

# Carrie Yunker's Interview

with  
Mrs. Donna Maki.

page 1

Me: Hi, My name is Carrie Yunker. Today is Dec. 12, 1990, and I am going to interview Mrs. Donna Maki. I'm interviewing Mrs. Maki because she was a student at National Mine and I want to see what her school days were like. I will be doing this interview at Mrs. Maki's house at 1700 Walnut Street in Ishpeming.

me: OK, first question is, if you could tell me a biographical sketch about you, like when and where you were born?

Mrs. Maki: \* I was born in Ishpeming, Michigan

me: OK, do you know when?

Mrs. Maki: yeah, May, 25 (th, th) 1926.

me: OK, do you have any brothers or sisters?

Mrs. Maki: No.

me: ~~OK~~, No, ok, do you know when and where your parents were born?

Mrs. Maki: I think my mother was born in Ishpeming and my father was born in National Mine.

me: Do you know when?

Mrs. Maki: My dad was born in 1898, April 11th. My mother was considerably younger maybe 3 or 4 years younger she was born in Ishpeming but I don't have the date. She died when I was small.

me: (Umm) OK, X (Umm) let's see. Do you remember the years you attended National Mine?

Mrs. Maki: I did all my education in National Mine from kindergarten right through a senior in high school.

me: OK, do you remember the name of any grade teachers?

Mrs. Maki: (Umm) I remember just about all of them. Mrs. Gleson but she was Mrs. Astor then, and um first grade teacher was Mrs. Hering, Eudon Hering, second grade teacher was Olga Stole, third grade teacher was Margaret Solka, ~~fourth~~ fourth grade teacher was Elen Peterson, fifth and sixth grade teacher was Danny Millimiki and then in seventh grade that was junior high we had different (me: umm hummdgah)

me: OK, let's see. Do you remember anybody that was like your favorite



teachers?

Mrs. Maki: (mmm) I think I liked um Mrs. Gleson <sup>Page 2</sup> although she was just the kindergarden teacher she was the music teacher too (me: mmhum) and then she left the school because in those days when the teacher got married they had to, they could no longer teach. of course that's been changed now. (me: mmm) and then she did come back in high school so she was there when we graduated she was the music teacher.

me: So was she your favorite in high school too?

Mrs. Maki: Well, partly but I kinda liked umm Mrs. Brown and she was an English teacher in high school.

me: What was she like?

Mrs. Maki: Oh, she was um very interested in literature and she used to read to us and she was quite dramatic at times. (ha, ha, ha) She was very interesting.

me: (laughs with her)

me: do you have any interesting or humorous stories about your high school teachers?

Mrs. Maki: Well, I don't know (laughs) what I should say but we always used to call Mr. Bath; sauna (we both laugh) which is bathhouse in Finnish you know because (me: mmhum) bath means sauna. But I don't know if that's so humorous but that's not private information, everybody called him that (both laugh)

me: did he no that everybody

Mrs. Maki: Yes, he knew that and he was are class adviser (me: yeah) and you know we had to choose the class adviser and he was ~~and~~ he was very interesting and he was um I guess we kinda liked him because we could get him off <sup>the</sup> track (we both laugh) <sup>(me: a lot of teachers are like that)</sup> and he go along with you for awhile, he's one of my favorite's and um of course my ~~uncle~~ uncle George was there George Annala. He was my teacher but I was afraid of him. (me: Chh) but he was a good teacher. It's kinda hard having a relative for a teacher (me: yeah)



me: Oh, um how did you get to school and how far was it?

Mrs. Maki: We walked  
me: how far?

Mrs. Maki: and I don't know whether you know where <sup>it would be</sup> ~~the door~~ market ~~is~~ now but it was annala's store then (me: ch, yeah) <sup>that's</sup> my-grandfather's store. So we walked all the way to school. And there were little shortcuts that we used to run through you know.

me: yeah there's a lot of shortcuts know too.

Mrs. Maki: yeah that's all um been fenced in now because of cave in grounds we used to have a path going ~~to~~ right through there. (me: umm) to school, and then sometimes in the winter we would ~~take~~ our sleigh and ride down all those hills (both: laugh)

me: do you know when school started?

Mrs. Maki: parten

me: when did school start?

Mrs. Maki: usually the first week in <sup>september</sup>, sometimes the last week of August, <sup>it's mostly</sup> ~~right~~ after labor day. (me: mm hum)

me: what time did it begin?

Mrs. Maki: we started at 9:00 and in grade schools <sup>I think in</sup> ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~grades~~ <sup>grades</sup> we got out <sup>maybe</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~three~~ <sup>and then</sup> ~~and then~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~four~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~and then~~ <sup>and then</sup> in high school we always get out at 4:00. (me: ummm)

me: so high school was longer then?

Mrs. Maki: yeah.

me: is shorter now (Mrs. Maki: yeah)

Mrs. Maki: and then we had an hour off lunch you know and we went home for lunch. (me: mmm) the bus kids took their lunch you know there was a lunch room (me: uhuh) and the kids in the community had to go home if you



didn't live too far. it took about ten, fifteen minutes to run home

me: So everyone that lived in national mine area had to go home? ~~that~~

Mrs. Maki: most of the kids except for the ones that lived <sup>over there now</sup> ~~over there~~ in Sunnyside and what's that area <sup>over there now</sup> ~~over there~~, Sunnyside and Sweet Home, um they were aloud to take their lunch. (me: uh huh) the only time we were aloud to take a lunch is if we were practicing for a play at noon time, or if it was real real cold. (me: yeah)

me: How did the kids dress back then?

Mrs. Maki: well um you couldn't wear jeans like you <sup>did</sup> ~~can~~ know you had to wear shirts or dresses (me: oh)

me: was there a dress code then?

Mrs. Maki: well, I don't believe there was but ~~we had to~~ <sup>most of the kids</sup> were more ~~or~~ less dressed up you know. (me: yeah) nothing to fancy (me: yeah) but regular casual clothes.

me: what kind of subjects were taught at that time.

Mrs. Maki: well when I was in school ~~at what had the~~ <sup>life in</sup> high school ~~we never had~~ called the General course ~~through~~ <sup>the</sup> high school ~~we never had~~ a science course or commercial course, but there were ~~se~~ ~~and~~ commercial subjects ~~but ever~~ took and science subjects but everybody took the General course. (me: oh) and then ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> elementary grades we had <sup>every</sup> subject that was taught by the homeroom teacher except for music ~~after~~ (me: oh)

me: did you have a favorite subject?

Mrs. Maki: I um kinda liked history.

me: Did you like the teacher?

Mrs. Maki: well in 7th & 8th grade we had um Mrs. Linn she was also the domestic science and hygien teacher. and um then in high school we had Mr. Both he taught world history and american government and economics, and in 8th grade we had american history that was taught by <sup>Mr. Anzola</sup> (me: mmm) and ~~ah~~ then we had math <sup>and</sup> after <sup>7th</sup> grade you had different teachers. ~~and~~ <sup>different</sup> subjects (me: yeah) up to, through 6th grade most of the subjects were taught by our homeroom teacher.



me: what was the most difficult one?

Mrs. Maki: Um most difficult <sup>(we both laugh)</sup> I think ah when I was in eleventh grade <sup>there</sup> <sup>a course</sup> was called aerobics for like a half year. (me: mm yeah) and ah I don't know why I took it cuz I it was really hard and I wasn't very interested in it. I thought it was <sup>going to be</sup> something different ~~that~~ than it was.

me: is that what. it would be now like shop or gym or something?

Mrs. Maki: no, it was mostly mathematics and about flying a plane (me: mmm) stuff like that but I thought it would be interesting but it was real hard.

me: Do you remember any fads or sayings <sup>that</sup> you liked? that you said and stuff.

Mrs. Maki: Well, everybody wore those <sup>um</sup> ~~shoes~~ saddle shoes I don't know if ~~these~~ <sup>that's</sup> coming back now those black and white shoes now. <sup>(me: I don't know)</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>we</sup> had brown and white they were palpoon shoes and white bucks um that sort of thing (me: um) and the dress code was the dresses were quite short at one time its funny how they get longer in the war you would think there would be a material shortage but the dresses were longer than

me: Did you have any sayings like cool are something like that?

Mrs. Maki: I can't think of any of kind but I'm sure there were some (me: yeah)

me: How were the kids expect to act or behave during classtime

Mrs. Maki: you were expected to be quiet <sup>(me: mmhmm)</sup> and attentive I don't think there was too much trouble ~~but~~ <sup>that</sup> way except for maybe certain kids where <sup>(me: yeah)</sup> there were cut ups but ~~generally speaking~~ <sup>generally speaking</sup> I think the kids were pretty well managed (me: yeah)

me: well, what kinds of punishments would the teachers give when kids were bad.

Mrs. Maki: Um I think most of the time you would probably have to stay after school. there were certain incidents maybe <sup>one</sup> a kid would be expelled once in 2 while but not for long (me: yeah that still happens know)

me: Did you ever get suspended?

Mrs. Maki: no



me: ok, what kind of circicullar activities offered? (Page 6)

Mrs. Maki: Well that would probably mean like basket ball things like that heya, the boys played basket ball there weren't many things for girls. (me: no?) We had um we played vollyball and um ah in the summer sometimes and we play baseball outside and ah then ah we had a noglee club that was ah home ec we called it domestic science then (me: mmhum) and there were no men allowed in it then (both: laugh) and we ah went on outings and learned different things you know, pertaining to home.

me: were you in it?

Mrs. Maki: yes I was in it we only had that one year when we had a different teacher. that was during the war years and she kinda integrated that. Well, it was more like personal how to take care of yourself take care of your home and <sup>different</sup> things like that mostly um for socializing and <sup>things like that</sup> getting ~~together~~ together

me: um, were you involved in any other ones?

Mrs. Maki: no, I wasn't very athletic when I played ball I was afraid of the ball. (laughs)

me: Did you have any special moments in that glee club?

Mrs. Maki: I remember one time when we went ~~to~~ to somebody's camp and we stayed over night and we played games (me: oh) and then I think we had a weener roast outside or different things like that it was in the later spring (me: oh oh)

me: was there a lake there?

Mrs. Maki: no, there might of been a river or a creek in there, it's out south there we were ~~at~~ at um I think Tom Pelen's camp or ~~with~~ anyway out that way anyway (me: mmhum) it isn't too far off that main road um what is that oh 581 yeah

me: yeah, there's alot of camp's out there now to.

Mrs. Maki: people live out there now anyway (me: yeah)

me: did any sports teams win a trophy? For a tournament or anything.

Mrs. Maki: yeah, I can't really remember but a before the war <sup>time</sup> talking about world war II now (laughs) and ah we were <sup>allowed</sup> to go with the team on the bus um to games



Mrs. Maki: you know other than home games. (me: mmhmm) and well after the war started because of gas rationing I think it was because of the tires; and everything ~~I think~~ <sup>ah</sup> everything was so ah. there was a shortage of those things. you know. (me: yeah mmhmm) so then they didn't do that anymore so the only games we could go to were the home games. I'm talking about basketball (me: yeah) we never had a football ~~team~~ <sup>game</sup> team then. (me: mm) But of course it was mostly boys ~~who~~ <sup>that</sup> had it the sports you know. (me: ~~yeah~~ <sup>yeah</sup> I don't know <sup>what</sup>) maybe some girls were <sup>kinda</sup> ~~kinda~~ <sup>hurt</sup> ~~hurt~~ <sup>by</sup> that but it just seemed that it was just interesting going to the games you didn't really, it didn't really matter if you were playing basketball.

me: Did ~~they~~ have cheerleaders?

Mrs. Maki: yes, they had cheerleaders uh huh.

me: oh, um did like you have any effect on the war like at school or at home?

Mrs. Maki: um, we had a boy ~~who~~ <sup>that</sup> couldn't graduate in our class, ~~Norman Korpi~~ because he had to go in the service. in our class Abram Korpi (me: mm)

me: I bet it was hard on him.

Mrs. Maki: yes, he went into the navy. so ~~um~~ <sup>um</sup> he <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>service</sup> think he did finish his schooling in the navy But he wasn't there when we graduated (me: mm)

me: so there wasn't <sup>even</sup> ~~that many~~ <sup>that many</sup> ~~intellects~~ <sup>intellects</sup> (me: mm)

Mrs. Maki: not not that was in ~~the~~ <sup>had</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>and I</sup> ~~and I~~ <sup>don't</sup> if any <sup>son</sup> after that <sup>had</sup> gone but that's the <sup>only</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> that I remember and then we used to publish a newsletter, during the war and send it to all the ~~se~~ <sup>se</sup> (me: ohh) servicemen from all the national mine area, yeah we had a school newspaper. it was called the echo. (me: mm)

me: were you in that?

Mrs. Maki: I might of been a reporter in one of my grades but, I can't quite remember.

me: was that anybody that wanted to do that?



Mrs. Maki: well, it was more voluntary but it was page 8  
um, maybe some kids might of been assigned to it to  
but I ~~don't~~ ~~know~~ think it was more voluntary.  
(me: yeah)

me: um what kinds of plays or programs were <sup>suggested</sup>  
when you were in school?

Mrs. Maki: well, we always had the Christmas opereta me: ohhuh  
me: what was that?

Mrs. Maki: that was more of a musical me: oh  
and oh we had spring operetas and then we had  
plays on Washington's Birthday and on Arnesta day  
and as we ~~went~~ <sup>got</sup> into Junior High and High School  
different classes would take those different  
holidays or like Washington's Birthday or different  
ones or Columbus day or something like that  
we'd have ~~something~~ <sup>what you</sup> ~~which is called~~ an  
Assembly (me: huh huh) of different classes  
it would be their responsibility (me: uh huh)  
and of course teachers would <sup>be</sup> ~~be~~ head it  
you know or direct it and we'd <sup>maybe</sup> have an assembly  
for maybe <sup>a half hour</sup> ~~thirty~~ to forty five minutes. sometimes  
outside speakers would com in or bellmers.  
me: Would you participate in this?

Mrs. Maki: well, most of the time it was like a group  
thing. (me: mmhum) you know so there were  
different kids but I was in I liked ~~to be~~ <sup>to be</sup> in  
the plays and then we had a class play in  
10th or 11th and 12th grade you know senior  
play (me: mmmm) there were so few kids in  
school then that the juniors usually helped the  
seniors out in there class play.  
me: so were you in that?

Mrs. Maki: yes, I was in that.

me: Did you like that?

Mrs. Maki: yes, I did like that.

~~me: what~~ me: oh,



Mrs. Maki: yeah, we did have a spelling ~~bee~~ <sup>page 9</sup> down. Once a year to

me: What's that?

Mrs. Maki: where you have an elimination in the grade that you were in. ~~I~~ I don't know if it was the song. of the better spellers (me: uhuh) would be in the spell down from each grade.

me: yeah, we have that <sup>it's called</sup> ~~but~~ <sup>spelling bee now</sup> I could never do that though (both laugh)

Mr. Maki: so, ah that was kinda fun but it was kinda of nerve racking if you were up there and spell. me: yeah! the words you probably miss would be the ones you ordinarily wouldn't miss cause you'd have to spell them out loud you know

me: and your so nervous

Mrs. Maki: yeah, we did have one ~~of~~ of the girls in our grade that did win it once year... Evelyn Lacary.

(me: mmm)

Mrs. Maki: she did win it

me: yeah I remember Jamie Nantervis one it in 4th grade I think she's a good speller

(Mrs. Maki: mm hum)

me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about those plays?

Mrs. Maki: I can't figure but there's probably a lot of them but I can't figure (me: mm hum) you know put my mind to them.

me: um what was lunch time like for the people who didn't have to walk home?

Mrs. Maki: There was I think the teachers had there turns on lunch time duties. you know so that there wouldn't be any getting out and kids throwing food around ~~you know~~ and there were no hot lunches ~~you know~~ and you brought your lunch from home. then you know.

me: Do you know when they started bringing hot lunches? (me: ohh!)



Mrs. Maki: Not during my time.  
me: Ohh.

Mrs. Maki: There would be um a rack where all the kids would have there lunch pucks (mascot) you would go get your um plate or your back of lunch or whatever and you'd eat it on those tables.

me: But you never had to do that?

Mrs. Maki: The only time we did that is if it were a real cold day or a storm or um like I say you had to practice for something like phorensic or whatever.

me: oh, we have phorensics now.

Mrs. Maki: yeah, we had that

me: we just started it. 2 years ago

Mrs. Maki: we ~~started~~ in ninth grade we had <sup>declamations</sup> ~~you had to~~ write an ~~oration~~ in ~~11th~~ <sup>in 9th & 10th (me: uhhuh) and then</sup> ~~11th~~ <sup>it</sup> was required you had to do it it was required <sup>it</sup> was part of your English assignment

me: yeah this is volunteer

Mrs. Maki: It wasn't then you had to do it. But I think that's ~~was because~~ probably because ~~that~~ theres so few kids, you don't have the students <sup>that</sup> you have now. cause you have these different schools coming in to the high school ~~now~~ from all over.

me: How big was your class?

Mrs. Maki: ha ha) nine.

me: nine? (woaa)

me: we have something like ninty seven. (we laugh)

me: um ok at the school where did they eat like? was there a big ceterine? or small

Mrs. Maki: It was just a lunch ohh ~~it was~~ do you go to the national mine school? (me: yeah, yeah, how would I explain that to you it was the entrance that faces. Do you know where Lois Toyn lives up there? She lives that first house ~~was~~ right by the ~~s~~ on the left side of the road. (me: yeah, yeah, there's an entrance to the ~~sc~~)



Mrs. Maki: on that side would that be? facing the you know Menica's house you know Issic Menica. That was the north that was a high school that's where you went in (mmhmm) ~~of course~~ when you were in grade school you would go on the opposite end. of course that's different now because there's they may still use that now but there's I think there's two entrances over that since they added that area, that new kindergarten area!

me: They also added two <sup>like</sup> outdoor attachments for two grades that have their separate rooms ~~that are~~ everything separate buildings.

Mrs. Maki: well, it would have been the north entrance. The lunch room as you ~~enter~~ went in that entrance it was right to the right. It was a big room in there. (me: uh huh) There were maybe half a dozen like a big big picnic table. Boy they were nicely furnished (me: uh huh) and the seats were attached you know (me: mmh)

me: that's different too. Oh, how much, mm they didn't buy lunch then hey.

Mrs. Maki: there might of been at I don't know there might have been a milk program at one time.

me: (mmhmm) like you could buy a half a pint.

me: how much did it cost then?

Mrs. Maki: a couple pennies or something like that (me: hooo!) Now I'm not positive about that now. I might be thinking of something else.

me: Money's gone up a lot now to! (haha)

me: um, so you had lunch at your house everyday then.

Mrs. Maki: I ~~home~~ went home for lunch except for the times that I might had to practice or something. (me: yeah)

me: Who was the principle <sup>when you were in school</sup> ~~there~~ and please describe him or her?

Mrs. Maki: <sup>well</sup> that was my uncle, George Annala (ohh) I have a picture of him here. (me: ohhh) I have a picture of Mr. Bath & Mr. Annala



Mrs. Maki: (me: ohh) He was the superintendent and page 10  
my uncle was the principle, (oh) these two <sup>men</sup> were  
there you know right the kindergarden <sup>to</sup> right when  
I graduated (mm)  
me: you can't really say what he was really like cause  
he was your uncle (ha, ha)

Mrs. Maki: Well I guess I didn't really get to know what he  
was like until I got to be an adult at least I kinda  
had to put him up here you know (haha)

me: Did you have lots of homework what was it like?

Mrs. Maki: yes. we had quite a bit of homework, in fact  
started in 5th & 6th grade we started getting  
homework, but not before than maybe reading  
taking your reading book home and read other  
than that maybe we used to call English Language  
(me: ohh) until we got into Junior High then it  
was called English. before that we called it  
language we had to write sentences and thing  
like that (me: yeah)

me: Where did you hang out like after school and  
that?

Mrs. Maki: We didn't really have anywhere to hang out in  
National Mine. If you wanted to hang out some  
where you came to Ishpeming. Except for things  
at school, we used to play around the school.  
Roller skate around the school in the summer and that  
there was a baseball field right across that there  
a parking lot there now I don't know think  
that property might belong to the school now  
oh, yeah there was ski jumping around here. you  
know the kids made a hill there self and you  
know we would ride the landing we had one girl that  
would jump bumps and that that was in  
my grade.

me: did you ski?

Mrs. Maki: yeah, we used to have a little tournament  
there, called little Bluff (me: ohh) It's just down  
what's called Country Market now that was all  
cleared away then, the kids made the hill them  
setups but they did have tournaments there.  
and um we used to um get out of school the 22  
of February cause the



Mrs. Maki: ski club always had a tournament at suicide hill. We always had that day off George Washington's birthday because that's the tournament was always scheduled for that day.

me: that's neat. Describe the national mine ceremony for national mine.

Mrs. Maki: I think I got a copy of it here someplace. This was in 1944 um wow. This was all the kids in the grade. This was the girl who did the ski jumping (umm) she was the class vice president too? Yeah she was the class vice president in junior year see there's the watch chu calls and ah lets see now Norman Korpi was the one who had to go into the service. (oh) I don't know if you know any of those. Do you know any of the Kroons? (mummm) Do you know any of the Kroons? (mum) that was are graduation?

me: like do you know what did you do at the graduation?

Mrs. Maki: There was gash racing then so we all piled up in the one car and we would go all over the place downtown and kinda goof off (laugh) probably the first time in our life. (we laugh) but it was real quiet there was nothing going on there were no parties. Noone had open houses at their homes like the kids do now a days. (me: mmm) you just got you had a special dress. We had caps and gowns (me: mm) at such a big thing now you have your parties at home and then they have all night things nothing like that (me: mmm) very quiet

me: What special memories do you have of the graduation? do you have any?

Mrs. Maki: I guess I was kinda glad to get through school (we laugh) (me: yeah) Although I like school. I was going with my husband then and he was gone in the service. He was my boyfriend (both laugh) and ah married him (she laugh's) He was gone how long was he gone? Three years yeah he came back in 46 and we got married in 47. So you graduated in 44?



me: which one are you. That's me right there.

Mrs. Maki: those were taken when we were not so horrible.

me: yeah.

Mrs. Maki: This was taken later on. Elen LaCarte she had a scarlet fever so she missed school but she was able to come graduate (me: wow) you know to be in the class. (me: yeah)

me: ok, were you able to contact your childhood friends after the graduation.

Mrs. Maki: yes, the girls that were mostly in club still meet once a month. except for in the summer and like in November and December in the Holidays, we don't get together then but I would say maybe about 5 times in the year we get together.

me: Do you still get together now?

Mrs. Maki: yes uhuh. But we won't now till January when all the business is over with. (me: yeah)

me: did any of your teachers have an impact on your life?

Mrs. Maki: I think they were all people of high integrity they were good role models that I could remember.

me: did you have a special special one?

Mrs. Maki: I can't say I really had a special special one. (me: uhuh) because they were being a small school you get to know the teachers pretty well.

me: yeah you weren't just a number they knew you (she laughs) (me: yeah) we knew them maybe not anything personal about them but they were we were I think the kids really respected the teachers then. there was a healthy fear of the teacher. you know (me: yeah) and maybe sometime not so healthy but I'm they demanded your respect (me: yeah) not in a cruel way but they were you respected the teachers ~~to~~ we use to get a kick out of a lot of things they did. like they know now.

me: Do you remember anything like that everybody still remembers?

Mrs. Maki: she laughs <sup>we</sup> used to call my uncle George Billy.



~~Mrs. Maki: During um when George used to~~

Paper 15

Mrs. Maki: I'm sure there were kids that would smoke than and kids would get suspended of basketball or something from smoking or something and none of the teachers smoked or if they did we didn't know about it. (me: mmm) that was kinda one of your private things that you did <sup>not in public</sup> and gills if they smoked you rarely knew that they smoked (me: yeah) you might of known but you never saw them smoke.

me: what was your occupation did you have an occupation after you graduated?

Mrs. Maki: yes, I worked in the bank in Negaunee and at the miners bank,

me: Are they <sup>both</sup> still here?

Mrs. Maki: yes

me: Do you wanna add anything?

Mrs. Maki: no (both laugh) (me: Do you wanna say anything) I guess that's about it you know.

me: OK,

Mrs. Maki: OK, nothing exciting.

me: I'm sure I couldn't remember ~~anything~~  <sup>alot of memories</sup>

me: Well thank you very very much for the interview of you.

The  
End