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Brock Rogers Interview
with

Frank Moody

me: Hello I am Brock Rogers bringing you an Interview of Frank Moody about National Mine School.

MR. moody: Okay Are you ready to start.

me: Yeah. When and where were you born?

MR. moody: 1918 April 21, 1918

me: How many Brothers and sisters did you have?

MR. moody: I Had one brother and one sister.

me: What were their names?

MR. moody: Jim, was my brother and Helen was my sister.

me: When and whom did you marry?

MR. moody: Angie from Gwinn, my present wife.

me: How many children did you have?

MR. moody: Three Eddy would be the first one, Bud would be my second, and Lynn would be my third.

me: When and where were your parents born?

MR. moody: My father was born in 1888, in Ishpeming and my mother was born in 1886 in Ishpeming.

me: ~~both were~~

MR. moody: They went to school in the Cleveland School, in Ishpeming and then they both went to school in the Red school House here in National Mine, where the horseshoe court is now and then my dad went to Ishpeming High School where he graduated in 1900.

me: What years did you attend Natrona Mine 2
School?

MR. Moody: I started school in 1923 and graduated in 1936.

me: Do you remember any of your grade school teachers?

MR. Moody: Oh! Sure. I remember em all. MS. Braumvets,
She was a little lady from in Ohio. She was my kindergarten
and first grade teacher. And Ms. Louser, was Ruth Roberts
was my second and third grade teacher. And Mrs. Laumbled
Bill Dally's aunt was my fourth grade teacher. And Elen
Peterson, who was Mrs. August Trick was my fifth grade teacher.
My sixth grade teacher was Fanny Milimac, later was Mrs. Johnson.

My seventh and eighth grade teachers were MR. Bath. And my ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade
teachers were my English teachers were Ms. Macuskil, and Ms.
Louser, and Ms. Griggle. My physics and chemistry and
Biology teachers were MR. Griggs. My math teachers were MR.
Anala and MR. Swanson. My history teacher and my civics teacher
was MR. Bath. My music teacher was Mrs. Gleason and my
coach was MR. Gleason, Pat Gleason.

me: Do you have any humorous or funny moments about
MR. Moody: Yeah they were all funny! We had a lot of fun,
we had good teachers, lots of fights like everybody else.
But we had lots of good times, lots of parties, lots of programming
we all were involved in the plays in school there and

MR. Moody: We used to walk up the high track which us up the
back by the horseshoe court and by the ball diamond. We would walk
All the way up to where MR. Granagon the ~~man~~ used to live
and we would go up the hill where Gulletta Pat Janitor lives now
and we would go to school.

Then we would get out of school at 11:45 and run 3) all the way down the hill here to have dinner. And then run all the way back to start school again at 1:00 everyday winter or summer. Once in a while we would carry our lunches in the winter but most of the time we would like to run home. And when it came winter time we always took our sleds in the morning so we could ride all of the way down the hill at noontime. It took us about 3 minutes to get home because it was all down hill. We used to ride down Booker's Hill here come up by Rick Swanson's and pull our sleds home. And go back again and ride home in the evening.

Me: Sleds like a lot of fun!

MR. MOODY: Oh yeah!

Me: What were your favorite subject in school?

MR. MOODY: My favorite subjects were English, Biology, chemistry, and physics.

Me: Do you remember any of the teachers that you liked the most? Out of all of them.

MR. MOODY: Oh yeah the teachers that I liked the most were was MR. Griggs and MS. Makaski, who was an English teacher and MR. Bath who was an history teacher.

Me: How were the school sports and extra curricular activities?

MR. MOODY: Well all we had for sports and extra curricular activities were we had basketball and we had softball. That was organized through the Y.M.C.A. - of Ishpeming.

A guy by the name of MR. Rapphman was the coordinator.

for the Y. M. C. A. Programs, we had the Junior Softball team and naturally the Senior Softball team. And we used to play North Lake, and Ishpeming, and Junction and Orion.

me: Did you compete in any of these sports?

MR. moody: ALL of them, I was out for high school basketball for four years also.

me: How did you get to the extracurricular activities?

MR. moody: We walked to baseball and basketball game up here.

Then we used to ride the school bus an old 33 chevrolet. No, yah It was a #33, it was the first bus that they had, we would ride in that and it only had one heater in the front, The only thing that was warm was the drivers feet - All of the rest of the kids would be in the back froze. So we would go to Republic to play basketball. They used to have the center jump center line by the heaters and that was the only warm spot in the gym. And the guys used to come into the gym right under the basket on one end, and would have to watch out when they went up for a lay-up shot because they would go sliding out into the hallway there. And no showers and bathrooms, Ya would do your duty in there and that was all. No showers or nothing you would go home all sweaty and ^{ride} home in that cold old bus. Funny you didn't die.

me: yah all say!

MR moody, yah!

me: Did any of your teams win any state championships?

MR Moody: NO they got close a couple times ^{In the} But we got put out.

me: How were kids expected to act and behave?

MR. moody: well are school was a pretty disciplined school. MR. ~~Stup~~ Stup was the superintendent before MR. Bath. MR. Stup was sort of. He was a guy that stood ab out 6'6" and he could lift

a kid up by the short hair on the back of your head, or he could 5) lift you up by the collar and he would hold you out straight and he would give you a serman on the mound and you better believe that he meant it. And MR. Anala was the other one and he'd give a little boot in the back of the knee and take ~~us~~ you down the whole ^{hallway} always up the stairs and it'd take you from the present library down stairs by the arch by the lobby where MR. Sherholm is now and you would learn the discipline there. And if you goofed up after you got a little lick from him, He would send a note home to the parents and you got another one when you got home. So it was kind of stuck in the back of our minds that it was no place to screw around, but there was a few goofballs up there but the same kinds of kids ^{are} ~~were~~ in the ~~other~~ school systems. The ones that were always promoted, the fights are the ones that were never in the fights. They wanted to see a big fight but never ^{got} ~~to~~ fight themselves. And when some body would come then they would run. So most of them died, but some of them are still living.

Me: Did you have any dress codes in school?

MR. Moody: NO, The dress code was pretty standard, most of the kids wore coats, and shirts and ~~what~~ sweaters. Some of the kids that lived on farms wore overhauls, but they had to because they had chores in the morning and in the evening when they got home. And riding in their old horse drawn buggys, and ~~there~~ it was warmer for them to wear boots.

MR. Moody: Every body wore sheepskin coats, the kids everybody had sheep skin coats. And we used to have them sheep skin helmets. Like the the wiley coats and they would pull down from the top and the goggles up on the top. That was the fashion at least back then anyway.

Me: Do you have any other special foods besides that?

MR. Moody: Well ah not really, we were party people we were always ready to have a party. We had alot of parties in school. Are teachers were really good for that. They would put the parking

and then they would come in and shake around with us. We used to 6)
have a record player only it wasn't an electrical one it was an old wind up
one, but that was all there was.

Did you have any sayings that were popular?
MR. Moody: What?

Me: Did you have any sayings that were popular?

MR. Moody: No, not really there was a few.

Me: Okay. What kind of lunches did you have?

MR. Moody: You would take lunch from home and maybe once a week or maybe
once every 10 days. Cold soup, or else ^{Ms. Lynn who was a home ec teacher} she would make tomato soup, ^{cream of tomato soup} tomato soup. And
the girls in home ec. used to like that, they would bring it down to the lunch
room where Mrs. ah, the art teacher Bobby Ameen's room is. There
was no such thing as hot lunch. About every two weeks we would have
corn soup or tomato soup but all the rest of the time we carried
our own lunches. There was a rack on the wall and all the kids used
to put their lunches on there.

MR. Moody: I was in kindergarten when the school ~~burnt~~ ^{burnt}.
And we were happy because we didn't have to go to school.

We were just little guys 5 and 6 years old, so where MR.
Burgs house is now were the ~~four~~ ^{four} Hall, that was the kindergarten

and the first grade. So that where I went to kindergarten and
first grade. That used to be the old Seward Church. And we
used to go down to the well ~~and~~ ^{down} below the school where
~~Carlson~~ Carlson lives now there used to be a pump there and
we used to take turns carrying water on a pole up to the school. They
had a glass bottle there and you would use the dipper to get
a drink.

And if a kid had a cold and his nose was running it would get 7)
into the chipper. So before you know what every kid in the school
was sick. At least at that school. They had a heat killing stove. And
an old gentleman by the name of MR. Farnon used to ~~be~~ ^{be} the janitor
he used to come in the morning and light the fire. So then
he would come around noon time and stake it up again, and then
come in the evening when we left and stoked it up again. And that
was the heat that we had. We had two outside tinkle potties, one for
the boys and one for the girls. And that that was our bathrooms
for outside recreation in gym we would go outside and throw snow balls
in the winter time. And go off. And MR. Gleason was the manual
training teacher and he used to make skippers for us and we'd take a barrel
stair with a 4x4 on it and a seat on the top and put screws on it
for braces and we'd ride down the hills on them and we use to call them
skippers. We used to have a lot of fun on them. And a lot of kids with
the ~~skis~~ skis we used to have a little bluff fixed up over here and then
we had King Solomon for the bigger guys, the bigger kids to ski jump off.
And then we used to have the pond over here to skate on, all the kids
would come over here and scrap off the ice. Then the older guys would
flood it for us and we would have a place to skate on. Then we would
have a bonfire over there all the kids would hang around there. Some
used to build shacks in the bush over here in the evening and sit around there
a while and then come home.

Me: Did any of your teachers have an impact on your life?

MR. MOORE: Yes, MR. Criggs had a tremendous impact on my life. He was the
kind of a guy that you never hear a wrong answer. Because he figured if you
answered or thought that you were honest if you wrote something down on a test
or something like this he figured that you must have a good reason for it.
He was the kind of a man that he would stay after school. And you and he would
talk about this thing and he was one of the few teachers that ever did that and I
think he had a tremendous impact on all of the kids in my age group.

And I think that if you ask nine out of ten kids in the same boat (8)
as I was about MR. Griggs they would tell you the same thing. He was on top
notch guy. And he was real interested he was interested in church with the
kids, he was interested in the 4th club, he organized the 4th club for us. We had a
good 4th club we used to take are stuff down to the Marquette County Fair.
Where the Marquette Armory is there used to be the Fairgrounds in there and we
would all have are entries into the 4th club and then we would get are ribbons,
and there are prize money. And then we would have a little program on Friday
afternoon and give all of the kids there 4th program money. And ~~some~~ it worked
out real fine. Some kids had calves, some kids had pigs, some kids had gardens
some kids had chickens, some kids had handicraft, and potatoes and rutabaga.
Some farm kids were the ones that ~~we~~ won all the prizes because their fathers
were experts ~~at growing~~ potato growers. MR. Korkonen, MR. Rifa, ~~and~~
MR. Hootener, and MR. Maki. They were the guys who did all of the fancy
potatoes and the kids used to work with there dads and they used to have
tremendous showing at the fair.

Do you have any principles that you liked or didn't like the most?
Well MR. Anala was the principle there in the last two or three years I was ~~there~~
in high school. And I though a lot of him because he was a rational mine guy and I
knew him since I was a little kid and I knew if I goofed up that he would be on me
like bad so we got along real fine.

Me: When you were in high school can you like describe your graduation ^{or your senior year}
MR. Moody: Oh Sure! It was a ball I thought I hated to leave school, I liked it that much.

And I never figured on going to college. Phew! That was the furthest thing from
my mind. I wasn't going to go to school. I was going to get a job. Which I did
I went in the mine. But as far as my Senior year in school we had a Christmas
play, a Senior Class play, and a Spring play. Well MRS. Gleason was the type
of a person that she could organize any thing any time at all. And she, we kids
that were involved in these programs we had clear sailing because all we had
to do was are work, when we finished are school work then we could go practice
the play or whatever we were doing. And that went on all through high school.
And when it was the Christmas play we all participated in that the kindergarten
wright through. The older kids were in chorous and we managed to well say keep
the interest going all the time. Because most of the kids all liked it because
she was are wonderful person MRS. Gleason, apro ~~from~~ like to say she was
apro, better than most and the best among many.

That's the way I would describe her. She knew how to handle a kid. 9)
The kids all kinds of respect for her. Mrs. Lynn was a Home ec. teacher, she
used to make all of the costumes for the plays. Mr. Gleason was the manual
~~the~~ training and shop, he made all the stuff, the scenery for the play. So it
worked out fine.

me: Can you describe your graduation ceremonies?

Mr. Moody: Oh yah! Sure. I had the class will I'd will my seat to this kid,
I'd will whatever, ~~it~~ was to another kid, and will my scrap book to another kid,
my History book to someone who didn't like History, my Chemistry book with the good
marks I'd give to one of the girls, in the next class and the ones I didn't like I
gave the bad grades. Oh ~~that~~ that was the old game here, we had a lot of
fun we did a lot of practicing for our graduation. But we had a small graduating
class I think we had fifteen in our graduating class. In 1936 it so happened when
we graduated we were told we were supposed to go to school to June 5. But for some
reason or another ~~they~~ were running out of money, so they graduated us two weeks
earlier. They graduated us on May the 2nd.

me: So you got lucky hay.

Mr. Moody: Some we got luck for two weeks. I was supposed to come home with
my diploma, that I passed! ~~huh~~ I didn't know if I was going to or not,
the subject I didn't like in school was Latin, and I should have really boned
up on it, but I didn't like it. I had a real fine teacher ~~she~~. She was
a real fine Latin teacher Mrs. Makaski, I just didn't like Latin, if she
had me do it in German or Finn if I could have learned Finn I would be an A student.
But Latin no. Then in the summers we would have to go, we didn't have to
go but the kids in our location they were mostly Finns and they went to
summer school at the Finn Church. So the minister from Eskering, he and
his wife would come out here in the morning about 9 o'clock till ~~the~~ eleven
thirty and they would teach you the basic Sunday school class, but they would
teach in Finn. My people weren't Finn but everyone are stock ways Finn.
So my mother said you kids better go to the Finn summer school and

get out of my hair, some went up there my sister and I, well I 10)
learned to read and write in Finn and ever since that I've been handling it
and talking it, well in the Mine I had to talk Finn all the time. And there was
very few Swedes kids in the location, very few Norwegians, no Italians, couple
Croatians, couple of Yugoslavians and a couple of the costavokians, well those
kids could get Latin just like nothing but because ~~of that~~ it was a
permissive of their parents language. But I enjoyed it a lot, it sure payed off
some over the years. But that was the height, no swimming classes, we used to
swim in the Mine pits and in the river down there and boy that was it,
play car over, play ball, ~~play~~ picked berries, picked hazel nuts, oh yeah that was
are summer vacation. Every body had new overhauls, new running shoes, and a straw
hat that was it for the summer. If you were lucky you might get a sun shade hat -
And a hat head, every body had a bird head. Then you know when we were in the lower grades
in school the teachers would come by, and tell the kids to put their heads on the desk -
with a piece of paper well lots of the kids had lice. Well then the teacher would have
to send a note home to the parents to tell them that they had lice. So nobody would hang around
those kids nobody wanted to bring lice home with them, so then the school had some
skunk called Larkspur, Larkspur, they sent it home with the kid who had
lice. To rub it in their hair! Eventually they got rid of it. Lots of kids used to get
TB ~~tuberculosis~~ tuberculosis, for what reason I don't know it could have been here die,
it could have been from getting wet, it could have been from sitting around and not getting
properly warmed up. It was kind of a serious epidemic there for a
while. And then they came through, the department of Agriculture.
The county department of Agriculture they came through and tested
the cows in the location. Every cow that had TB they would take
it down and kill it, well then they would sell the meat back to the
people, so I don't know if that helped TB or not but it seemed to go
away. So when they killed it all the kids would be there to
get the bladder to make a football out of it or something like
like that out of it. Oh sure!
me: when you graduated do you still have friends from when you
graduated?

MR. Moody: Oh ~~sure~~ ^{sure} me: still do. MR. Moody: Oh yes some of them are dead but most of them are alive. I see them often outside of a couple of them that moved away. Come back in the summer time I run into them every once in a while. Outside from that there pretty much around here.

me: What are your fondest memories of National Mine School?

MR. Moody: The kids in general I guess and the teachers. It got along with everybody. I think that quite a bit of kids had a lot of respect for each other. We never did much fighting. Only a few good balls, but they weren't in the gang that I hung out in. Most of the kids we all hung out together and got along together. We participated in school activities and church activities and the whole works and it worked out fine. Are teachers encouraged us believe me and teachers encouraged us. They were real fine people.

me: What is the biggest change in the schools today?

MR. Moody: What? me: What is the biggest change in the schools from back then? MR. Moody: Every once in a while I come back and do some sub-teaching us you know. And when I look down the hall ways and see the discipline and things that exist there, I have to shake my head because I know when I went to school they would have never got a way with that garbage. Some of them you should rap their heads. But you not allowed to rap their heads, that's the reason that they are getting away with it. If you got ~~not~~ caught smoking you not only get sent home you got a heck of a shaking from the teacher, the Super, or the Principle. And when you got home you got another one. So you were pretty careful not to get caught, where the janitors room is in the school in the basement. That's where all of the guys

used to go and have a smoke in the corner. well sometimes 127
MR. SCROTT would come in on one end and OSCAR GWANSON the
principle would come in on the other end and sometimes they would
catch 8 to 10 kids at a time. Bingo then if they were caught
smoking they were kicked off of the basketball team, the baseball
team. so that was the discipline there that kept most of the
kids on the ball. Oh we had a few that didn't care but you find that
every where. the majority of the kids minded there own business.
Just like today, sure you got a handful of goof ball, in there today,
most of the kids were good kids.

Me: How ~~was~~ were your teaching experiences or if you were a
principle?

MR. MOODY: Yuh I teached at Elm Township school. And the kids there
were about the same as they were at National mine - we had a few
trouble makers, but the majority were real good kids - The teachers
knew all of the kids problems. The kids would confide with the teachers.
The teachers would go out of their way to help the kids. And the
teachers knew every one of the parents in the location. The parents
were all active and concerned about their kids. And they
all showed up for schools little activities the same for these sports
the basket ball, base ball, or home basket ball. they had the 7th and 8th
grade squads. And the whole community would turn out for it. A lot
of basket ball players came out of that school into I shpenny because they went there
after the finished school at Dear Lake. we would have a graduation in diat the every
Year. In the eighth grade. And we had a 4h club in the school. The girls
had home ec. for 4h and the boys had woodshop. So they would make their
stuff and bring it to the Fair, so it worked fine they all won prizes. We
had three real, real good artists in that group. we had some good
musicians like Gary Egmen, and Joe ype lngshamp, and Tedely Stale.
They were on Nashville at on time or another, or had in addition, with
them. They were good. Real good -

How were the dress codes back then?
me:

MR. moody: Just the same as they are now practically the same. The kids wore jeans or pants. most of the kids wore pants and a sweatshirt. Well there was no fancy designer jeans like now but most of the kids wore overalls. They were always dressed neat and clean good jackets, good hats, good boots, oh yab Good people up there.

me: If you had one message for the students today what would it be?

MR. moody: ~~Keep~~ keep your eyes open, ^{and} your mouth shut unless you're called on.

me: Is there any thing else that you would like to add?

MR. moody: No outside the fact that they say the kids are this, the kids are that. the kids are no different now from when we went to school. The only thing is that the kids are smarter today than we were. We were can't try burn blains. The only communication that we had was the radio, the only music we had was a record. Records ~~we~~ used to cost \$1.50 and your father only made \$3.00 a day. So you weren't getting to many records in town. And now with television and all of these videos ~~of~~ things of that nature kids are far ahead of what we were. My grandkids my little grandson's 4th grade is ~~using~~ using words that I ~~never~~ ~~heard~~ don't remember using in the 8th grade. and he knows stories about them. which I think that they have come along, long ways. Thank goodness they have some good teachers in the system.

me: Is that all?

MR. moody: I would say that's it Broke.

me: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. moody: Huh huh!