

Heather Pearson's interview
with
Dudley Nelson

Me: My name is Heather Pearson and the interviewee that I am doing is Dudley Nelson, on December 12th 1990, he was a student of National Mine and I am doing the interview at his house in Ishpeming.

Me: O.K. when and where were you born?

Mr Nelson: Ishpeming 1938, December 14, 1938 ~~1938~~

Me: O.K.

Me: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Mr Nelson: two brothers, five sisters

Me: what are their names?

Mr N: Start from the oldest Irene, Bearnice, June, Jack, Barbra, virginia, myself, and Bruce.

Me: O.K.

Me: when and whom did you marry?

Mr N: I married Zwait Pietro, September 29, 1962

Me: O.K.

Me: How many children do you have?

Mr N: two

Me: what are their names

Mr N: Pamela and Kevin

Me: when and where were your parents born?

Mr N: I don't know.

Me: ha ha ha

Mr. N: ~~He was 90 when he died, my f~~

Mr. N: My father was born in 1893

Me: hmmm.

Mr. N: In Nubert Location in National Mine

Mr. N: Do you know where Nubert Location is

Me: No, hahaha

Mr. N: It was called Nubert Location, Right were Bajouri's live now

Me: Oh I now where they live

Mr. N: Do you know where Bajouri's live

Me: ya

Mr. N: There house was right in there

Mr. N: Bajouri's house, thats where my dad lived but he wasn't born there he was born in that old house thats gone now. The next one heading over by ~~the street~~ ———.

Me: Oh o.k.

Me: what were their names?

Mr. N: My parents names

Me: ah

Mr. N: My dads name was Nels Ingwald Nelsor

Me: hahaha

Me. N. My mothers name was Lena Castacia Holme she died when she was 90

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Mr N: My mother was born then in 1896

Me: o.k.

Me: what years did you attend National Mine School?

Mr N: I started in 1942, graduated in 1956

Me: Do you remember some of your grade school teachers?

Mr N: Mrs. Gleason, Mrs. Millimaki for English and History, Sandy Millimaki

Me: oh

Mr N: Um, I can remember them, I can picture the other ones but I can't remember their names.

Me: Uh

Me: Do you remember what they were like

Mr N: nice, No they were all nice teachers

Me: ah

Me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them

Mr N: Um, that was quite a while back, No right off hand I can't

Me: o.k.

Me: Do you remember any of your junior high or high school teachers

Mr N: Um, Mr. Bath he was the superintendent

Me: Uh

Mr N: and we had Mr. Annala

Me: Oh

Mr N: who was the principal, I had him for quite a few classes, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Gleason I had him for Industrial Arts and he was the driver training teacher and the Basketball coach

Me: hahaha

Mr N: Mr. Oja I had him for typing

Me: uh

Mr N: he was the basketball coach after Mr. Gleason, I am trying to think of some of the women teachers

Me: Do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

Mr N: Mr. Annala who I had for a few classes use to always impress us work he would always ~~teach~~ ~~teach~~

Me: ha ha ha

Mr N: he was a strict teacher and a principal, but still he was a good instructor.

Me: uh

Mr N: for instance on days when you get ice storms in the Spring or the fall you know or frosty days where ice hangs on the trees when the trees are really beautiful he would always mention to us make sure everyone looks out the window and we would talk about it. Pretty thing like that ya know. Nice things

Me: hahaha

Me: how did you get to school?

Mr N: walk

Me: How far was it?

Mr N: a mile, we checked that one time it was just a little less than a mile

Mr N: I started school when I was four years old

Me: Oh

Mr N: We walked to school, back home for lunch, and back to school again.

Me: Oh, ha

Me: what was your favorite subject?

Mr N: I would guess math

Me: what was your most difficult subject?

Mr N: world History

Me: ha ha

Mr N: ha ha ha

Me: what kind of extra-curricular activities were offered there?

Mr N: Basketball, it was the only thing they had

Me: were you involved in it

Mr N: ya, I was the bench warmer

Me: ha ha

Mr N: ha ha

Mr N: but I enjoyed it, I had a lot of fun, even though I didn't play much

Me: ha ha

Mr N: In the game

Me: ya

Me: Do you remember any special moments?

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Mr N: No, but I know ~~at the~~ ^{one of the} special moments was all the way from kindergarten right through high school there was a program that we had at Christmas time and the one we put on in the spring where everybody in the whole school was in it

Me: Oh

Mr N: We enjoyed being part of it

Me: Oh

Me: Did the teams win any trophies or championships?

Mr N: I don't remember the year, around ~~1952~~ ^{through} 1954 somewhere in there they did.

Me: Oh

Mr N: but I can't tell you exactly, ya they were winning some districts

Me: Oh

Me: what affect did it have on the school?

Mr N: when we did?

Me: yes

Mr N: we were pretty excited

Me: ya

Me: How did the teams travel?

Mr N: by bus, well sometimes we used to take the drivers training car, we used to play in ~~the~~ amasa, champion well they were a high school to, Michigan, Reptini

Me: Oh

Mr N: we were class D, the lowest, most of the time though we went by bus

Me: oh.

Me: what was the farthest that you travelled

Mr N: to a game?

Me: yes

Mr N: I would guess the farthest would be up ^{by} amasa going to amasa would be the farthest

Me: has competition changed?

Mr N: Since then?

Me: yes

Mr N: Oh ya

Me: how were kids expected to act or behave?

Mr N: how were they, hahaha, they were expected to ~~be~~ behave the proper way, like ladies and gentlemen

Me: ha ha

Me: what kind of punishment was given?

Mr N: they had to go to the principal's office, I never did make that trip

Me: ha ha

Mr N: they had to go to the principal's office and what he did to them up there I don't know

Me: ah ah

Mr N: There weren't too many that were sent home from school, actual punishment I don't know what they did to them, I only remember one time, I had to go to the bathroom (the boys restroom) and clean walls because somebody had written ~~on~~ ~~the~~ walls and no body would say who it was and we all had to go and do it.

Me: ha ha

Me: how did the kids dress?

Mr N: the girls wore sweaters and skirts or dresses and at National Mine the boys wore overalls

Me: what specials lads or sayings were popular?

Mr N: there weren't as many lads as there is now a days ya know there was some, back then it was kinda like um well we had see ya later alligator, but as far as the lads go there was be cool, ya know some used to have the duck tail haircuts, like happy days the show on T.V., there was leather jackets, leather jackets were out for a while, and wearing engineering boots

Me: what was lunch time like?

Mr N: when we ate I went home everyday, very few times I ate lunch in school well I just started the hot lunch program probably when I was like a freshman, the only time I ate

Mr N: In the lunch room was when there was basketball practice at noon then I would carry a sack lunch.

Me: where did you eat lunch?

Mr N: you mean where in the school now?

Me: well did you eat like in the gym

Mr N: No, we ate in the lunch room, as you know when you come in, you now where the industrial arts, well just about across from there is the office now facing the office towards the right, what's over there now?

Me: the cafeteria

Mr N: ha

Me: the cafeteria

Mr N: that were the big lunch room was, right?

Me: O.K

Mr: what kinds of plays or programs did they put on.

Mr N: The ~~major~~ plays or programs we put on were the big one at Christmas time the big Christmas ~~at~~ program and the big one in the Spring

Me: you participated in them?

Mr N: everybody did

Me: oh

Mr N: you were singing and doing some kin

Mr N: of skit or something, you were as a group singing.

Me: Do you remember any numerous or interesting stories?

Mr N: I know there were some, some were the usual things, like boys pulling on socks, you know all that small kids stuff.

Me: ya

Me: did the school have any picnics or outings?

Mr N: I don't remember any picnics, we used to go on a field trip, took alot of field trips, outings, no not that I can remember

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

Mr N: I would say Mr. Annala with his W.O.R.K. he stressed that you have to work for anything that you want to do

Me: Could you describe your graduation ceremony?

Mr N: ^{there wasn't very many in our class} we only had fifteen in our class and we used to have the Sunday before just to have a back ground

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Mr N: and then as far as graduation was whoever the speaker was, ya know how there were certain ones, they were the school board and the valedictorian I think and we got our diploma, we went to the ~~banquet~~ in Marquette after the graduation and had something to eat and back home, there was no parties, no nothing, that was kind of a big deal for us, the only time I ever asked my dad to use the car.

Me: were you able to maintain contact with your childhood friends?

Mr N: some of them, there are some that after we graduated I have never seen since, but some I have, yes

Me: what are your fondest memories of native Mine?

Mr N: I can't think of any except that it was a well run school, I didn't really like school and why I don't know I would rather be outside doing some thing I guess it would be the basketball games, sliding down the hill in front of the school in winter time you know when you come out the front there, I don't know if that fence is still down there, we went down that way walked down that little hill, across the swamp and creek in the summer

Mr N: And then walk back up the other way we used to slide down that hill all the time in the wintertime, we had a lot of fun on it I guess I had more fun out there and in basketball than I did in school.

Me: what is the biggest change in the schools today?

Mr N: smaller independent school, and education is completely different, we had never heard of a computer, and all the classes you have no days compared to what we had, boys taking cooking classes, and girls taking industrial Arts, there was none of that ya a lot more classes compared to what we had to take we didn't have that big of a choice I would like school more now than I did when I went

Me: oh

Mr N: I wouldn't like the school part, but I would like that there is more thing that I would probably like to do. See I worked at Westwood when they built Westwood High School up there they had welding classes, they have a lot of training, we never had training at National Mine, we had industrial arts but up there you had a choice, you had welding class

(B)

Mr N: and carpentry classes, and we never had a pool or nothing like that ya know

Me: ya

Mr N: thats it.

Me: o.k.

Me: If you had a message for the students what would it be?

Mr N: work hard, so you can be what ever you want to be, act like ladies and gentlemen

Me: Do you have anything else to add

Mr N: well, I am glad I went to National Mine School, I've always been proud of National Mine School, I've always bragged up National Mine School, I've always told my kids I hope they get a chance to go to National Mine School which both of them have

Me: o.k. I think thats it

Mr N: that will do it

Me: ya, thank you