

Brad Niemi's Interview
with
Robert Jacobson

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Me: This is Brad Niemi interviewing
Robert Jacobson, December 13, 1970
in Ishpeming Township, Co. Red Dust.

Me: When and where were you born?

Mr. J.: I was born in Bell Memorial in
Ishpeming in 1952.

Me: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

Mr. J.: I have one younger sister and
one younger brother.

Me: And what are their names?

Mr. J.: Julie and Micheal

Me: When and whom did you marry

Mr. J.: I married Bonnie Bergman, Uhh
15 years ago

Me: How many kids did you have and
their names?

Mr. J.: Ah, I got one boy and one girl, Jeff and Jodi.

Me: Can you tell me something about your
parents ~~And when and where~~ were they
born?

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Mr J.: Well my mom was raised in National Mine, she was born in Ishpeming, And they lived in National Mine. They had a family of 7 children. And my father comes from Covington. And he worked in the mines.

Me: What years did you attend National Mine High School?

Mr J.: Um, I graduated in '70, so I guess I started in '66.

Me: Do you remember any of your grade school teachers?

Mr J.: Ya, let see, in kindergarten I had, um, Mrs. Gleason, she was a real good Kgt. teacher. I really liked her. Um, she played the piano for all our christmas programs and stuff. And she always had music and stuff in our Kgt class. She was a really good teacher, really nice person. Um and in 1st grade I had aaaa Mrs. Magnusson. And her she still goes to our church. I met her there just not too long ago again, and talked about our old 1st grade, Ya know

Me = Umhm

Mr J.: And 2nd grade I can't remember who the teacher was in 2nd grade. But I can remember most of the teachers I had at National Mine. (3)

Me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

Mr J.: About what?

Me: The teachers

Mr J.: Uhhhh, lets see....., All I remember is getting slapped across the knuckles with a ruler by Mr. Ruesing in 6th grade. Me and Steve Swanson. I remember Ralph Keto was our Jayvee coach, and Gordon Chin was our Varsity basketball coach; Umm, we had a guy by the name of Mr. Pew who was our band instructor there. And as far as humorous stuff, I can't think of any humorous stuff, as far as being funny.

Me: How did you get to school and how far was it?

Mr J.: Well we got bused up until 6th grade. Once we started Junior High I lived down in the bottom part of National Mine. It was about a mile from school. We had to walk up what we call, Broots's hill. So we had a long uphill walk all the way from my house, up to school.

Me: What was your favorite subject?
Mr J.: Umm, I liked a lot of things, I liked ⁽⁴⁾ science + geography, I liked math, and sports. Ha! Ha! Sports was my favorite

Me: Ha Ha, what was one of your most difficult subjects?

Mr J.: Ohhh, chemistry was tough, I thought chemistry was tough

Me: And you were in basketball, right?

Mr J.: Yup, Yup, I played basketball for 5th + 6th grade, we had teams, 7th + 8th, Jayvees one year, + 3 years of the varsity.

Me: What position were you?

Mr J.: Well I played guard, I played guard. Every year I had to bring the ball up and stuff.

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

Mr J.: Class "D" was pretty spread out, we went as far as, um Chassel in the Keweenaw Peninsula, and Garden, Rock, Tironary. And the bus always took us wherever the games were.

Me: How has competition changed?

Mr J.: Well, players are better. If you could dribble both hands, that was really somthin. Now if you can't dribble both hands, it seems like

Mr. J.: your not good enough to start,
So I think the guards are better as 5
far as quicker & bigger, they have
definetly gotten bigger then when I
was growing ~~up~~.

Me: How were kids expected to behave?

Mr. J.: I believe there was a little stricter
disipline when I was going through
school, They didnt get away with as
much mischeif as I think they get
away with now, maybe I'm wrong
but I think they were a little stricter.

Me: What were some of the punishments?

Mr. J.: When you were bad in class?

Me: Ya.

Mr. J.: ~~Um, oh, the usual, stand in the corner
for a while, and stuff, I remember
in grade school getting hit across
the knuckles with a ruler. otherwise
it was the same, stand in the corner, go to
the principles office, & stuff like that.~~

Me: What were some of the dress codes?

Mr. J.: Well, you weren't allowed to wear jeans,
sweatshirts, or baggy clothes, you need to
have nice neat clothes, your hair had to
be trim couldn't be touching your
ears, & a lot of codes like that.

Me: What happened if you didn't dress right?

Mr. J.: You were sent home?

Me: What were the lunches like? (6)

Mr. J.: I thought the lunches were great. We had good cooks at National Mine, Mrs. Colbert was one I remember. I thought they had excellent hot lunch program.

Me: What kinds of foods did they have?

Mr. J.: I remember they used to make a good stew, and they'd make a big chunk of crust to crunch into your stew. And they had sloppy Joes, Spanish rice, I didn't care for the rice. But, they had lots of good food.

Me: Were there any plays or programs?

Mr. J.: Ya, We always had a Christmas program, I don't think there was an Easter program.

Me: Did you participate in any?

Mr. J.: Ya, ohhh, there was always a ~~senior~~ ^{senior} class program. I participated in both senior and Christmas programs.

Me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

Mr. J.: Well, I remember I had to be a wrestler. I wore a big box sweatshirt, I put football shoulder pads on to make my shoulder look real big because I wasn't that big of a guy. My name was Boogaface Bogs, And I had to do some howlin' and sewamin, and some goofy stuff. I got a lot of chuckles. It was pretty funny.

Me: Did the school have any picnics or outings? (7)

Mr. J.: Picnics or outings, we always had class trips or what do ya call um. But otherwise I don't remember any picnics or outings.

Me: Who was the principal and describe him?

Mr. J.: We had a principal by the name of Mr. Millman, and he died while I was going to school. I was a freshman I think when he passed away. And then we had Mr. Ruesing.

Me: Could you describe ~~any~~ any of them?

Mr. J.: Mr. Millman was kind of a short stocky guy with a ruff voice, and when he hollered everybody paid attention. Mr. Ruesing was a pretty nice guy, he was my basketball coach for a couple of years. Then he stopped coaching when Mr. Chinn came there. He was a nice guy, everybody respected him.

Me: Describe the graduation ceremony.

Mr. J.: Well, I had 19 kids in my class, so graduation ceremony wasn't that long or big like classes with 150 kids. So it was kind of short and sweet. And it went good.

Me: Do you have any special memories about the ceremony? 8

Mr. J.: Umm, I just remembered being real excited to be graduating. Like I said it was short and sweet, so when your up there waiting to get your diploma and get it done with short and sweet + so it didn't last long

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

Mr. J.: Yeah, Most of my classmates, well about 50% of my classmates I had I still see every once in a while. And some I'm good friends with.

Me: What is the biggest change in schools today to when you went to school?

Mr. J.: Well, for us NM being a small class D' school that had 19 in our graduating class, And Westwood which is a nice new school with music in the hallways and carpet in the class rooms which we never had. A nice gymnasium, and a great school system. They've improved a long way.

Me: Do you have anything else to add?

Mr. J.: No, Just that NM was a good old school and I'm proud to say I graduated there

Me: OK, thats about it.