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Melissa Nault's Interview
with
Mr. Borkhund

Me: This is Melissa Nault. It is Dec. 12, 1990,
I am Interviewing Conrad Borkhund, For
Red Dust. I am going over Mr. Borkhund's
House, in National Mine.

Me: When and Where were you born?

Mr. B: National Mine

Me: Day?

Mr. B: When, oh. Nov. 21, 1914

Me: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Mr. B: Yes, 2 sisters, and one is 73^{40 55}₀₁₀ and the
other is 71 years old.

Me: Names?

Mr. B: Maria, the Oldest, and Viola, the youngest.

Me: Do you know--

Mr. B: There names are, well she only knows
Her, my sister in Neg. is Her mother (Ha, Ha, Ha)

Me: Do you When and Where your parents were
born?

Mr. B: Not When, but my mother was born in
Wisconsin, and my Father was born in
Sweden.

Me: What years did you attend National Mine School?

Mr. B: Well, 1920 to 32.

Me: O.K., Do you remember any of the names of your grade school teachers?

Mr. B: Yes, ^{many} McLamark, Helen Peterson, who else was there? Watio, Viola Mason, she is Viola Magnason. There are a bunch of them.

Me: O.K., Did you have any favorites?

Mr. B: No, Didn't like teachers. (Ha, Ha, Ha).

Me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about your grade school teachers?

Mr. B: Oh, No, well. Lets see I gotta think a little while, now. ~~How~~ No there, I don't know of any.

Me: ^{O.K.} Um, Do you do remember the names of some of your ~~the~~ Junior and High School teachers?

Mr. B: ya, there was Greggs and Bitty Annala, George Annala, ~~Oszy~~ Ozzy Swanson, ^{Mrs.} Gribbles, & Scotts was the Superintendent. Oh, who else was there Pat Gleason was Basketball coach, and Osworth & Shirley I don't know what her last name was.

Me: Could you describe what they were like.

(Ha, Ha, Ha)

Mr. B: Well, What do you mean, Where they Good teachers or Bad teachers. Ha.

Me: ~~X~~ Mm, Mm

Mr. B: They were all pretty good teachers, (Ha, Ha).

Me: Do you have any Favorite High School teacher?

Mr. B: No.

Me: Why Not?

Mr. B: Ya, Mr. Scott he was superintendent ~~x~~ of the school, And he was my next door neighbor, lived next door to my mother. He was a Good Joe. He was, I was always eating ~~asprins~~ asprins, (Ha, Ha)

Me: O.K. ^{um} How did you get to school each day, + How?

Mr. B: Walked.

Me: How Far was it?

Mr. B: About 5 houses from the school. (Ha, Ha)

Me: What time did school start?

Mr. B: ~~X~~ 9 o'clock in the morning, 1 o'clock at noon. I had to run down to the post office and pick up the mail.

Me: How did the kids dress?

Mr. B: Well, Most of them when we started school had the little nickerbockers by your knees + high shoes and stockings. Then when we got a little farther up it was breches and high tops. Toward the last it was just long pants and a jacket, No ^{shirt} Neck tie, (Ha, Ha)

Me: Was there a dress code?

Mr. B: No, Never was up there.

Me: What kinds of subjects were taught at the time?

Mr. B: In high school, Algebra, geometry, chemistry, English, latin, physics, And I didn't like none of them. (Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha)

Me: What was your favorite subject, did you have a favorite subject?

Mr. B: Well, chemistry, I liked chemistry, that was the only thing I ever got an ~~A~~ A in. All the while I was in school. (Ha, Ha)

Me: O.K., What subject gave you the most difficulty And why?

Mr. B: History, I hated History + I never studied. (Ha, Ha)

Me: O.K., were there any fads or saying when you were in school?

Mr. B: O gee, I guess some of the same ones you still got. No none that I could remember.

Me: How were the kids expected to act or behave?

Mr. B: Good, all the time ^{that's what they wanted,} but we weren't always good.

Me: What kinds of punishments were given?

Mr. B: Stay after school, sometimes expelled for a day or two from school, & the Superintendent ~~sometimes~~ sometime gave you a little licker with a stick.

I remember ^{I got one} that two, Scotts gave it to me, me and Roy Peterson. (Ha, Ha, Ha).

me: ~~Was~~ Were any of your friends or your every suspended?

Mr. B: No, I never got suspended from school, but Jackie Thornton was, He got for fighting with a teacher.

me: What kinds of extra curricular activities were offered?

Mr. B: At National Mine all they had was basketball, that's all.

me: Did you participate?

Mr. B: Ya.

me: Do you remember any special moments?

Mr. B: No.

me: Did any sports team win a trophy or a tournament.

Mr. B: Oh, yes. Um, the basketball team won, ~~they~~ went down state one year, in 1929. They didn't win the states now did they, No. Yes they did they ~~won~~ they were state champions, that year, ~~it~~ that was in 1929.

me: Were you on the team?

Mr. B: No.

me: Oh, Could you describe the effect it had on the school?

Mr. B: That I had on the school?

me: that the winning had on the school?

Mr. B: Oh, they no, everybody was there to cheer them on. They came home on the train, "Detroit."

me: What kind of plays or programs were staged when you were in school?

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Mr. B: Oh, they had lots of them little programs, Dorothy Gleason, used to have operettas, + senior class plays. I was in three senior class plays.

me: What were they?

Mr. B: Hu?

me: Do you remember what they were called?

Mr. B: No, I don't remember the names of them. I remember they didn't have enough boys from the other two classes so they had to collect me to act in those things.

me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories?

Mr. B: Ya, we came down, we were suppose to go on stage + Roy Peterson had his sweater on backwards. (Ha, Ha, Ha)

me: O.K., what was lunch time like?

Mr. B: Oh, all the kids, either brought there own lunch or we went home for lunch + then we played ball outside until time to go in every noon hour, sometimes after school we would stay up there and play.

me: Did you every eat at school?

Mr. B: No.

me: Who was the principle when you were ~~at~~ school.

Mr. B: Oh, George Annala.

me: Could you describe him?

Mr. B: Ya, he was a ~~a~~ well built man, about 180 pounds, 6 feet, he was a pretty rough teacher, too. There was no fooling with him.

me: Did you have lots of home work?

Mr. B: No.

me: What did you do after school?

Mr. B: Go home and cut the wood, and haul the wood, haul water. Take care of the cow and the horse and when you got through with that you could go out and play till 8:00 + then get in the house + up to bed.

me: When you got to out and play were did you hang out?

Mr. B: Oh, we around the school and then they had (7)
Some old offices over there by, well who's
living there now, Aho's over there. We use to go over
there and play, hide and go seek, run sheep run, and
then I got caught hiding on top of the smoke stack
got in trouble with the cops. (Ha, Ha)

Me: (Ha, Ha) Could you describe the graduation ceremony?

Mr. B: Well, ya Val Victorians and school victorians would
give a ~~speech~~ ^{at National Mine} speech. And they usually had somebody singing.
And they use to have class night and graduation night.
Vac Valorian, that they had on Sunday night. Now
all they have is one night for the whole graduation.
That's how smart ~~are~~ you kids are, you can do it all
at once. (Ha, Ha)

Me: What special memories do you have of graduation?

Mr. B: I don't know. Well, after graduation we all went
up to the Ronda Ua, Marge Trebellcock told us, ~~we~~
went up there and danced till we would catch heck
from our parents. (Ha, Ha)

Me: Where you able to maintain contact with your childhood
friends.

Mr. B: Yes, there are still three more living besides me, Rob
Tregembo, over here, Solka and Teddy S. ohlm.
We are the last four out of our class.

Me: Did any of your teachers have an impact on your life?

Mr. B: No. (Ha, Ha, Ha)

Me: Do you have any occupations?

Mr. B: Now,

Me: Ya.

Mr. B: Well making chairs and swings and shoveling snow.

Me: Thank you. (Ha, Ha)

Mr. B: Ya, your a good girl, dear.

Just talking after the interview. ⑧

me: When did the school burn down?

Mr. B: Ya, the school burnt down in 1934 they rebuilt it in 1936 and we all went to the ~~new~~ norwegian, the norwegian kids were scattered round norwegian church, wheat or sweet church, the old red school house, English Church, the old offices up ~~by~~ on top of Brooks hill, town hall, norwegian church. All the classes were scattered around like that. The Finn church, up here on the hill, had two ~~the~~ third and fourth grade, No second and third grade wasn't it. Cause the Jack church had fourth grade + the old red schoolhouse had fifth grade + a sixth grade.

Mr. B: The Finn church was second grade, kindergarten + First Grade*

me: How long have you been married?

Mr. B: ~~54~~ 54 years, Dec. the 5th
the only reason we didn't get a divorce is because neither one of us had money to get one. (Ha, Ha, Ha)

Mr. B: I was born and raised up in that house were my sister Viola lives now.

Mr. B: We were pretty good kids, we had to be. (Ha, Ha)
No cars to run around with, you walked if you wanted to go town you walked.

The kids use to get together somewhere and play at night until 8:30, 9:00 and everybody had to be in. We played ball, played hide and go seek, run sheep run, kick the can. No the kids are so ~~hard~~ tired to even climb the ski hill. they want to ride a motor cycle up and ski down.

me: How much were the basketball games, to get in?

Mr. B: Oh, a quarter, for adult, 15¢ for kids.

me: Now it's \$1.00 \$1.50.

Mr. B: There use to be a ~~at~~ auditorium now it's the cafeteria - lunch room use to be in what is now the art room.