

Jack Nelson

Me: When & where were you born?

Mr. Nelson: Ishpeming, May 19th 1929.

Me: How many brothers & sisters did you have? and what were their names?

Mr. N.: Two brothers & 4th five sisters,

Me: What were their names

Mr. N.: Berniece, Irene, June, Barbara, & Virginia, and my brothers were Dudley & Bruce.

Me: When & whom did you marry?

Mr. N.: Dana Carlson.

Me: Okay & when?

Mr. N.: Uh, September 19th 1953

Me: Okay, How many children did you have? and what were their names?

Mr. N.: Three, Bradley, Faye, & Brian.

Me: Kay, Um, When & where were your parents born?

Mr. N.: Ishpeming

Me: When?

Mr. N.: Uh, Let's see, My dad was born in 1893, & my mother was born in 1894.

Me: What were their names?

Mr. N.: Nels & Lena.

Me: Kay, Um, What exact years did you attend National Mine School?

Mr. N.: All through it, from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Me: KALI, um what was the first day of school like?

Mr. N: Well what ^{grade} ~~class~~?

Me: well any day. The first year.

Mr. N: Well the first day you went into high school, the boys they use to take & they had that old pump it's just across from where Lois Toire lives, well each boy when you got into high school, they'd hold one of them pump they'd hold em' under there & pump cold water on them & get them soakin wet. and that's how they initiated them into high school.

Me: oh okay, how long was the usual school day?

Mr. N: It started at 9 & 9:00 you were out when 3:30.

Me: okay how did you get to school?

Mr. N: Walk.

Me: okay, how far was it?

Mr. N: Just a little over a mile.

Me: What kind of subjects were taught?

Mr. N: Reading, writing, & arithmetic, ^(laugh) We didn't have to many subjects, English, English

Me: History, math,

Did you have gum?

Mr. N: Yes.

Me: Did you have shop?

Mr. N: Yes.

Me: Um what was your favorite subject?

Mr. N: ~~Math~~

Me: Why?

Mr. N.: Cause I liked it + I got good grades in it.

Me: Okay, what was your most difficult subject, + why?

Mr. N.: History, because I wasn't interested in it.

Me: Okay, how were kids expected to act + behave?

Mr. N.: How were the kids expected?

Me: To act.

Mr. N.: They had to behave ~~not~~ otherwise they got clobbered.

Me: How did kids dress back then?

Mr. N.: All we ever wore were overalls + shirts. Girls wore dresses.

~~Mr. N.:~~ Were there any special fads or sayings

Me: when you were young?

Mr. N.: We didn't have none really.

Me: Do you remember any of the music you guys use to listen to?

Mr. N.: That was long before rock + roll. (laugh.) I can't remember what kind of music there was.

Me: What kinds of extra curricular activities were offered?

Mr. N.: Basketball.

Me: Did you join any of them?

Mr. N.: Yes, I played basketball for four years.

Me: Did any of the teams win a trophy or a tournament?

Mr. N.: Well let's see, not the years I played they didn't rope.

Me: How did the teams travel + how far did they go?

Mr. N.: Well during the war we had 5.

to go by car cause they didn't have money. In the 40's there ~~was~~ when the war was on they couldn't afford gas, we'd drive in the coaches car & a couple of the teachers cars.

Me: Well what was the farthest ^{that} you ever went?

Mr. N.: Marquette & Champion were the farthest we ever went.

Me: Who was principle when you were a student?

Mr. N.: Oh yeah George Annala was the principle. Yeah Walter, Walter T. Bath he was the Superintendent.

Me: could you describe them?

Mr. N.: (laugh) I don't know, not really.

Me: Describe your books?

Mr. N.: Books?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. N.: How do expect me to remember way back & have a hard ~~time~~ ^{job} remembering yesterday?!!? What do you mean describe the books?

Me: Well Like, I don't know.

Mr. N.: They were kind of lettered & torn because they couldn't afford to keep buying books every year, every couple years, some of them books were used for many, many years. They were so worn out that the covers were falling off & the pages were missing &

Me: Did you gets lots of homework?

~~Me:~~

N.: Yeah we use to get home work,
I wouldn't say a real lot but we
got home work.

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Me: What was lunch time like?

Mr. N.: Lunchtime, I went home for lunch,
I walked home over a mile home & a
mile ~~over~~ little over a mile back.
I went home for lunch there was
no, there was no a hot lunch
program, or cafeteria they just
had a lunchroom where everybody
carried their lunch in a bag & ate
out of the bag.

Me: Kay, Describe recess.

Mr. N.: Describe recess (laughs) oh, kids
use to go out & play.

Me: Did you ever like play ~~baseball~~ ^{Football} or
baseball in the parking lot or anything?

Mr. N.: Yeah, we use to play baseball, shoot
marbles on the cement there.

Me: Did you have any special plays or
programs?

Mr. N.: Yeah, they use to put on christmas
program during the year they'd put
on a play too.

Me: Did you ever participate in any?

Mr. N.: Yes, but I can't even remember what
I did in it. I was in a couple of them
but I can't even remember ^{now} what I did in it.

Me: Do you remember anything interesting
about them?

Mr. N.: Not really, I just remember ~~7~~ beginning them but I can't even remember what they were about now.

Me: Do you remember the graduation ceremony there? IN National Mine?

Mr. N.: Yes, we had graduation

Me: Like was it long & formal?

Mr. N.: Yeah, they had it three different nights. How was it now? The last night...

The preacher talked one night. Well we there three nights.

Me: What special memories do you have of graduation?

Mr. N.: I don't know we went over Tom Heaten's camp & had a big party. I know that. (laughs)

Me: Were you able to stick with your friends after high school?

Mr. N.: Some of them, one of my best friends Bitter Nel we went in the service together on the same day.

Me: Oh, Did you have any teachers that had a great impact in your

Mr. N.: ^{life?} ~~the~~ George Annala, he did.

Me: Did you have any special yearly outings? ~~like~~ Like picnics or anything?

Mr. N.: You mean for school? I know the outing we had we use to go plant trees in the school forest. You know where the

School forest is?

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Me: Yeah!

Mr. N.: Yeah, we were the ones that planted them when it first started.

Me: Did any tragedies occur when you were in school?

Mr. N.: No I don't think so. No nothing ever happened to our classmates.

Me: What do you think is the biggest change in school since you were a student?

Mr. N.: How do I know I don't go to school anymore, how do I know what the changes are. I don't know what's going on in school ~~any more~~ now days.

Me: What are your fondest memories of ~~school~~ National Mine?

Mr. N.: Well the students I associated with. Some of the classes ~~which~~ were interesting, some were boring.

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

Mr. N.: Study hard & get a good education, so you can go on to college & get a half decent job. When you're in high school prepare yourself take courses that will prepare yourself for college. Calise in this day & age it's very important. That's all I got to say.

Me: Did they have a college that you went to? 9.

Mr. N.: I never went to college, couldn't afford it

Me: Did you know anybody that went to college?

Mr. N.: Oh yeah, I've got classmates that went. Do you want to know who or what?

Me: Yeah!

Mr. N.: Oh, Melvin Hale he went to college, he ~~became~~ became a druggist. But you in my class, he went to school to become a school teacher. Let's see, I don't know. At the time when we graduated we had the largest graduating class up until that date, we had 18. And that was the largest class up until 1947 to graduate from National Mine.

Me: Cool!

Mr. N.: We had the largest class I don't know what was after that but up until 1947 we had the largest class.

Me: Cool! Did you get a job after high school?

Mr. N.: Yeah, I went to work for CCI down at the I don't know the name, down by Teal Lake, the mine down by Teal Lake, Cambridge Mine.

Mr. N.: I went to work there & then,
then I went in the service.

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Me: What happened after that?

Mr. N.: When I came out?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. N.: Well I got job on the police force in
Ishpeming.

Me: Cool!

Mr. N.: And then I got a job at the powder mill,
& then I worked on construction & then
I was back to work again for ~~the~~ the
second time for CCI.

Me: at the Tilden.

Mr. N.: No ~~at~~ at the Pioneer, that's down in
Eagle Mills, that's closed now.

Me: Oh, when did you start working at the
Tilden Mine?

Mr. N.: 79' 1979 when the Pioneer closed
down, that's when I transferred ~~to~~ to

Me: the Tilden.
and you've been working there ever
since then?

Mr. N.: That's right.

Me: What do you like to do in your spare
time?

Mr. N.: Now?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. N.: Hunt, fish.

Me: When did you first go hunting?

Mr. N.: When I was old enough to shoot a gun. (11)

Me: And when was that?

Mr. N.: I got my first gun when I was 7 years old. My first 22.

Me: When did you start driving?
~~Mr. N.:~~ Like when were kids aloud to start driving?

Mr. N.: Oh, let's see, at that time you could get your regular drivers licence at 14. But you could get a permit to drive with an adult at 12. So I started driving when I was 12.

Me: Cool!

Mr. N.: Yeah 14 you could get your regular drivers license, drive alone at 14.

Me: When did you get your first car?

Mr. N.: 1947 a 32 Ford, 34 Ford, 34 Ford.
1934 Ford in 1947 I bought my first new one in 1949. A new Chevrolet.

~~Me:~~ What's next?
Me: When did you get your first house?

Mr. N.: When we got married.

Me: And where were you living?

Mr. N.: First house you bought, or first house you lived in?

Me: First house you bought.

Mr. N.: On Cottage Street, that's the first house I bought that one + this one the other place we were just renting.

Me: Where did you live when you were a little kid?

Mr. N.: National Mine. New England Location.

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Me: Did they have a street name?

Mr. N: No, where Uncle Brodkey lives now that's where I was born & raised. There was no numbers on those streets then now there's now there's a letters I guess. That they put up for those roads there was nothing on them then they just called it New England location. Number 8 loc. they had all kinds of names for it.

Me: After school um, what did you use to do with your friends?

Mr. N: Well, we use to go swimming in the mine pits, & then we use to go sleigh riding in the winter time, & Halloween we use to dump over our houses. See who could dump over the most out houses in one night. And Walter Bath who was the superintendent, we use to like to get his first. We'd dump his over every year.

Me: Was anybody ever in them?

Mr. N: Walter Bath was stayin in one night, he said I'll catch them this time he sat in there & we pushed it over on the door so all of his head was sticking out through the ~~door~~ hole he couldn't get out of there, 'cause we pushed it over on the door.

Me: That would be funny!
Mr. N: He had his head sticking out through the

hole hollering that he couldn't get 13.
out of there.

Me: Um, did you have any girl friends in
highschool?

Mr. N.: Yeah, but I don't remember their
names.

Me: They weren't that important were they?

Mr. N.: NO.

Me: They didn't have like a prom ~~or~~ or dances
did they?

Mr. N.: NO.

Me: Well, do you have anything ^{else} you'd like
to add?

Mr. N.: I can't think of any thing. Back in
those days there wasn't too much
activity going on when you were
in highschool you know.

Me: ~~uh huh~~ uh huh.

Mr. N.: The only sport was basketball.

Me: They didn't have track?

Mr. N.: No, they didn't foot ball, didn't have
track, they didn't have baseball, they
didn't have ... nothing. All they had was
basketball. That was the only sport they
had.

Me: OK. Well thank-you very much!