

Me: My name is Hannah Hill and I am interviewing Gardner Wallberg at his home. Today's date is November 17<sup>th</sup> 1996. The focus of our interview is when Gardner was a janitor at North Lake School.

Me: What is your full name?

Mr. G.: My full name is Gardner Andrew Wallberg.

Me: What is your birthdate?

Mr. G.: My birthdate? April the ninth, 1929

Me: How old were you when you started school?

Mr. G. When I started school at North Lake? They didn't have any Kindergarten in 1935, so I couldn't start in 1935. I started in 1936 & <sup>started</sup> right in the first grade.

Me: Okay. How old were you?

Mr. G. Six years old.

Me: Oh. And you started at North Lake?

Mr. G. At North Lake.

Me: What were some of your jobs as a janitor at North Lake?

Mr. G. Well I don't like to have the term used janitor.

Me: Oh, okay

Mr. G. You a custodian

Me: Okay.

Mr. G. You are a custodian, you are the custodian of the building. And I started at North Lake School, in the summer of 1961. I got hired by Mr. <sup>Golthe</sup> Golthi, the superintendent, to do a lot of maintenance work on the building, painting, putting up the windows & just dressing up the whole building. And then when school started in the fall part time \_\_\_\_\_ And he, Mr. Golthi and I \_\_\_\_\_

excuse me. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ holding the roof and Bill Arnold came up and told Mr. Golthi that he won't be back to drive bus. It was a part time job, it was 3 hours a day and ah see I got that job.

and then in March of 1962 a full time custodian busdriver  
his name was Eral Koskimaki, he retired. Then I got his  
job. so I was a busdriver custodian, I used to drive  
the school bus 100 miles a day. I had to go all the way  
out to North Ishpeming and I picked up the kindergarten  
class. They had to kindergarten classes, one in the morning  
which were the children from Deer Lake, Cooper Lake and  
West Ishpeming and then I took them home and pick  
up the afternoon class, which were children from North  
Lake, and all the surrounding plattes around there.  
And ah well any way my other duties then was  
doing custodian work in the school. At that time  
there I was working 54 hours a week.  
That's a long time; work was. There was  
the salary that wa 300<sup>00</sup> a month. There  
were no benefits, no insurance, nothing,  
that was it. That's quite a bit of  
hours putting in; 54 hours a week. But  
eventually time went on where people  
who worked <sup>over 40 hours</sup> ~~over 40 hours~~ got overtime. They  
gradually started cutting down the hours.  
But ah my jobs were driving the bus  
a hundred miles a day and then in  
the morning before school I used to  
pick up a man called Warner Tollanen  
He was the custodian of the school.  
I picke up him in the morning, 6:30  
in the morning then I would get to  
the school and shovel coal into the

first  
work

into the hopper, the (gritters) were fired by coal and fill up the hoppers in the morning and clean out the boilers, take the clinkers out and ah — then I would go on a bus run and when I came back from the bus run, all the runs, I would come back at about 9:00.

when I got back from school, my job was to clean all the laboratories, all the laboratories

There was 3 boys and 3 girls on the other side of the building, go up and down the hallways, sweeping and dusting all the stairways & when I got all that

done it was time to take the kindergarten kids home then when I came back at nite, or after the run from bring

the kindergarten back, I had other duties to do, go through the same thing again!

Go through all the laboratories sweep everything, especially if there was alot of mud and the washrooms needed to be cleaned, just do everything again.

The same thing, same routine. Then bring the kindergarten home —

By that time we had students coming from Ishpeming Township, tuition students. Some to — school,

and some to high school, Ishpeming Township,  
8<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade went to Ishpeming North Lake  
was kindergarten through seventh. And also —  
kids went to St. Johns School in Ishpeming  
— So anyways when I was done bringing  
the kindergarten kids home — all these  
kids from North Lake to where they went  
and the kids I had transported the ones  
from North Lake were the ones that  
went to Salem platte and all the plattes  
throughout the area there and down to West  
Ishpeming. We had other buses on other  
routes, then I went to pick up all the  
kids from Ishpeming and bring them all the  
way up North Ishpeming and back and when  
I got back about 4:30 in the afternoon.  
So then, on weekends, I used to work 9  
hours a day — . Then when, Saturday  
I was a custodian at night and had to  
clean the whole school, move all the desks, sweep  
the floor, mop it with the buffing machine,  
move all the desks back, clean all the  
wall lockers out, Mr. Goethe was the  
Superintendent and he wanted it all  
cleaned up, top shape. He was a man who  
wanted excellence and he ~~wanted~~<sup>got</sup> it. And  
ah, — whe could've finished that whole  
job on Saturday, but the church was using  
the school on Sunday for Sunday school,

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on Sunday morning, so we did that on Saturday and worked another half day on Sunday. Then by the end on Saturday night - after cleaning, checking the building, fill up the stoker with coal, so there could be a fire during the nite, then do the same thing Sunday nite, so when you added all the time we put in, it came to 54 hours a week. That alot.

Me: That's alot of hours.

Mr. W: Yea, then later on we had another man, his name was — Arenault. His title was mechanic; did all the maintenance on the buses, busdriver, lead man, he was the lead man, so he was elected to go to the mine, we hired another man to take his job, his name was Robert Nelson, he got his job, he was a special mechanic, — our titles changed to custodian, busdriver, lead man. He was also in charge of ah, the West Ishpeming school.

But thats the kind of job I did.

I enjoyed my job, I enjoyed children, I really like children. A lot of people said ~~if~~ if I didn't. I just enjoyed the kids. I got along with alot of them. Especial'y kindergarten kids, I loved em'. I see many of them today, to me they

Good quote

look the same, only older. — they are no longer little kids, they are men and women. They say "Do you remember me?" and I'd say, sometimes I would recognize them and think yea I think they are so and so and other times they would come to me and I wouldn't know who they are you know. But I know a lot of them, who they are. That's the way the job went, and — salvation. That's a different story. Everything's changed. I got a different title, you want to know about that?

Me: Sure.

Mr. W: When we had the <sup>con</sup>solidation of the schools, there was 3 superintendants involved. Mr. Goethe; the superintend of Ishpeming Township schools, Mr. Kenneth <sup>Lindberg</sup> superintendant of National Mine, Township, and Mr. <sup>uttio</sup> superintendant of Champion Humbolt Spurr. From a previous consolidation. There was 3 townships involved. Spurr township; now is way up in Baraga county. So we had consolidation. Well then Mr. Goethe became superintendent of all, by the school board. Then Mr. <sup>Donald</sup> <sup>uttio</sup> he was made assistant superintendant. Charge of buildings, grounds and transportat. Mr. Ken Limbury, he was made assist. superint. he was in charge of everything. So then my job title changed. So I was then made maintenance supervisor.

I was in charge of West Ishpeming school, North Lake School, and National Mine school. I was one of the charge custodians, they were all suprised with me. And y'know, just in charge of it. Then as time went on, — Westwood High School needed a maintenance supervisor, so I became theirs too! So I had quite a job. Champion school, and Diorite school were under supervision of Henry LaFores. He had the title of maintenance supervisor of those two schools, so I had a pretty busy job. — Title I was no longer driving bus.

— Supervising the maintenance of the building.

Me: So did that increase your hours?

Mr. W Pardon?

Me: So did that increast your hours?

Mr. W Well, befor the consolidation started — Michigan started cutting down then. So it was just 40 hours / week.

Me: Did you get raises throughout that time?

Mr. W: Yes, well when I started it was \$ 300 dollars a week, and the teachers themselves, they were way under paid. — way underpaid, lots under paid, but as time went on before we had consolidation, the teachers formed a union.

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+ g work

And that when we started getting benefits and that  
But I remember one time, going back to  
North Lake y'know ah, and ah, the teaching  
staff there was myself, Tyse Arsenault, —  
Tollinen, — Maki, and the secretary of —.

And we tried to get a program going,  
a ~~benefit~~<sup>insurance</sup> program from that we could  
get coverage y'know, we pay part and  
the school pay part, so I went to Mr.  
Goethe and I said you know I can  
get a group plan for insurance ~~for~~

do you think the school could pay  
for that and he said "oh ~~no~~ no.  
If we did that for you we'd have to  
do that for the teachers too." We barely  
had anything. But we did get a  
group plan from Metropolitan life

~~and~~ insurance and if we wanted  
insurance, we'd have to pay out of  
our own pocket and get ~~some~~ a little  
coverage and —. But then a time  
went on after we had consolidation,  
then all the N.I.C.E teaching personnel, they  
joined a —. The union however —,  
then things started to get better.

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there were things the teachers got. If we got a contract, we probably got the same thing. We got hospitalizations, life insurance, what else did we get? — Right now I think they are all well paid, none of them have to — poverty any more. Everybody

Me: Now can you tell me about the school?

Mr. W: The North Lake School?

Me: When it started on Fire.

Mr. W (chuckling) I'll tell you the history of North Lake School. I think the place

itself was built around 1907, the first houses that were built there. The

mines were under development, the two mines there and the — company —

and they were looking for employees and their families. And ah about the year 1910

the school was built. And in 1936, I started School there. I was 5 years old in 1935, but there was no Kindergarten there so I started in 1936 and right in the first grade.

And March the ninth, at 2:00 in the afternoon I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade,

*includes all*

in that school, I can describe what the school looked like I still remember today. It was an old wooden framed, two stories and ~~there was~~ it was a grey colored & right in front of the school, in front of the doors there was a great big sign, it was blue background like a - sign, & in bold letters it said Standard School. The only school that said Standard School. There was a real nice fence around the school and ah to get in the schoolyard it wasn't really a gate, but a series of posts. We had posts around the schoolyard because those days, the depression days, a lot of people had cows and they let them roam loose and to keep animals out of the schoolyard, because the schoolyard was one that had nice shrubs in there and flowers, it was just beautiful and coming there, there were two front entrances the sidewalk formed like a horseshoe and then it went in the main school building. And ah, we were called to class, in the morning we had a teacher and you know somethings, for pupils, we were called pupils not students, pupils. And they had a little brass bell, they'd come ~~to~~ out and

like that, when it was time for school.  
Same thing we had for recess time. Every  
morning or afternoon the same thing. On this  
particular day getting back to March..

Me: second

Mr. W: 1938, March ah, 1938 what did I say

Me: ninth

Mr. W: ~~Yeah~~ Yeah, March the ninth 1938, that  
day I came back to school from lunch, we  
had no lunch in those days, I went  
home for lunch and came back after  
lunch went into the school, and our 3rd  
grade room was the 1st room to the right.  
When you went into that building, the  
first thing we had was Spelling and my  
teacher was Mrs. Mae Linberg. She's still  
alive today, she's over 90 years old, I  
saw her last summer she was my  
teacher, and we had spelling and we all  
had good grades, we traded papers after  
the spelling test with your neighbor there  
and we'd put, correct our papers, so  
she said "Oh my! Gardner you got a good  
grade!" Well for a reward we could march  
around the room and we thought that  
was great! The whole class would  
get up and march around the room.

and we just sat down after that like I said it was about 2:00 in the afternoon and the boy sitting behind me — came in the back of the room and I saw him stretching out the back door, his name was Charles Baldini and he was stretching out and looking out ~~the door~~ into the ~~room~~ ~~door~~ hallway, he just hollered out "FIRE!" "FIRE" he says just like that and there was no order like today you hafta march out of the room we just got up and ran out the door and when you come off of that room, you come into a little cloak room, ~~there~~ <sup>it</sup> was a little hallway by itself where we hung our coats, then it broke to the main hallway and when ~~you~~ <sup>we</sup> got out to the hallway there was smoke just creeping along the floor.

I ran out the front door, just no hat, no coat and it was in March, winter time, and I ran out the building and I looked back and up on top of

the school, right on top of the roof there was a it was a ~~hip~~-roof school and right on top there was a manure bin and there was flames shooting out of there. And I had to run, over 2 streets to get home

I got home and my mother asked me "What are you doing home from school, no hat & no coat?"

I said "The school's on fire." She says "No, it's probably a chimney fire." I said "No, the school's on fire!" And she looked out our front window and through the trees you could see black smoke coming up. And uh so that building itself, you know, the fire broke out, and you can just imagine upstairs, there was an auditorium and a stage and behind the stage there was the kindergarten room, we had kindergarten then and Mr. Goethe was the principle and he made many trips in that burning building and some other men in the neighborhood who came there, just to make sure everyone was out of that building, and everyone got out. But they did ah, retrieve a lot of clothing and that and brought it up to North Lake Club house. Which is \_\_\_\_\_ apartments. \_\_\_\_\_ And they brought all the clothes up there and ah later that afternoon we had to go up there and go thru it all and ~~to~~ find our hats and coat and ah that nite, after the school had burned y'know, that nite I drove by there with my father

includes kindergarten

it was 10:00 at night, and all that was standing there was the chimney. The state police at that time had explosives to explode the chimney. But the coal pile that was there, that burnt for weeks, after, but then we were out of school, it was about 2 weeks we were out of school and I don't know where the school board had gotten desks and books and that but, the rest of the year, the year, Kindergarten was cancelled. So grades 1-5 grade were housed at the North Lake clubhouse and back then North Lake clubhouse was a meeting place for people in North Lake — basketball court and a living room and — with sheets ~~and~~ one classroom on each side, that was grades 1-5, well grades 6-7 they went to West Ishpeming school for the remainder of the year — that was Ishpeming Township, but they were 2 schools. So I went to school at the clubhouse like that and — and we went there and all the next year we went like that and the new school was under construction until the summer of '38 the one that's there right now, and in the Spring of 1939, the graduating class from North Lake who were going to West Ishpeming got to hold the

exercises there. They don't do that any more,  
they had a little graduation exercise. —  
The new school, the auditorium part was  
finished, but the rest of the school was not  
finished, so they used that for the graduating  
exercises. So the first graduation class —  
That was the first graduating class. And in  
the fall of 1940, the rest of the school was  
ready and I started school there, in 1940 —  
And I graduated from there, ~~from the school~~  
and then went to West Ishpeming.

Me: So that school's pretty old isn't it?

Mr. W: Well, y'know, going back to the ol'; ol'  
School building, y'know I can remember the  
teachers there, who where there, my teacher  
for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Mrs. Mae Linberg, and then  
there was Ms. Lajoy, these people are deceased  
now but, Ms. Lajoy, Ms. Jacobs, They  
were all single people all young ladies,  
Ms. Hanonen, Ms. Hanonen later on got  
married to Isaac Palomaki and so she  
was Mrs. Palomaki, then she later on  
became the principle of West Ishpeming  
School! Then Ms. Hunkavara, she later got  
married and, to Mr. Mudge, and she retired  
from <sup>presiminary</sup> North Lake school.

include quotes

and when I was working there, she was teaching; Mrs. Mudge! They're all deceased now. But at that time when Mr. Goethe was the superintendent for Ishpeming Township, not the old schools, but the new schools that are here now. Mr. Goethe was a very good superintendent. he demanded excellence, the teachers respected him, he wanted excellence — he rather improved Ishpeming Township. He was a — superintendent. He was a good man for that. He showed his leadership. When he became superintendent the buildings were all run-down, they were having maintenance and that, when he came, we made them nice buildings. We did a lot of work on them, improved the curriculum he was a good superintendent. — Mr. Goethe went to Westwood High School from there, I was a maintenance supervisor and — Westwood High School & Mr. Goethe & Mr. Linberg & Mr. Utto, and ah Mr. Jim Delongchamp, became <sup>business</sup> ~~manager~~ after consolidation, him and ah Alice —, secretary and ah Helen Pesola was a secretary, and myself all moved to Westwood ~~west~~ High School. We moved in there and ah let's see, when did that open now, 1970? 74 I think it was. But through the whole construction on Westwood High School I was maintenance supervisor before the center of construction and I had to go there and keep the fire and know everything about the whole school y'know



and ah, I was there a lot of times there, because I was in charge of the building. I worked in that school for 25 1/2 years,

Me: wow!

Mr. W: And ah, in 1982, they came out with an early retirement plan and I qualified for it. So that was my retirement. And I bought 4 years in my military plan, so I retired with 30 years of service to the state. I'll be retired 10 years the end of December. And I enjoy every minute of it. I really enjoyed working in the schools.

Me: Um, what's your fondest memories of the schools?

Mr. W: My fondest memories?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. W: Working there or going there?

Me: Uh, working there.

Mr. W: Working there. Well, I really liked consolidation. I liked that. I, I really thought that was great y'know. I can see myself, I don't think anyone in the \_\_\_\_\_ the last few years that I was. I was the best P.R. man there was. I just loved it, just loved it y'know. — in fact you know I use we used to have a little ah, pickup truck to haul garbage. And ah, we used to have to haul garbage once a week to the Ishpeming landfill. We hauled garbage twice a week on Wednesdays we hauled to Ishpeming.

Because the township landfill is only open on Friday and the guy who used to take care of that — Millimaki he had the contract for Ishpeming Township and we only had the contract for Ishpeming so he said we can bring the Wednesday garbage to Ishpeming so, well I'm driving this truck and consolidation passed I was going right past Ishpeming High School, and they had a notice sign up to the election, they had "notice" on it. And ~~cut~~ cut it up so all it said was "nice". And I put that on the side of my truck and put some tape on it. It said "nice". And I went by Ishpeming so they saw it because they had all the opposition ~~in~~ in that consolidation. And people from Deer Lake. They fought that consolidation until they were wore out, I know the reason why. Maybe you don't, but I know. They tried to beat this consolidation, but it passed. By that time, there, there must have been 12 teachers, ~~teaching~~ <sup>teaching</sup> at Ishpeming Township who taught in Ishpeming. They, they knew that this consolidation would pull all there tuition students out of Ishpeming school district, that was about 1/2 million dollars out of their pocket, by the tuition state aid. That's why they didn't want that consolidation. That would hurt their budget, that earned their living.

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Me: what was your salary right before you retired?  
Mr. W: let's see, what was my salary?

hm, well, let me think, it wasn't really a salary, it was paid by the hour. I think it was about \$12 an hour. Yeah, I think it was \$12 an hour.

Me: Um, do you remember the storm of 1938?

Mr. W: The summer?

Me: The storm.

Mr. W: Yes, the big snowstorm?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. W: I sure do! I can tell you a story about that.

Me: Okay.

Mr. W: The snowstorm started in the early afternoon, on January the 26<sup>th</sup>. And ah, it snowed, and it didn't stop snowing until the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Me: Oh, my goodness!

Mr. W: Of January it stopped snowing. And North Lake was ~~showed~~ showed in. The main road to the location, they call it Westwood Drive now, but it used to be called Main Street. That was kept open, all thru the storm because the mine was in operation. They had to have the road open. But the rest of North Lake was all showed in. It didn't get plowed out until midnight the 30<sup>th</sup>! Until it was plowed out. And I can remember as a kid walking down the streets, you'd think you were walking down ~~an~~ a valley, the banks were so high, you couldn't see the houses on side of the streets. Now, back to the school, grades 9-12 at North Lake, went to Ishpeming High school. And the storm

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the storm started in the afternoon, school, the buses didn't leave until quarter after four in the afternoon. It was a big class, and at that time the Ishpeming Township Schools contracted out buses out from North of Mines from Ishpeming. The bus line but they provided — bus service.

They were blue and white buses, and the bus driver's name, his nickname was Bangey and his last name was Bancroft, Bangey Bancroft. He left Ishpeming to go North Lake, and that's before the present ~~road~~ <sup>U.S. 41</sup> was there. U.S. 41 at that time, is the biggest ~~one~~ <sup>one</sup> that runs from Ishpeming and came by Sunnyside Estates and that. That was the ~~biggest~~ main highway. But then where Randal Drive is now, that was part of the highway. And the highway that goes <sup>out to</sup> up to North Lake now, that was called the Old Road to North Lake. But that's the bus route, comes busy as that's ~~the~~ 41, up through Randal Drive, you know where that is. Then up to North Lake. Now, when they picked there quarter after 4, they never got to North Lake til 7:30 that nite. Can you imagine that? 3 hours? It was so bad, the visibility was zero, the boys

include + good

the high school boys on the bus had to get out of the bus and direct the driver where the road was! That's how bad it was, gettin stuck and gettin goin' back track. It took 3 hours to get to North Lake, the bus driver had to spend the nite in North Lake. He couldn't go back. But I remember the storm of 1938.

Me: Was your house snowed in?

Mr. W: Oh yes! I lived over on Patriot Street, but we called what they now call

Second Street. And that is, the main street, there was one street over. And I can say that was one 30<sup>th</sup> of January we were snowed in. We were snowed in.

Me: So, um, was the snow pretty high up on the house?

Mr. W: Well, a lot of the snow was drifted too y'know, some were no! 10 feet high! Some places too y'know were only a couple of feet deep y'know. Just depends where we were. During blizzards, there's a lot of wind and snow drifted up. I remember that storm of 1938.

Me: How long were you a janitor? Or a custodian at North Lake.

Mr. W: Well, my title then was ah, custodian and bus driver, lead man you wanna call it. Until consolidation time, then I had a title of maintenance supervisor. So, I was waiting for consolidation to take place, to take place and probably before you were born even.

Me: Yeah, I ~~was~~ was born in 83.

Mr. W: Yeah, when was consolidation? 1973 I think it was. 74 maybe?

Paula (My sister): I'm not sure when it was.

Mr. W: I'm not sure if I can remember, some dates I can remember & some I can't. When I worked in the schools y'know, all the schools y'know, in the summer time, that's when we had the biggest job y'know, you're painting, & cleaning, waxing and all ah that. When I was maintenance supervisor I used to set up a program, all the schools I was in charge of, I'd make a schedule of what we're gonna do. Befor schools even out, I go through all the schools, I go in all the rooms and check 'em out, see what needs to be done, y'know, this room needs painting and mark down that it needs painting or repair work y'know. During the year if there was an emergency repair I'd do it right away y'know, I'd make a plan of what we're going to do that summer, I'd check every room & then bring it up to the principle and show it to him & that and bring it to the superintendant, then the school board & show what we were going to do that summer, but every summer it was a ~~real~~ busy time, a really ~~busy~~ busy time.

include Paula

then we had, y'know we had ah, but as time went on and people had more ah — and that they'd ~~be~~ have more vacation and that and we had less people to do more work, you had to work around that. But then the high school — the business manager I'd tell them "Jeez I need more help!" y'know. Then when we got the job done they'd give me so many hours, you could get a — after working 70 hours, when I went home y'know. It all depended up to the last day you are getting everything ready, to be done before school started again. It was a hard job you can say sometimes to get everything ready.

Me: So um, how many total years did you do that.

Mr. W: Well, I worked in the schools for 25 1/2 years, 25 1/2 years.

Me: How long was an average work day for you?

Mr. W: Pardon?

Me: How long was an average work day for you?

Mr. W: An average? ~~work day~~

Me: Yeah.

Mr. W: Well, the last year we worked 8 hours a day but being as a maintenance supervisor, if they had a problem sometimes they'd call me to do it. ESPECIALLY at westwood high

School y'know. They'd have a problem in this or that or during a basketball game or something they'd call me up and I'd go there and take care of it. I could turn in overtime for that, but I never did. I just went and did it & they'd say "Why don't you turn in overtime?" & I'd say "Aagh!" Turn in overtime for just going there for 15 minutes, naagh forget it. But they knew that, they knew that. But if I went there to the principle and ~~asked~~ said "IS it ok if I taken off an hour early?" they'd say "Go ahead! You earned that! Take off!" They had no problem with that.

Me: How far away from North late did you live?

Mr. W: How far?

Me: Yeah.

Mr. W: Um, while I was working there?

Me: yeah.

Mr. W: I used to live close to Salem Platts that's about <sup>crow flies</sup> a way, if I wold of <sup>way</sup> weighed the ~~pro fly~~ it was about a mile. Then I mowed to — subdivision it probably would have been a mile and a half.

Me: How many fellow custodians did you have?



Mr. W: which time?

me: when you first started.

Mr. W: when I first started school?

me: yeah

Mr. W: when I first started school at North Lake there was 1 custodian, warner Tollinen, I was just like his assistant I was busdriver custodian. And ah just the two of us used to take care of that school. Later on after consolidation, West Ishpeming had only one custodian, then we went to after consolidation, when Westwood High School was added on, it was my responsibility then, I was named staff of that school. Mr. Goethe, and ah, I had never worked in a high school before, never been in a place with a swimming pool, never been in a place with carpeting like that. It was a bigger building, so I went down to Marquette Senior High School and spend one day with a fellow, his name was Howard Barryman. He had a job like I had, only he had a different title because of responsibility, I spent one day with him & remember alot of things and that & I found out that the square area of the building & how many custodians he had for that much sq. area & I went by

that I know and figured out how many people we need at Westwood high school & uh Mr. Goethe had told me before he said if I start at that school, don't overload it because if you ~~can~~ hire too many people it would be hard to eliminate but if you don't have enough you can always add on, & I always remembered that. SO I figured how many people we needed for that school<sup>s</sup> there and we ended up with a pool operator, it was required by state law, you hafta have someone a pool operator, he had some parts for cleaning the pool, and that area. And then we had ah, the rest of the custodians were the acceptance of operation or another job. And ah, he was in charge of transporting the food to the schools, and then he cleaned the cafeteria and the kitchen. That was his responsibility. That was the only custodian on day shift beside myself and I took care of maintenance. Then in the afternoon shift we had 2 full time custodians, 2 full time in the afternoon shift. One took care of the gymnasium area, & the industrial arts wing & the other one took care of what we called the C section where the theatre was after that there was D section and we stuck someone there.

But then we had some part time custodians that would help in those areas. They'd work in the afternoon, I think we had them work 3 hours a day. Let see I think we had 2 part time custodians, that meant —. We had all these federal programs. We had "student —" from those 2 families, they'd be paid by the state to come & work & then we had some to come & help like that too y'know. It really helped the custodians. Westwood high school, that was some building to get going there. The heating in that building was really something. We had the boiler room, there was 2 big boilers in there figure how many horsepower there was to run only one boiler at a time. And they were ~~coal~~<sup>oil</sup> fired, and gas fired and all you had to do was pitch in some oil or some gas, it ran on gas 90% of the time. And at that time there — in the winter time — oil because there was one for gas and it was 2 o'clock in the morning & I got a call at home "you have to curtail your gas, you have to get going oil!" So I'd have to get up & go to Westwood High School and swoosh out the boilers, you hafta get the oil pumps going.

include

and all that & ~~get~~ pump oil in there and all that turn on the switches & go home. Often in the boiler rooms we had mechanical rooms and if I remember there was 13 — hot water & some was steam so when you had a school, at nite there was community schools like that, they'd take heat there. We had a clock in the boiler room where you could start the boiler at a certain time by turning notches in these clocks y'know. Well, if you are going to use only one room in the school, you have to heat the whole building. Just to have one part of the school to have heat, so what happened while I was there, men came from Johnson Patrol, they take care of thermostats in schools, all of the air pressure & thermostats & they came one time there, and they said "we can put a computer in here," & I don't know how many thousands of dollars, I think 'ed they said "we can put a computer in there and have it in there for 1 year and we guarantee we'll save you 'ed thousand dollars a year in energy." That included electrical, & and linear gas and all that. And they guaranteed if it doesn't do that it won't cost you a penny, well pull it out.

So they came in there and installed this computer.  
(~~For~~ side A of tape over, I missed some words)

Mr. W: I think it's still there now, but I used to do all the computing with that computer and I remember — in Wisconsin and they'd teach you how to operate it and program it, they'd teach you and I always remember Donald <sup>Utto</sup> the principle & he came to watch that and him & whoever was head y'know, he said "Gardner you can have that!" he said "you can have that!" so it was real & simple. And I used to do all ah that & they could also compute that by telephone. The telephone line was hooked up to that computer & you could call Africa from there. thru Johnson computer & through telephone they could compute it themselves. In a way when I retired I heard that's what they do there I don't know if there afraid to use that computer or what I don't know.

— And I liked it, it was a lot of fun. — there's 4 acres of carpet in there and I always remember one of the gentlemen he — for the school — for Escanaba & he opened up that school & the central vacuum

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wasn't working, the vacuum motor in the boiler room and all through the school there are caps on the floors with outlets in there you vacuum like that & he told me "That'll never work! you gotta have a vacuum with a brush on it when you do that." "You got 4 acres of carpet you gotta have that, \* to ~~to~~ stir up the sand! That thing never gonna work!"

So I looked up the price & bought one of them vacuums, I got that vacuum going I was — about that big that sucks up off the floor. And all the custodians had to have it & I went & bought parts for all of them — nozzles & all that y'know. And all they had to do is they had a little tool & stick it so you could activate that vacuum system in the boiler room & also there was a button — . We gave one vacuum to North Lake, they got some carpeting their & gave one to Diorite — . speaking of the schools y'know, I left monuments their.

Me: Oh really?

Mr. W: Yeah. What I call a monument to me, alot of people don't know it but if you go back to North Lake school, oh I think it was

about nineteen ... that job was full time I thing it was about 1967, I don't know the exact date, but a girl who was in, I think she was in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I forget her name, she was from the <sup>(3)</sup> ~~Pepper~~ <sup>Lepper</sup> family. They were involved in an automobile accident. Everybody was killed: the mother, the father, — her brother was the only survivor, he was married at the time his wife was killed, so they wanted me to make a memorial for her. So they all gave money, the kids & that & they thought they wanted a show case, So Mr. Goethe the superintendant said "would you make a show case?" y'know to put in the hallway to put things in. They all put their money in to make a memorial for her. So I said "sure" & I made the show case, it's still there today. It's all made of birch & they wanted a little plaque at the top, it must still be there. In memory of Kristen Lepper I think? — and I call that's one of my monuments I left ~~in~~ behind in that school, I made that. And when you go to Westwood High school when Mr. Bobula came there as assistant principle — . Out in the athletic field, there's a little place for broadcasting out there for the radio if they want to broadcast games or sports keepers or things like that. He said "Do you think you could build a broadcast booth?" so I said sure.

make a plaque