

HARMONY

# KROON FOREST PRODUCTS

ROUTE 1, BOX 719

ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN 49849

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I am interviewing  
Pat Kroon

me: I am interviewing Pat Kroon  
My name is Harmony Michaud  
Pat Kroon was a student at  
National Mine School. The  
date is December 31 1900. We are  
doing this interview at her  
home.

me: Grandma,

Gran: Yes, Dear

me: When and where were you  
born?

Gran: I was born on August 26, 1903  
On Cherry Street in DeSautelle,  
Michigan.

me: Do you know when your  
parents were born and what  
year they were born in?

Gran: My dad was born in Detio-  
net Mine in 1900, and my  
mother was born in I think  
in DeSautelle in 1906.

me: Do you have any brothers  
or sisters?

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Gran: Yes I do, I have 1 sister,  
me: and two brothers.

me: How old are they, and  
Gran: What are their names?  
me: My sister Mary Kent is 64  
years old, and lives in Mar-  
quette. My brother Joe Pierno  
is 66, and lives at Little  
Petch Lake. And my brother  
Bob is 54 I think. And lives  
in Grand Junction, Colorado.

me: Mmm, Did they go to  
National Mine School too?

Gran: Yes they did, all of them  
went there.

me: Can you tell me what years  
you attended National  
Mine School?

Gran: Yes, I started in 1937 and  
me: I graduated in 1950.

me: What time did school start?  
Gran: School started promptly at  
9:00 get out at 4:00, in the  
afternoon, 1 hour for lunch.

me: How was the lunch?

Gran: In the later years, there was  
hot lunch, but I always went  
home every day, →

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Gran: So I walked a total of four miles every day because it was a mile each way. Sometimes I ran, sometimes I walked. When I was in hiner garden, and my dog used to come and meet me all the time and protect me so, that if any stranger, came near me that dog would really growl, and they would be scared away.

me: Do you remember any grade-school teachers?

Gran: Oh, yes, Miss aw-- Mason, she's Mrs. Magnison now. Mrs. Gleason, aw-- Mrs. Langys aw-- Mrs. <sup>? spell</sup> ~~Butcher~~ who took us on field trips, we went once to the fire station in Ishpeeming. I remember that quite well.

me: m<sup>m</sup> m<sup>m</sup> - Do you remember any numerous of interesting stories about them?

Gran: Not about my grade-school teachers, but aw-- I always remember when Mr. Bath who lived only a houses down from ~~the~~ school would walk home, for lunch or would be walking to school in the winter time, the boys would throw

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Gran: aw - snowballs at him, and I realize later that wasn't real nice to do but we all laughed at the time.

me: How, well your transportation every day was walking. Right?

Gran: That's right.

me: Was there any buses to bring the kids?

Gran: Yeh, there was buses, but if you lived a mile or less from school, you couldn't ride the bus.

me: Did any of your friends ride the bus?

Gran: Oh yes, most of my friends rode the bus, I walked with some girls.

me: Were the roads paved yet when you were walking?

Gran: If I remember rightly, they weren't paved, they were still gravel, but I can't remember for sure.

me: What kinds of subjects were taught?

Gran: Oh, the regular subjects the 3 R's - reading, writing, and arithmetic we also had penmanship, every year we had penmanship. →

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Gran: and I think that was a good idea.

me: mmm - what subjects did you like the best?

Gran: I guess I must have liked economics the ~~best~~ best because I turned out to be a bookkeeper.

me: who taught it? Or can you remember?

Gran: I think Mr. Bath taught economics.

me: mmm - which ones gave you the most difficulty?

Gran: Algebra, Mr. Bath also taught that, and I had a hard time with it and I still don't know anything about algebra.

me: What kinds of punishments were there?

Gran: well, I guess, if I remember rightly the worst punishment you could get for doing something bad or something you weren't supposed to do was, be sent to Mr. Ornat in the office.

me: He was the principle right?  
Gran: right

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me: How long was he the principle for?

Gram: Oh, Many years, I can't really remember, but many years.

me: m<sup>m</sup>m<sup>m</sup> - Did anyone get suspended?

Gram: Oh, there was a few people that got suspended. If I remember right because they did something that was against the rules. I can't remember the incidents now, but I know there was some that got put out of school for a while. But in those days though if the kids had a lot of trouble in school they could aw it when they were 15, 16, years old. You can't anymore now.

me: m<sup>m</sup>m<sup>m</sup> - Did you have any dress codes?

Gram: Well, for one thing we certainly weren't allowed to wear pants to school, or shorts or anything like that. So I can, I guess you can say we had a dress code.

me: Oh, were the boys, what kind of pants kind of pants were the boys allowed, or.

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Gran: I don't remember if they were allowed to wear, I guess you could wear what you had, because in those days, every body did, dressed the same, because every body had the same ~~about~~ amount of money.

me: m<sup>m</sup> n<sup>m</sup> - What kinds of things did you do after school?

Gran: Oh - we used to go in the woods a lot. We used to have a lot of potatoe roasts. We'd take a potatoe from home and build a little fire and roast that potatoe till it was black as coal no butter, no salt, no anything. And we really had a good time.

me: m<sup>m</sup> n<sup>m</sup> - With whom did you do these things with?

Gran: Oh, a lot of my girl friends around the same age as me, and some boys too. We used to go in the bush and aw - and swing on cedar trees, we'd climb on top the cedar tree and swing on it, and bend it till →

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Gram: it would almost touch the ground and then it would come back up again. That was really a lot of fun. But I wouldn't want my kids to be doing it now, and we also used to skate on "Big Pond" it was called and then you'd go over that at night after school to skate in the winter time. and they'd have a big bon fire then, you'd go up the crick and sometimes you fall in. Where if the ice was you know not just right you could get wet quite a bit or few times.

me: Did you ever fall in? Ha, Ha, Ha,

Gran: Probably, Probably, I don't recall but I probably did.

me: m<sup>m</sup>m<sup>m</sup> - Were there any fads or sayings in school?

Gran: Yah, I suppose, there was but I can't remember much about fads or sayings. But one of the sayings that I remember was called - if something was really nice, you really liked, it was called Peachy Keen. That's the only I remember



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me: That one is comming back now.

Gram: Is it?

me: Yan, mmmmm - Were there any proms or dances offered?

Gram: Well, I was invited to one party prom in high school. But it was up at the Prepublic school and I couldnt go. I never had adress, never had a date, never had a car. But our school never had proms. Our school never had upn year books at that time either. It was a long time after when they came out with year books.

me: Were you in any staffs when they came out.

Gram: No, we had a small paper called the "Echo." I probably helped contribute news. But I never worked in the staff, or such.

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

Gram: Well, they used to put on plays, then if you were in one of the plays you had to practise after school time usually. I really cant Ha Ha Ha, I really cant remember any extra-curriculars

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me: Well, can you remember if you were in any of them?

Gran: Oh, Yes, the Senior class was always put on a play and I was in 3 of ~~them~~, those because aw- the classes were so small, they didn't have any or enough people so if they needed someone they just took someone from another class, so I was lucky enough to be in 3 plays.

me: Can you remember what you were in any of them, or? Ha, Ha, Ha.

Gran: Not really, No, No I can't "Meet the Middletons" was one play but I can't remember what I was in there.

me: Mm Mm - Were your friends in any of them, or did they get in to?

Gran: Yes, all my friends were in the plays.

me: Was there any teachers that had any impact on your life?

Gran: Oh, yes, aw- Mrs. Gleason for I liked the program she put on she was very talented lady. She could play the piano better than anybody else I ~~new~~ And she produced and wrote her own plays. And Mr. Anala though he was a very very strict disciplinarian he made a big impact on my life. But I didn't realize it till long after I was out of school. He used to ~~say~~ right before class would start every morning when we were in high-school when we were in study hall, he would aw- give a little talk. I will always remember he used to call tobacco was lady nicotine and whiskey wa John Barly Corn. And he always said don't ever get hooked on any of those, and luckily, I never did. But that stayed with me. But it's a long time after your out of school before you realize that some of those teachers left an impact on your life. Pause \ You don't appreciate them, when you have them.

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me: Ohay, How was your graduation?

Gran: Well, it's a solemn occasion, I remember aw - we had caps and gowns. I made a speech. Mr. Anala helped me with it. about thanking our parents and so fourth. Helping us through school. And we had our picture taken and ~~we~~ we decorated the stage. And we made a class motto, called Launched but not anchored. We made that we covered letters with colored paper and we had flowers on the stage. Then afterwards all the rest of the class went to a party at some body's camp, but I was going with the man I'm married to now. So we went to the second show and came home. Missed the party. Didn't really care to go.

me: um, Were there any really special memories at your graduation?

Gran: Nothing more than I already told you. It's a sad time to in your life to because your ending your school years, and your going into the world as an adult, and that's not always an easy thing to do. And you might never see your class mat's for many

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Gran: Because going to school is the best time of your life. But you don't realize it.

me: Where did Grandpa go to school?

Gran: Grandpa went to National Mine to. But he played Basketball.

me: Were there any cheer leaders?

Gran: Oh, yeah. There was cheer leaders and then we used to have aw-a pep rally on the days that we had games so that the cheer leaders could practice their cheers, and so we could know the cheers to answer back so when we went to the game we could participate.

me: Were you a cheer leader?

Gran: No, I wasn't.

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me: were any of your friends?

Gran: Oh, my friends were, yes

me: Did they have short little  
skimpy outfits?

Gran: No, they didn't. Times have  
changed.

me: They just wore —

Gran: They just wore shirts and  
sweaters and so fourth but  
not short, short, ones Ha, Ha, Ha,

me: How long ones?

Gran: ~~at~~ Well not below the knees,  
but a sensible length.  
lets put it that way

me: Were there any colors?

Gran: The colors were yellow & blue  
for many many years They

me: still are  
me: They still are

Gran: are they?

~~me~~ Thanks Grandma

she didn't want me  
to write about  
her & my grandpa.