

Patti Aho's Interview
with

Bernhardt Aho

me: This is Patti Aho the Date of the interview
~~is~~ is December 10 I'm interviewing
Bernhardt Aho for the Red Dust Project
I'm interviewing him at his home in
National Mine.

me: Can you give me a brief Biographical
Sketch of your life?

Bernhardt: Well I was born in National Mine in
1923. ~~Went~~ to school in National
Mine up to half way into 12th grade.
Went to work in 1941.

me: Yea

Bernhardt: ah! On the lake Superior Ishpeming
Rail Road Company went to Robin's in 1944,
worked there until 1976 when they closed went
on construction for from 1976 to 1987 when
I retired and I lived in this house we moved
out here and married in 1945.

me: um How many Brothers and Sisters did
you have?

Bernhardt: I had 3 other Brothers and 4 sisters
me: what are their names?

Bernhardt: John Henry + ~~Carl~~ Oscar,
the Sisters names were Suoma
Hattie Ann and Hilda.

me: what were their ages?

Bernhardt: Oh! I have know Idea Da ah you
mean when they Pas away
me: Yea

Bernhardt: I have know Idea they were
all old I mean. I have know Idea what
their names were I mean ages were
me: Oh um!

Bernhardt: I would have to look it up,
me: ya. How many of them went to
National mine?

Bernhardt: All of them.

me: All of them

Bernhardt: All of them, they all went to National
mine school.

me: When did you get married?

Bernhardt: 1945

me: And who did you marry?

Bernhardt: Ruth Magna Son.

me: and how many children did you have.

Bernhardt: 2

me: what were their names?

Bernhardt: Carol and Gene

me: And their ages.

Bernhardt: 41 and 39

me: Did they go to National Mine

Bernhardt: they Both Graduated from National Mine.

me: Um!

Bernhardt: Gene is working at U.P. General in Marquette and Carol is teaching up at westwood.

me: what years did you attend national mine?

Bernhardt: what years.
Me:!

Bernhardt: 1938 through a right up to 1941.

Do you remember some of your teachers from grade school?

Bernhardt: Do I remember some of them Dorothy Ann Dorothy Gleason Evalin having Philis Lynn

Bernhardt: Sandy Milimaky Betsy Griggs um

Clarice Slany Janet Trembad George

Annala Walter Bob Patrick Gleason

Still a few more if I sat and taught um

I ~~guess~~ ~~guess~~ would get them all I guess,

me: um, ok what were they like?

Bernhardt: they were all good they were all good teachers.

me: ok Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

Bernhardt: no no more than Janice Trembacky use to fall asleep in class up at the desk.

me: But what would use do when she fell asleep?

Bernhardt: nothing ~~Just~~ Just kinda

~~laugh~~ laugh about it and she would wake up.

me: um. Do you remember some of your Junior High or High School teachers

Bernhardt: I just named mostofah

me: um

Bernhardt: Ya they were some others and I just cant think of them right off hand now

me: um how long was the school day?

Bernhardt: 9:00 up until 3:30

me: what time did you start 9:00 hay,

Bernhardt: what time did I start,

me: ya

Bernhardt: from home,

me: no school you just said 9:00 o'clock

Bernhardt: what time did I start,

me: ya.

Bernhardt: 9:00

me: ya um how did you get to school?

Bernhardt: walked I walked all over national mine before I went to school I use to peddal. 100 ~~mining~~ mining journals before I went to school in the morning. Papers use to

come in at 4:30 I'd walk all ~~over~~ ^{around} national mine winter summer and I'd get up school about an hour before before school started and I'd go by down down the sanitor's room

Bernhardt: with Martin Granigin for a while, (6)
Me: How far was it from your house to the school

Bernhardt: about 3 quarters of a mile
Me: OK um what subjects did you have
Bernhardt: well we had all the subjects they have today we had arithmetic we had Penmanship that's something they don't have today you can't even understand some of the fighting that's being done today we had Penmanship we had

Geography we had History and a manual training ^{biology} ~~biology~~ Agriculture we didn't have no typing or anything like that didn't have any.

Me: Which one was your favorite one
Bernhardt: which one was your favorite one
Me: probably manual training the favorite
Me: why

Bernhardt: well you got to make stuff up there take it home to show the parents they could see what you were doing up there
me: what was the toughest

Bernhardt: the toughest was ah chemistry
me: chemistry ok um how did kids dress?

Bernhardt: how'd they dress they dressed pretty good they didn't go to school with holes in their knees like they do now unless they were worn out they didn't buy cloth's that way and they had boots on in the winter time and everybody walked the only one that walked were way out south of ~~the~~ spanning nobody in the location ~~was~~ Rod no
me: was there a dress code?

Bernhardt: I don't think so everybody dressed sensibly that's all

Me: Was there any special fads or saying at the time?

Bernhardt: No not that I can recall me okum now were kids expected to act and behave

Bernhardt: How were they expected to they were expected to behave, If they didnt they were bounced down the hall they were

given what they called a od bicycle ride down the hall By Mr. Annala or Mr. Base

Me: okum, what kinds of extra curricular activities were there?

Bernhardt: softball team out here we had basket team's out here a six man team football out here?

lots of opeats that were ~~presented by the~~ ^{participated in} ~~by the~~

~~teachers~~ and me: wich ones did you partipate in?

Bernhardt: Basket ball and six man football Soft ball. And some of the opeata's that were presented by some of the teachers

me! did Any teams win a trophy or championship 9
Bernhardt! we we were won though undefeated
1940-41. In Basketball, I think we won
~~the~~ the league championship and in softball
with that in high school we just had that for
a few years and I don't know just ~~when~~ drop
it a lack I guess because it was summer time
and we were out of school then.

me! ya!

Bernhardt! kids had to stay home and work they
had to take care of the cattle cut the hay and
cut the wood so it was hard to get the
group together.

me! um. what effect did this have on the
school? to win a trophy or championship.
Bernhardt! what effect there was no effect
I mean the school was just it was an
honor for the school to have it.

me! How did you travel to other schools and
how far did you go

Bernhardt! we went by bus to Basketball games

Bernhardt: softball games we went by buss
also if we went to champion the farthest
we went was tlanary,

me: OK um Do you remember any special
cheers for the team

Bernhardt: special cheers oh deer 3, 6, 8
who do we appreciate team team team 3, 6, 7, 9

who do we think is fine team team team.
there were some of the cheers,

me: um let's see how would you describe
your academic performance

Bernhardt: it was fair,

me: OK what was lunch time like what
was lunch time like?

Bernhardt: what was it like Run home
and eat and Run back to school that's

what lunch time ~~the~~ was we didn't
have no lunch up there you could take
your own lunch but everybody ran back

Bernhardt: and fourth use to run home for dinner and run back after dinner and. (11)

Me: So they didn't have a cafeteria

Bernhardt: Oh no no no no

Me: Who was the principle

Bernhardt: George Annala

Me: Could you describe him?

Bernhardt: he was a tall guy he was my God father in fact George Annala

was he was tall and he was very very ~~strict~~ strict and he stood out in the hallway and when classes were being dismissed or he would watch to see if anybody even ran down the hallway they were called back and waited in the room till everyone was out of the hallway

Bernhardt: and made them walk.
me: did the school have any Picnic's
of outing's

Bernhardt: no. We use to get a Bag and
that at Christmas time + treats from the
School board and we use to get Peanuts and
School board and we use to get Peanuts and
candy oranges + apple's
me: what would you's do like on the
last day of school?

Bernhardt: no we never we just it was
Just like Any other day we would
get dismissed early but we had no Picnic's
not that I can recall

me: OK um, did Any teachers have
And impact on your life

Bernhardt: Gefage Annala I guess Because
he was so strict I guess that's how we
have all Been. All the time.

me: okum! Did you Graduate?

Bernhardt: NO I Quit ~~the~~ half way thru
twelfth grade.

me: um why?

Bernhardt: through out work
me: ok um.

Bernhardt: My dad got sick and was sick
home and he was the only one home so
he had to be taken care of and I had to
try and work besides and

me: mm ha okum did you's have a prom
or any thing?

Bernhardt: NO

me: like any dance

Bernhardt: NO

me: Did Any tragedy's occur ~~while~~ while
you were in school?

Bernhardt: Ya one Frank an no old Richards
fell out of the bus back door of the bus
he lived out south and he was in our grade
and he fell on the ~~side~~ side out here.

Bernhardt: on the SSI rode out there and eventually he died from the injuries that's the only tragedy I can remember in school.

me: How old was he?

Bernhardt: when he died about 14 or 15.

me: How did he fall out the bus?

Bernhardt: the Backdoor opened I guess or something like that there I guess he was leaning up against the Backdoor. I wasn't locked properly or he fell out on the ride.

me: um were you able to maintain contact with your child need friends?

Bernhardt: Between who?

me: Your child need friends

Bernhardt: child need friends have? Oh ya.

me: what do you think has been the biggest change in the school since you were a student?

Bernhardt: what the biggest change?

Bernhardt: Oh there's been so many changes they change and change every here and I don't know what would be the biggest I suppose the teaching staff was a lot lot bigger than we use to I mean one teacher use to take care of the whole class you know didn't have know aids there know sub teachers or stuff like that there and every body walked to school now every body's bused to school unless they live right in front of the school yard

me: OK um what are your founder's memories of national mine.

Bernhardt: founder's memories I don't know I suppose all the good times we had in school and ah playing athletics we enjoyed them and we practiced.

Bernhardt: You know not only in the gym But
underneath the light pole's at night
here

me: Well like would you practiced after ~~the~~ school
like for Basket Ball?

Bernhardt: ya we practiced after school
me: at school or at your house?

Bernhardt: at the school But the we use to
so practice again under light poles down there
Down By the old post office we had a
Basket Ball Course down there.

me: ok um. If you could give a message to
the students today what would it be?

Bernhardt: If I was going to give a message
to um Don't Drink Don't use Drugs
it's gonna ruin your life It's a fact
fact we never heard of that stuff until
these last many years here we never never
heard of it when we were in school never.

Bernhardt! We never had to have any one up there
 talking to us about it we never had I
 don't think anyone on the Basket Ball team
 was even even smoken like they do know I
 watch them right here getten Picked up off the
 Bus there digging on Cigarette's down there I
 think it's terrible. wit all the ~~power~~ they got it
 gonna destroy your life but they sill continue on
 me: ya Do you have anything else you would
 like to add.

Bernhardt: No I don't think so.
 me: thanks.