

Me: My name is Emily Hallum and I am interviewing Alice Johnson. Today's date is November 7<sup>th</sup> 1996. Our interview will focus on Alice's memories as a student, teacher, and secretary at the National Mine School.

Me: Can you please give me your full name?

Mrs J: <sup>my name is</sup> Alice Annala Johnson

Me: Can you please tell me when and where you were born.

Mrs J: I was born out, which is now Switchers Basin <sup>But</sup> At that time was just less Switcher's crick. And in an old farmhouse and my Grandmother was the midwife. And I was born upstairs in the house which is now our camp.

Me: Please tell me how many brothers and sisters you have and their names.

Mrs J: O.K. I have 1 brother Raymond who is six years older than I am. A sister Jean, who is 3 years older. And I had 2 other sisters, Mary Joe and Nancy, but they're both deceased.

Me: Can you please tell me <sup>a few things</sup> about your family, your current one, like right now.

Mrs J: Like right now? About my children?

Me: ya, about

Mrs J: O.K. We have 3 children, Jeffrey is a mining engineer and he's 39 and Jill is a civil engineer and she's 37 and our daughter Jodi is a LPM and she's just 36 and we have Jeff has 2 children, 2 girls Jill has 1 girl and Jodi has 3 girls, so we have 6 granddaughters and Jill is remarried, so she has 4 step children, which are now our 4 step grandchildren. And they're are 2 boys and 2 girls.

Me: O.K. How many generations attended Nat. Mine

Mrs J: My dad, and myself and our 3 children

Me: k. Where did you 1<sup>st</sup> attend school?

Mrs J: I went to Nat. Mine and Mrs. Gleason was my kindergarden teacher but I was only 4 years old when I wanted to start school because my brothers and sister were there and they let me go and I was only 4 but I had to stay in kindergarden for 2 years.

Me: Do you remember any of your teachers?

Mrs J: I remember most of them. Mrs. <sup>Gleason</sup> Basin was my kindergarden teacher. And Mrs. <sup>Magnus m</sup> Langness <sup>and who</sup> was then Mrs. Mason was my first grade teacher. <sup>Magnus m</sup>

Mrs. J: Miss Sundberg was my second grade teacher Miss Wasberg was my 3<sup>rd</sup> And my 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Miss Millimaki & my 6<sup>th</sup> was Mrs. Tripp And then I had you know maybe different ones in High School.

Me: Do you have a favorite teacher?

*include*  
Mrs. J: When I was in Elementary I just loved Miss Sundberg, she was a very new teacher, pretty lady and I thought she was the greatest

Me: How far away did you live from the school?

Mrs. J: well, I think it was from 7 to 10 miles, so we had to ride the bus

Me: How long did it take on the bus?

Mrs. J: Oh about, oh how long would that take? At least 20 to 25 min. I suppose.

Me: Describe a typical day when you were in Middle School.

*include  
+ grade*  
Mrs. J: O.K. in Middle School we didn't call it Middle School, we called it Junior High and it was just one step away from High School so we thought we were pretty good and ah we had a homeroom which is now the library O.K. and it was right and there was a door connecting it to the, to the, it was called the small assembly and then the study hall was called the large assembly and that's where the High School was. A typical day we start in there and we passed from class to class like they still do. And I think we ended up there too and we're dismissed from there.

Me: O.K. how many students ~~are~~ were in a typical classroom?

Mrs. J: Well, I told you my graduating class was only 11 but that was a real small class, I assume there were between 18 to 15 I say 15 to 18 would be typical

Me: What type of classes did you have?

*include*  
Mrs. J: In Middle School I had Math and English and a Science class and we had shop and Gym & Home Ec. We didn't have Art. What other class would I have? I had Reading Mr. Bath the Superintendent taught reading, what am I missing? Science, must of had a Geography class or oh History class definitely History O.K.

Me: O.K. what was your favorite class? & why?

Mrs. J: Well I always liked English even though my Uncle was really, really strict, taught us English but I thought he was a great teacher & English was always my favorite I guess

*(George Annala)*

Me: Did you have to wear any types of clothing to school?

Mrs J: Yes

Me: What did you have to wear?

Mrs J: We had to wear dresses or skirts we could not wear slacks, so in the winter we, because of the cold we would wear slacks under our dresses & then take them off. When we were young we always had long stockings and snowsuits.

Me: How many hours long was school?

Mrs J: Well we started at nine and we had lunch <sup>at</sup> 12:00 and then we had art our for lunch and we started at one and were there til 4. So in the winter we didn't get home until almost dark because it was after 5 by the time we got home because we circled <sup>around</sup> w/ that bus

Me: How was discipline handled?

Mrs J: Handled on well my uncle who was Principle was so strict that there weren't very many kids that ever disobeyed and everyone was usually always well behaved so <sup>if there ever was any problem</sup> it was unusual but they would always go to the <sup>Principal's</sup> office I would think if there were any problems.

Me: Did you ever get in trouble?

Mrs J: One time I forgot my mittens at lunch time and of course that was a whole hour! (Laugh) And if you forgot your mittens you weren't really allowed to go back to your room. I thought that was pretty bad because I needed them so I asked to go to the bathroom and while I went to the bathroom I got my mittens. I disobeyed and I put them in my pocket and my Uncle called me into his office and made me sit in his office because I went to get my mittens. I remembered cried? I cried the whole lunch time.

Me: How did your parents react?

Mrs J: I don't remember that they said anything, they probably knew I was feeling bad enough but if I had done anything bad they would have been unhappy because they were strict too.

Me: Describe a typical day as an Elementary student.

Mrs J: O.k. that would be in 1 classroom you would stay all day and typical would start w/ Reading probably and then do your other things but reading was the most important thing so we spent a lot of time w/ that and I remember Miss Mason's room in 1<sup>st</sup> grade we had squirrel and different names for the different reading groups and I was lucky enough to be in the squirrel group which was the fastest reading class but I loved Art and every teacher taught art in their own way and I'm not a good Artist (Laugh) but that was one of my favorite things to do in a typical day.

Me: What types of things did you have for homework?

Mrs J: I know we always had homework because when we were younger

*I'm confused when did she tell you?*

I told you we didn't have electricity & we had to work around the kitchen table which had an aladdin lamp and I remember doing reading for certain classes, reading so much and then answering, I think they had workbooks like they do now & putting the answers in the workbook & for English, learning our grammar we must of had some of that everyday & I would assume math, I don't think we had more than we could handle, I don't remember a lot of homework

Me: What was lunch like?

*Anna's store (now the Country Market)*

Mrs J: Lunch was fun. We of course we had that hour so before we had hot lunches we all brought our own & I remember having great lunches because my dad owned the store I would have special treats that some of the other kids didn't have like bananas or I remember having apricot nectar to drink instead of milk sometimes which I thought was the greatest thing so & then we got the hot lunches later which were very good.

Me: What did you have for lunch?

Mrs J: What did I have well I guess I had homemade bread, my mother always made bread and typical sandwiches /suppose & always fruit & I brought milk and if we brought milk we had to bring it in a bottle like a regular small glass bottle so I don't think we were able to put that in the refrigerator because, I don't know what we did w/ them in the summer time w/ that milk. We must of had to refrigerate it but I can't remember but everyone kept their lunch on the rack there was a rack w/ about 3 or 4 shelves & you had your spot there & you put your brown bag or your lunch pail most kids had lunch pails that's right & no one would take it & it would be there when you went to go get it. in the lunch room which is now the Art Room. And we came in that back door which you know had 2 doors you go in one & put your lunch pail in & you go out the other door & then you were on your way to your classroom.

*in class*

Me: What were your favorite lunch meals?

Mrs J: After we had hot lunch?

Me: Ya

Mrs J: I was trying to think of that what were my favorite meals? I remember when we had & I always liked baked beans

*include* Mrs J: which we had we always had homemade donuts. The cooks fried their own donuts which I thought was real good & we always had good things like homemade stews & shepard's pie was one of the favorites there too.

Me: Do you have any particular place where you put your jackets

*include* Mrs J: Ya in each classroom the elementary classes they had little doors that opened & the hooks were in there for your coats & then when you got to be in Middle School or Junior High there was one big long clothes rack which was out in the hall & we all had our spots there pretty close. No lockers.

Me: What did you do during recess?

Mrs J: In the elementary during recess? I just think we ran around & played tag. We didn't have any playground I think we jumped rope a lot, I remember that, you know you'd have the long rope & one would hold on to each end & then you'd go through & you would have to play follow the leader do whatever the leader would do.

Me: Did you play any games?

Mrs J: Ya I'm sure we did of course tag would be a game & hide & go seek, I'm sure we did that & we played we jumped the fence there was a black iron, rod iron fence around the school & grab a hold of that & do a vault like over that & I was afraid to do that, I wasn't as good at that as the others. And then there was some old <sup>mine</sup> pillars cement pillar that we used to jump from one to the other of course I think that was more at noon time.

Me: How long did you have recess for?

Mrs J: Recess was probably just 15 min.

Me: At school what were the desks like?

Mrs J: I forgot to tell you 1 more thing about recess

Me: O.K.

Mrs J: The Bluff we used to slide down the bluff when was winter time when there was snow there & I'm sure we'd wear out our clothes because that was one of our

*Find out which bluff*

Mrs J: Favorite things to do, go slide down the bluff

Me: At school, what were the desks like?

*include*  
Mrs J: They were all wooden and they were hooked to each other in rows & the seats would lift up & if you weren't sitting on them you could lift them up in the back so that the janitors could sweep through them & then of course your books were kept underneath like a little shelf under the desk

Me: Please describe some of the holiday celebrations at school with Mrs Gleason.

Mrs J: O.K. She had wonderful programs & every year she would usually make up the play herself w/ a lot of good songs & then each class would do a song or a dance or a skit & sometimes the Christmas play would be one story for example Dr. Seuss' the Grinch Stole Christmas she had one year which you know she didn't make up herself but this was one of her plays & that was when my children were already in the plays & my daughter kind of a special person in that I remember she had to but she was only in kindergarten or 1<sup>st</sup> grade & she had to have pajamas on & I can't remember exactly what I was in any of the plays but I know how much we practiced, oh we had lots of practices & we had a dress rehearsal & they had costumes, it was wonderful.

Me: Did you ever get gifts from school?

*include & quote*  
Mrs J: Well we used to exchange gifts at school at Christmas now that I think about it. We would draw names & then they bring ah, there was always a tree up in every room & we'd bring the gifts early enough so we could find our gifts under the tree & wait for the day then just before we'd you know have Christmas Vacation we'd open our gifts & in second grade I guess this is another reason I really liked the teacher she had my name & she got me the paper dolls that I had been looking at in the dime store that I wanted & there they were under the tree when I opened up the package. It was so great. Then we always got a bag of candy from the School Board at Christmas. So that was something to look forward for. With an orange and an apple & peanuts & other candy it was really a treat.

Me: In grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> did you switch classes?

Mrs J: Yes, not 6<sup>th</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup> was still a self contained classroom but

Mrs J: but from 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> we did.

Me: what kind of classes did you have?

Mrs J: Well the typical classes & I think they were 45 minutes it could've been an hour in those days & we had English literature & American literature like for example English I'll give you, in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> we had the basic things with grammar & a lot of writing & a little bit of literature. Then 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> was strictly called American Literature & English Literature & we'd study. We'd read all the Classics & I still remember reading — — and The Lady of the Lake & some of Charles Dickens stories.

Me: How many different teachers did you have?

Mrs J: Well, I had Mr. Bath and Mr. Annala which were, they were the Superintendent & the principle & they ~~taught~~ taught & Mr. Bath taught Reading & Algebra & then he taught Government & Economics in the High School. And Algebra was for 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Annala the Principle taught World History, & most of the English. I think they had one other English teacher, but I think he taught most of the English. He had a busy, busy day. He taught World History & then we had Ms. Ranta who was the Home Ec. & Gym teacher. Shop teacher was Mr. Gleason & he must of taught other thing which I didn't have. We had Voc training for him. Mrs. Gleason was the High School music teacher too & Mr. Thomas was the an Science teacher. And we had the general science, biology & soon. I had Mrs. <sup>Digheka</sup> DeGaire who came there for one year for I think it was American literature. Other than that I can't think of any others.

Me: What kind of sports we girls & boys allowed to participate in?

Mrs J: When I was in High School all they had was basketball for boys. The girls only had cheerleading.

Me: Where you in any of them?

Mrs J: I was a cheeleader for 4 years.

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Me: What did some of the uniforms look like?

Mrs J: Well the boys basketball uniforms were a lot smaller than they are now. They weren't so big and baggy. (laughing) We thought the baggy ones were, I don't think they would have ever worn them. But they were the typical tank top you know. But the girls, the cheerleaders had to get their own uniforms & so there was kind of gameration of what you could find. We ordered our sweaters through the school & then we had either slacks or skirts that we either bought or made ourselves.

Me: Um

Mrs J: And the sweaters were very heavy so they were very warm

Me: What kinds of activities did you do during class time?

Mrs J: Class time activities? I remember in science we did some activities like we had to dissect frogs & soon. Typical stuff & give speeches in English you know. Not as much as they do now. But we did quite a few activities. Of course in Home Ec. you know we did a lot of sewing & booting.

Me: In High School, what year did you graduate in?

Mrs J: What year? I graduated in 1953.

Me: How many students graduated?

Mrs J: I was in a class of 11.

Me: How many students liked dropped out of High School?

Mrs J: I think a few did because it seemed to me that when we were in the elementary we had more. More students than 11 I'm sure we did. But some probably did move & then we had, I remember a couple that had stayed back that graduated with us that should've graduated the year before but for some reason or another they stayed back so we got some that way, but it was still only 11.

Me: Did you ever do any extra curricular activities?

Mrs J: Yes, I was in Forensics & in the Chorus. And I was in Forensics for 4 years. We started off in 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade we had to they were called Declamations. We didn't have much choice. It was either declamations or orations. Declamations you could use someone else's material & orations you had to write your own speech. And you had to memorize it all & you know give it in front of well we gave it at night in front of parents which was kind of scary because my hands were shaking. I remember winning 1<sup>st</sup> prize maybe once or twice, I still have my pins for 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

include



Mrs J: And there was a plack in the school that your name would go on if you ~~won~~ won you know  
1<sup>st</sup> prize in Forensics

Me: How old were you when you 1<sup>st</sup> went on a date?

Mrs J: I think I was 14 & a senior asked me to I think I was pretty proud of that.

Me: Where did you go?

Mrs J: I think we, I'm sure we went to the movies & we lived in a of course small road which used to get muddy & I think this was in the spring & so I don't know if he could well you had to park your car out almost on the main road & walk in. It seems to me that we had to walk. I'm sure, no what I think about he had to park out on the main road & walk in our little rully, dirty road & get me. Then he had to walk me back so probably didn't stay you know it was probably still light when we came home. (laughing)

Me: Did you get any year books?

Mrs J: No, we didn't. We just had a newspaper. Yearbooks started later.

Me: Ya. What kind of grades did you get?

Mrs J: Oh well I didn't get too bad of grades. I guess my lowest was a C. I got mostly As & Bs. & I graduates 2<sup>nd</sup> in my class. So for a class of 11 that wasn't too bad (laughing) but it wasn't the greatest either.

Me: Were there any minorities in your class?

Mrs J: No there were no what you call minorities but we had many different nationalities, there were a lot of Italians & Fins & Swedes & you know different nationalities.

Me: About how many students were in the school?

Mrs J: In the school I tried to figure it out there was close to 200 in the whole school.

Me: O.k. Do you remember getting any diseases when you were a child?

Mrs J: Yes, we had the measles very badly & I told you one of my sisters died as a result of measles complications. & I had the mumps, terrible mumps when I was 13 & I had to miss the Basketball tournaments that year & my brother was the star player & I had to stay home. I don't remember getting the chicken pox but some people had scarlet fever during those days, too & that's when the quanteen would go on the house if anyone had scarlet fever but we didn't have that. in my house.

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Me: How much school did you miss?

Mrs J: Oh I missed I think because I had the mumps so bad I missed almost 2 weeks & probably for the measles too. Maybe I wasn't in school then. When we all had the measles & my mother had us all in bed. We were normally upstairs in bed but because it was probably cold she put a bed up downstairs to keep us warm & as a result though my sister still, she developed \_\_\_\_\_ & pneumonia & she died. It's kind of a result of complications so & I was only about 3 so I supposed I missed quite a bit that time too.

Me: Did you ever get to go on field trips & where?

Mrs J: We didn't even go on a graduation trip which I can't understand because they had them before we graduated & after we graduated but there was a problem & we didn't even have a trip so, I can't think of any field trip we went on.

Me: What are your most memorable or favorite memories of school?

MJ: I loved school so. I loved all the extras & I loved basketball season because I was a cheerleader. And even before I became a cheerleader I just loved it because that was the only extra curricular we had. I suppose & we always gave those parties & we all took part & did different things for the parties. We all had a job to do & the plays were great. Because I started at 4 I really wanted to be there. I loved all aspects of school. I wasn't the greatest student & when I got into High School I was too sociable I was just having fun so I don't study as hard as I should have & yet I ended up with pretty good grades but I liked all the extra things in school the most even though I liked school too.

Me: What grade did you enjoy the most & why?

Mrs J: What grade did I enjoy the most?

Me: Ya

MJ: I guess I liked being part of the older gang so probably when I got into 7<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade so were the fun years. When I was a senior it was fun too but not as much fun probably as when I was younger. Like in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Me: Did you get an allowance?

Mrs J: No but we didn't get a lot of things in those days but I was satisfied w/ what I got. We could get a certain amount of money when we went to town but I was happy w/ what I had but not a real allowance.

Me: Did you have a favorite toy or doll?

Mrs J: Paper dolls I guess were our favorite things we would spend endless amount of hours with paper dolls & I remember 1 year we didn't get new dolls. We had gotten our dolls at an earlier time but we had gotten new clothing for our dolls. Someone made them specially. They were all hand made. They were the prettiest soft flannel nightgowns & things and I thought that was great. I remember that. We didn't get much. That was probably the only thing we got besides maybe a little candy or a book or something.

Me: How old were you when you 1st started driving?

MJ: I was 13, which was too young but in those days when you lived that far out I guess it was a matter of necessity so I probably. When I was in 9th grade I taught Sunday School and I didn't have my license but I would drive from where we lived in Switchers Lick to National Mine & back without a license which wasn't right but that was the only time, only place I would go.

Me: <sup>Did</sup> Do you have any role models?

MJ: I always looked up to my dad so much and of course my mom but more my dad because he seemed the smartest person in the world then. My mentor, Mr. Francis Ruising, was my, the principal, one the year I was a secretary, he was the principal and he's the one who convinced me to go to college so he would be my mentor.

Me: What were your after school chores?

MJ: Because my mother was home she took care of things like feeding the chickens & soon and so we had to do the dishes & maybe a little housework but other than that we didn't do too much except our homework.

Me: Did you ever play any childhood games?

MJ: Yes, we played ball a lot & we had dogs & cats we went swimming. We lived, of course, close to the creek <sup>EEK</sup> so we would walk to the swimming hole all summer w/ our dog & we'd play Rick the car with our neighbors. I did have neighbors that had children for awhile but most of the time it was just between my sisters & brother that we would play games. We would play lots of games. We'd ski in the winter always.

Me: Do you remember what it was like during WWII?

MJ: Just vaguely. My dad was a republican & he didn't like FDR who was the president at the time so he would, he was very politically minded ~~and~~ & the conversations at home were constantly about politics & the war & I wish I could remember more but I remember my mother coming out & we were playing in the yard & she came out & said President Roosevelt died. I remember that day. We didn't have, we had to watch certain things were scarce during WWII. We had to buy, we did but we didn't have to but most kids in our class would buy savings stamps & fill a book & it would become a bond & so we'd do that in school. I think we collected things sugar was scarce so we didn't have very many sweets baked & certain types of material. So there, you know, we ate different kinds of food too so that affected it too.

Me: What was school like during WWII?

MJ: Well I don't remember it was very different except these things that we would do you know & I'd imagine current, when we read our current events, we'd always have a little newspaper w/ current events that would give us, we'd talk about war then. And anything else during those sessions but I was young you know I was too young to remember too much about it.

Me: Did it affect your life in any way?

MJ: Well just the way that I mentioned w/ the different foods Oh gasoline, we didn't go anywhere except you know the necessary places because gasoline was rationed

Me: Did you have a TV or a radio?

MJ: Yes we had a radio of course no TV. We listened to the radio constantly. That was our source of entertainment every evening. We'd sit by the radio, we'd have different shows & of course during the war & that we'd listen to the newscast.

Me: Did you go to church when you were younger?

MJ: Yes, I did & my mother was a Sunday School teacher & then I started teaching when I was old enough it was in Mt. Mine so we had to drive & it was on Sunday afternoon. My mother would usually drive because my dad had to work Sunday morning & he didn't always want to go back to Mt. Mine. Page 12

Me: How is it different now than it was then?

MJ: The Church well we got a new church that I go to. Well it's the same place but we have a new building. Our church was a little building on top of the Hill in Nat. Mine which had no parking & was really small but I vividly remember my times there, especially Christmas Eve their like programs & so on it was a wonderful little place.

Me: How long did you have to go to school to become a teacher?

MJ: I went to College for 4 years & then I had to go to graduate school.

Me: Where did you go?

MJ: I went to NMU at Northern Michigan University

Me: What kind of certificate do you hold?

MJ: I hold a masters degree in my master's degrees in secondary English & library science. I have 2 minors, Library science & speech. My major is in secondary English. Then my permanence certificate, I got my middle school endorsement & my Masters was just an Education.

Me: Where did you begin your teaching career?

MJ: In National Mine in 1973.

Me: Who are the people that you remember from your 1<sup>st</sup> year of teaching?

MJ: First year, the High School was still there so it was really interesting & I was real novice then I remember some of the ones that then went on to High School which was Mrs. Kosowski & Mr. Almstead & Mr. Casimir were there & then the ones that stayed, I'm sure there were others too. Mrs. Richards & Mrs. Hebert & Mr. Betts & Mr. Tasson started I think almost the same year. The ones that were there too I think Mr. Chinn was there the 1<sup>st</sup> year. He was the coach. I don't know if I can think of all the others. But then the ones that stayed of course, Mr. Ruusing was the Principal at that time. No Mr. Lindberg was there, then he went to the High School. Yea, Mr. Lindberg was there the 1<sup>st</sup> year I'm sure.

Me: What was a typical day like when you 1<sup>st</sup> started teaching?

MJ: well I taught 5 classes of English & I had or maybe 4 when I 1<sup>st</sup> started. Then 3 periods in the library because I was the librarian so ~~that~~ it was probably easier than some of the teachers because I was able to stay in the library & not teach as much as they did. I think we started w/ an 8 period day.

Me: How did students change from the beginning of your career to the end?

MJ: Well the 1<sup>st</sup> year was kind of hard because we had the High School there & so we had, & this was the time when the Tilden Mine was enlarging so we had people coming from all over the country really. So we had a problem that year. But after that when we were just the middle school it was fairly it wasn't a you know, we didn't have a lot of students who were troublesome I would say. I can't think of any problem students in my earlier career. I just can't think of anyone that gave me problems. Real big problems I would've remembered.

Me: Describe how teaching methods changed since you started.

MJ: Oh you asked me how they changed? The children changed. My last year of teaching was much more difficult. As far as behavior. So I had a fairly, possible quite My first year was you know not hard but unusual because the high school was there. I ended up w/ a lot of behavior problems my last year so it was kind of a difficult way to start & to end. But in between there were many good years.

Me: What subjects did you teach?

MJ: I taught all English & then I was a librarian. So I ended up I had an, 5 classes of English. Probably 4 classes of English & 3 librarian classes in the library.

Me: Were there any disease epidemics then?

MJ: We had the Flu I think that might have closed it down, but other than that they didn't close school for measles or anything like that, that I remember ever.

Me: Were there a lot of snow days?

MJ: Some years we had lots & other years not very many so if you know varied.

Me: Did you have to make them up?

MJ: We might have had to make some up on 1 particular year or 2 maybe, but it was rare that we ever did.

Me: What kinds of testing did you do during school?

MJ: Testing? Well I really didn't take part in much of that like the I.Q. & do you mean like any special kinds of testing like I.Q.? Ya we did all of those the same as ~~to~~ we do now I would assume.

Me: Did children ever stay back for what reason?

MJ: Not very often but some did. I remember Mr. Ruusing, they were on condition they would go to the next class on condition. The 1<sup>st</sup> marking period, if they were able to keep their grades up & get their work done then they would stay in that class. But if they weren't especially in 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> they would have to go back to the other class. And that happened a few times.

Me: What were your most vivid or favorite memories of teaching?

MJ: Oh well we had the puppet plays every year when I was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher & they would make puppets in Art class & they would write the plays in my class & they would get partners most of the time there were 2 students together & they would write a play. Most of the time like an Aesop Fable that always taught a lesson & we'd get ideas from the fables but they would have to be originals. Oh this was really wonderful & one of the toughest days but really one of the most memorable times because we would invite the parents & we had them in the Study Hall but we had the next to the door of the library so that they could, & we would block off the windows & we had a regular puppet theater & they'd make scenery in Art Class too & then they'd present the play & there'd be you know the voices would project I think we'd always have some that was the narrator who would change the, & sometimes we had the names of each play out on a stand & someone would take care of that. Then there home ec class would give us goodies, coffee & cake & something that the home ec class had just been working on. Different kinds of sweets & it was really a special day.

Me: What kind of support did you get from parents & has it changed?

MJ: Oh most of the times the parents were very supportive. I don't recall talking to too many parents in my early days as much as my later days. I guess I didn't work w/ the parents as closely because it wasn't something you did as much as you do now, which is good. You know parents are very involved now but they were always supportive since I 1<sup>st</sup> started teaching but I didn't call them often. Then in the end of my teaching career I talked & when I was a 6<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher & I had assertive discipline & I was always sending notes home to students who did well beside the students that didn't do well & so they were rewarded w/ assertive discipline which meant that if you followed all the rules & did your work & got every thing done & had good behavior you were rewarded & I would give them treats like every 2 weeks. So besides sending notes I was on the telephone. The real way was the conferences.

include & quote plays

mention a strict discipline

MJ: & some years we'd have real good turnout & others not as good but there was a lot more discipline to be done as the years progressed.

Me: What advice would you give to teachers today?

MJ: Well they all had so much good advice given to them by their professors I don't know what I'd give them. I think myself I would not be so depressed over matters, just do the best you can ~~&~~ because you're not going to be able to help everybody just do the best that you can just don't worry too much if students just don't want it there's nothing you can do. Don't you become too involved so you become obsessed about being perfect because I tried being perfect & you can't so just do what you can & that's it!

Possible quote

Me: What advice would you give to students today?

MJ: Students? Well oh boy get as much education as you possibly can & make the best of all of your schooling years because it's so very, very important.

Me: When you were a child did you want to be a teacher?

MJ: I think I did because my mother had been one & my uncle was one & but I don't remember being pushed into college or anything or so I didn't go until I was 34 years old.

Me: What was special about National Mine?

MJ: It was like a family, that's what made it so special & we all cared about each other & you know we everyone knew each other & that's what made it, that's why I guess I loved it so much because it was like being w/ my own family. possible opening

Me: What areas attended National Mine? The boundaries?

MJ: O.k. Let's see I was trying to think of this from Stoneville would be the beginning of that boundary where Southwood & North Westwood road is now that street road like a boundary road & then it goes to close to Palmer because our bus ride went almost to Palmer & we lived south of National Mine which is now Swthers Basin which would be another boundary & GreenCreek was all included & then Cliff Drive & that's about it.

Me: How has the building changed?



MJ: Well we had a whole new Elementary Edition then the windows got fixed so it's changed quite a bit.

me: How did the community use the building?

MJ: Oh they had their basketball leagues there & they use to have Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts there, I think. Yes the Boy Scouts & the one that are they called the Cub Scouts had their things there & we had some banquets there too. A few different things so I think it was pretty well used & some other groups may use it now that I don't even know of.

me: Tell me about the auditorium.

MJ: The Auditorium was just like a Theater & we had a Middle section & 2 side sections & a sloped downwards & then the stage which was completely across the front & as wide as the gymnasium. So the seats were just like regular theater seats & so they had all the plays on the stage & they had a nice curtain. They had they brown velvet curtain that came first & then the bergundy velvet curtain & a lot of nice scenery & then for the basketball games they would put the curtains to the side & tie them & scenery would be put all away. They'd put a net across & it was the gym.

me: Was there a conflict between Nat. Mine & Ishpeming?

*include*  
MJ: Well I don't know if you'd call it conflict but we felt, us little National Miners felt that Ishpeming was better than us & one time when all of the changing of the mine Ishpeming needed the money they didn't have enough money to support their school like we did. They wanted to Annex the Nat. Mine School, we would lose our name then & become an elementary school for the Ishpeming system out in Nat. Mine. Maybe they would have closed it. I don't know. We protested against that we had a parade downtown, our students marched & we never became annexed to Ishpeming & they never did get our mine for their money for their school (laughing) so that's how it was & we weren't that friendly. (laughing)

me: How long were you secretary for?

MJ: I was for 2 years.

me: Did you like being a Secretary?

MJ: I was yeah it was a fun job. It was one of my 1<sup>st</sup> jobs since my children were all in school & so I had been home for a while so that was a change for me. I didn't feel I was a very good typist so I don't know how good of a Secretary I was but I really liked it.

Me: What different duties did you have?

MJ: I did some typing. I think we took care of all the scheduling & report cards & things like that. Getting them all set. I was a Secretary for the Principal & there was another Secretary for the Superintendent so I didn't do the banking & so on.

Me: Where were there any special kids that you remember of?

MJ: I remember some very special kids coming in there that would come to see the Principal not for reasons of discipline but because they needed his counselling & they were really special kids but then he had some discipline problems too in the office when you go up the stairs which is now the Elementary Library. Of course being in the outer part of the office I would hear what was going on. There weren't a lot of discipline problems but 1<sup>st</sup> of all Mr. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ & then Mr. Ruusing so it was always interesting very interesting job I really enjoyed it.

Me: What made you go from a Secretary to a teacher?

MJ: That's partly due to a lot of people but mainly Mr. Ruusing. He was my boss the second year I was there & he felt that I should go to college. My sister had done the same thing so I had someone in the family who had done the same thing. She went to school in her later life & I had a friend who wanted me to go w/ her & my husband wanted me to go & all kinds of people wanting me to go but especially Mr. Ruusing.

Me: Tell me a few more details on anything I haven't thought to ask you.

MJ: I'll get back to you on that question.

did she contact you?

You probably should check back with her