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ERIC BASHAW'S INTERVIEW
with
Dan Rintamaki

Me: My name is Eric Bashaw it's December 12, 1990 and your Dan Rintamaki and the purpose of this interview is to figure out what it was like to go to National Mine when it was a high school and the interview is taking place at Dan's house and you gotta do a brief biographical sketch for me

Dan: Okay how do you want me to start 'em ~~at~~

me: Whenever it is just brief

Dan: Well I went to National Mine high school I went 12 years of school graduated in 1953 I graduated in a class that seems to me had 11 students or graduates, uh, do you have some questions in particular

me: yeah I got some here.

me: When and where were you born?

Dan: I was born in Marquette Michigan on ~~the~~ August 11, 1935

me: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Dan: I have twin sis- uh, three sisters twin but no brothers

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me: When and whom did you marry?

Dan: I married uh, Maritan Hootery ~~the~~ she's from Champion
we
~~the~~ got married September 4, 1954.

me: how many children do you have?

Dan: We have 14 children 7 boys and 7 girls

me: could you name them

Dan: okay starting with the oldest is sheryl, Carl, Curtis, Cathlene,
Carlene, Edward, Matthew, Lois, Peter, Elita, Martha, Eva, Timothy, and Brett.

me: lots of kids wa'.

Dan: Ha

me: How, what years did you attend National mine school

Dan: I started in first grade in 1941, and I graduated in 1953

me: Do you remember some of the names of your grade school teachers.

Dan: yeah yes I do, Mrs. Magnusson she was Miss Mason when I
had her first grade, uh, I remember Mrs. Gleason, very well she
was a music teacher for many years, uh, a Mrs. Sundberg
taught second grade a Mrs. Warnberg, third grade, Mrs.
Johnson taught fourth and fifth grade together in those days
4th & 5th were in the same classroom, a Mrs. Trich for 6th grade

Dan: and uh in Junior High Mr. Gleason, was the shop teacher, Mr. Booth was the superintendent, Mr. George Annala was the principal, he was a very very good teacher, Mr. Austin Linberg, who has passed away he was a math teacher and a history teacher also Mr. Thomas, Clarence Thomas, he was a chemistry and biology teacher he was a very good teacher

Me: do you have any interesting or humorous stories about your grade school teachers?

Dan: grade school teachers? uh. I don't remember anything too humorous but I do remember a Mrs. Sundberg who was a great teacher she was a good teacher and often she would had us doing special little projects and I remember uh one of them, we had to monitor the weather we had to go outside and take the temperatures every day and uh kind of keep a diary of the weather, and it seemed to help keep the class together that was during World War II. I don't recall anything particular anything through the grades

Me: Do you have any interesting or humorous stories about your Junior High teachers?

Dan: no not really, they were all really good teachers and we didn't have any problems uh. I do remember Mr. Thomas who was the chemistry teacher always had a knack to be able to see things without even looking

What was your first day of school like?
 Me: ~~Do you remember your first day of school?~~

Dan: I don't even remember my first day of school, but I do remember being in first grade with Mrs. Magnusson and she had the class divided into two groups according to their reading ability. I remember that one group was called the squirrels and one was called the bunnies?

Me: How long was your school day?

Dan: Uh we used to ride the bus I think we would leave home somewhere around 8 o'clock and we would get home shortly after 4 o'clock.

me: hum

Me: how far was school from your house?

Dan: about seven miles.

me: what kinds of subjects were taught?

Dan: Well in the grade school all the very basics of reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, history, then in junior high we got into a little bit more math and uh I think the well for at least most of us boys was in 7th grade we started to have a shop class so we learned to make things out of wood and metal and so on.

me: I'll bet that was fun

me: what was your personal favorite subject?

Dan: uh I kinda liked history and math until it started to get too complicated but in high school naturally my favorite was the shop and said to say there wasn't nearly as much offered now, but what we did have was a lot of fun and we had a good shop teacher.

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me: What was your most difficult subject?

Dan: I think I probably had the most trouble with it in high school at least was chemistry and the higher math in the grade school I don't recall having any trouble serious trouble with any of them one of the subjects I didn't like was economics which was offered in high school I didn't care for that all.

me: How were the kids expected to behave?

Dan: the kids were to behave themselves and for the most part I think everybody did uh there was a very high respect for teachers and the teachers did have uh had good control over the school, there were very little discipline problems.

me: What kinds, when kids, ~~did~~ did something bad what kinds of discipline acts were used

Dan: well if someone done something wrong they were usually talked to by either the principal or the superintendent in the office if it was something of a more serious ~~serious~~ nature or maybe a second offence they would be expelled from school and required to uh have their parents come to school to be able to return and discuss the matter and take care of it.

me: How did the kids dress?

Dan: uh for the most part uh the boys wore jeans and dress shirts and uh everyone was neatly dressed, and for the most part I believe the girls wore dresses.

me: Were there any special sayings or a any special sayings used when you were young

Dani: I don't recall anything in particular

me: What music did you listen to?

Dani: I think the most popular then was what we call cowboy music or country and western but it was, it was much different than the country and western of today.

me: What's kinds of extracurricular activities were offered?

Dani: Well there wasn't really much other than high school basket ball there was, there were a few who took part in foreman's but that was about the extent of it.

me: Which ones did you participate in

Dani: I did uh play basket ball in high school

me: okay

me: did any of the teams win a trophy or a tournament

Dani: we were district champions in uh 50-53, 51, 52, 53, 52, 53 we were district champions and I remember one year I don't recall which one it was were we had a ~~very~~ very close game were we almost became runners up for the U.P. in those days were in class E and the U.P. would have been considered the state championship ~~that~~ but we didn't reach that far

me: What, if you won a tournament what effect did it have on the school?

Dani: Well, I don't know if it had too much effect everybody was hoping to win for example when we did win the district champion tournament everyone was happy, other than that I don't know of any else particular

me: How did the teams travel from game to game?

Dani: the teams usually road in cars we had a driver training car the superintendent Mr. Book used his car and the fans road on a bus. at that time there were only 2 buses in the district one privately owned ~~Mr.~~ and one owned by the district

me: how far away was your farthest game?

Dani: we had traveled to Vassel and to trout creek and uh in the other direction trenary.

me: who was the principal when you were a student?

Dani: Mr. George Annala was the principal

me: Could you describe him?

Dani: He was a very dedicated teacher and principal he had a very high standards, high standards, he was an excellent teacher he expected his students to put forth there best effort and when they did they were rewarded for it, he was a very fair teacher in marking he didn't, if someone tried real hard and even though they weren't doing real well he gave them a lot of credit, he was a very very good teacher

me: How much homework did you get?

Dan: uh in those days homework that we did receive for the most part perhaps one or two study books per day ~~and~~ if you knuckled down ^{during study hall} ~~you could get~~ ^{you} ~~most of~~ your home work done in school so personally I brought very very little homework home I was able ~~to do most of it in school~~ to do most of it in school

me: what was your lunch time like?

Dan: well it was ~~always~~ always at 12 noon the ~~hot~~ hot lunch program was introduced when we were in junior high school it was a one hour period in the winter time we were aloud to go into the gym to shoot basketball or have a little scrimmage, summer times in the fall and in the spring we usually played ^{baseball} ~~football~~ ^{Sometimes played} ~~baseball~~ ^{football}

me: could you describe the food?

Dan: the food was good we had our neighbor Mrs Otto Anderson, wash cook and she was an excellent cook and I think for the most part all of the foods were surplus, government surplus but they were well prepared and the meals were always good

me: How much did a lunch ticket cost?

Dan: seems to me, ^{I'm not sure if I remember this right} ~~this may not be right~~ 10¢ a meal or maybe 15¢ a meal to begin with

me: where was the cafeteria?

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Dan: Uh, next to the shop north end of the building I don't know what is in there there known was the cooks, where the cooking was done then the lunch room was right across the hall, now it's been a while since I've been there so I don't know what is in there do you know?

me: It could be the art room

Dan: Oh, is the superintendent's office then is next to that it is a room facing north or outside towards the flag pole is on that end

me: ya that's the art room now

me: how long was your recess time?

Dan: Well in grade school we had a morning and afternoon recess which was for 15 minutes, and of course the lunch room was 1 hour

me: did you have any special plays or programs in school

Dan: yes every year I think the big program was the Christmas program and it was usually put together by Mrs. ~~Stinson~~ Stinson who was the music and kindergarten teacher, then in the spring there was what was often called the spring operetta uh, if I recall the whole school participated in one way or another especially in the Christmas program

me: Did you participate in any Christmas plays

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Dan: Yes, I had been I think through, through at least grade school I don't think I did too much after grade school other than having to sing with the boys music class

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

Dan: Well I had one personal one that I remember we did were three of us that had a part in the Christmas program in that Santa Claus had made a mistake in we received dolls for Christmas, and so that was all acted out all the way through the final part, there was ^{the} three ^{of us on stage} ~~of us~~ rocking our little dolls.

me: How long were your vacations, Christmas or Easter?

Dan: We usually had about two weeks for Christmas that varied by a few days I suppose upon which day Christmas fell on and then there were some years we had a one week Easter vacation and there were some years we only had a good Friday, perhaps Thursday and good Fridays off

~~me: Could you~~

me: Could you describe the graduation ceremony at National Mine?

Dan: uh it was quite simple and it was it didn't last very long uh I think its similar to what we see today uh but being that there were so few participants or few graduates it didn't take very long for, class salutatorium, and valedictorian, would each give a short speech and then there were a few songs by the girls or perhaps by the school music classes, the procession was pretty much the same as it is now but by prompt circumstances

me: Do you remember the valedictorian and salutatorium?

Dan: ya I believe the our valedictorian was elvira ~~was~~ saaris and I think the salutatorium was Mrs. Johnson who is the teacher at National Mine now

me: What special memories do you have of the graduation

Dan: no I don't no if I had to much, I just remember I was glad to get through school (haha)

me: were you able to maintain contact with your childhood friends

Dan: uh a few that actually live in our neighborhood other than that there are ^{some} a few that I haven't seen since I left school, a few of our class I have seen on occasion other than that I haven't seen for years and years

(2)

me: Do, did you have any teachers that had a great impact on your life?

Dan: ya I would say of all of them I would ~~say~~ ^{think} ~~say~~ ^{think} Mrs. Annala who was also the principal he was a very, as I mentioned a sound, stable, attitude toward society, toward learning, and I think I carried that respect for him over onto this day.

me: did you have any special yearly outings when you were at school?

Dan: no I don't recall any such thing other than going on any such field trips, like our shop class took a trip to the flooring mill and then driven ed. started when I was well maybe only 2-3 years before I took driven ed. and uh they used to sponsor a rodeo, they called it driven ed. rodeo in Marquette by the old John B. Pierce school and uh we went to that it was sort of a competitive thing many of the schools were represented there and you had a certain course to drive you were graded and the one who did the best was awarded some kind of certificate.

me: did any tragedies ~~occur~~ ^{or any thing else bad} ~~occur~~ when you were in school.

Dan: I don't recall of any, I don't remember of any tragedies, but I do recall the war years WW II years when when many families were affected by those who were serving in the army or the armed forces and I also remember then when the war was over and the U.S. was the victor, but I think that would have been the biggest thing otherwise I don't recall anything special

me: did any one you knew die in the war?

Dan: yes there were a few ^{some} I didn't know ~~of~~ ^{very} well who had gone to National Mine school I ~~know~~ knew who they were but I was much ~~you~~ younger than ~~them~~ ^{then} they were and quite a few who had gone into the service and were wounded

me: what do you think is the biggest change in school since you were a student

Dan: I don't know it seems as though there have been changes but I don't know exactly what would be the biggest change maybe the variety in the things that are offered compared to then for example the vocational courses that are offered now especially now at Westwood I think the extracurricular activities are a big change than that it was in those days

me: What are your fondest memories of National man?

Dan: Well I have only good memories really I don't have any bad memories of school days I think of all the teachers that we had for the most part they were according to our standards a little strict but yet they were still friends, um. I was um maybe a little bit closer relationship being that the school was small K-High there wasn't many students, it seemed as though you knew every one ~~there~~ so ^{there} it was like a family atmosphere which seems to be lacking today I'll hold those as good memories.

me: did any of the big kids pick on the little kids
Dan: of there was always a little bit of ~~money~~ ^{money} business but I think for the most part everyone got along quite well

me: if you had a message for the students today, what would it be?

Dan: uh take advantage of your school years, try to uh, uh work on those things you might be especially in, try to learn all you can about them and if you have some ideas about furthering your education to take all the preparatory courses and things that you can now that which would really help you if you go on to school even if you didn't go on to school I think it is important to make the most of your school days and years uh, 'cause they only happen to you once

(15.)
me: do you have anything else you'd like to ~~add~~ add?

Dan: uh, I don't really see of anything other than I would say that the National Mine school system as I was in those days and ~~see~~ even as it is today ~~see~~ had high high standards and was recognized in the education field and many who attended National Mine High school graduated from there became successful in education field and the business world and so so I think all in all the National Mine school district was a good good district

me: Well that's all I got Can't think of any more questions

Dan: okay

me: ~~It~~ Thank you for your time and everything