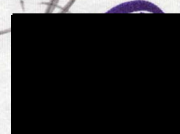


Brod Mason's interview with  ✓
Viola Magnuson

Qme1 When ~~was~~ were you born?

MM1 October 10, 1909 in Ashpening ^{Michigan} in the
Qme1 How old are you now? ^{Badger Hill Location}

MM1 I'm 75 years old

Qme1 Did you live in the Badger Hill Location
all your life.

MM1 ~~Yes~~ no just until I was about 1 year old and
my folks moved to National Mine I lived
there until I was about about 22 I started
teaching in 1929

Qme1 How old were you when the national
mine school fire took place.

MM1 14 years

Qme1 What grade were you in
MM1 I was in the ninth grade just a freshman
I had just entered high school in the fall
of 1923 & becoming acquainted with our new gym
& auditorium when the fire broke out in the
basement & destroyed the new building as well
as the old

Qme1 How severe was the damage to the school
MM1 the school was completely ruined the day after the
fire we went to the school grounds to see the

MMI see the complete ruin except for the burn walls ^{standing} which were built so if the old school or the ~~newer~~ newly build auditorium had caught on fire one section would be saved but that didn't happen

one | Did you have to miss school because of the fire

MMI "Oh we sure did" a meeting of the high school student faculty school board & other members of the community was held at the township hall to propose means for continuing our classes the school board member asked the Ishpeming school board if they would accompany any of the students they were not able to accommodate any of the students all the students decided that they would rather attend school at national mine after a week or with new books & necessary articles were obtained the grades & high school moved into various buildings & church in the village of national mine

one | Do you have any idea of how many children attended national mine school at the time
MMI maybe about 200 figures today.

one | Did they have fire drills before hand to prepare the children for the fire.

MMI Yes they had fire drills because each of the building had fire escape now see they had a fire drill about once a month

one | Do you remember what caused the fire
MMI Oh I really don't know & never did now what caused the fire

Q | What was the reaction of the kids

MM | We were naturally all sad when our school
burned to the ground & we felt a great loss *
because the next day had no place to go

Q | What was the reaction of the teachers

MM | The same as the children they were down hearted &
felt a loss

Q | What time of year was the fire

MM | It was in the fall of the year on 29 November

~~at~~ 30, 1923 the wooden framed school
occupying the site of the present school
with housed both grades & the high school
of Alder township was burned to the ground

Q | Do you remember if any one was injured
in the fire

MM | No one was injured

Q | What kind of fire trucks did they have at
the time

MM | They used the Spring fire department came
out & fought the fire

Q | Did they have water tanks in them

MM | Oh yes I imagine so because there was
no water system there at that time

Q | Who was the Principal of the school at the time

MM | Well I'd rather give the super intendent Mr. Guy Scott
& I think the principal was Miss Mildred J. Swindle

me | What was the date the school burned?

MM | November 30, 1923

me | Did just part of the school burn

MM | It was completely ruined

me | How long did it take the fire Dept to put out the fire

MM | I wouldn't know I imagine it was most of the night because we went there the next day to see the ruin like I said then because the coal there that they had supplied for the winter smoldered for many days

me | How was the new school different from the old one

MM | Oh our new school was modern it was our present school now that you go to Modern Woodbrook made of brick instead of wood

me | Do you remember what the weather was like when the school burned.

MM | I'd say it was a mild fall day fall evenings

me | Do you remember your teacher name when the school burned

MM | Oh I had several teachers I remember them all

me | Do you remember if it was expensive to repair

MM | O I see because they had to build the school from the very bottom I don't know the exact amount but I'm sure it was ~~at~~ a million dollars or more I imagine

Q | Where did the fire fighters come from

MM | From the evening fire department

Q | Did any school children fight the fire

MM | No no children

Q | Where was the grade school the high school held after the fire

MM | The grades were housed in the Norwegian Lutheran church the Finnish Lutheran church the English Methodist Church & the tilden townships hall The Swedish Lutheran Church at the top of Brook's Hill was the assembly room of the high school luckily in that area stood several mining buildings which also served as class rooms in back of the church In Brook's house was a home economic department in the living room of that house English & History classes were held

Q | Were you in school at the day of the fire

MM | Yes November the 30, 1923 was the Friday after thanksgiving day the school was in session that day many students resented the fact that we didn't have Friday as a holiday so many students went on strike that day and didn't attend school that was the first & the last strike to my knowledge ever held by the students of the ^{national mine}

⑤
MM/ironically that night around the supper hour
the school was on fire

McLoughlin was the school such a great loss
MM 10th it was not only the original school that
burned but also a new gym + auditorium were built

in 1922 and 23 the auditorium was also used for
a study hall for the high school the only class
to graduate from this new auditorium was the class
of 1923 the class of 1924 had graduated from
the old Tilden township hall

McLoughlin when was the new brick school completed

MM/2 April 1925 the students moved into the
new school + I finished the last few weeks of my
sophomore year in the new building by the spring
of 1925 on new school was completed I should have

said this first 'we were proud of our new
modern brick school the high school students
helped with various clean up jobs I remember
scraping paint off windows in the present emanual
arts room the new school was dedicated

on June 4 1925