

Jennifer Ezrow's Interview
with
Daniel Ezrow

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me: This is Jenny Ezrow interviewing Daniel Ezrow at my house in Ishpeming on December 11th.

me: Where were you born?

Daniel: I was born in Detroit on July 2nd 1945. I moved to Champion in 1949 and then to Ishpeming in 1950. In 1951 I started 2nd grade at National Mine.

me: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Daniel: I have a brother, Henry, who is 47. and a sister Susan who is 46.

me: How many of them went to National Mine?

Daniel: We all went to National Mine School, but I was the only one from our home who graduated from National Mine.

me: When and who did you marry?

Daniel: OK. I married my high school sweetheart Judy Brown in 1966.

me: Did you have any children?

Daniel: We have two children, Pamela and Jennifer.

me: What are their ages?

Daniel: Pamela is 23 and Jennifer's 13.

me: Did any of them go to National Mine?

Daniel: Yes, both of them went to National Mine School.

me: What is your occupation?

Daniel: I'm a (corrections)(state) supervisor, a (lieutenant) commissions at the Marquette Prison.

me: What years did you go to National Mine?

Daniel: From 1951 ~~to~~ and I graduated in 1963.

me: Do you remember some of your teachers from grade school?

Daniel: Yes

me: What were they like?

Daniel: Most were real nice, but a couple were real strict.

me: Do you remember any humorous stories about them?

Daniel: Um, Mrs. Johnson was my fifth grade teacher. She was real strict. She was a teacher there for many, many years. She tried to teach us penmanship, scrolling the o's and up-and-downs and vertical lines. If we didn't form them correctly she would take your hand and a pen and write the o's and the lines for ya. She got me real mad one day and she took a yardstick and hit my hand and then sent me into the hallway for the rest of the class. We used to play marbles during recess out in the cracks in the sidewalk and we used to fill our pockets

Daniel: When we'd sit down at our desk, they would all fall out of our pockets, Mrs. Johnson used to take them from us and keep them in a big glass jar in her cabinet.

me: Did she ever give them back?

Daniel: No, she never gave them back, but one day myself and ~~some~~ ^{two} other kids went in ~~and~~ the cabinet and stole them all back and passed them out to the rest of the kids.

me: All of them?

Daniel: (Ha ha) All of them!

me: Do you remember any of your junior/high school teachers and what were they like?

Daniel: I remember Mrs. (Mayhews) and she taught English, an Mr. Walter (Bast) was my History teacher, Mr. Pat (Gleason) was my math teacher, Mr. Keto taught us shop. I also had Mr. Peterson who taught physics and chemistry class. I liked him probably most, he was better than all the other teachers.

me: Do you remember any humorous stories about them?

Daniel: No, not really.

me: How long was the school day and how far away was the school?

Daniel: School started 8:00 in the morning till 3:00 in the afternoon.

me: How far away was it?

Daniel: The school was about six miles away, we took the school bus. When I first started I walked $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to the bus stop. Then after about three years it finally stopped at our home.

me: what subjects did you have?

Daniel: Pretty much the same classes that they have now. Algebra, physics, chemistry, history, English and shop.

me: what was your favorite?

Daniel: ~~physics~~ my favorite was physics and history.

me: what was your worst?

Daniel: I ~~never~~ never had a subject that I really didn't like.

me: why?

Daniel: I liked school, I liked going to school.

me: what was your toughest subject?

Daniel: English was probably my toughest subject.

me: why?

Daniel: (no answer)

me: how did the kids dress?

Daniel: Kids just wore casual clothing: blue jeans, slacks, shirts. In the lower grades the girls mostly wore dresses.

me: was there a dress code?

Daniel: No, there wasn't a real dress code, as long as they were, the clothes were clean.

me: Were there any special fads or sayings?

Daniel: The "in" thing was calling the radio station. On weekends ~~we'd~~ ^{was} request night and you'd call a request or a song to be played for a friend or a group of friends or someone special. And they would air the request before playing the song.

On the back windows of our cars, we used to put pompoms - string them across and hang dice on the inside mirror of our car. Or have (baby) moon hubcaps or spinner hubcaps and and whiteside-wall tires

Buzzing-the-gut in town was also popular.

me: What's buzzing-the-gut?

Daniel: It involves getting a group of kids in a car and continually going up and down the main street of Ishpeming. It's what everybody did.

me: OK. How were kids expected to behave?

Daniel: The rules were followed pretty good. Teachers weren't sued every time a student was disciplined.

me: What were the rules that they had to follow?

Daniel: The rules were pretty much the same as what you have in school now. No smoking in the school grounds, no fighting.

me: What punishments were given if they didn't behave them?

Daniel: One method was counseling. They used to send you to the principal's office.

Daniel: Another was standing in the hallway for the remainder of class, or suspension for major rule violations.

me: What kinds of extra-curricular activities were there?

Daniel: Band, chorus, basketball, baseball, track, cheerleading, basically the same sports and stuff we have now.

me: What one's did you join in on?

Daniel: I joined everything I could. Ah, I joined basketball, baseball, track,

me: Did any teams ~~join~~ win a trophy or a championship?

Daniel: We never won any trophies. We had ^{some} good teams. We didn't have many students to pick from. Some teams had 8 to 10 players. The track team had 5 players one year and competed without a coach or equipment.

me: How did teams travel to other schools?

Daniel: We went with the school bus. We had one bus that took us players and sometimes one bus that took the fans.

me: How far away ~~met~~ most of them?

Daniel: The farthest place we've played was in (Trout) Creek about 70 miles away.

me: Do you remember any special cheers for your team?

Daniel: No.

me: How would you describe your academic performance?

Daniel: I wasn't much of a student in the lower grades. I did much better in my junior and senior years.

me: What was lunch time like?

Daniel: Everyone waited for lunch time. We had a real good cook, the school, with Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. (Magnuson). The meals were always good.

me: Where was the cafeteria

Daniel: The cafeteria was on the north-east side of the building; to the right as you enter the school

me: Who was the principal?

Daniel: Mr. Kenneth Lindburg was the principal.

me: Could you describe him?

Daniel: He was a tall, sternfaced man.

me: Did the school have any special picnics or outings?

Daniel: Every senior class went on a class trip. My class went to Mackinac Island. But I didn't get to go that year because I was sick that day.

me: What year did you graduate?

Daniel: I graduated in 1963

me: What was your graduation ceremony like?

Daniel: The ceremony was quite small. ~~A~~ Our class only had 8 students, one girl and seven boys. In the 6th grade we had 21 kids in our class. When the powder mill closed down a lot of families moved to Utah. Others sought employment in Wisconsin. There was 10 or 11 in my

Daniel: seventh grade class

me: what special memories do you have of your graduation?

Daniel: I don't have any special memories of my graduation.

me: Did you have a prom?

Daniel: It was a small class, so we did not have a prom.

me: Did any tragedies occur while you were in school?

Daniel: No, we didn't have any tragedies.

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

Daniel: There are a few of my classmates still around. Kenneth Keski passed away a few years ago. We plan a school reunion this coming summer for all the graduating classes from National Mine.

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

Daniel: An, two things. The biggest change though is the quality of the teachers. Students get a lot better education now than before. And the second thing is that National Mine School only goes through the eighth grade now, where we had through twelve grades before.

me: What are your fondest memories of National Mine School?

Daniel: The fondest memories are playing sports, especially track. I met a lot of nice ^{real} people.

Daniel: people there.

me: If you could give a message to the students today, what would it be?

Daniel: My message would be apply yourself in school and get a good education. You can't get a good job without it.

me: Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

Daniel: No.