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Katie Koupi interviewing Norman Goethe

Is this  
the beginning  
of the  
interview?

Mr. G: In 1953, two years later, Ishpeming Township, which was West Ishpeming and North Lake, they decided they needed a superintendent, so I was appointed in '53, as the Superintendent of the Ishpeming Township Schools. I held that position until N.I.C.E. District was formed, and then I was appointed Superintendent of NICE in 1972 until 1979, and then I taught five years in the fifth grade and then I retired. Just to give you an idea what my situation was, which may be different than a teacher that had been teaching so many years, the same subject \_\_\_\_\_ administrative aspect and the good part of it was the last year I taught, before retiring was the fourth grade at National Mine School. OK

Me: Are you ready

Mr. G: I'm ready (peppy, etc)

Me: Can you please tell me your full name?

Mr. G: Norman W. Goethe

Me: What date were you born on?

Mr. G: September 26, 1921

Me: Where were you born?

Mr. G: Ishpeming

Me: Did you go to college

Mr. G: Yes

Me: Where did you go?

Mr. G: I went to Northern Michigan University and got a bachelor degree in 1951.

Me: How long did you have to go school before becoming a teacher?

Mr. G: 4 years

Me: When was your first teaching job at North Lake, can you remember?

Mr. G: My actual teaching job at North Lake was the in 1981-82 school year, in fifth grade.

Me: What grade or grades did you teach throughout your teaching career?

Mr. G: Pardon

Me: What grade or grades did you teach throughout your teaching career?

Mr. G: What subjects

Me: Yeah

Mr. G: I thought math, English, Science, Spelling, reading, penmanship, and I guess that's it.

Me: How many grades did you teach in one class?

Mr. G: At first we had two grades in a class, seventh and eighth grade.

Me: How many kids were in a typical classroom?

Mr. G: about between 25-30  
and

Me: How did you discipline unruly kids?

Mr. G: Well, I'd try to correct the situation, and it wasn't difficult to get them back in line without using force. The students seemed to respect me as a teacher, and other members in the class.

Mr. G: - would help the discipline that was a good ~~combination~~  
Combination

Me: Were women teachers allowed to be married, when you first started teaching?

Mr. G: Yeah

Me: Were there any restrictions on where you could go and who you could be with while you were teaching

Mr. G: No.

Me: Did you have your own house while you were teaching

Mr. G: Yeah

Me: When you were sick or unable to attend your class one day what happened ~~to~~ students with your

Mr. G: Well, the principal would notify a teacher, to ask them to sub <sup>for</sup> that day and then they would use my lesson plans for the day

Me: How long was noon time for kids?

Mr. G: It varied from forty-five minutes to a half hour.

Me: What did you do during noon time?

Mr. G: I'd take some of the students for a hike ~~at~~ <sup>during</sup> noon time especially National Mtn, I'd take my own class and we'd have other ~~students~~ <sup>students</sup> that would want to come with us and we'd walk about a mile around the school. We also, I also played basketball if the weather wasn't too bad with the students

Me: Was school ever called off for snow storms or epidemics

Mr. G: Yes

Me: Please tell me your favorite or vivid memories while teaching

Mr. G: Let's see, I know I enjoyed working with kids, I didn't have any problems with discipline, so there isn't anything spectacular, I felt that the respect that the students gave me, I think that was a           

Me: Did you have any other duties while you were teaching?

Mr. G: When I first started to teach for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for two years, I drove a school bus. In the morning and take them home in the afternoon

Me: Is there any advice you would give the teachers today that are teaching?

Mr. G: They say it's a little different now, discipline wise, sometimes it's more difficult to maintain discipline, but in order to do a good job of teaching you have to put in adequate time and preparation and it's simply ~~isn't~~ <sup>isn't</sup> a ~~couple~~ <sup>few</sup> hours a day ~~of teaching~~ <sup>that you teach</sup> but you have to do many things in addition to that

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Me: What was your main job as a principal?

Mr. G: Principal, ah, again when I was principal I had teaching duties which was my main job, and then the administrative responsibilities of the school was my other responsibility. And maintaining school records, attendance, discipline, and seeing that teachers had adequate supplies and equipment to do a good job of teaching

Me: What was your daily schedule as a principal?

Mr. G: Again when I was principal, I also taught, I was teaching the seventh and eight grade that kept me quite busy and then the principal duties, had to be done either after school or during ~~lunch~~ <sup>noon</sup> time. When I wasn't teaching or driving a ~~school~~ school bus

Me: What kind of shape was the school in while you were principal?

Mr. G: It was in good shape, it was well maintained, teachers appreciated a nice clean school building. Students, most of them, appreciated a nice clean school and they helped to keep it that way.

Me: Did you ever have to punish a student while you were principal?

Mr. G: Well, I had to talk with the student, and if we couldn't solve the situation, then we talked to the parents, bring the parents in and finally and we got to some point where we both were satisfied with ~~the~~ what happened.

Me: Were National Mine, North Lake, and Ely and any other schools in a district?

Mr. G: Ah, when I was superintendent of the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ Ishpeming Township schools, it was North Lake and the West Ishpeming School. It wasn't until 1972 when we had the consolidation of the National Mine School, North Lake, West Ishpeming, Ely, Champion School -

Me: Was North Lake ever a high school?

- Mr. G: - No

Me: when did North Lake become a district with all the other schools?

Mr. G: 1972

Me: Did you help form the NICE community schools?

Mr. G: Yes

Me: How did you help that?

Mr. G: Well, we studied a number of proposals to consolidate at one point we felt that maybe the Ishpeming School district should be part of the largest school district and we proposed a consolidation effort that would include Ishpeming, and Ishpeming turned it down because they wanted the district to annex to Ishpeming only, instead of consolidation. If the district were to annex to Ishpeming, the Ishpeming School Board would make <sup>intact</sup> ~~contact~~ and it would ~~remain~~ <sup>be</sup> their district. Consolidation, you form a new district and you install new school board members from outside school districts. So we had to have many meetings trying to come up with something that ~~both~~ <sup>most</sup> people would approve of, as far as consolidation. Finally we, as a meeting of the school boards ~~of~~ Tilden Township, Ely, Ishpeming Township, Champion, Humbolt Spur, Winnet and decided to propose, had an election of the consolidation of these districts. Where we get the name of nice is, Is National Mine, Ishpeming Township, Champion Humbolt Spur, and Ely. N.I.C.E. we had the election and voters approved the consolidation, which then formed one school district

Me: Was it easier for all the schools after they became one district?



Me: Did you ~~remember~~ <sup>remember</sup> any teachers when you first started that had a, were like a role model to you?

Mr. G: Well, when I first started at the West Ishpeming School, we had four women teachers and myself and the teachers then we near retirement age but some of the ways the teachers met the requirements of the students was something, they'd been teaching a number of years and experimented with different methods of teaching and - of course some of that you look to and try to begin your teaching experience looking at some of the methods of the teachers already there.

Me: Were there lots of kids when you opened WHS.

Mr. G: Well, I can't remember the exact number, but we had quite a number of high school students. In Ishpeming Township and Ely - prior to consolidation we 8<sup>th</sup> grade - high school attend the Ishpeming High School, until consolidation. Ishpeming School District informed the Ishpeming Township Board that their schools were over crowded because of the kids from Ishpeming Township attending their schools. So Ishpeming Township had to remove their students from Ishpeming High School.

Me: Are you sad that North Lake, National Mine, and Ely are going to be closing?

Mr. G: Oh yes, any time you've had schools for a number of years and I was out in that area for thirty-six years and they close something you think of it as something necessary, but it's not that easy to forget.

Mr. G: In 1991, the students at WHS, were selecting a teacher to be honored and also a number of the non-teaching school staff and I was selected this was the first one giving out that year - I was selected as a teacher, to be honored in 1991 by the students at WHS. They had a special program

include

We may need more info from him

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