

Christy Connors'
interview with
Marie Keto

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me: Christy Connors December 11, 1990
Interviewing Marie Keto for the
National Mine Red Dust Mrs. Keto's
house is in the Green Crick location

me: When and where were you born

Mrs. Keto: National Mine right at home

me: Do you have any brothers or sisters

Mrs. Keto: I have one sister Virginia married
to Luther Antoine and they live in
Michagamme and one Brother Jacob
Plaque lives out further on County Road
581.

me: ~~What~~ What are their ages do you know

Mrs. Keto: Virginia is 59 and Jacob is 57

me: Do you know when and where your parents were born

Mrs. Keto: Both my parents were born in the town of
National Mine

me: Do you have any occupations

Mrs. Keto: (she laughs) other than being a housewife no

me: What years did you attend National Mine School

Mrs. Keto: from 1940 to 1953

me: Do you remember the names of any Grace School teachers

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Mrs. Keto: Yes my kindergarden teacher Dorothy Gleason
my first Grade was Viola Mason and 3rd
Grade I think it was Dorothy Sundburg Danny
Millimack was 5th and Mrs. Trick was 6th

me: Could you describe them in any way

Mrs. Keto: Well they were all really nice teachers they were
helpful, kind, kind hearted people. Vida Mason
which was my 1st Grade teacher was also my
Sunday school teacher she was a very nice lady.

me: Did you have a favorite

Mrs. Keto: I wouldn't really say I had a favorite because I
really liked them all. They were very nice teachers

me: ~~Do~~ Do you remember any numerous or interesting stories
about your Grade School teachers.

Mrs. Keto: No, not really. I just remember them being
really nice

me: Did you have any favorite high school teachers

Mrs. Keto: Clarence Thomas was my favorite she taught
biology and that was my favorite subject I
think I liked it because it had alot to do
with animals besides plants. He was ^a really
helpful teacher.

me: Do you have any interesting or numerous stories about your high school teachers

Mrs. Kato: Well, I don't know if this was numerous but it was interesting. I remember Mr. Annala, George Annala He was the principle and you didn't get away with anything with him. I remember one time at a basketball game, all of us students didn't like the ref's call and we Boed so the next day he call a little meeting together there and gave us a good talk and nobody Boed after that.

me: How did you get to school each day

Mrs. Kato: It was just a hop, skip, and a jump over the hill so I walked.

me: what time did your school start

Mrs. Kato: we didn't start until 9:00 for the day.

me: How did the kids dress

Mrs. Kato: Well, they dressed alot different than they do today (na, ha, na) They weren't aloud to wear any pants, we just had to wear skirts, dresses, and blouses, and boys weren't aloud to wear jeans either, They had to have dress pants. no shorts for sure

me: Do you know what subjects were taught

Mrs. Keto: Well, there was American History, American Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Science, typing, algebra, Geometry,

me: What was your favorite subject

Mrs. Keto: Biology

me: Can you explain why

Mrs. Keto: Well, I just thought the experiments were great to do, well it had a little bit to do with animals not a whole lot, I liked that part of it, then I liked my teacher

me: What subject gave you the most ~~difficulty~~ difficulty

Mrs. Keto: Oh, definitely Geometry

me: Why did it give you difficulty

Mrs. Keto: Well, it had such long theorems. The only thing I remember is that I had to memorize these because I wasn't too good in Geometry I think if you didn't get algebra which was hard, you didn't get Geometry

me: were there any special foods or sayings when you were in school

Mrs. Keto: This girl used to wear her dad's shirts not tucked in with a man's neck tie and also we used to wear scarfs around ~~our~~ neck's alot and of course we wore the black & white saddle shoes

me: How were the kids expected to behave

Mrs. Keto: ~~we~~^{on} we had to behave very well there was no fooling around in those days like they do now. And you either had to behave or you were kicked out of school immediately and your parents didn't stick up for you.

me: What kind of punishments were given

Mrs. Keto: Well, alot of times they had them write probably many pages on why they did this & why they would never do it again or maybe they were expelled from school. I know a couple of kids who were, and you were also afraid of your teacher, Mr. Annala didn't let you get away with anything, which was good because he

was a very good principle.

me: what kind of extracurricular activities were offered

Mrs. Keto: Not too many, for the girls especially and ~~the boys~~ ^{The boys} didn't have football but the boys had basketball that was all we had besides the cheerleading for the girls. There was only a few who could be in it also.

me: Do you remember any special moments in the sports

Mrs. Keto: Oh definitely, the year I graduated our team won the districts against ~~Michigan~~ ^{Michi gamee} that year, and the year before that we won the districts in '52 and we beat champion that year.

me: what kind of plays or programs were staged when you were in school

Mrs. Keto: Well Mrs. Gleason was there and she was really, really good she had the whole school participating in them from kindergarten to the 12th grade in the plays and Christmas plays & we had a Spring

plays and it was a skit-like with singing all the way right through it and it was really good. I think alot of people came from miles around just to see the plays

me: Did you participate in any

Mrs. Kato: Every one of them

me: Do you have any humorous or interesting stories about those

Mrs. Kato: NOT OTHER than the great memories we had. The plays in the auditorium which was great because there was the big stage to perform on and everybody had a perfect seat to sit on and since then (she laughs) they took the most greatest thing out of the school

me: What was your lunch-time like

Mrs. Kato: lunch hour we always had an hour or so so I went home to eat lunch. When we first started school they didn't have a lunch program the kids that rode on the buses had to carry their own lunches I can't remember the year they started

the hot lunch program. Before that every one brought their own "bucket".

me: Do you know where the lunchroom was

Mrs. Kato: The lunch room was a classroom
I can't remember which one

me: Who was the principle when you were there

Mrs. Kato: George Annala

~~me:~~
me: Did you have lots of homework

Mrs. Kato: Yes, we had quite a bit of homework
We usually had to take it home every
nite

me: What did you do after school

Mrs. Kato: Well, we did alot as kids after school
There wasn't a nite that we were bored
or anything ~~we~~ If it was winter we
went skiing, skating, sleighriding, tobogganing,
or just out in the snow playing, and if it
were summer, we went swimming,
hiking in the woods

we played baseball, softball, soccer, kick the can any game you can imagine there was kids out playing all the time nobody was ever bored.

me: can you describe your graduation ceremony

Mrs. Keto: On the Sunday before graduation they had a church service and then graduation nite; there was only 11 of us in the class I presented the memorial that year and Ronald Saari was our valedictorian and I think Al Sanders was our salutatorian + of course they both gave speeches and I remember going back in the stage after it was over and people from the community congratulate you and that nite; the 11 of us went out to a friend's camp and there was no drinking we were home by 12:00am. and it was very nice.

me: were you able to maintain contact with your friends.

Mrs. Keto: Yeah, a quite a few of them stayed around here and a couple of them moved away but a majority live around here. so I keep in contact with them

me: Did any of your teachers have an impact on your life

Mrs. Keto: I imagine they all did, they gave you a set of standard rules to go by and you did it. They were all wonderful.

Mrs. Keto. my school days were most enjoyable I thought since the community was so small, it gave us the opportunity to know every student from the Kindergarten right up to the 12th grade. It was like on big happy family. All the students mingled with one another and everybody got along real well the school plays; which were

presented by DORTNY Gleason includes students from every grade. People from miles around came to see the presentations, our gym classes were combined from the 9th grade to the 12th and once in a way we would go out and play a game of softball otherwise it consisted of mostly exercises. If you were lucky you got to be on the cheerleading squad I did consider my self as lucky when I was chosen along with my classmate Alice Annala upon entering the 9th grade. Student council selected the cheerleaders in those days and once you were chosen you stayed in for the four years; However the year I was chosen it was a little bit different They used to choose one from each class one from 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. But Grand Alley who was inⁱⁿ the 10th grade at the time hurt her leg and was unable to continue cheering so 2 were picked from my grade me and Alice. In 1952 - 1953 we had a darling little 3 1/2 yr old girl by the name of Mary Keto who helped us cheerlead. She was a great crowd pleaser not only was she a favorite with the community

But she also won the hearts of our entire district. She was a great little nam and a lot of the older people came just to see her. Her picture was flashed on the sports page during the tournaments, after that the other schools adopted little girls as their mascots but none of them as young as Mary. I don't think any of them came close to matching Mary's performance. This little girl later turned out to be my sister-in-law. 1953, the year I graduated, our team won the district tournaments beating Michigan which was a most memorable experience.