

Eugene Londo  
Interviewing  
Mr. Jerry Anderson

me - Anderson at his house on December 22, 1987  
Interviewing about his childhood and his work  
at CCI and when he was at the school board  
at Marquette Alger.

me - Um! When and where were you born.

Mr. A - I was born in Ishpeming Michigan, in 1921.

me - Where did you grow up at.

Mr. A - Well I grew up in Ishpeming. I was  
in Ishpeming until I was 20 years old  
and then I moved away and moved down  
to Illinois and I was away from Ishpeming  
for 10 years and then I came back again.

me - What were your parents names.

Mr. A - My parents names were Anderson  
and my fathers name last name was Anderson  
<sup>both my mother</sup>  
~~both my mother~~



Mr A. - My mother was from Ishpeming and my father was from ah! Rockford Illinois.

me - How many sisters and brothers did you have?

Mr A - I, I'm the only child, I don't have any sisters or brothers. Hm!

Me - Um! What was your father's occupation?

Mrs A. - My ah! father was a machinist ah! he worked as a machinist all his life.

Me - Did your mother work too?

Mrs A - No my mother didn't work she was the house wife.

Me - Where did you go to school?

Mrs A - I attended the Ishpeming public schools ah! graduated from Ishpeming High School in ah! 1939



Me - You went to Phelps for your gradeschool?

Mr A - Ah! No it wasn't Phelps then it was the Old Ah!

Hysterig school, I attended the ah! Old Dramer school and the Hysterig school both have since been torn down now Ah! and then the present High school the present High school was there that I attended.

Me - How did you get to and from school each day?

Mr A - We walked there was no bussing very little bussing in those days.

Me - Were you in any extra curricular things?

Mr A - Ah! The only thing I participated in was football I played football a couple of years.

Me - Um! Like what were your favorite subjects?

Mr A - Ah! My favorite subjects were well! the sciences Ah! General Science Um! Biology, Physics and Ah! I, I also liked typing and short hand very much page



Mrs. A. - Wich I took I took in high school or  
which I studied in high school I should say.

Me - At home did you have any chores like?

Mrs. A. - Yes I had a lot of chores back in the 1930  
when I was attending school and Ah! alot  
of the main ones of course is we a wood stove  
a little wood stove and I had to Ah! haul  
in the wood and the kinneliny and coal each  
evening and we had a garden during the 30's  
had to work in the garden and Ah! did other  
chores around the house.

Me - Um! How did you celebrate Christmas and that  
back in them days?

Mrs. A. - Ah! I think we celebrated Christmas pretty much  
the way you do now Ah! there weren't as many  
presents Ah! it wasn't commercialized near as  
much as it is now. Ah! we had Ah! very, very  
few gifts in the 30's that was during the  
depression years but otherwise we Ah! celebrated,  
we went to church on Christmas Eve and Ah!  
celebrated just about the same as you do now.



me - Did you have any jobs like when you were a teenager growing?

Mrs A. - ah! no I didn't ah! there wasn't much opportunity to ah! work during the 30's ah! I didn't really have any jobs that paid very much!

me - Did you go to college?

Mrs A. - ah! yes I went to college after I had been in the service I ah! went I started college in ah! 1946, January of 1946 and ah! finished in 1951.

me - Where did you go?

Mrs A. - I attended Augustina College in Rock Island Illinois I got my bachelors degree there and then I attended the University of Wisconsin for 2 years and, and got my masters of Science degree in geology

me - How long were you in there?

Mrs A. - I actually <sup>ah!</sup> completed six years of college.

me - and you majored in geology then?

Mrs A. - ah! yes that was my major?



Me - Were you in a Fraternity or anything like that?

Mrs A - Pardon!

Me - Were you in a Fraternity or anything?

Mr A - Yes I was in a Social Fraternity when I was, a Social and, and also a Scientific or Geological Fraternity when I attended Augusting College.

Me - What did you do after college?

Mrs A - I, after college I immediately started work for the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company Ah! as soon as I got my masters degree, I started as a geologist with Cleveland Cliffs.

Me - Were you in the service?

Mr A - Yes I was in the service Ah! was in the Navy Ah! I served about twentyeight months in the Navy Ah! from 1943 to about January 1946 and I served out on the Ah! Pacific Pierre I was on just about all the Islands out there from New Guinea up through the Philippines.

me - That's interesting!

Me - After that were you involved in any committees or organizations after you were in the service, when page 6 you were working with CCI?



Mr A - Yes I was involved with the, are you talking about Ah! Technical I was involved with the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgy which is a mining organization and Ah! the Marquette Range Engineers and a then I was involved with the, the church work, I served on the board in church, and Ah! also did a lot of coral work I was in the Pegaunee male chorous and the a church choir and Ah, various other things.

Me - You were also on the school board to.

Mr A - Yes, I, I was on the school board I Ah! was elected to the, I don't know about the dates here know why don't you turn that off for a minute know.

Me - What school boards have you served on?

Mr A - I, I served on the um, Ashperning Township school board and the Nice school board for a total of twenty years, I served from Ah! 1954 until 1974 on Ah! them boards, or those boards, and Ah! I've been serving on the Marquette Alger Intermediate school board this is my, I think my twenty-ninth, or thirtieth year, on the, it was originally the old Marquette county Board, Ah! I was elected to that in 1956 or 7 and it was the Marquette County school board up until



Mr A - it was the old Marquette County School District up until 1962, and then ah! it became the Marquette Alger Intermediate School Board, and I've been serving on that board since it's been organized in 1962 up until the present.

Me - How do you get elected to the Marquette Alger board?

Mr A - ah! the election process is a little different there than it is in the local school board you're not elected at a general election ah! you're elected by one representative from each school district in the two counties and ah! at the present time there are twelve school districts in the two counties, so that it's possible to get elected with a say just a majority vote from those 12 school districts those only 12 representatives from those districts.

Me - What is the Marquette Alger responsible for?

Mr A - ah! the main one of the main functions of the Marquette Alger Intermediate schools board is for special education, special education is the main thrust ah! and then there are



Mr A - many other programs too connected with the ah!  
Intermediate District, but that is the a main  
one.

Me - Have you witnessed any ah! particular incidents  
that affected you greatly?

Mr A - Well, I think the fact that I've been serving on  
the Intermediate school board for so many years  
ah! the thing that has affected of course is the  
need for these special education children, theres  
a definate need to help these kids, they need all  
the help they can get, I think the fact that I do, I have  
a great interest in these children is I've been serving  
so long on the board.

Me - Why is it so important for us to offer an education  
for these children?

Mr A - Well, I think the main thing of course is if you can  
make these children some-what self-sufficient so there,  
so they can get along just say doing household chores,  
otherwise its such a burden on the parents. Ah! and, some  
real progress is being made in the Special Education  
classes in helping these kids becoming halfway self-  
sufficient around the house, or the home.

Me - What kind of students attend the Marquette Alger Schools?

Mr A - Why don't you turn that off for a second here?



Mr a - I think any type of student that ah! has a special need ah! actually ah! the that are actually trained in the special education classes are those that are the ah! say the mentally impaired the trainable mentally impaired, the severely ~~impaired~~ mentally impaired, and the and some of the emotionally impaired, and then we have the hearing impaired classes, and ah! a lot of your other special education classes are held right in your local school systems like your learning disabled and your speech therapy ~~and your speech therapy~~ and some of your other classes are held right in your local school districts they have rooms right in the local school districts for these people.

Me - Where are these schools?

Mr a - Well, um the classrooms, special education classrooms are located in various locations in Marquette, we have one in ah! one in one of the churches, and then, and some of the Marquette, the Marquette ah! middle school and ah! then we have one class down at the ah Pine-view school in Palmer and ah! there's one at the catholic, catholic school in Marquette, ah!

Me - What school board were you on in 1970?

Mr a - 1970?

Mr a - In 1970 I was on the ah! let's see, I don't know what the N.I.C.E. school board must have been with the N.I.C.E.



Mr A - school board was organized in 70 or 71, 72  
I was maybe on the Leshpening township school board at  
this time and then I was on the Marquette Alger school  
board.

Me - How lang have you been on this school board?

Mr A - Well like I said before I served 20 years on the Leshpening  
township and Nice school boards and now I'm in my  
29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> year on Marquette Alger Intermediate school  
board

Me - How did the consolidation come about?

Mr A - Well um, the reason the N.I.C.E. District was formed in there  
was a very, there was a crowding at the time the ah! students,  
the high school students and the ah! sixth, seventh, and eighth grade  
students in the Leshpening township, and Ely township were attending  
the Leshpening public schools on a tuition bases and ah! the Lesh-  
pening Highschool had a very crowded situation and ah! they  
informed the township board that here they had to annex  
to the city of Leshpening or else they had to go off on  
there own to form their own school district.

Me - What school districts were involved in the consolidation?

Mr A - Well initially ah! Leshpening, the city of Leshpening ah! Leshpening  
township, Ely township, and Tilden township, ah voted on the  
consolidation which was voted down, and then the N.I.C.E.  
district ah that included the Tilden township, Leshpening  
Township, ah! Champion, Humbolt, and Spur Townships  
and Ely township and of course that's where the N.I.C.E.  
districts came from the ah! National Mine was for the  
N, I was for Leshpening township



Mr A - and C was for Champion, and E was for Ely

Me - What kind of work was done for the consolidation vote?

Mr A - Well actually before the consolidation vote took place there was a great amount of work to be done ah! you had to look at the financing of the districts what the finances looked like for the entire district, you gotta look at the transportation ah! you gotta look at the schools as they were now, ah! and you had to look the possible school sites, for a new high school, and ah! then you had to convince the people of the various townships, that this was the best way to go ah!

Me - What did you see as the positive points of the consolidation?

Mr A - Well the most important goal in any consolidation is to provide an improved program for all the students in the districts ah! and this was the main goal, was to improve education program and by consolidating all these smaller districts, into one larger district ah! you could see the many advantages that ah! would come about ah! some of the advantages were ah! you'd have a sufficient enrollment in the elementary grades to permit ah specialized instruction in art and music and ah you would have a more comprehensive library, and audio-visual materials, in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade um, eighth grades, you'd have departmentalized instruction, ah! with teachers teaching in their major fields and you have a better chance to participate in intercalastic events and then of course in High School



Mr A - the enrollment was going to be approximately 600 students and ah! here your real advantages were that teachers would be teaching only in their major fields and ah! they'd be offering essential courses every year, rather than every other year like in the smaller districts ah! so there were many, many advantages to the consolidating these small districts into one large district.

Me - What do you see as the negative points?

Mr A - Well one of the ah, I think the most important negative points is the ah! transportation problems that you have with a large scattered district with the Rice district ah! when you take ah! when you have students coming from the end of 581 and then up all the way from the other side of Michigan from Spur township and from Ely Township ah you have a ah! a real transportation problem and this becomes more of a problem when you have, like athletic events and athletic practices when you have to bring these students home after the practices and ah for all other school events

Me - Why did Ishpeming Township students stop attending Ishpeming High School?

Mr A - I mentioned just a little earlier that ah they had a very, an overcrowded situation in the Ishpeming High School and ah, the Ishpeming, Ishpeming ~~High School~~ School Board



Mr A - Ashpeming city school board ah! informed the ah! township board that ah they either had to annex to the ah! Ashpeming school system or else they would have to go off on their own and form their own school system.

me - What was the consolidation vote?

Mr A - ah well the consolidation vote was to ah create a new school district involving six separate school districts, and ah that was the nice district the Tilden Township, Ashpeming Township, Ely Township, and Champion, Humboldt, Spur townships into one district, and ah the vote took place in ah ah February, February 28, 1972 that's when the actual vote took place and ah it was quite an overwhelming vote to consolidate these districts, to form a new district which was called the Nice School District.

me - Once the vote passed what were the next steps?

Mr A - Well after consolidation took place the consolidation vote was approved ah, the first thing was to appoint an interim school board to serve ah until the election in June and ah the board officially named the new district Nice Community schools and the board interviewed and hired a superintendant, and assistant superintendant ah, and then following that the ah board interviewed members of architectural firms, and hired ah! Daverman associates, from Grand Rapids to do the architectural work on the new school



Mr A - And ah and then, one of the ah major problems was in selecting ah a site for the new High School ah after looking at several sites around Leshpeming and Ely Townships which was considered the ah, more or less the central location for the new school ah the site was selected, the present site was selected which was west of the North Lak. Road and south of U.S. 41, this site turned out to be a very excellent ah! location. Because of good access and it also could be served by ah, Leshpeming Township sewer and water.

Me - What kind of problems occurred while the High School was being built?

Mr A - Well they never had any ah, major problems ah we have the normal problems that you get with your architects, and your ah, various contractors everything went quite smoothly ah! we did have a few problems with the ah, getting the water into the school we ended we had to build ah a booster station in order to get sufficient pressure on the water in the school that was one of the ah things we hadn't anticipated outside of that, everything went quite smoothly during the construction of the school.

Me - How was the curriculum and administration decided?

Mr A - At first when the a Nice district was formed we had four Superintendents, actually the way the Superintendant was chosen we kept all of the people on staff but we chose one Superintendant from the four Superintendents and this was ah done by the ah new board that was appointed ah for the district um! one of the Superintendents was um, became the curriculum director and ah two of the other Superintendents, the other two Superintendents became principles



Mr A - the curriculum was put together by a curriculum director; who worked very closely with ah the ah, Marquette Alger Intermediate School District and ah with the various principles teachers.

Me - What is your philosophy on education?

Mr A - My philosophy ah, ah, on education would be to give the student ah, well rounded, or good basic education which would include ah, the arts, the sciences, the um, and ah the athletics, and ah to give them a good base for going on in life without a college degree or else have a good basic education so he can enter college.

Me - What should we value most about our district?

Mr A - Well I think that the um thing you should value is the ah very excellent program that are being offered by the Rice School System, ah and this comes, because of course they've had a large amount of money which some of the other districts, or they had more money than some of the other districts and have been able to offer the students ah much broader and ah more rounded education than say some of the other districts which have been financially strapped

Me - What other organizations do you belong to?

Mr A - Well I belong to several organizations um just to name say several of them, I sing on the



Mr A - Regaunee male chorus, I'm a member of the pioneer  
Keweenaw, ah, the am cab, which is Alger Marquette  
action board, I'm a member of that board, and I'm  
on the O.E.D.P. which is the Overall Economic Develop-  
ment board, I sing in the church choir at the Bethany  
Lutheran Church, I'm a member of the Wawonowin Golf  
Club,

Me - What kind of work did you do when you were on  
the board and stuff after you were in the service?

Mr A - I went to ah work for Cleveland Cliffs in 1951 ah,  
and I worked my entire time in the Geological Depart-  
ment, of Cleveland Cliffs, I worked for 31 years, and I  
retired on May 1, ah 1982.