

Karen Konster's Interview
with Donald Erickson

①

me: When and where were you born?

Don: I was born July 31, 1953. Houghton.

me: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Don: A Brother and a sister both younger.
Brother David and sister Kathleen.

~~What are their~~

me: Names, Ages.

Don: David is 35 and Kathleen is 27.

me: Do you know when your parents were born?

Don: I have no idea?

me: Ha, Ha, Ha. What years did you attend National Mine.

Don: From first grade till I graduated.

Karen: Do you know what year you graduated?

Don: '71"

me: Do you remember the names of any teachers, grade school?

Don: Mrs. Magnuson and second grade was Mrs. Peacock.

Don: for third grade it was. I can't remember the other one.

me: Can you remember what they were like?

Don: They were just teachers.

me: Were they mean?

Don: No, not really I can't remember Miss Limberm was strict. But that was about the only one I can remember.

me: What was your favorite teacher?

Don: I don't even remember having one.

me: do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about your grade school teachers?

Don: Not that I can remember.

me: Can you remember any former High or H.S. students or teachers?

(3)

Don: Well, we had pretty much the same teachers in junior High + thru H.S. We didn't change schools it was all in the same school. What teachers you had in J. H. you had in H.S.

Me: you had the same teachers?

Don: Right thru. Tth grade right on thru.

me: Were you like all in the same class?

Don: No. Like the same teacher would teach math and would also teach high school math, advanced math, If I remember any there was no difference, we had the same teachers.

Me: did you change classes?

Don: Um Um, the same thing you do now in H.S. Well in junior High we stayed in the same rooms. Classes were small 17-18 kids.

Me: Were they mean?

Don: no. They were stricter maybe.
I don't know how they are today.

Me: Do you remember any stories about your teachers?

Don: I don't know?

Me: how did you get to school each day?

Don: By bus.

Me: How far was it?

Don: Sometimes it would take an hour.

Me: an hour to get to school!

Don: that's how much to get to school
but to come home we would have
to go all the way over towards
Palmer and over by Swartzers
Basin, and when we get home
it was almost an hour.

me: Palmer all the way out to
Palmer!

Don: The back way out by Tilden
mine.

me: What time did school start?

Don: I imagine it's changed; I have
no idea.

me: did you have a dress code?

Don: ~~no~~^{oops} No Blue jeans.

me: What did you have to wear?

Don: dress pants

me: did the girls have to wear skirts?

Don: I think so. I am not sure but
there were no blue jeans.

me: What was your favorite subject?

Don: Probably math.

me: Why

Don: I just enjoyed math

me: I don't like math.

Don: Ha, Ha

me: what subject gave you the most difficulty?

Don: Typing.

me: why?

Don: I just didn't like it, Bookkeeping, all these things I just didn't care for.

me: were there any special fads or sayings when you were in school?

Don: I am sure there were. + just Bell Bottom Pants.

me: How were kids expected to act or behave?

Don: Just be quiet in the classroom and in study Hall you had to be quiet.

me: What kinds of punishments were given?

Don: Expelled you could get ~~expelled~~ kicked out for so many things, depending on what you did.

me: What kinds of extra curricular activities were there.

Don: When we first started school they had a baseball team. and right around in junior high they quit having baseball. But they started track and Basketball.

me: Band they had a band.
were you in any of them?

Don: I was in Band for a while. and basket ball and Track.

me: what did you play?

Don: Coronet; Trumpet

me: Did any sports teams win a trophy or tournament?

Don: I don't remember I don't think so.

me: What kinds of plays were staged?

Don: We had a play every ⁸ year. Right, thru H.S. a couple of them.

me: Did you have a drama club?

Don: yes. One of the Plays we did was Stone Hedge was one of them. — and the Witches was another one. The classics.

me: Do you remember any stories about the plays.

Do: I remember the names not the plays.

me: What was lunchtime like?

Don: We used to eat in the gym.

me: What was hot lunch like?

Don: Good it was real good, Back then. It was all homemade food. They cooked it right from scratch.

me: who made it?

Don: It was ladies that lived right by the school would come and fix lunches.

me: It must have took a long time.

Don: Very long. Peel all the potatoes, and it was ~~so~~ small we had a whole H.S. the size of the our S. H. school now.

me: So there wasn't that many people?

Don: Not a big class had ~~20~~ 20 kids in it, the whole class. The whole graduating class I think we had less than 20 the year A grad. or right around twenty.

me: 20 yrs. old?

Don: 20 kids, thats all there were in

the whole graduating class. I don't even remember if there was that many.

me: Holy cow!

Don: The average class was right around twenty.

me: Each grade?

Don: The senior class the year I graduated I think I am not positive was right around 20 kids. and some of the years there would be more or less kids.

me: Do you remember who the principal was?

Don: Ah, when I graduated it was Fran Ruesing. He had just become the principal.

me: Was he mean?

Don: No. It depended on if he was strict. I think he always was strict.

me: Did you have lots of homework?

Don: Yes. Quite a bit.

me: Did it take you a long time to do it afterschool?

Don: Some of the things we had term papers and stuff.

me: Where did you "hang out?"

Don: Well the last few years of H.S. they divided the Tilden Township. For the kids and they could hang out there if they wanted.

me: What was the graduation ceremony like?

Don: Short. It wasn't that big. It was pretty much the same as you have now.

me: Was there a Valedictorian?

Don: Yes. I am trying to remember who it was. I can't remember

me: Was it somebody you knew?

Don: Oh ya! Like I said with classes that small-

me: you knew everybody!

me: Did you get any special ~~memories~~ memories from your graduation?

Don: On our senior year, we took a trip. We went to Wisconsin. To a resort. I can't remember the name of it.

me: A skiing resort.

Don: It was in the spring of the year, just before school let out. It was like a country club-type thing.

me: Were you able to keep contact with your childhood friends?

Don: They had most of the class for a ten year reunion.

me: Did you go?

Don: I went to the 10 yr. one we didn't make it to the 15 yr. one. Something came up. We couldn't make it.

me: Did any of your teachers leave an impact on your life?

Don: Not really.

me: I am supposed to ask you this. What is your job?

(12)

Don: I am a welder. Nothing in school prepared me for what I am doing now. Which is kind of ironic. I didn't take shop classes.

me: They had shop?

Don: Ya I had Ralph Keto for a shop teacher.

me: He ignores us?

Don: Haha

me: were you allowed to take Home-
Ec.

Don: No. You see they didn't switch them around. Girls had Home Ec and Boys had Shop

me: Anything you want to say?

Don: NO.