

Ryan Ott's interview
with
Mrs. Bucco.

Me: This Ryan Ott December 10, 1990 interviewing Mrs. Merte Bucco a National Mine student at Prairie street in Ishpeming.

Me: When were you born?

Mrs. B: Born? December 1, 1916

Me: How many brothers or sisters did you have and what was there names.

Mrs. B: 5 sisters and 2 brothers, the sisters were: Bertha, Viola, Gladys, Gwedidilin, Winnie. And the two brothers were and Rubin

Me: When and whom did you marry?

Mrs. B: I married Orintal Bucco on

Me: How many children did you have and what ~~are~~ were their names?

Mrs. B: 1 daughter, Susan

Me: Where were your parents born?

Mrs. B: My dad was born in Sweeden and my mom was born in Nequamee

Me: And when were they born?

Mrs. B: My mother was born in 1881 and my father in 1876

Me: what years did you attend National Page ②
Mine?

Mrs. B: I graduated in 1935

Me: So what grades did you go through?

Mrs. B: Kindergarten through 12

Me: Do you remember the names of any grade school teachers and what they were like?

~~Me:~~
Mrs. B: We had Dorothy Austin, Ruth Roberts, Helen Peterson, and Samuel Maki.

Me: Do you have any interesting or humorous stories you remember about them?

Mrs. B: NO

Me: Do you remember any of your junior high or high school teachers?

Mrs. B: We had George Annala, Phyllis _____, Becky Crutes, _____, X

Me: Do you have any interesting or humorous stories about them?

Mrs. B: Well I remember when one of my class mates brought pastis and passed one back to me in the assembly room and we were eating them and the principle was sitting at the desk and started sniffing but he never caught us. (Ha Ha Ha!!!)

Me: What was the first day of school page 3
like for you?

Mrs. B.: I remember that too. I came back from school and my mother asked me how did you like school. And I said it was okay but one girl pushed me and I pushed her back

Me: How did you get to school each day and how far was it?

Mrs. B.: I had to walk and I had walk home at noon for lunch, we had from 12:00 to 1:15. And we had a long walk way about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Me: Did you have to walk to school during the winter?

Mrs. B.: We had to walk all the winter, we never had any busses and they didn't plow like they do.

Me: Was school cancelled as much?

Mrs. B.: No, ~~there~~ there weren't any busses.

Me: What kind of classes did you have?

Mrs. B.: We had English, Algebra, Geometry, Latin, American History
World history chemistry

Me: What was your favorite subject, and why?

Mrs. B.: Mathematics, I always loved it and still do

Me: Was it because of any teacher you really like?

Mrs. B.: No it just was really easy

Me: What was your most difficult subject and why?

Mrs. B: Well I really didn't have any difficult ones, I graduated as Valedictorian.

Me: How were kids expected to behave and what punishments were given?

Mrs. B: Well, kids usually behaved, but once in a while somebody would get sent to the principals office or stay after school

Me: Did any kids ever get suspended?

Mrs. B: None that I ever heard of.

Me: How did students dress? Did you have a dress code?

Mrs. B: No dress code just wear what we could afford

Me: Were girls expected to wear dresses?

Mrs. B: No

Me: Were the boys expected to wear ties?

Mrs. B: No, just shirts and trousers

Me: Were there any special fads or sayings when you were a youngster?

Mrs. B: None

Me: What music did you listen to?

Mrs. B: Well I listened to, well we had glee club in school we only had radio then and no TV, I liked country and classic.

Me: Any special singers you like

Mrs. B: I can't remember any

Me: What kinds of extra curricular activities were offered?

Mrs. B: We had basketball, girls basketball, but we didn't have much, we had glee club and we put on many operettas.

Me: Did you participate in many of ~~these~~ those?

Mrs. B: Oh yes, in glee club and other things.

Me: Did any of your teams win a trophy or a tournament?

Mrs. B: I think the class of 1929 went to Detroit for a state basketball championship.

Me: What kinds of effects did this have on the school?

Mrs. B: Well they were 6 ~~year~~ years older than I don't really remember that much. My sister graduated that year that was her class.

Me: Were they very happy?

Mrs. B: Oh yes.

Me: Did they have many pep rallies or assemblies?

Mrs. B: Well again they were older and I really don't remember.

Me: How did the team travel to school and how far did they go?

Mrs. B: Well they had a bus. And if we wanted to see them we would have to take a car.

Me: What do you think the farthest they travelled was?

Mrs. B: We went to Palmer and Republic.

Me: Who was the principle at your school?

Mrs. B: George Annala.

Me: What was he like?

Mrs. B: He was a very good math teacher, he was strict we'd get some work done.

Me: what were your textbooks like?

Mrs. B: Ohh they covered pretty much and they were fairly new.

Me: How much homework do you suppose you got?

Mrs. B: About an hour each night

Me: What was ~~the~~ lunchtime like for you?

Mrs. B: Well we had to walk home in the winter by the time we got home and ate something we would have to go back again. We did have an hour or 15 minutes but then we didn't get out to 4 o'clock.

Me: How much did lunch cost at the time?

Mrs. B: They didn't have lunch you brought your lunch in a bag or walked home.

Me: Did you have a cafeteria?

Mrs. B: No we had a lunch room, and the students would go in there.

Me: How long were your lunch periods or recess?

Mrs. B: We started at 9 and we had a recess probably 15 minutes in the morning, we were dismissed at 12 and we got back at 1:15. And then we would get dismissed at 4.

Me: Did you have any special plays or programs at your school?

Mrs. B: We had a lot of operettas, but I don't remember any names of those.

Me: Did you participate in any of those?

Mrs. B: Oh yes.

Me: Do you remember any interesting or ~~too~~ humorous stories about these or did they go as planned always?

Mrs. B: I think so.

Me: Did you have any strict rules to follow when you were in school?

Mrs. B: Oh yes, no running in the halls was only one thing caught?

Me: What kinds of punishments were issued if you were caught?

Mrs. B: Well a teacher would talk to you.

Me: Could you describe your graduation ceremony at National Mine?

Mrs. B: Well we had three and I had to do my valedictorian speech.

Me: Was that ~~to~~ hard to think of a ~~good~~ speech for that?

Mrs. B: No.

Me: Were you able to keep in contact with any of your childhood friends?

Mrs. B: Well after I was married we moved down state. So I didn't see any of them except ~~when we came back for a visit~~

Me: Do you still have any contact with them?

Mrs. B: I still see a couple of them. I think 5 of them have died.

Me: Do you have any ~~of~~ pictures or memories of them?

Mrs. B: Only class pictures.

Me: Any year books?

Mrs. B: I don't think so only graduation pictures.

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

Mrs. B: I think the math teacher.

Me: What about the students did they have any?

Mrs. B: Well I had some very good friends.

Me: Did you have any yearly outings or picnics?

Mrs. B: We had some picnics and we helped to plant that National Mine Forest.

Me: Do you remember who your teacher was and what year it was?

Mrs. B: No

Me: Did any tragedy occur while you were in school?

Mrs. B: Well one girl had a epileptic seizure

Me: Did anything bad happen because of this?

Mrs. B: No she got medication for it.

Me: What do you think the biggest change in the school is since you were a student?

Mrs. B: Well I think things are a lot the same. It depends on the teacher. We weren't allowed to do some of the things that are common today.

Me: What are the fondest memories of National Mine you have?

Mrs. B: Well, I liked ~~my~~ everything about the school I always liked school, I'd like to go back now.

Me: What were some things that made you like it?

Mrs. B: It was very easy to me to learn everything come that made it interesting but sometimes I get bored.

Me: Did you look forward to going to school each day?

Mrs. B: Yes, except in snowstorms

Me: Do you have any messages for kids in school today?

Mrs. B: Make sure you graduate get the most out of your classes it might not seem much to you now but it does later in life.