} and ~~rooming~~ ^{rooming} witch was a ~~wastful~~ ^{basic} cause. I took to the ~~butlers~~ to take and build us a new k-8 and it was past emedatly and, and, and we still have to make 200,000 a year cuts because the ~~declining~~ ^{enrollment} and ~~rooming~~. And thats going to be tuff yet.

include & quote

me: I was there the last year of
Champion and I remember a lot of
kids were discouraged because of the
closing of Champion. They used to hold
up signs saying lets not close down
Champion,

Mr J: I know I know that was a good
building.

me: yes it was I enjoyed it a lot, thats
why I chose Champion school instead
of National mine or ely.

Mr J: It was such a good building.

me: Um.

Mr J: But all the buildings once you
realize that all the buildings were
built ruffly around the same decade
ago years ago. And there is times
when they need to close.

me: hopefully the new school will help
out a lot.

Mr. J: Oh. its going to be a I'm excited

me: Its proble alot better.

Mr J: Oh Im excited. and so are all the othe bord members and teachers

me: I've talked with alot of teachers that are relly excited.

me: Its going to be big-

me: Um what ~~do~~ were your planes for the students of the nice district.

Mr J: To make sure they all have a good education I think we had one of the better school district in the area, are scores are continually above avridge, above the national

avridge, I belive its from the ^{MEAP} the mep test are made alot more harder, then they used to be, and, and as a result all the ~~schools~~ scores have been reduced because there not going to change. there going to keep it write there. But we do well, we do well

Me: um what were girlfriends and dating like? when you were young.

Mr J: when I was young.

Mr J: (Laphing)

Mr J: I'll tell you what when I started school in kindergardin, it was about 1935. I was riding in a cracker box kind of bus. I mean the seats ran down lengthwise of the bus, it was literally a Crackerbox, and the bus driver delivered milk on our way to school. When we were delivering kids to school, and it was a two room school and that building is still here today, and there were kids that ate in one room, and 9-12 in the other room. *where was this?*

Me: (Laphing)

Mr J: yea that was amazing. now if you'll go back to that question I'll try and answer it, what was the questions.

me: what was gril-

MJT: Dating, Dating I don't think I've dated I didn't have a vehicle
1,1,1

me: Did your parents like

MJT: my parents remember my dad died when I was 11. Got killed in a motorcycle accident and then my mother a few two years later re married But um, I won't get into that I didn't have any vehicle or anything like that any car or any transportation when I lived in Nagasaki I remember going to football practice after school. I did date one girl when I was in high school she was a cheerleader. Then I went directly to the Marine core after school 7 days after I graduated

include
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me: Um Did you go to collage?

Mr J: No I just graduatted from
high school I've ^{taken} ~~think~~ 5 or 6 or mabeey
4 or 5 South and school places.

me: Did you wanna go to collage?

Mr J: I had oportuneitys when I was
in the marine core I had an oportuneity
to go to the university of ~~kontecee~~ ^{Konteece}
I was in Hawaii and I had gotten a
letter from Ber Brian of Kontecee
asking if I was going to take it
But I didnt answer the letter
back. About 2 months later I
got another letter But I didnt
answer it.

me: what would happen if you got
into trouble how would the school
~~the~~ treat that how would it.

Mr J.: We got some pretty stricked
polosees. ~~1~~ inch and a half to 2 inches
thick. And it covers every thing
the way it should be handled
properly.

Me: What is your advise for the
students to day.

Mr J.: To take advantage of the
good education that they have
write ~~know~~ in this district.
*include-
possible
quite*

Me: Is there any other people from
champion that I should know about?

Mr J.: Yes, and they would benefit you
more than our interview. That would
be Mary Joki she's a Plakey girl

Me: Can I have her #

Mr J.: Yes, yes you can 339-4492,
and there originally from Champion she
graduated from
champion.

me! Well Thank you alot Im
sure upur storey or interview
will help out alot

Mr J. I thank you to.