

Cory Korpi's interview
with
Mr. Chinn

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me: ~~Why are you interviewing Mr. Chinn~~ when Cory Korpi you are interviewing Mr. Chinn
he was a teacher at N.M.

me: When & where were you born?

Mr. C: When & where was I born hum lets see I was
born in ~~Essex~~ in Sacramento Cal.

me: Whom did your marry & when?

Mr. C: Susan Maki from Nag. in 1967.

me: What years did you teach at N.M.?

Mr. C: I taught at Natel Mine from 1966 through
1974.

me: What classes did you teach?

Mr. C: I taught American History, World History, 7 grade
History, Health, general Science, Biology, Algebra,
general Math, and Physical Education.

ME: What was the most difficult part of your job?

Mr. C: Teaching seven classes in an eight hour day.
seven different classes.

me: How and why did you choose your career?

Mr. C: I liked to work with kids and I wanted to
coach. cuz I coached all the varsity sports (up to basketball)

me: I coached, basketball, cross country, baseball, &
track.

Cory K

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me: did you win any trophy's for the coaching that you did?

Mr C: Ya we won the ^{first} district championship & the first and last district championship in the history of that school ah it was the first district championship probably over 20 years.

me: Was there any good players that stood out on your team?

Mr C: Yeah! Jean who went to Tech he played basketball at Tech he is now one of the best basketball officials around here ah A boy by the name of Steve Swanson who lives right by you over here who went to Ferris in Central Michigan And pitched baseball. we won the base ball conference a couple years and we won the track conference a couple years.

Me: How have you seen the duties of your job change over the years?

Mr C: Well I'm not teaching as many classes ah as far as duties go we have to know more just like you have to know more to keep up with the world but I don't think kids have changed any. Kids are kids.

Q: during the ^{whole} year were you ~~involved~~ in any special projects? or programs? P. (3)

MrC: Ah nothing ~~th~~ like red dust or anything no.

me: Did you receive any special training for your job?

MrC: Yah; I went 4 years at Northern at college to get what's called a bachelors degree but I got a masters degree which took another four summers and ever since then I've probably gone to school oh eight or ten times in the summer for training just to keep up with things.

me: Could you describe ^{some} ~~any~~ humorous or interesting ~~stories~~ ^{events} that happened during ~~the year?~~ your career?

MrC: Oh shure. I can remember one time we played basketball up in a place called Jeffers not Jeffers Hall; and they had a real small gym ah with the locker room right off the gym floor two or three steps below the floor and we noticed between the Varsity and J.V game that the showers were leaking and ah when we came in after warming up before the game the floor was real wet and we could see

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MRC: (cont) - That it would be a problem if it didn't get fixed well we went back in at half-time of the game and there was about six inches of water on the floor in the locker room & the kids had to stand on the benches and I stood on the steps and talked to them and after the game the water was over the height of the benches there was soap & shoes and Jock straps floating around and ah kids were diving under the swimming under the benches and every-thing so that is kind of Humorous.

me: Could you describe what your Co-workers were like?

MRC: Ah, they were great Ah when I first started there I was the youngest teacher there believe it or not I'm pretty old now at that time I was the youngest by far and they were great they they all helped me a great deal they were experienced they treated me really good.

me: How did the community feel about W.M. school?

MRC: Ah I honestly believe that ah they liked having there own school but I don't think

Mr C: (cont) The community at that time really
 And they supported the school don't
 get me wrong but I don't think
 they were they ah they valued
 the importance of education. The
 community right around the school
 I'm talking about the community
 of National Mine.

me: Did any of your family members
 work for the school?

Mr C: No

me: How has the building itself changed
 over the years?

Mr C: ah you won't remember this
 neither will most of the students
 that are there but were the
 cafeteria is now right off the gym
 behind the wall that ah used
 to be the auditorium the gym was
 up on us the gym hasn't moved
 but it was on the stage compared
 to the seats were the cafeteria
 is now was the auditorium were
 ah about 200 people sat or

Mr C: (cont) or 300 people the gym floor was
above the auditorium when you sat
in the auditorium and watched the
basketball game from below the
level of the floor there used to
be a big net that used to go
right across the whole front
of the what would be the whole
side where the bleachers are now
just to keep the ball and the
players from going out into the crowd.

me: Have you maintained contact with your former
students or co-workers

Mr C: Oh yeah! Yeah! ~~There~~ ^I see a lot of the
former student around here + some of
the former students some of my former
students are your teachers now Mr. S. Holan,
I had him as a student and one of
the teachers at NIM Mrs. Cox right now
is married to one of the real good
Athletes I had there + see was one of
my students at Mr. Johnson I coached
with him for a lot of years + Mr. Searing
who was there I taught with him
for a lot of years. Yeh I keep in contact

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Mr C: (cont): with them.

me: If you had to do it all again would you choose the same career?

Mr C: I wouldn't change a thing.

me: Why is that?

Mr C: Just like I told you before I like working with kids I'm not coaching no more but I really like to teach and I like working with young people. Plus there's 3 other reasons June, July, and August.

me: What were the greatest challenges you faced during your career?

Mr C: OK at W.M. you mean. OK one of them was trying to teach as many subjects as I did and coaching all the Varsity sports and the other thing is W.M. hadn't had a winning season in any sports for so long when I got there the biggest challenge was getting them to believe they could win and once that happened it took 2 years then the second year we won that district and we got the track program going and the baseball got going then they

Mr C: (cont) they started to believe in themselves they developed a good winning attitude there

me: what were the biggest responsibilities on the job

Mr C: well on the Athletic end of it it was developing that winning attitude and I used to drive the bus on many of the trips the coach drove the bus also so that a pretty big responsibility and I think just teaching and seeing that you treat all kids fairly is a big responsibility

me: Did you win any awards or be recognized for your job?

Mr C: well I never was coach of the year but I was nominated several times to be coach of the year and someone else beat me out. I did get 1 award called the Johnstons living ton seagle award for whos an outstanding educator award and its been the same in all the other sports I've been nominated for coach of the year but never been chosen

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me: what were your fondest memories so far N.M.?

Mr C: ~~the~~ The kids and the people I worked with. The kids were great I remember most of if not all of ~~am~~ and the people I worked with?

me: anything else you would like to add?

Mr C: no except I ~~like what I do~~ feel very good about what I do. I don't like it every single day that's no different from any other job but I wouldn't trade it for any other job it's what I wanted to do. It's what I still want to do. I'm looking forward to another 6 or 8 years of the same thing at Westwood and that's it. retiring I won't have regretted that I done it. I won't regret having kids. It's been great! O.K

me: Thanks