

Rebekah Nardi's Interview
with
William Ernell

Mr. Ernell: IS this moving?

Me: This is Rebekah Nardi on December 9th of 1990. And I'm interviewing my grandfather William Ernell. And the ~~purpose~~ purpose of this ~~is~~ is because he was an ex-Student of National Mine. I'm at 800 Maple Street Ishpeming, Michigan at his home. "K" were going to have a biographical scetch right now.

Me: Um when and where you born?

Mr. Ernell: Mmm 8-4-01 28 in Ishpeming.

Me: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Mr. Ernell: 1 Sister Ellen Ernell (kna~~h~~).

Me: When and whom did you marry?

Mr. Ernell: Ruth L. Saari 3-13-01 1954.

Me: How many children do you have?

Mr. Ernell: 2 daughters Mary Jo and Robyn L.

Me: When and where were your parents born?

Mr. Ernell: my mother was Selma Gustafson born in National Mine 1895, father Arnold B. Ernell Eskilstuna, Sweden 1893.

Me: nnnk

Me: What years did you attend National Mine School?

Mr. Ernell: from 1933 to 1947.

Me: Do you remember some of your gradeschool teachers and what were they like?

Mr. Ernell: Yes. Mrs. Dorothy (Austin) Gleason, Kindergarden teacher. Mrs. Smarko first grade, Mrs. Ellen (Peterson) Tryck seventh uh second grade, Miss Frannie Millimaki third and fourth grade. This lady you couldn't give any guff to.

Me: Why is that?

Mr. Ernell: She umm well because she was very strick. She only had one arm but she could pull ^{you} up by off the seat by her your hair and belt you with her stub.

Me: Ha Ha He He

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Mr. Ernell: Of an arm.

Me: Ha Ha

Mr. Ernell: She used to work me over pretty good at times and
Send me into the ppp ~~room~~ room.
Clothes

Me: Mmm

~~Me:~~ Me: Do you remember some of your junior high ~~or~~
or high school teachers and what were they like?

Mr. Ernell: Umnm our junior high and high school teachers were
one and the same. Ahh Mr. George Annala was the prin-
ciple he was very strict. If I would have for all the
classes I would have been an A+B student. Mr. Walter
Bath was a Superintendent. Mr. Charles Leckrone and
Mrs. Lindberg and that is about all I can remember.

Me: Uhh "k" do you remember anything funny or humorous that happ-
ened?

Mr. Ernell: Well Mr. Annala was like I said a very strict disciplin-
ary in. and there was one time when he told me he would
like to see me after school hours. But I was sat at the
back of the large assembly and I tried to sneak out
But he intercepted me at the front door and grabbed
me by the scuff of the neck and hauled me in and told
me I had forgotten an appointment with him.

Me: Oooh Gosh! Ha Ha Ha

Me: How, how did you get to school and about how far was it
from where you lived?

Mr. Ernell: Uuuh I walked about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from my home to the
school. And I would do that at lunch time and then
get back by 1:00.

Me: Uhh "k"

Me: What were some of your favorite subjects and why?

~~Mr.~~ Mr. Ernell: My favorite subjects were math, ohh arithmetic naturally
algebra, geometry

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Me: IS that it? "K"

Me: What, what one gave you the most difficulty?

Mr. Ernell: Ahhh Junior English. I still can't my nouns, verbs, and etc.'s straight.

Me: Mmm, me neither. Ha

Me: What types of extra curic, cirricular activities were offered there?

Mr. Ernell: Ahh 4H, Basketball, and the Senior class play.

Me: Which ones were you involved in?

Mr. Ernell: I was involved in all.

Me: Do you remember like any special memories or anything?

Mr. Ernell: Yes, I can remember the Senior class play. I had never acted before in my life. And I had the main ~~role~~ role in "Dear Papa." I was the Papa.

Me: Ha Ha

Mr. Ernell: And I was I I I at one ~~scen~~ scene I was suppose to gone out and said and I said go and ~~and~~ and comb my hair. And when I came back the hair wasn't even combed!

Me: Ha Ha He He That must have been one to see!

Mr. Ernell: And then of course we had dance at the intervals during the school year.

Me: Hmmm, Did um did you or like any of ~~the~~ your teams win trophies or Championships.

Mr. Ernell: No, we were never lucky enough to win a district title. But we did have 3 good seasons. With 15 and 3 records.

Me: Well, how did the teams travel and how far did they go?

Mr. Ernell: We traveled by high school bus except during the war we traveled by cars and coaches or superintendent drives us to the games. Treenary was the farthest we ever traveled which is roughly 40 miles.

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Me: Did you have any like pep buses for fans to go on or anything?

Mr. Ernell: No, no such thing. Well we had one bus that would carry students and of course the cheerleaders.

Me: Mmm, How has competition changed do you think?

Mr. Ernell: As far as when I played basketball defense was stressed and offense was secondary. If you were in the the up scores of 30 or 40 you were really scoring a lot of points.

Me: That is kind of different. Ha

Me: ~~Did you~~ Did you have any special cheers that you would do at the games or anything?

Mr. Ernell: That I couldn't tell you, Robyn cuz I was too busy playing.

Me: Ha Ha Ha Nnn "k"

Me: How were kids expected to act or behave?

Mr. Ernell: you were expected to be well disciplined, not talk, and be neat.

Me: What were any like what kind of punishments were given?

Mr. Ernell: Punishments were some like they are today you might have to sit down and write an essay or write a certain sentence time and time again say a 100 times.

Me: Ha what special or um or how did kids dress? were there dress codes or anything?

Mr. Ernell: well, there was a dress code not ~~to~~ up to par like it is today or how it should be. Ahh they came to school in overalls because this was in Depression Time but they had to be clean and neat.

Me: Umm what special fads or sayings were popular? Do you remember?

Mr. Ernell: Mmm, you got me there Rebekah.

Me: Nnn "k". What was lunch time like?

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Mr. Ernell: Lunch time there was no hot lunches the school bus children carried their own lunches. And the local students usually went home. And ate and then went back at 1:00.

Me: Where did you eat? Was there a cafeteria?

Mr. Ernell: There was a lunch room.

Me: Is it in the same place as it is now?

Mr. Ernell: No uhh it was in an entrance on the north side of the building. And it was a big room there.

Me: Ooh

Mr. Ernell: I don't know what is there now.

Me: "E" What kinds of plays or programs did they have?

Mr. Ernell: Ahh we had ahh plays were usually the Senior ~~class~~ class play and of course we had Christmas plays which the whole which mostly contained an accompnis to the grammar school.

Me: Did you participate in any of these programs or anything? Besides the Senior class play?

Mr. Ernell: Uhh During the Junior or during the grammar school years everybody had to be in their own class and had to do their ~~own~~ own skit.

Me: Do you remember what your skit was?

Mr. Ernell: Not any more Rebekah.

Me: "K" Do you remember anything interesting about them skits or that happened that was funny?

Mr. Ernell: Not really.

Me: "Okay" Did the school have any special picnics or outings like that you went on?

Mr. Ernell: No. But we did have ahh ~~in~~ in your Senior class year it was called a Skip day. And the whole Senior class would take off for one day and go on a tour. We went Iron Mountain. And the irony for me was that I had a perfect high school record of no missed attendance. And I was told if I missed that or

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Mr. Ernell: (cont.) day I would lose that perfect attendance. But I opted for the trip.

Me: Ohh Ha Ha That would be a real tough decision.

Me: What did you do when you were in Iron Mountain? Did you just....?

Mr. Ernell: Well we went to visit the Ford Factory which was up there they made all the wooden parts for the station wagon which were wood at that time. They had a plant up there. Ford did.

Me: Ohh okay. Who was the principle at the time and could you describe him?

Mr. Ernell: That was Mr. Annala who ~~was~~ I referred to before.

Me: Strict

Mr. Ernell: He was very strict and one time it was kind of a meeting two times in fact. When I had first come into Junior high he asked me if I knew Charles Nicoteen no excuse me John Barleycorn or Charles Nicoteen. And I didn't even know what he was talking about. But he told me I would find out if I tangled with ~~the~~ Excuse me John Barleycorn because I would be under the table and he would be on top. That is booze.

Me: Ohh Ha Ha okay I didn't know what they meant at first either okay.

Me: Umm Did you have any teachers that like any impact on your life or in....

Mr. Ernell: George Annala. And if I would have all along like I said before I think I would have been way up in the class.

Me: Umm describe your graduation ceremony.

Mr. Ernell: Our graduation ceremony well it was always about the same. Because we'd have to walk through a tressel a trelles. wich were all flowered. And there the superintendent dished out the diploma's.

Me: "k" Do you remember any like have any special moments or memories of graduation?

Mr. Ernell: well we did have a beer party and all the fellows in their suits ended up in the lake.

Me: Oh gash were you one of them?

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Mr. Ernell: I was one of them Betan.

Me: Ha Ha Ha

Me: Umm were you able to maintain contact with most of your childhood friends?

Mr. Ernell: Yes, because most of them are still in this area. Every once in a while they'll throw that have left the area come home to visit and I have met them.

Me: Mmm that's nice. What are some of your fondest memories of National Mine?

Mr. Ernell: I believe it would be a comraship because in a small school you always knew what everybody else was doing and they knew what you were doing.

Me: Ha Ha what do you is like the biggest change in schools today?

Mr. Ernell: The biggest change in schools today? Is I believe the disaptine isn't there the way it was when I was there because parents took the time to disaptine them. But I don't believe they do today.

Me: Mmm well, if you had a message for the students what would it be?

Mr. Ernell: The message would be study, study, study because there is no nothing that can take the place of edocation.

Me: ~~It's~~ Its true. Well this almost the but do you have anything else to add? To this interview?

Mr. Ernell: Not that I can think of Rebekah.

Me: Well thank you very much.

Mr. Ernell: I wish you lock on your book.

Me: "k"

Me: Thank you very much

Mr. Ernell: Your welcome dear.