

Interview with Allen Niemi

Marquette Michigan

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Transcribed by Jeremy Hosking & Sarah Zeller

Interviewer: Russell Magnaghi

RM: Can I call you Al?

AN: Absolutely

RM: Al, I guess welcome back to Marquette. You're here for a few weeks in the summer. Right now where do you reside in the winter?

AN: Well we spend our winter months in Green Valley, Arizona which is a small town about 20 miles south of Tucson on Interstate 19. So we think it was a good move. We bought a house there in 1981 the year that I retired so we go back there for the winters. We did sell our house in Marquette but we did keep our camp. Its about 10 miles north of Lake Michigamme on a lake called Four Island Lake(?) that 50 years ago 10 of us bought the property so it's a private lake and we have really enjoyed the living there. We're far enough away so that we don't have telephones or electric power so most of us put in generators so we can use it when we need something of that nature. And so it's wonderful for us to get back to the Upper Peninsula every summer. And we do have a daughter who teaches in Menominee so it's a good place for us to be.

RM: I should have asked this earlier.... What is your birthday?

AN: I was born on June 16th, 1918

RM: Oh, okay. Now could you give us a little background, where are you originally from?

AN: Well both my wife and I are from northern Minnesota, the Duluth area. I was born in St. Paul but grew up in the town of Kolchak (?) which is about 15 miles west of Duluth and after high school went to what was then called Duluth State Teachers College. I majored in history and because it was the Depression years we were advised to get a strong second major if possible and minor so I had a history major and social studies minor and in my first two teaching positions, the first one in the little town of Barnum I taught American History and social studies. Had the core program and the band program and in the summer months took the boy scouts to camp. Had a summer music program to start new students

RM: How did you get involved with music?

AN: Well I had been very active with music in high school. Violin was my primary instrument and I played trumpet in the school band and sang in the high school chorus and so there was a great need for music teachers and Duluth was a good school. In fact the name of the school is rather interesting because northern was a northern state teachers college as Duluth was and Duluth became Duluth State College when Northern did but then Duluth did become a branch of the University of Minnesota

RM: So your music training was just sort of private lessons and then high school lessons and just the interest

AN: and I did enjoy my high school teaching but after during my first year 1942 when I was teaching in Carleton which was the county seat of Carleton College Uncle Sam sent me his invitation to join up. I believe school was out May 30th and I was in the service

June 3rd and I served almost 4 years in the army all of it spend in army bands and I was a trumpeter in three bands and had opportunities for officer training but I stayed in music cause that is what I had planned on doing when I left the army.

RM: So it worked in your benefit WWII you spend the war working on your career

AN: And in two of the bands I was the associate band director which meant I rehearsed the band for most of the rehearsals and it was a marvelous experience and after the war I used the GI bill to the full maximum credit. I was able to earn a master's degree at the University of Minnesota where I also served in a residence hall program working as a student counselor and I was also they hired me part time to direct the university high school band and supervise the music majors who were doing their practice teaching at university high school. So that was an interesting experience and since my wife was teaching in Kolchak it would have been easier for me to stay at Minnesota for my Doctorate but one of my advisors suggested that I give serious thought to going to Columbia Teachers College which at the time was a big name for music educators and so when we were accepted at Columbia it was particularly difficult for my parents cause I had been away in the army for 4 years and had spent a year and a half on my master's degree and I took their daughter because my wife had become like a daughter to them and we both headed for New York and neither one of us had ever been east of Detroit and there was another incentive and New York City at that time and still is was very exciting for all of music so my two years spent there for my doctorate were well spent. I never regretted going there. When I got my Doctorate in 1949 the jobs in high education were just fantastic because all of the schools were trying to keep up with the veterans who were returning on campus and so there were many job opportunities but Northern was appealing to us because it was on Lake Superior and we were familiar with the Duluth end of Lake Superior and there are a lot of Finns here which wasn't a reason to come here but we felt very much at home in the UP and never regretted it and all three of our daughters attend the John Pierce School, the training school and all three of them graduated from Northern.

RM: While we are talking about your daughters could you name your daughters?

AN: Oh yeah

RM: And their married names.

AN: First born Ann graduated from Northern in Elementary Education and came back for her master's degree, masters plus and her first job was in Menominee and she has been there ever since. She taught second grade then kindergarten and now she is back at second grade and loves it. She has been very active in Menominee and is very happy that she settled there.

RM: Is she married?

AN: No, she chose not too. Our second daughter Linda was in the home economics program for a while but ended up in the counseling field. In fact she has been for many years in alcohol and narcotic counseling work. She lives, very happily, married in the Tampa, Florida area. Our youngest graduated from Northern Business Department in marketing and business administration. She joined us in Arizona and was seeking a job there and was very happy there as a manager of a marketing research office in Phoenix for a number of years but the office decided to close the Phoenix Branch. She could have gone to Denver to work in the headquarters. Kim was married and divorced and had a

daughter our granddaughter and was very happy as a junior in high school. So Kim didn't feel she should take her out of high school. So she made a decision to pursue a degree in Business Education from Arizona State. And it was another good decision and so when she completed her work she had a position in um in Phoenix. Now is teaching in a very interesting teaching environment. It is a year around school where she teaches business and computer courses. She loves her work and has kidded us she knew she should have gone into teaching at the very beginning. Yet the business experience and world has been very good for her doing what she is doing now. And our granddaughter graduated with honors from Arizona State and had a scholarship to a community college (Glendale) then was given a scholarship to Arizona State. So we are very proud of her. Now she has a very good executive position with the Pet Smart Corporation. In fact she organizes Pet Hotels, it is hard for many of us to understand how much money people are willing to spend taking care of their dear beloved pets. So our granddaughter plans to be married next year.

RM: Now you came to Northern in what year?

AM: 1949 and that was a big year.

RM: Tell us a little bit what things were like on Campus.

AM: Oh ok. Ah...the music. We were all in K-Hall complex. And the music department had two class-rooms on the third floor. And I had my office that was in-between. Ray Ulinger our band and choral director had a little hide-a-way office above the third floor, kind of near the bell tower. He liked it, it was isolated and he could teach his brass students and nobody complained. Needless to say there was no sound acoustical treatment. And so the music the music department was not that beloved to many of the faculty members. Um... we shared the K-auditorium with the drama department and everybody else. So our band and chorus and our university, I shouldn't say university our college orchestra rehearsed there. And then my predecessor started what he called um the Tri-City Symphony, which was made up of music teacher actually from the Upper Peninsula who would come in for a weekly rehearsal and some of the better high school students. But it was quite a time. I think I should say that there was a faculty telephone on the first floor and faculty telephone on the 2nd floor which happened to be in the English department area. The head of the English, and there was not a telephone on the third floor. So if Russell Thomas got a telephone call for Alan Niemi, either he or somebody had to run up to the third floor to get us. John D. Pierce had two or three telephones. The Presidents office and the registrar had a telephone and "Red Money" who had taken over as the football, basketball, track and tennis coach had a telephone. Of course we were envious of him. He was the only...well he and Russell Thomas were the only department heads who had a telephone, which was further complicated by the fact that when the President found some money they really did an innovative job on the third floor of long year. Long-year year was the first building that had been built at Northern that was consumed by a fire not long after it was constructed and was rebuilt. Up on the third floor, the fire Marshall was concerned at the time because there was a huge room that had been used as a third floor auditorium. When we first went there, there was no exit except for the normal stairway coming from the second floor to the third floor and we would have symphony rehearsals up there with 60 people on the third floor. So finally they did break a whole in the wall and gave us entry way to John D. Pierce training school. So then we did have an exit. But they put in nice lockers

in for instruments and put acoustical treatment all over the place not only for sound isolation but also for sound reverberation. So we were really quite content over there and I think I could also indicated lockers for all of our music students. And even if the were not music majors they were given a locker. And there was a place to lock the instruments to lock the instruments but you know in the 12 years well 10 years we were there during my time I don't think anybody ever locked their lockers. It spoke very well when I turned in my final inventory after we lost kind of a good for nothing old metal clarinet. We also lost a good pair of cymbals and I paid a lot of money for them. It took place during one of our high school band days.

The thing I want to talk about the early days at Northern is you could go into the men's locker room or the women's but there were no lockers. There could be jackets, coats, scarfs, books; radiators would often have books kept there for the weekend overnight and I never ever heard of any thievery. So I think maybe in was the era. Those were the good days at Northern. We operated on slim budgets but I will say this, when Dr. Harden came in he found money. All of sudden we were getting good instruments. He was the one who thought we should have a new music building in collaboration with theatre and home economics, and the men's shops, whatever that was called at the time oh and the art department of course.

RM: Let just back track a bit. Could you tell us about...sort of two questions here?

AM: Lydia Olson Library...I was here when that was constructed. Um...see the football field, they used the public school. And see Carrie hall was just one year old when we came here and so there was a lot of students living in private homes down on (I don't know what is said here). Before they had dormitories. When I came they had just opened Spooner. So see I was here for the dedication of every one of the buildings except for Carrie hall. And because of my position I was usually the chairmen.

Ah hell those building were named after idiots and fools, I won't be there. Now Don Bottom is the MC for the program and wasn't surprised at all. He doesn't say anything about Lucian; I mean we are here to dedicate two buildings.

RM: So he didn't show up?

AN: No...He had a strong willed wife. Now we are all there and Don is going through the program, we have had our meal, nice meal, and probably I don't know 10 minutes from the end Lucian and his wife come walking in. She is really a domineering woman; she was bigger than he was. Don Bottom still doesn't say anything. That is just an absolute classic.

AN: I don't think I should put that on here. What do you think?

RM: No...It is alright. I can remember it.

RM: Could you tell us a little about some of the personalities and one that comes elusive is Henry Tate, the President. And could you say something about, we now have little information about the Presidents Wife's. We are looking for photographs.

AN: Henry Tate was a penny-pincher. To prove the point he told many of us it doesn't make any sense to get a hotel room when he drives down to Lansing, this was before flights. So he typically would go to a hotel in Mt. Pleasant and sleep in the lobby. That was part number 1. Part number 2 he had just come back for some appropriations committee meeting. He said Alan one of the members of the board said " I see you have some toasters on your requisition, are those 2-slice or 3 slice toasters." He said I was

able to tell him. Harden would have said go to hell lets get to business. He was a dear man beloved. So now this is the next one. He was in bad health. Ogden Johnson was chairmen of the board of control. And he missed most of the year. So that put a lot of work on Don Bottom and Luther Gant. Um and so the board decided Henry should retire. They asked Ogden then to step in as interim president, and then they hired Harden. Mrs. Tate was so incensed she March right into Hardens office and said what a terrible deal it was and blamed him for it and he had nothing to do with and don't you ever name a building after my husband.

RM: Now other than that do you have any other reminisces of Mrs. Tate.

AN: They had rented for years and years when he was president and they did build that house that the hospital had bought up. I think it was a house that didn't show much imagination for a president's office. But Mrs. Tate ran things the way she wanted.

RM: So it was built to her specification?

AN: Yeah...that was pretty much the word.

RM: So did she get involved with activities on campus?

An: OH... no no no. She would always be present when she was supposed to be.

RM: Right, but did she have parties like later on Mrs. Harden?

AN: oh yeah that's right. I don't think we ever went to the president's house. We never went to the president's house for anything.

RM: So she saw it kind of as her private residence. Where today it is seen as public. So she kept things at a distance?

AN: I think so. And yeah she was very much into Presbyterian Church. I think that was kind of her first love. They had a son as I remember, Gerald, I don't ever remember meeting or seeing him.

RM: Because he later on knew Glenn Seaborg, because Glenn said he would see him flying in to Marquette sometimes. One would be coming or going. Then I think he was on the atomic energy committee Gerald was.

AN: I'll be darned.

RM: But unfortunately

AN: Unfortunately Jennet Bowden was a very dear friend of ours. We socialized with her and her husband. Jennet is going through some real problems. We stopped in last year, we had happened to be driving up the street. It was quite a session.

RM: I tried to get her.

RM: ok...that provides insight. Anything else about Tate? The thing is we know very little about these people other than one picture or anything about there personalities. Any kind of stories you might consider off the wall?

AN: Well he uh...when he build Lydia Olson Library he went there once a day just to check up and see how they were doing. See there was a terrible mistake in that. The music department I think we had 10 practice rooms....END OF TAPE.

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AN: Tubas, Trumpets, and Vocalists all practicing simultaneously in those rooms and there is there is no sound treatment between the rooms and if you go up into the main library area where you sit and read. You hear the same trumpets and tubas playing there. So once again our music department wasn't endeared by people. And so that I think, and I had written my doctoral dissertation on music rooms and music buildings. And really was quite an authority in 1949 on what should be done. Of course it didn't occur to me...well I didn't know that they were putting in practice rooms. When they talked about the library that came up suddenly and came up after it was too late.

RM: So then for the whole history of the building.

AN: Then the whole buildings starting sliding down the hill eventually. So but they did have a nice little auditorium downstairs.

RM: Now when you said um now Tate would go to visit the library was that while it was under construction.

AN: While it was under construction. Yeah...just checking up.

RM: Now when maybe about the time you came. There was a lot of building activity on Campus during Tate's Administration. Part of it was centered on the end of the war, the GI Bill, people going people coming. But do you remember when they put in a cafeteria it was kind of an Army building. That Tate had picked up at some place?

AN: No that was before my time. They picked up what were called quetzal tops. They must have had 20 or 30. So I didn't know they had a dining area in the quetzal tops.

RM: This was just off between vet-bill and Kaye Hall they had a cafeteria.

AN: Yeah I see. Thatbecause when I came here. They had Kerry Hall with a dining area in there.

RM: So it was just. The building had become a place where Mark Zender had his ceramics hall.

AN: There was a dance hall upstairs in Lee Hall. We had our music recitals there. Our music department held our annual dance there to raise money. Maybe we can get into that sometime.

RM: Ok...go on.

AN: Um...when I came into the music department I had belonged to a music fraternity. I had given some thought as to establishing that here at Northern. But what I felt was especially on a small campus like this you should get the counterpart of the women's music sorority. Then you have the the sororities and then have those in neither. Then I organized what we call the Clef Club. The Clef has a base and soprano that signified it was for both. It was not only for the music majors, but band orchestra and chorus were in it. It was kind of the working arm of the music department. We did a lot of socializing in. But I realized there were many students here at Northern who had not even been out of the Upper Peninsula and so we organized dances and I got permission from the musicians union. I think we would put on two dances a year, in which we would have a student dance band and several combos and then we would have kind of a little

symphony and play Andre Constelonoff waltz and Latin tunes. I was able to buy arrangements so that the big orchestra would play for dancing. And we would make a lot of money. So every other year we would take the Northern Bus and they had a second hand Grey Hound where we would take then to Chicago. Make arrangements in advance we got good prices on symphony tickets and opera if they were there. Probably a Broadway musical and take in some of the museums. We would stay in the YMCA and the YWCA. It was really quite an outing. So the Clef Club really became quite an important thing. When we hosted music festivals we had a work crew to help us run things.

AN: Um...

RM: Could you talk a little about the music festivals how they work or evolved.

AN: Yes. Northern had always been host I think every year to either the band festival or the chorus festival. What I noticed was missing and something was familiar with from my Minnesota days was an opportunity for high school students to perform a service performance and encourage ensembles brass ensembles and woodwind ensembles, string, and vocal ensembles also solos. So we would hire probably eight adjudicators to come in and here the students. And so there were piano students who would come from all over. So of course what I was looking for potential students to enroll in Northern. And so we solely put on the solo and ensemble festival for years and years I don't know if they still do it, they might. It was a very attractive thing at the time. Um...because we would get students on campus who otherwise won't be here. We picked up some good students and on occasion we would have scholarships to give them. So that was an important thing.

RM: That started about what year?

AN: Um...must of have about 1950 or 1951 shortly after I came.

RM: Now I guess while we are still back at your first run, who was your predecessor and what was the state of the music department.

AN: ok...a very interesting man by the name of Dwayne Haskell. Dwayne (?) was a very capable violinist. And I really believe a good administrator but some how or other and I couldn't understand it because I didn't see it he was not very popular in Marquette. When I was hired several people told me that they hoped I had took Dwayne Haskell's job.

AN: But when you think Dwayne Haskell organized, he was the first president of the American String Teachers Association. And he also served as president of the Music Teachers National Conference. Which is/was I mean national in scope and for the head of the music department at northern to have organized the American String Teachers Association a very health organization and served as President of the other is a really complement to the man.

RM: But some how he irritated

AN: Some how his days at Northern we not very and happy and he said to me he is happy to be going good luck.

RM: Now could you talk a little about the bands and football games and some of that?

AN: ok...

RM: When talking about football games we were playing down by memorial field?

AN: When I first came here they played where the university center is now. Um...the first heard of the music department I think was an Ms. (?) the next one was Conway Peters who had been band director at Alma. So he came here and release, he must have

had a fantastic personality because he got a lot of things going. Even Luther Gant who I never thought of as a musician play in his orchestra at one time. There was a professor Brown, he taught psychology and education at Northern told me this because he had known Sophia Lenten. She never had a girls chorus but she had vocal ensembles and her comment to Gilbert Brown was the mans name and her comment was there was really not a lot of talent up here. Now she was the first one, now Gilbert Brown happened to be a neighbor of mine eventually told me the story about Conway Peters.

AN: When he had been here a year he had told Conway Peters he had never seen some much talent in all his life. To kind of interesting stories about number 1 and number 2.

RM: Yeah

AN: I think there was a man by the name of Williams who was the third head of the department. Conway Peters had been a violinist. Williams was a violinist, Dwayne Haskell was a violinist and I was a violinist. For some reason or another somebody thought that violinists should be head of the department and I wasn't going to argue with that. And you see when I came here our staff was really over work. Ray Ulinger had the concert band and marching band and the chorus and taught several classes. Margaret Petty was half time with us and taught the music education courses the other half she was a supervisor of music in John D Pierce School. Ruth Quig was half time on salary because she wanted to keep the money she made from private lessons. Which was a system which I didn't approve of but that was the way it was when she was hired? Bad for her eventually because when it came time for her to retired she was not in a very healthy position. But she taught the music theory course. Then a man a man whom I have met at Columbia because we were both in the music program was Hal Wright. He was an exceedingly strong musician and still extremely close friend of mine. Um... in fact al had written a composition at Columbia and every spring they would have a recital for all the outstanding compositions students had written. Hal had written a (Chaconne) for violin and woodwind instruments which was a rather interesting thing. I had met him and played the violin in the recital. It was not until I applied here that we had gotten together.

RM: Was he already here?

AN: Yes and he would have had it. But there was this kind of strict rule that a person had to have doctorate. It was not really that consistent but it was consistent in Dr. Tate's mind. Hal and I were good friends through all of that. One of the things we decided and it was a real complement to the whole staff we really felt that we need to have a bachelor of music education degree. So I talked to Dr. Tate about it and he said I can do it but you won't get anymore staff. Well I will be darned if our department agreed and real complement need for the sake of the students. So we started it and Dr. Harden had not been here for 3 weeks and called me into his office and asked what do you want first? So he supported us.

RM: So was it when Harden came in things really got energized.

AN: You better believe it. Walter Gries was the chairman board of control or whatever they called it and Gries hall was name for him. We were very active in social activities in Marquette and my wife too and Walter Gries said I just hired a man by the name of Ed Harden and Alan you will like him. The sleeping giants woke up.

RM: Now let's see...you continued as head of the department?

AN: For 12 years and in the mean time Dr Harden had. NO... he appointed me to Dean of Students. There was a deanship at arts and sciences I think I could have had either one. Dr. Harden knew of my doctoral work at Minnesota. Harris Brandberg who was vice president at the time, knew about me from contacts in Minnesota. Harold said Alan I think you should be dean of students and Harden was leaning that way too. I should say there were some eyebrows raised. There were two associate deans who were well engrained in the profession of student personnel administration.

AN: The man didn't have his doctorate. Arnold Emree would have been very capable. Ann Thompson had her doctorate. So it was kind of not easy for me to take the job. And both of them then found new jobs.

RM: On campus?

AN: No off campus.

AN: I never regretted it. I was blessed with three administrative assistants. The first girl came in was Aida Depner. She had been the secretary to Don Bottum and Dean Kerry. They shared offices together. Aida Depner was just a wonderful person and for a new neo-fight in student personnel on campus she was just tremendous. And she delayed her retirement for 3 years....i think as a favor for me.

AN: Then Ogden Johnson knew that the mine in Champion was closing. There had been a girl that ran that office by the name of Martha Wiljamen. Ogden was high with Cleveland Cliffs. She lived in Ishpeming and he knew her really well and said Allen if you are looking for a secretary let me suggest Martha Wiljamen to consider. I guess he and Martha went to the same church. And here is a girl ...she knew office procedures and mining...I swears in three month's she knew the whole operation. Just Fantastic and she stay on and worked her long enough to get her degree.

RM: oh

AN: To me was just a wonderful thing. She incidentally is just one of those great ones. She is the one who selected Connie Williams to be her successor.

RM: ohhhhh...so Connie then worked for you.

AN: Yes. Connie at the time was working as secretary in the counseling center. Martha knew how systematic she was and knew all these qualities I should be looking for. So Connie and I have kidded about it because I had nothing to say about it.

RM: You bring something up and it's getting my memory going. So you know Wilbur West?

AN: oh yes. I have an interesting story to tell.

RM: Now he was in the counseling center:

AN: No. Yes. Counseling too. Testing was his strong point. We socialized with the West's we went to the same church.

RM: Now is his wife still alive?

AN: No...she died about four five years ago. So we knew the 3 west kids because I directed the Youth choir in the Methodist church for a number of years. I guess I wasn't much for square dancing. And so we socialized and so just a little side light. This lake I go to Four Island Lake the whole lake was up for sale 60 years ago. We had an opportunity to be one of the 10 buyers who would buy the property and incorporate it and take care of it.

AN: And so Bill West was asked to take over as the Dean of Students when Don Bottom retired. And he started the job on July one and shortly after discovered he had cancer and

died in January so that it was 6 month's and probably the last three months he was out of the office.

AN: So it was the office took another shellacking because Bill would have done a good job of course. He would have known the whole operation. So then that's when Dr. Harden asked if I would take over as the Dean of Students. I then served in that position for twelve years, most of it was with Dr. Jamrich. Dr. Jamrich came up to us we were seated watching a basketball game in Hedgecock and said "Al I would like to appoint you to vice president. I am bringing it up at the next board meeting."

RM: So just like that? So then you became Vice President of?

AN: Just like that. Student Affairs. See some people objected to student affairs. Having a you know.

RM: OH

AN: I think they did call it student affairs anyhow. It came up often time as Student Personnel Services. See at that time I was in charge of everything outside the classroom except the business office.

RM: Oh...so everything involved with students. How did that I don't know is there interesting stories connected with the job.

AN: I was held captive for a few hours. Black students held me captive. You know the irony of it, one of the student leaders David Williams, is now the Vice-President of student affairs at Vanderbilt University. He wrote that article in the Northern News saying how bigoted Northern was that a black student had a willing student in his room and was kicked out. There had been a white student in the same situation that had not been kicked out. I don't know the name of the white student but I do know Charlie Griffith the name of the black student who had be kicked out of the student faculty committee.

AN: The day I was held captive the review committee consisting of one faculty, one administrator, and one student were reviewing the case. That is when I was held because I don't know they destroyed the Christmas trimmings in our offices and so forth.

Anyhow that committee overturned the committee, so Charlie Griffith was not kicked out of school contrary to the vice-president of Vanderbilt University.

AN: I wrote a letter to the Northern News putting the matter straight, except I did not use David Williams's name.

RM: Interesting.

AN: We did have a sit-down at a basketball game. We made a mistake it was our first time we should have moved the game to the gymnasium. Not everybody could have fit in. But the game with Pan-American could have been play. Then they could have filtered the students to avoid another sit-down.

RM: So the game was held at Hedgecock.

AN: It was held there but because of the sit-in was cancelled.

RM: And your saying it could have went to the gymnasium.

AN: See there was a gymnasium not many but there were bleachers on both sides. So they could have taken 500 hundred people.

RM: So all of this the whole experience the sit-ins and what not how would you reminisce about it.

AN: Well we were the last ones. We had kind of an active group (the vice-presidents of all the Michigan Colleges there were nine of us.) We would meet once a year just to

compare notes. We started at the time it was kind of the instigation of when rabble-rousing was starting on campuses. How can we benefit, how can we work better. So we had to take them to court. We know our lawyer told us since we couldn't name who did. See they took the Selectric typewriter, which was the typewriter at the time, and see at the time I was in Dr. Harden's former office in Kaye Hall.

AN: There were double windows up high.

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NEW TAPE

AN: On this day a number of black students came into our office and just indicated they were going to have a sit-in. The recommendation that we had was just let them sit. So Will Kafer, Karen Reefs, Norm Hepke, and I had met in Will's office and decided we would take turns keeping a watch out. In fact I think we brought in some cookies a big platter of cookies from food service. The rest of the staff had left. Each of them had offices that were sitting in the corridor and it must have been somewhere around 10 o'clock at night where we heard some kind of a crash. We didn't know what it was, so I said well we were kind of taking turns walking through. So I said I would walk through. Now I could sense hostility, I noticed that our Christmas trees here must have been two in that area and one in my area I had to go through a special area to get in there, all the trees had been destroyed. Students were sitting in the different offices...like Norm Hepke's and Karen Reefs. By the time I had gotten to my office which was on the far end from where Lowell was...I saw the big whole in the glass up above and saw that our filing cases had been pushed up against my exit door.

AN: So I had no way to get out of that. I was going as quickly as I could. This one big black student said sit. We had kind of a 2 by 2 that we would put under these old windows to hold them up, he had one of those in his had well I wasn't going to argue. I didn't recognize the student. So we suspect he was someone that came from the outside. I could not say who had done it. I recognized other people there, I couldn't finger that anybody else had accosted in a hostile way whatever the term is.

RM: Yup

AN: So I don't remember how long it was that I was there. As soon as the verdict came from the students, there must have been a runner that was planned; he was declared innocent by this review committee everybody disappeared. The best we could do was take the student leaders to trial them. Oh, what had happened an interesting antidote; we were taking student ids. This was the early days of student ids. What's that camera?

RM: Polaroid

AN: So we had all kinds of Polaroid film on Norm Hepke's desk. That disappeared. There were other things that disappear. Well a couple days later mind you, we got a phone. I think Lowell got a call from somebody. If you want your Polaroid film they are in such and such a dorm room on the upper drawer. The police forgot to get a search warrant. So the campus police went in there and of course there it was. We got the guy cold but because he didn't have a search warrant he gained legal possession of the film.

RM: Oh my word.

AN: Yeah. Anyhow we did take it. I spent many an hour. Dick Jones was the attorney who served Miller Canfield happened to on campus that night. So about four O'clock in

the morning we were meeting in Jamrichs office. Dick Jones said "Allen as soon as you go home before you go to sleep write down as much you remember." This was the best damn advice I could have had. Those things leave your memory. They had an attorney who really grueled. Anyhow through unfortunate circumstance, not my fault there was called a mistrial. We really felt we were obliged to take them to court.

RM: Now what role did Bob McClellan play in all this or was he involved?

AN: Well there was speculation.

RM: He was involved in the sit in or anything?

AN: Oh no. You see early there was animosity between Bob McClellan and President Harden. It was a time when there were a lot of faculty members who were fighting administration. On that I really have no opinions.

RM: Now that was also kind of on a larger scale it was kind of a time when things were changing in that there was more faculty demand more voice in school governance and yet you had administrators. I don't want say this negatively but from the old school who didn't do it that way. Was that kind of part?

Interruption

AN: Oh I am sure it was. I am sure that it was. See Dutch Barnard was a very close friend of mine. I should say this too. I was active, in fact I was I don't know if I was called president or chairman of the faculty association. See Northern had our faculty association and the other teachers colleges had their faculty association. I think it was only the four of us, I don't remember if Lake Superior or Saginaw or those others were involved. See I was chairman of the state group. So really I was very active will faculty organization on campus, even though I was a department head. So Dick Odell, Dutch Barnard, and I made many a trip down state.

RM: Speaking of Dick Odell, have you heard anything about him?

AN: He is still living.

RM: Ok.

RM: He was 90 last year. His daughter called, I had been in touch with him. Does he still in Alden do you know?

AN: He is close to Traverse City on the lake there.

RM: So to your knowledge he still. I should just give him a call to see what happens.

AN: I should too.

RM: I keep putting it off, afraid that he isn't in good health. Maybe he is fine health.

AN: Dick was a forty-niner.

RM: Yup, I have a question and you might now want to answer it. He wouldn't answer it for me. When I was doing the history of my encyclopedia club, I ran across this thing I was looking at a House on American Affairs. In the late 40's early 50's this was a big thing nationally. The other think it boiled down to are there and this is a gross term to use: Are there communists in education? I ran across a statement, I think the faculty association I don't know if you name was I forget now who was on the committee, but there was a movement on the part of one of the social organizations like rotary or Kiwanis condemning someone but they never mention the person name for being a communist. Do you remember anything about that? I have read things. They never mention a person. I mentioned it to Dick Odell many years ago and he wound not discuss it. Then just between you and me, I was talking to somebody about it and they said well

maybe it was Dick Odell who was the person, given his kind of his new deal not that he was communist but these people saw that his kind of new deal was.

Interruption

AN: Yeah I am sure of that.

RM: Do you remember any of that? I don't know what it went on to.

AN: Are we on?

The above conversation stops.

New topic of conversation below.

RM: So then you continued until you retired in 1981.

AN: Yes

RM: I guess going back to Harden. How about his wife? What role did she play on campus?

AN: She was a very gracious lady. They were childhood sweethearts from Mount Video, Iowa. I think both grew up on farms, neighboring farms. Just a very gracious first lady who was loved by all. Their son had my position at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. He was a top student personnel administrator; I don't know what his title was. The daughter was just a really sweetheart too. We knew the family very well.

RM: She then played an active role with students and interacting with them and having them for teas?

AN: Yes. She was quite. Not the outgoing type, just very gracious.

RM: But just the opposite sort of but different than Mrs. Tate? The Hardens would have you over and faculty over?

AN: Oh yes, oh yes.

RM: Was that when that started where the president kind of opened his house up to the public at the time of Harden?

AN: oh yes. Yes.

RM: Before that you didn't see?

AN: NO. The Jamrichs did that very much. He and I on several occasions, he played the piano an excellent musician, I would play the violin in fact he and I play for some board meetings at the new presidents house.

RM: oh okay.

RM: I guess he still, do you keep in touch with him with Jamrich?

AN: Yes

RM: ok. Now the last I heard he was telling me he plays every noon?

AN: Yes at the hospital. They have a male clinic down there. Yeah it is nice. He had had fine music training. There is not doubt about it, but he explained to me that as much as he liked music he preferred math. So he didn't pursue music in college.

RM: He kept it on a private, kind of the way you started but then you went on. He then continued in math.

AN: There was one other thing I did forget to mention. In my early years in the music department. I knew about the wonderful work they were doing at Interlochen. I also

knew there were other colleges to come to campus in the summer months for a week to have a concentrated week of musical activity. So I had asked a very well know composer of high school music. A friend Polly (unrecognizable) . He was very well known nationally for things that he had written for high school band. He came here for two summers and conducted a summer band camp. We would take any high school student and had a number of teachers who would help with individual and group instruction. They rehearsed all day and put on a concert at the end of the week. The dormitories housed them and fed them well. Again this was a recruiting implement not only for music students but for other students who probably might be chemistry major and sing in the choir. The Polly had it for two years then I asked a man by the name of Frank Simon, who was the last solo coronetist in John Philip Sousa's band. I had known Frank Simon from before. So he followed in and when he came we also saw a need for having baton twirlers. We were able to attract baton twirlers throughout the U.P. It was a fine service to the schools and again I am sure a good recruiting device for Northern. We took music camp and solo and ensemble festival.

RM: So about at that time, when you were department head there, how many majors did you have in music?

AN: We would have about 60 to 70. We encouraged music minor. We would tailor make a music minor almost anyway. If somebody wanted to take piano lessons for four years they would end with music minor. If they wanted to take voice lessons, pick and choose whatever courses. Maybe they want music history. We were also, I forget the certification group, but we then became certified by a national group for music teacher training.

RM: Now you talked about having these workshops and summer programs. Was this kind of promoted by Harden or was it before Hardens time, was it more your idea?

AN: It was my idea.

RM: So it predated Harden.

AN: Predated Harden Yes.

RM: Was there any encouragement on the part of the administration, of Tate to get more students by having workshops like this or again was it just your idea?

AN: Well it was my idea. He wholeheartedly agreed once it got going. I don't think it was until Harden that it was a campus wide push.

RM: You mean to increase enrollment?

AN: To encourage students on campus.

RM: I just ask it because now here many, many years later we are asked to do the same thing. How to increase enrollment in various departments and so on? You didn't wait for somebody really tell you to do it. You just did it.

AN: Yes, well selfishly speaking, I was looking for music majors. I wanted to get them on campus.

RM: So any kind of summer program to get these kids on campus?

AN: You bet. Because of the fact that the music department was kind of struggling. There was a void in there I think after Conway Peters left. There was not a lot of excitement.

RM: Then I guess you also had World War 2.

AN: Yeah then World War 2 came in and that cut down on the enrollment there is no doubt about that.

RM: So when you came in you were kind of introducing a whole new Europe?

AN: Yes, I was blessed with all the returning Veterans. Who had been in Army Bands and Navy Bands? They were coming in because they wanted music degrees; we put out some fine teachers.

RM: There was one story told how they had a junior/senior rivalry at the end of World War 2 they had done it before too. So the kids came back, were going to do the same thing, except they ended up the first time they did it the senior class for some reason the senior class didn't have the veterans and the junior class did. I guess they just took them apart. Here you had all these combat veterans that had all of these games they play contests and what not. I guess they just ran them in the ground. I think about after that they went and stopped the junior/senior rivalry. It got into more of a struggle. They said that was the first and last time after the return of the veterans.

AN: Well I would say that I am glad to have had a chance to chat with you. I have been a little on the verbiage side. You got me at a time I guess when I was reminiscing, I am at that age now too when I can do it a little more reminiscing.

RM: I would just like to get your final comments. How do you returning now and kind of on a yearly basis, how do you view the campus, what's happened since you left or when you first arrived then what you see today?

AN: Well I remember meeting Dr. Vandament when he first became the president. We took a quick liking to one another because we were both trumpet players. I still remember the time when Tom Peters had asked if I would join the group that would just play in the dome at a football game; we would just kind of have a jazz band that was playing. As an inducement he said that president Vandament would be there as well. So on the appointed Saturday I was there and met Dr. Vandament. It seemed that no one else appeared. So lo and behold here were two has beans we played coronet duets and played all these songs but missed the backup. He and I had a great time and it was good initiation to a long time friendship.

AN: I didn't know Dr. Bailey as well. She was very gracious and we were invited to sit in the Presidents box at homecoming games. We chatted on occasion but I must say this, I am just so very pleased, so pleased that I have had a chance to get to know Dr. Wong. I certainly look forward to getting together with him again. I came to Marquette last winter when they dedicated the Reynolds Recital Hall, since I had been head of the music department and long time friend of the Reynolds. It just seemed like I should be there. I had called Hal Wright in California because I am sure that he would have been happy to have joined me for that important occasion but his wife was not up to it. I told Hal I would do my best to represent both of us. I must say that I think it took a creative genius to design that recital hall and put it into the old gymnasium to come out so beautifully. It was a beautiful ceremony that Dr. Wong and his group put on. I am sure the music department is going to like that addition to the building. Something again that Hal Wright and I would say I wish we had it. I think Northern is moving in a marvelous direction. It is bound to succeed with the kind of leadership we have.

RM: So it has been quite a change though if we focus just on the music facilities from what you said at the beginning.

AN: Yes, oh wow yes! I do know the music department staff appreciates what they have. When you see the practice rooms and the buttons you can press to change the acoustics and all of the fine sophisticated things. Northern deserves it and it is about time we are getting first class equipment everywhere.

AN: How is that for a good parting note?

RM: Excellent! Thank you very much!