

Shawn Scopel with John H yette

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me: My name is Shawn Scopel The Date is December 9th 1990 I'm interviewing John H yette. The purpose of this interview is for the Red dust Program. The location of the interview is in ~~ES~~shpeming.

me: When and where were you born.

John H yette: I was born in 1938 March 20th in Rodchester Yorkshire county England.

me: How many brothers and sisters do you have.

John H yette: I have one half sister.

me: What are their names.

John H yette: Her name is Allison.

me: When and whom did you marry.

John H.: I married Janette Scopel in November 14th 1961

me: How many children do you have.

John H.: I have two children

me: What are their names.

John H.: Their names are Kim and Craig.

me: When and where were your parents born.

John H.: My parents were also born in England.

me: What years did you attend National Mine School.

John H.: I attended from 1950-1956 when I graduated.

me: Do you remember some of the names of your grade school teachers

John: Ah, some of the teachers I remember was Mr. Bath school Principle Mr. Thomas was the science teacher Mrs. Gleason was my music teacher Mr. Gleason her husband was my shoppe teacher and Mr. Oja I can't remember what he taught Ah Mr. Annala was my English teacher those are the people I remember.

me: Do you have any humorous or interesting stories about your grade school teachers.

John: none that I care to repeat.

me: Do you remember some of the Junior high and high school teachers.

John: Well some of the grade school teachers are in the list from before

and ah they also taught the Junior high because (2)
of the size of the school because of being so small.

me: ok, could you describe them.

John: all of them yeah, well it's a tough question I'll try to make
it real short Mr. Bath Ah I remember being ah very unsurely
and when he made up his mind that was it and ah physically
he was short, kind of stubby guy with a mustache and
bald, Ah Mr. Thomas was probably one of my favorite teachers
we called him coke and still do to this day and I met him
couple of years ago first time I had seen him since I graduated
from high school. Ah I remember him as a very good humored
fella tall and thin, real slender built Ah I enjoyed him
most because science I enjoyed the most and along with
Mrs. Gleason who was probably my favorite teacher along the
best with her probably cause I enjoyed music also cause I
sang a lot Mr. Gleason ah, was a little difficult to get along
with sometimes ah, one of his favorite tricks if you did
something he didn't he would come up with a rubber band and
snap your fingers so my life was a lot of fun, and Mr. Oja I never
got along with him at all I don't know if it was my fault
or his. Mr. Annala was a tall slender white haired grey haired
rather not white very distinguished looking guy and I will
remember him probably forever he had a very good work effort
and his answer to everything was W.O.R.K. would solve any
problem and he always believed being well dressed to so ah that
went along with my philosophy so he honestly made a big impression
on me.

me: do you have any interesting or humorous stories about them.

John: well I told you Mr. Gleason's favorite thing was snapping your
fingers with a rubber band cause if you annoyed him ah, I don't
have kind of a great school career I don't have many things to
talk about.

me: what was the first day of school like.

John: The first day of school for me was very very difficult and
for many months and even years halfly because I started my
education in England and ah I spoke differently and acted differently

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and I've been to a very small community and it was very difficult for people to except me and ah for me to make the changes that required the exceptance and that's one of the reasons why there weren't a lot of funny things I remember from school.

me: how long was school

John: Ah we started at 9:00 and went to 3:00 with a lunch break in between.

John: how did you get to school each day

John: I walked to school each day and I lived about a half a mile from the school.

me: what kinds of subjects were taught.

John: Well the basic there wasn't a big curriculum at National Mine being it was so small so mathematics was the highest you could go to was plain geometry other than that was reading, writing, and arithmetic.

me: what was your favorite subject

John: my favorite subject wasn't always has been would be science 2 of them actually science and music was my biggest interest.

me: why

John: That's the way god made me those are the 2 things I like why I like them I don't know.

me: what ~~was~~ your most difficult subject of all

John: None of them were really difficult except I didn't like to do the homework Ah, probably one I had the hardest time was algebra I wasn't because I couldn't do it but I had a hard time staying in class (Mr. Anna had a habit of kicking you out of class) just before test time.

me: how were kids expected to act and behave:

John: well they expect you to behave pretty well they didn't put up with a whole lot of nonsense.

me: what punishments were given:

John: Ah they still use a ruler on you on the back of your hand or the front depending on how bad you were and if you were really bad they'd grab you by the shirt tail and bang you off the wall.

me: how did kids dress

John: Pretty informally there weren't a lot of people who had 4. big incomes so it was pretty much the plaid shirts and Ah, jeans

me: Was there any special fads or sayings when you were young

John: Ah, one of the fads that started around the school was shooting staples at each other that lasted for part of the summer there were lot of people walking around with holes where they weren't supposed to be and ah, I think the hoola hoop came out to be a big a thing during the high school years, so you saw a lot of hoola hoops around for a couple of years those are the two things I remember the most.

me: what music did you listen to;

John: well today you'll call it the music of the 50's cause it was in the 50's and ah pretty much elvis Presly and ah stars like him there wasn't any hard rock or anything like that and a lot of music made it reliable today.

me: what kind of extracurricular activities were offered;

John: There wasn't a whole lot there either we had a basketball team that was it so ah, I played on the team in junior high for just one year.

me: which activities did you participate in

John: that was the question I just answered.

me: did any of the teams win a trophy or a tournament;

John: I think we won a class tournament but I can't remember what year it was.

me: what effect did this have on the school;

John: I can't remember

me: how did your teams travel and how far did you go;

John: The furthest I remember is I think chassell where they played some tournament games there and traveled by bus.

me: who was the principle when you were a student

John: Mr. Bath was the principle.

me: Please describe him;

John: I think I already described him in one of the earlier questions. he was short chubby and loved to talk to some time

me: describe your textbooks

JOHN: The text books generally were pretty well used
we couldn't afford new books every year so
you pretty much had to take care of what you
had and were handed down for several years.

me: how much homework did you get?

JOHN: well, I got a fair amount of homework most
of which I didn't do.

me: Ah, Ah, eh

me: what was lunch time like and please describe hot
lunch.

JOHN: I ate at home almost all the time because I
only lived about a mile away and that wasn't
too far to go home for lunch and that wasn't too
far to walk, the kids who ate at the school I
remember they had a lot of peanut butter and jelly
sandwiches and tomato soup. Ah, Ah

me: how much did it cost to eat?

JOHN: I don't even remember.

me: where was the cafeteria?

JOHN: The cafeteria was near the back entrance of
the school, well it was a lunch room it wasn't
a cafeteria you just picked it up and walked in
there and ate it.

me: How long was the recess?

JOHN: I don't remember that, not long enough

me: OK

me: did you have special plays or programs. Please
describe them.

JOHN: Yeah I was fairly active in the plays and that because
I always enjoyed singing and I remember in one I
played King of the Baurealis, but Ah I sang a lot
and in a few plays, that was one of my favorite
activities I guess. And I also acted in the plays as well

me: do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

JOHN: Not really.

me: where there strict rules to follow:

John: as I said they didn't put up with a whole lot of nonsense, even if school was over you had to keep up.

me: describe the graduation ceremony

John: It was fairly simple, the ceremony was very interesting for me because when I got up on the stage with the rest of them we were all seated there and they read our names off to go get our diplomas and I had handed in a 6 week book report that was late that was due and I didn't complete it until the night before graduation so they told me unless I got a passing grade on that that I probably wouldn't graduate so I did six weeks on the book keeping and in 2 nights I stayed up to 3 or 4 in the morning so I didn't hand it in until the day of the graduation so when they handed out the diploma it wasn't till I got off the stage to get a chance to open it to see if it was signed or not and it was so I did graduate.

me: how many pages was it

John: I don't remember it was a pretty long one it was a book keeping assignment that was six weeks and I did it in two nights.

me: wah!

me: were you able to remain in contact with childhood friends.

John: Ah, for a period of time and then for 20 years I was away from the area.

me: did you have any teachers that had a great interest in your life

John: I think I already mentioned that about Mr. Anna and Ah him specifically

me: did you have any special picnics or outings

John: they didn't have much of that, they had one outing: Ah I can't even remember where or why even when and what year.

me: did any trageties occur while you were in school

John: I lost my stepfather when I was 11 years old so that was pretty upsetting

me: what do you think is the biggest change in school since you were a student 7.

John: everything is changed since I was a student we didn't have the drug problems and the alcohol problems that there are today and there were a lot of good things that would happen to and I think you'd have a better overall education and not so narrow as it used to be.

me: what are your fondest memories of National Mine

John: The fondest memories when school got out and we went home to eat then came back and used the school playground and spent most of our break time in and at the school, and that's probably the best memory I had.

me: was there every a baseball diamond there

John: There was but it wasn't a baseball diamond like you'd find today it was pretty basic however there were ruts growing in the grass that's where you played.

me: If you had a message for the students today what would it be

John: I guess the message would be is that your education is more important than it ever was it was important because there's solid background in education today your chances of getting anywhere are virtually nonexistent I would say stick in there because it will pay rewards in your future years.

me: Is there anything else you would like to add

John: Not really

me: Thanks for letting me interview you for the Red Dust Program

John: Your welcome