

page 1

Liz Ross's Interview
with
Mr. Dominic TASSON

me: This is Liz Ross and I'm going to interview Mr. Dominic Tasson. Today is December 19, 1990
When and where were you born?

Mr. Tasson: Ishpeming, 1936

me: How many brothers and sisters do you have and what are their names and ages?

Mr. T.: I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters. My oldest sister is Elizabeth and she is 55, my younger sister is Constance who is 53, my brother Sebastian who is 51 and Jim Chip, I believe a brother Peter how old is Peter Anne Marie 45 brother Peter is 45, brother Jay is 38 or 40.

me: OK. How many of them went to National Mine?

Mr. T.: none of them

me: Do you know where they went to school?

Mr. T.: They all graduated from Ishpeming High School, as did I.

me: When and who did you marry? Her name?

Mr. T.: I married my wife Anne Marie in 1958 in October.

me: Do you have children names and ages?

M. T: 3 children Angela, Lisa, and Gina. and they are now old Anne Marie. Angela is 31, ~~31~~ ^{Luis is 28 and} Gina is 27.

me: Did they go to National Mine?

M. T: No they did not they also graduated from ~~the~~ ^{the} high school.

me: what year did you attend National Mine school

M. T: I taught in National in 1962 and I taught for 4 years and I left in 1966.

me: Do you ^{like} remember any of the teachers that you liked or teachers that you hang around with or anything?

M. T: Oh yes there was Mr. and Mrs. Gleason who was there at the time, Mr. Bosberg, Mrs. Magnuson, Mr. Rucinski turned out to be the principle and then later on Superintendent, Mr. Kudo who is still there, I remember the cooks we had wonderful cooks, Andrea Anderson and Myla Culbert, Bill Newman was the principle for a while, Penny Lindberg was the principle when I started teaching there Mr. Bath was the superintendent after a year I was there Mr. Bath retired and Mr. Lindberg got the Superintendent job then a fellow by the name of Mr. ~~Wagner~~ ^{Wagner} became the principle

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

M. T: I don't think I do right off hand I don't remember anything humorous

me: Do you remember any of you Junior High or High School and teachers what were they like?

Mr. T: I don't think that would apply to me because I was a teacher not a student I do remember some of the students in fact one of them is ~~teaching~~ teaching up there right now Mr. Gray I had him as a student he moved to Munising I think the following year he was a sophomore or junior and I had him in Chemistry and I also had him in Mathematics Class. and he was a very good student.

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

Mr. T: I don't remember any humorous stories he was always very serious

me: Do you remember any humorous that's what I just asked. How was the school day and what time did you start?

Mr. T: We used to start by ~~at~~ I'm not quite sure I remember that I think we used to start around 8:00 A.M. and get finished about 3:15. 5 to 3:15

me: How did you get to school and how far was it?

Mr. T: It was about 3 miles I used to drive I also used to pick up what was then kids ~~the~~ first name Len? ... I used to pick up a few on fields used to go to school in Thelma mine. and they used to live at her first their Auntie

M.T.: Their father died father got killed in the mine they live with their aunts they were enrolled in National Mine and I used to pick them up in the morning and take them to National Mine school.

me: what subject did you teach?

M.T.: I taught physics Chemistry, General Science, and Mathematics including General Math, Algebra, and Advanced.

me: Do you remember how the kids dressed.

M.T.: Pretty much the same as they do now not too much different mostly maybe basic basic no slacks right the girls didn't wear any jeans at the time the girls always had dresses on and the boys had mostly just jeans and flannel shirts, sweaters the girls did not wear any jeans or slacks to school they always wore dresses as I said

me: did hate that. Were there any special kids and sayings?

M.T.: Not that I can remember.

me: How did the teachers dress?

M.T.: The teachers were dressed up to sport coats shirts white shirts ties that's changed quite a bit.

me: How far?

Mr T: Trout Creek. I don't know exactly how far it is 70
80 miles I think at the most.

me: Do you remember any special cheers for the teams?

Mr T: Oh yes I don't remember any.

me: How would you describe your academic performance?

Mr T: I think that question is more for a former student
I used to give it the best shot I had when I
used to teach up there

me: What was lunchtime like?

Mr T: Lunchtime? A little hectic everybody go through the
lunchline. The meals were out of this world we
had milk and bread was like I mentioned before and
Mycaul Culbert. ~~that was perfect~~ everybody would enjoy
you. you probably could not go in the restaurant and get
any better. Big meals need help. Lacked dishes and what not

me: Who was the principle when you were there?

Mr T: When I was fired up there it was Mr Lindberg was
did a very good job very conscientious very organized
and after that he became superintendent and still did
a very nice job. Then Mr. Groman became principle
Mr. Groman was very much different than Mr. Lindberg.
He also did a very good job. Mr. Milman was
more outgoing Mr Lindberg was not quite so out

cont.
M.T.: But they both did an excellent job in their class way.
John. Mileman has since died. I think he died a couple
of years after the National Mine.

Me: Did the schools have any special picnics or
anything?

M.T.: I taught we had a summer program ~~once~~
~~year~~ I think it was called a ~~hunting~~ program. We
used to take the kids on a picnic at least once a
week during the summer program. We used to
go to which is now called Vanhiser State Park. We
used to call it Champaign Beach at the time and we
used to go there once a week take the kids.

Me: Did any of you or the fellow teachers have an impact
on you?

M.T.: Mr. Gleason, I guess did he was probably the best and
the teacher up there at the time and uh he gave
me a lot of good pointers.

Me: Do you remember what your graduation ceremony was
like?

M.T.: They used to have all the kids up on stage
and the Superintendent would present the class with
the parents with the audience which was mostly
parents.

MIT: With speeches from the Sordidistioner (Victor) then they would come up and get their diploma, at the same time and march down the Auditorium which is the gym at Matigal Hill at the time and walk through the auditorium.

me: Do you have any special memories as a young graduate?

MIT: And again I think that question applies to a student

me: Did you ever write a poem?

MIT: No I don't like poetry

me: I love poetry.

MIT: You love poetry.

me: Yeah Did you have a prom?

MIT: I don't remember if the kids at that time had a prom I believe they did

me: Did any tragedies occur when you were teaching

MIT: Yes, there was a real tragedy I don't remember exactly what year I remember the date because it's our anniversary our Wedding Anniversary it was Oct. 25 probably Oct. 25, 1964 or 65 I would guess something like that. It was the first period after lunch and this one girl by the name of she was Becky Ooster and she passed out at her locker right by my door. She passed out

109
M^{cont.}
M: Coming to the first class after lunch and the kids came and got me and said Mr Taron Berkley passed out and when I got out to the room she was unconscious by the and Mr Kewling and I worked under trying to resuscitate her and we called a doctor the doctor came up there the little girl never regained consciousness she died.

M: That's sad where you ever like able to maintain contact with the other teachers?

M^T: We used to have lunch together the teachers used to have lunch together Mr Kedo, Mr Kewling, Mr Gleason I think we were the only men teachers up there at the time. that's about it.

M: When you taught up at National Mine did Mr Kedo teach shop?

M^T: Yes he taught shop no lets see Mr Kedo Mr Gleason used to teach wood. what did Mr Kedo teach?

M: Do you have a fondest memory when you were a teacher at National Mine?

M^T: Yes we had small classes at the time and some very, very good students.

M: Did you ever have to discipline the students for acting out or talking out of turn?

MT: Well used to have to talk them once in a while usually that was enough:

me: If you could give a message to the kids today what would it be?

MT: While you're in school you fail to see them anyway why not try to learn something.

me: Do you have anything you would like to add?

MT: No I don't think so. except that I enjoyed the 4 years I was at National Mine.