

interview with R. Tom Peters, Assistant to the President, Northern Michigan University, June 24, 1994.

RMM: O.K. Tom just starting out as the first question, could you give us a little of your background in terms of maybe your family when they came to the Marquette area and then we will start with your association with Northern.

TP: Well my family actually came to the area in the late 1800s early 1900s, my mother was born in Ishpeming and she graduated from northern in 1912, my dad was originally born in Munising and moved to the Marquette area and went into the insurance with his father, then went into World War I, he went to an institution down in Chicago, at that time was called Armor Institute, which is now Illinois Institute of Technology, spent two years there and then after the war came back and worked in the insurance business with his father.

RMM: could you just include your parents names?

TP: sure, my father's name was Robert Peters, and my mother's name was Pearl, maiden name Tucker, Peters. So anyway, I was born and raised in this community went to the local high school here, which called Graverette High School at the time, we are having an all school reunion this summer for Graverette High School. When they got the new school and moved out to Fair Ave. it became Marquette High School and Graverette is now one of the Middle School in the community. I graduated from high school in 1950 and went on a football scholarship to Rudckers University in NewBrunswick, New Jersey, spent a year and a half there and transferred to Northern Michigan. I came here in February of 1952, graduated from northern in 1955, with a bachelors and then with my master degree in 1960. Was later an elementary teacher, I taught school for two years in Battle Creek and then came to Northern at an invitation of President Harden to be the first full time alumni director in 1957. Stayed in that position until 1961 and at that time, not unlike today there was a budget crunch and one of the areas the president decided to close down was the alumni office. I was offered a position to stay and teach in the John D. Pirece school. I decided that I came to northern to be the alumni director if there wasn't going to be an alumni program I was going to do something else, so I left for a couple of years. Ended up selling educational television programs for a company called B. Derochmont Corporation they were an subsidiary to D.C.E Publishing Company. This was a new program for teaching foreign languages in the elementary school by film and television. And I was involved in that for about a year and a half and then President Harden called and asked me if I would consider coming back presuming my previous duties as director of alumni relations, and I did that. I came back in 1963 and have been here ever since, in a variety of different styles.

RMM: So you have been here then since this, you haven't left since this has been Northern Michigan University?

TP: That's right.

RMM: You had mentioned earlier that your mother graduated from northern in 1912. Are there any memories that you recall from her going here?

TP: Well no cause I really didn't come on the face of the earth till 1932 so she had already finished her... she was a teacher and taught up in Champion and there was some interesting stories about having to go too Champion. She was from Ishpeming, she'd go too Champion and spend the winter there but they would go by train and that was basically the way she got from Ishpeming to Champion was on the train in those days. And my mother taught for several years and then when she and my dad were married then she stopped teaching. So actually my mother is a graduate, I'm a graduate, three of my four children graduated from Northern. The fourth one who did not graduate spent two years here in are pre-architecture program and then transferred to University of Michigan and got his degree in architure, both his bachelors and masters form U of M. But the others are graduates from Northern and my son-in-law is a graduate from Northern , and my daughter-in-law is a graduate of Northern so we have a green and gold family.

RMM: Going back to your early school days at Northern. Can you kind of recount what the life was like social life, campus life kind of just the nature of the college at that time?

TP: The college at that time was just beginning to grow. We had several of the folks come back from World War 2 were still in school the veterans and they had a presence on the campus. The college was very much like a high school we probably had maybe 700 - 750 students at the time. Everybody knew everybody else, you knew the professor's and the teachers very well. There were a number of student organizations that were very, very active, and there were almost every weekend there was some kind of a dance or an event that got the students together. Soon after we opened up.. we did have a cafeteria in the barracks where the students would gather and before that in the basement of Longyear Hall. But then the Carey Hall was built and Lee Hall, and those were the newest buildings on the campus that and Olson Library really constituted the campus. And all of our activities were pretty well confined to the buildings that are now represented by Cohodas and the Olson Library, and then Lee and Carey Hall. And of course the Lee Hall ballroom was were we had all of our dances, banquets, and things of that nature and the cafeteria was a great gathering place for the campus.

RMM: Where was the cafeteria in Lee Hall?

TP: That is the cafeteria was what is now your gallery. Down on that lower level close between where you come in the Lee Hall entrance and right to the left as you go in there that was the cafeteria and the kitchen was right behind it.

RMM: The kitchen is now the the lab area for design.

TP: Right

RMM: Then what was on where the office of Art and Design is today on that side?

TP: That was kind of like a lounge okay. And then as I recall it went on the lounge then there was a connection on into Carey Hall from there, and Carey Hall was the women dormitory, not a men's dormitory, a women's dorm and all the ladies that lived on campus lived there, the men that were from out of the area lived in rooming houses or fraternity houses.

RMM: Then they also said there was a bookstore in that

TP: Yes, there was a bookstore, and that was over where the Public Safety is now.

RMM: so with the construction of Carey Hall, Lee Hall, alot of the bookstore, lounge or cafeteria or whatever those areas that were in Kay and Longyear and so on were all moved out?

TP: Right, right.

RMM: what was the spirit of the students at that time, there were a lot of veteran on campus, they had vetsville, could you talk a little about that?

TP: OH sure, over in the area where the University Center is now situated and actually up to the corner here, the curve in the road that goes on over toward Hedgecock Feildhouse, was Vetsville, and there were a number of units there and a lot of the married students who came back to go to school lived in that area. It was really married housing. One of those units was turned into like a barracks unit and that was used then in the early to mid fifties by our student athletes and that was really our first grant and aid program, the student athletes lived in the barracks, and they were called the barracks boys, and they lived in there and I think they paid like 30 cents a month for their share of the oil and then for that they had a place to live and then all, and I say all there must have been 20 or 25 fellows that must have been in there, they all had student jobs on campus, so that constituted the grant made.

RMM: and then the accommodations were typical barracks just bed and

TP: very spartan, there were some segregated rooms in there, I mean there might have been anywhere between two to four fellows living in a room, and they had a study area, and they had kindof like a gang bathroom facility. But there are several of those fellows still around that you might like to interview some time, to get their reactions to living in the barracks.

Kannelly was in there, he was kindof in charge of the barracks for a couple of years. Gerry was in the barracks, LU Myeski was in the barracks, George Temossee was in the barracks, Gerry Saundry lived in the barracks, I am trying to think of local fellows that, I'm sure there were others but those are the only ones that come to mind right now.

RMM: How long did that continue then, Vetsville situation over there.

TP: Well that pretty got us in and through the late 50s and then in the early 60s that all came down and it was then made into the University Center and of course the university center was built in three stages, but that area was all dedicated to that.

RMM: While we are talking about this end of campus, do you recall a raised area which would have been in front of Longyear hall, that was a heart-shaped area, that they used for, maybe not in the fifties but earlier had been used for gathering ceremonies, mayday festivals and things like that?

TP: I really don't, I mean I just don't recall that.

RMM: O.K. Then in terms of the, we were kind of talking about Vetsville but then I want to have you talk about the spirit on the campus with the students and the type of student.

TP: The spirit was very strong. It was very much like a high school atmosphere in that respect, I mean there was a lot of school spirit, a lot of fun things going on, people were into enjoying one another. One of the classic things between classes most everybody congregated in Kay hall. And there was this lovely stairway that went up to the second floor primarily, and then others on up to third. But people would stand up on the balcony and wave to one another between classes. It was where you saw your friends and so on and so forth. Or decided that you wanted to go up to the cafeteria to have a cup of coffee. That's where you kind of met to make those kinds of choices. As I say the clubs, the various clubs on campus were very active and involved. The fraternities and sororities were very active. There was very good response to the football and basketball games. A lot of students turned out. There was good spirit there. The music department was very active. And there were lots of activities that aloud the students to listen to the band or the orchestra or the choral or whatever it may be. Of course the music department in those days was housed up in the third floor on, in the Launder building. And it was kind of interesting. The departments were very strong. And so we saw a lot of activity coming from the departmental activities and clubs. And many of the clubs were associated with the academic departments, a lot of the activities. And of course we had the auditorium in Kay hall. Which was a place for all kinds of convocations and performances and everything was done in there. From concerts to the various lecturers that came and so forth. Graduation was in there. It was quite a gathering place. Very nice facilities.

RMM: Where was the, I've seen pictures of the gymnasium, Where was that located?

TP: The gymnasium was actually in the basement of Kay hall, under the auditorium.

RMM: O.K. And that's the picture we've seen with the

TP: The track around the top. Yes.

RMM: And that was just in the, on the street level, or was that in the ground?

TP: No it was actually in the ground. It was a basement gymnasium and the locker rooms were down there for the men and women. And of course all of the buildings, when I say all, Longyear, Kay, Peter White Science, were all connected on that basement level as well as up above. So you could actually go, and there was a small gymnasium, a very small gymnasium in the Peter White Science building too. That was used for some of the classes, physical education classes. Of course, John D. Peirce training school was here at that time, and so a lot of the physical education majors had did there student teaching in the John D. Peirce School. And they would bring the kids over to play and there was also a small gym in John D. Pierce, the basement of John D. Pierce. When I say small these were very small gyms.

RMM: At that time you talked about the sports what sports were being yielded by the university at that time?

TP: Predominately it was football, basketball, and track were the big sports. Then in the 50's Mr. Money had skiing became a varsity sport with us and that is basically it. When we moved on into Hedgecock when the Hedgecock Building was built then swimming became a sport because there was a pool in there. Gymnastics came on a little bit later and some of those things have changed throughout the years. Basically it was football, basketball, and track.

RMM: Let's say the football team at that time in the fifties did they belong to any particular league and what school's did they....

TP: Basically before the war they used to play the other colleges the other teachers colleges by that I mean Central, Eastern, and Western and we always had a rivalry with Michigan Tech. We also played in the fifties in some contest's with Gogebic Community College, Suomi, Sue Tech then before it came Lake Superior State University was a branch of Michigan Tech. Sue Tech was one of the school's we played. We played school's like Alma and Olivette, and Adrian. We played Calvin College in Grand Rapids basically we played all Michigan schools however we did get into some of the Wisconsin school's. We would play Wisconsin Oshkosch, Stevens Point, Superior, Minnesota- Duluth some of the other Minnesota small schools; basically that was our region.

RMM: Was playing those particular schools was that dictated by travel probably...

TP: Travel I'm sure had a great deal to do with it some of it had to do with the size and type of institution. And basically there was a time that we dropped playing the a Central and Eastern Universities just because they became so much larger and they were getting into different conferences and affiliations and so forth. And then when President Harden came we wanted to upgrade our athletic program and so we sought to expand our horizons and play more difficult competition and so forth. That is really when the athletic program took a shot upward.

RMM: What I would like to do is stay with that kind of pre- sixty- three and then we will pick it up. Could you kind of give us a walk through of the buildings at that time and where things were located in Kaye Hall, Longyear Hall, Peter White on the various floors, if you could do that ?

TP: Well let's start with John D. Pierce and kind of work our way from that end of the campus. John D. Pierce was the training school. There were the elementary classroom's were on the first floor, the second floor had the high school classes, John D. Pierce High School. Also on the first floor was the office of the principal of John D. Pierce school. And as I recall when I was here the fellow that was in charge, and also I'll call him the superintendent, director of teaching was Doctor Hopsis (William Hopsis). I think Evan Kelly was principal when I was here at the high school, and Dr. Hopsis was in charge of all the student teachers as well, and that was are placement office, that was all in the John D. Pierce School. In the basement was the industrial arts area and a small gymnasium as I mentioned to you before. Then we moved on from that building into the Longyear Hall, and there were classroom's on all floors in Longyear Hall it was basically...because really by the time I got here the cafeteria had moved out of there and the book store that was in the basement had moved out. And those were classroom's , and some faculty office's in there and in all three levels in Longyear Hall were classroom's. That was kind of the Jamrich Hall in those days, was basically a classroom building and some offices. And the music

department was on the top floor as I mentioned to you earlier and they had their offices up there. Dr. Wright was head of the music department, Hail Wright, and T. Ray Ulinger was teaching at that time, and Ruth Craig. That was a very good music department by the way, very strong. Then we came on into coming towards... I guess it would be northward into Kaye Hall. The registrar's office and the president's office were on the ground floor, the main floor. And so then was the dean of students, and some business classes; business education was on the ground floor. Then we move up the stairs and there were classrooms on the next two levels in Kaye Hall, and some faculty offices. Most of the English department was in Kaye Hall at the time, and of course the auditorium was there and the gymnasium was down in the basement area, and storage down in the basement. You go on northward again and all these buildings were connected by the way into the Peter White Science Building. Basically all of your science classes and laboratories were in that building. Biology, chemistry, botany, and physics and all your math classes were in the Peter White Science Building, that was why it was called Peter White Science. And then we had to go down the stairs and they actually had a connector to the library, to Olson Library. And there were two floors in Olson Library plus a basement area where there was some storage and some meeting rooms over there. That was quite a functional building but it wasn't built very well and they had to take it down actually.

RMM: So the campus then just by its physical layout then lent itself to pulling all the students and faculty together then?

TP: Yes, very much so because the campus basically ended with Carey and Lee Halls I mean that was the end of it. There was nothing but other than (Vet Vil)?? over here that we had spoken of earlier and beyond that was woods. Actually up on the hill and I'll call it the hill behind the University Center you go up Kaye Avenue there. That up on the hill that area up in there was the football stadium, and the running track. So in the early days that's where the Wildcats had their football games and you could drive in on seventh street and park up on the hill there and look down and it was like a bowl effect, and it was kinda interesting. Then they moved in the early 1950's they moved their games down to a Memorial Field which was the high school field. We used to practice up on our old grounds up here and then play the games down at Memorial Field, and then later on the university bought that from the public schools.

RMM: Oh I see, so the facility that is down there the grand stands that was put in...

TP: The grand stand actually belonged on the one side of the field actually belonged to the high school, I mean that was built by the high school. And the the stands on the east side were put up by the university once we took over down there. The area where the P.E.I.F. parking lot is used to be the old polestar, the city ice arena. Then in fact before there were locker rooms under the stadium in half time we would go into the polestar to get warm or whatever we had to do, I mean that was just the way it went. We dress here walk on down to the stadium play our games, half time go in the polestar and come back after the game. It was kind of fun I mean you could see the team walking on down with their capes and whatever else, talking to the people on the street as you would go down for the game or coming back afterwards. It was.. as I say it was really a glorified high school setting but it was a very friendly situation.

RMM: So this brings up to about, to about say around 1960. Now this is when you came...no

you said

TP: I left in "61" in July or August in "61" and I came back two years later basically.

RMM: Okay, What were your activities when you were the head of the alumni office? What was that whole kind of program like? Your interaction with the alumni?

TP: Well it was kind of interesting well it was very interesting at the time because we did not have an alumni program it was a matter of getting something started, and working on special reunions, and getting people back for homecoming, and establishing chapters and meetings throughout the state even in the area. My biggest problem initially was to identify who the graduates of the university were and where they were. We worked very closely with the placement office at the time just to find out who the graduates were and where we might reach them. So it took us quite awhile to build a good alumni list and find out where the folks were located.

RMM: So until you were hired then in what year were you/

TP: 1957.

RMM: Until that time there was not an alumni program at Northern

TP: Not really there was an alumni association and one of the ways they got you to join the alumni association was they had a senior party, tea type thing. And you were basically were required to go to it it wasn't a question of an optional thing . You had to have a job or be dead or sick or something you better be at the senior swing, and that was held up in Lee Hall in the ballroom. You would come on in and you registered and they gave you an alumni card , and they gave you a pin and you were a part of the alumni association. But the alumni association didn't do anything, I mean they had no.. they didn't really communicate , they had no means of communication. People would come back at homecoming because homecoming I think has been a tradition since there has been colleges and universities. But it wasn't all that well organized whatever happened at homecoming was done by the student organizations, it wasn't necessarily a alumni thing. I for example in the early days I belonged to the Tri (Mufe??) fraternity, so when I came back I went to the fraternity house and helped build the float for the homecoming parade and stuff like that. Our involvement was more with the club or organization for which we belong rather than a general all alumni type thing. In fact the first year I taught school in Battle Creek I called the registrar, Mr. Luther O. Gant and I asked him if he could help me identify alumni that were living in lower Michigan. And so I came up with this idea that I thought it would be great if we had a car caravan to come back for homecoming. So I must have sent out two hundred post cards on my own too alumni addresses that I have been given by Mr. Gant and invited them all back for homecoming and suggested that we rendezvous in Grayling and drive on in together. I say we ended up with about 275 that came back for homecoming and many of them met in Grayling and came back together. It was kinda of interesting, that was really my first involvement with alumni. I suppose it was based on that the reason's Dr. Harden thought that I ought to be the first alumni director and that is the only good reason I can give you, and that might not be a good one but that is the only reason. But it was very interesting trying to build a good list of names and

addresses's and start to get the alumni involved and thinking about the college. Dr. Harden was a great person to take out to meetings because he was so dynamic and the folks loved him, and he had.....

RMM: Can you just repeat yourself about President Harden.

TP: Sure, well what I was saying he was just a great person to take out to alumni events because he was so personable, and very articulate. And he was able to share a vision for what he thought the future of this institution could be. That was at the time we were developing chapters and clubs in those days I called them alumni clubs, Paul Sumoi now calls them alumni chapters it is just the same thing with different terminology. And we had clubs formulated as I recall we started in Detroit, we had an Detroit Alumni Club we had one in Flint, one in Ann Arbor, had one in Lansing, basically we had Dickinson County and Delta County alumni clubs we had a Copper Country alumni club. Those were basically the areas where we had the greatest concentration of graduates so we felt we would have the most success in getting people to come out and have some interest. One of the meetings I remember very clearly, Dr. Harden and I were going to Ann Arbor for this alumni meeting. It was in the middle of January and we had a awful storm , he and I left in the morning because we had this thing committed. We had this particular alumni meeting in the Michigan Union, one of the rooms in the Michigan Union. Well anyway we got there and it was terrible driving, just terrible driving. We got in and the meeting was scheduled.. it was a dinner meeting scheduled for six o'clock. The fellow who was the ahead of the Ann Arbor alumni chapter got up and apologized for the small attendance cause I think there was maybe 20- 25 people there. But you know we have had a terrible storm today and I am sure some people stayed home and Dr. Harden said " Yes, I know about the storm Tom and I just drove 500 miles to get to this meeting!" He was giving them a little bit of a shot that excuse wasn't going to hold any water with him. But the other thing that was really great about Dr. Harden's enthusiasm for athletic's gave us a vehicle to rally people. When we'd play at Eastern Michigan or at Central or wherever he was there and very much in the forefront, we got a lot of alumni to come to the games. They took great pride in the success of the program and the quality of the young men representing us and in those days. That was very instrumental in getting us started.

RMM: Was he kind of the first president to do that where other president's might have not gone to games or really had that enthusiasm?

TP: He certainly built on that however I will tell you Russ when I was a student athlete here it was I won't say a command performance but all the faculty went to the game. They were always at the games, they were some of the most vigorous supporters of the activity. They went to everything not just... they went to concerts, they were at the plays I mean the faculty were very, very prominent in supporting whatever the activities that were going on very, very supportive. I think that made us a very unique and interesting institution.

RMM: Now when you talk about the faculty when you first came here. Could you kind of review some of the people that were.. some of the people that we mentioned before the interview we were talking about Gray Spaulding, I think by the 50's she had just left, just retired. But were there was still a lot of faculty here that had been here since later 1920's but that would have only

been about 20 - 25 years.

TP: Well there were.. we had an interesting faculty in those days. I'll just tick off some of the names that I remember or that I had classes from that were very interesting. In the music department I had mentioned already Hal Wright and Alan Neimi, was very much involved in music before he came Dean of Students. Albert Burrows was here taught economics and Alvin Fritz taught psychology and Max Alan was a teacher of psychology and education. Then we had a Almen Veter was in the education department, Mildred Magers and Russell Thomas were very prominent in the english area as was Gunther Meyland, a lot of dormitories named after those people. Russell Thomas was of course was fine arts, and Forrest Roberts was in charge of our speech department at the time, and those of us, those of us that were in the teaching curriculum at that time all had to take a certain amount of courses in the speech department. Schaffer, Dr. Schaffer and Luther West were very prominent in biology and sciences and stuff. Holms Boynetin was head of our math department , and of course Don. Bottum was our Dean of Students very popular person, always a very popular person on campus. John D. Pierce, course a lot of us did some of our student teaching with John D. Pierce. Rolly Thorn was a very prominent person over there, Ken Grener and I just am having trouble thinking of all the other names over there. But it was just a very interesting campus, very interesting campus.

RMM: Were there any kind of amusing stories that were ever connected with or things that you encountered with some of the faculty members or even with the students at that time. Well like the one you mentioned about Harden, you and Harden going down to ..

TP: Well Mr. Hedgecock was still alive and close to his retirement when I finished up here and Mr. Money, C.V. Money was and Mr. Hedgecock, and Vic Hurst were the three that were heading up the physical education and athletic programs in those days. Hedgecock was just a very unique person he was kind of the athletic director and headed up the department and so forth. "Hedge's" he was forgetful every once in awhile and he scheduled two games on the same night for his basketball team, one in IronWood and one in Hancock with Sumoi College. When they when up and he had realized what he had done he sent half the team to one place and half to the other and they won both games, won both games. But it was Mr. Money was a very unique person when Hedgecock retired and Hurst then Money headed up the whole program, he was head of the physical education department, he was the head coach in all sports, he was his own sports information director, he taught classes, a full load of classes, just a very, very unique guy and probably did as much to help students as anybody in the institution at that time, because he was always accessible, even though he was very busy, he was very accessible, and it was kind of interesting Reed was extremely well organized, he was an English major from Ohio Northern and that was why he enjoyed doing the sports information stuff, very, very good writer. Mr. Money did alot to put Northern on the map, not so much not only with his coaching and stuff like that and the success of his teams, he organized summer clinics for coaches and we had 200-300 coaches here for coaching clinics in the summer time, he had some of the best most power in intercollegiate athletics coming here for the summer to be instructors at these coaching clinics. It was really great. We as you probably know got a substantial gift from one of our former student athletes, Dr. John Bomeirre, just gave us \$300,000 just to help our expansion of the dome and John and he also has a scholarship set up at Northern, John said that he would have never gotten where he is today if it hadn't been for Reed Money, John transferred here from Michigan State,

he was an Escanaba boy and he spent one term at Michigan State and didn't like it, and returned to Northern. Mr. Money took him under his wing, gave him some good advise, counseling, directions so forth. John got into the sciences was a pre-med student at Northern in those days, obviously he went on to get his doctorate degrees, very successful position in surgeon and is on staff at Mao clinic right now but Reed had substantial impact on lots of people like that in those days, and probably because he coached everything that he had, all the student athletes, were are some of them now are just a football coach or a volleyball coach or whatever they are restricted in their sphere of influence, Reed had them all.

RMM: Was that when you talked about these coaching workshops, was that the beginning of the summer workshops that Northern has now?

TP: Right

RMM: and that would have been about what?

TP: well that was about 1950s

RMM: I want to just ask you a question here, I should probably know the answer, but I don't thought, Memorial Field was named memorializing?

TP: probably the sons who had died in service to their countries, and that was the public schools, they named it Memorial Field

RMM: and that was from World War I?

TP: I would say World War I and II really.

RMM: O.K. and know what is the kind of status of the Memorial field today?

TP: it's an area we are using for practice for some our athletics, and for instruction for physical education classes. The football team still uses the locker room to stay in, because there are no locker rooms in the dome. And I really don't know long-term what they are going to down there, but we do have need for play fields, soccer is going to be coming on, intermural uses that area down there, band even practices down there on occasion, marching band.

RMM: it's still used

TP: oh yes, very much so

RMM: Then you said you had left in the early 60s, could we then start with your return in 1963, how did the alumni office then develop after that time, because now we have started a whole new era?

TP: well we continued to build on the things we started, I mean the alumni chapters and clubs and the various special kinds of events and programs. Soon in the back period of time the

president wanted to get into some fund raising and so in addition to the alumni relations it became our responsibility to set up the, what is now the NMU development fund and so we did we created the development fund, put together the bylaws and articles of incorporation and got our first board of directors and trustees and got the development fund started. Then I really was involved with alumni and development. And then a little while later president Harden added to that, non teacher placement, I was involved with dealing with the non-teachers, in terms of placement opportunities. So I was kind of like a placement director as well, and I had the supervision of the news bureau, and the news bureau came on, came on line, and then later moving through into the Jamrich era in 1972 then, Jamrich made me assistant to the president and for a period in time in there I was also in charge of admissions and financial aid and I had campus development which is now where Bruce and Mark and all the campus building and stuff like that.

RMM: you were in charge of that as well?

TP: yup, and I had intercollegiate athletics and there was at that time then when I was given responsibility to liaison with the state legislature, so I had lots of in there for a period of time.

RMM: oh my word, how long was all that going on?

TP: well, lets see, several years, I can't tell you if it was two, or three or five but several years and it was a period of time when we were doing some reorganizing and obviously when Allen Niemi then became the vice-president for student affairs then all of the activities for alumni, admissions and financial aids came into that ballpark, and we ended up creating a separate placement office that had all of the placement- teacher and non-teacher placement. Campus development came under the vice president of financial and administrations for a period of time, those services there, as that area grew and expanded in its duty and then of course I ended up with and then most recently we hired under Jean Appleberry's reign we expanded the advancement area, alumni and development is now university advancement area and we hired a vice president for the university and advancement and I relinquished those responsibilities. The last several years I have been involved with the intercollegiate athletic program, public safety services which I have, the olympic education center and then the liaison work with the state legislature that I continued since '72 so.

RMM: could you kind of talk about that, some of the problems or things that you have to do with the state legislature in terms with Northerns interaction with them.

TP: Well the problem is obviously the distance from the capital, it is very difficult to have an on-going relationship with the people when they are so far away, so we were back and forth, I was back and forth then an awful lot more than I am now and that is because we realized that we really needed to have a presence on a daily basis, so we hired a firm to represent us and I still do a lot of work in the state capital and will continue to do that even after my retirement but in those days it was a matter of recognition, getting anybody to even understand where Northern Michigan was. And President Harden again really loved the way, he did a magnificent job in the legislature, and he gets some people to put some money up here, really Dr.

Harden got people thinking about the Upper Peninsula and the fact that we needed facilities for our students, and the students population was growing, we had quite an upsurge in our student enrollment in the late 50s and early 60s. And so we began to get some facilities up here, it was a struggle to get legislative support for many many years Northern's budget really dictated by the department of education because the four regional colleges came under the state board of education and then with the state constitution of course, we had our own constitutionality, our own board, and we were able to do a little better with the budget. Probably the most difficult thing in the early days in Lansing was the fact that we didn't have, I don't want to say good legislation, we didn't have legislation in places of power, we were always dealing with the power base out of Detroit or Grand Rapids or someplace else. Well then with Jacobetti's longevity down there and Senator Mack and the representative Helmen the U.P. began to get some and they had people who were chairs of committees instead of just members. They were able to help us an awful lot. Those three people in particular were very responsible for Michigan Tech's growth, and for Lake Superior.

RMM: So without them the growth would have been a lot, a lot slower?

TP: I would say that, I don't have no reason not to believe that that is true, it's a hell of a battle, and it is a continuing battle. Lots of people are buying, we have had so many new schools develop over the last 25 years. You have your Grand Valleys and your Saginaw Valleys, and your Oaklands and your branches you know University of Michigan and Dearborn have grown substantially. Oakland University used to be a branch of Michigan State and so there have been a lot of changes.

RMM: and do you see this struggle continuing?

TP: sure, I think it is going to be more, I think what is going to happen is by 2000 or a few years into the next century I think there is going to be a change in the funding for higher education. I don't know what that change is going to be or what, but I don't see business as usual is what I am saying.

RMM: so we have to stay on top of this process?

TP: Oh yes, right, be very critical, very critical.

RMM: now what happens with your retirement? Whos

TP: well as I say, we have that firm in Lansing that represents us, and as a matter of fact I am going to do some consulting work with them to help continue on with the universities needs and that. And so we are not going to sever our ties completely and I am going to do some fund-raising too, finish off the projects that we have in the dome and the PEIF. I am just going to be around. A little bit different schedule, but I am going to be around.

RMM: as some people say, you are probably going to be busier than you were when you were working.

TP: yeah

RMM: How would you, know that your coming to your retirement and so on, how would you encapsulate your career and the way that you view Northern that you might interact, what do you see eventually for the future?

TP: Well let's see first things first, in terms of my career at the university it has been, its kind of been like a family and I came as a student and I came back to work for 5 presidents, I have had a wonderful time. I love my job, I love going to work everyday. It is a challenge, each president was different, is different, like any of us they have different strengths and different weaknesses but they have all been working for Northern. And I have always told them I will do anything you want me to do as long as it is for Northern. So that has been fun I just really have enjoyed it. It has been great to see the University grow physically, not only physically but also in terms of its recognition, nationally and internationally. It has been fun to see the strong feeling upon the part of the alumni and how they feel for Northern. It is great to hear them talk about the wonderful education they got here. I have done alot of visiting with parents over the years that were thinking about sending their sons and daughters to Northern, I said the best recommendation I can give you is that I sent my own here. And if I didn't feel they would get a good education and a good opportunity I would've done something else with my own kid. And I have been very pleased with the way that they have turned out and the results of their education experiences here. We have a great faculty, I mean it is almost a shame that in some respects that a lot of people out there don't know the strength of this university. And every once and a while it gets clouded over, they see the confrontations between the administrations and the rest of the university and really has been blown a lot out of proportion. We have some very wonderful, dedicated people in this institution. I think that is our greatest strength. And I would guess in the terms of the future, I would see us continuing to be a major institution in terms of impact in the Upper Peninsula both economically and in terms of a service. Northern is kind of unique we are a service institution and we play a lot of roles other than just the education role, and we are going to need to do that if the U.P. is going to survive and we want to have the quality of life that we think have or we are going to maintain that then we are going to have to continue to provide services for the people in the area.

RMM: OK, good, Thank-You.