

Interview with Elwood Mattson

October 9, 1995

Marquette, Michigan

Interview by Dr. Russell Magnaghi

Dr. Russell Magnaghi (RM): Interview with Ellwood Mattson, Marquette, Michigan. October 9, 1995. Ellwood, could we start out with my first question I usually present to a person, what is your birthdate?

Ellwood Mattson (EM): November 15, 1918.

RM: Ok. Do you want to start with a statement or something or sort of some comments that you have, or do you want me to start?

EM: I can probably start a little bit –

RM: Ok.

EM: Born and raised in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Graduated in 1936, and then for a five-year period I worked for Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company and I served as a relief manager for their meat departments until I went to the service, and I was drafted prior to the war being declared, and so I was in early and I spent five years in the Air Force, mostly in the Middle East, and during that time, or, as I grew up we didn't have much money in our household, so I didn't have really a good opportunity to go to school, but when I was in the service I made up my mind to come to Northern, and that's what I did when I came out in 1946. So I came to Northern in the fall of 1946 and I graduated in 1950. I have two majors, in economics and business administration, and a minor in history, and it was tough coming back to Northern having been out exactly 10 years, coming back, and you had, you know, competition with these young people

who had just come out of high school, graduated the year before. So I always remember the first exam that I had at Northern was with Dr. Lynn Halverson in geography. And I got a C in that one here, and it could have been an A+ as far as I was concerned, but it told me that, you know, I could make it if I worked on it. But that first year was not easy because of having been gone that length of time. In any sense it was easier than there because we had so much basic knowledge we had picked up having been out in the world so we had some, and some of the questions proved themselves to be easier than others. But I feel that I've had an excellent education here and I certainly have had no regrets for having spent those years here and as I compare myself to other people on it, as a sideline I did start to work part time as the First National Bank at the suggestion of Leo Van Tassel back there, and then when I finished Northern they made me an offer and I stayed there and that's how come I kind of stayed here in Marquette.

RM: Could you just go back a little bit and comment on what the campus was like back when you started there in 1946?

EM: The campus consisted of the one complex that was the Longyear building and the Peter White building and the Kaye Hall. That's the only buildings that were on campus when I went there. The student body was about 750, and the last year I was here we got up to about 1400 people on it, and it was mostly the GIs that came in during that period, and then shortly after that it dropped back a little bit and then when Dr. Harden came then of course it was the growth period there. So at this particular time I've seen every building on campus built here because we lost Kaye Hall and that complex and also the training school, so I've seen every building on campus being constructed. Had to bring in the finance business, of course we realized early on that Northern's importance in this area and so I've been involved out there I guess on almost everything for all of those years and my wife tells me that she doesn't think I really graduated

[laughter] because I'm still involved out here. But it's been a labor of love so I've never felt obligated or, you know, felt that I had to do this or that, it just is part of me to be effective and help in any way that I can here. So I have been around here since Dr. Tape and then of course Ogden Johnson was here for a short period of time, and Dr. Harden and of course Dr. Jamrich and Dr. Appleberry and of course then I've seen, been a part of all of that here. I've been more probably involved in the development fund here, having been 25-30 years involved, started when it was small and worked itself up on it so it's getting a little bit more respectable these days on it and I think it has a great future here. When I stepped aside from the bank there Dr. Appleberry was still here and he called me the next day and asked if I would work and do some work in the alumni, in the development office, and that's my income I have here is that it's a place for me to go but there's no salary or remuneration or anything like that involved with this, I volunteer here and in my work I was able to travel pretty much across the Upper Peninsula and so I was acquainted with a lot of corporations then across the U.P. and individuals so they kind of help the department here open doors when necessary.

RM: About what year was that that you retired and then - ?

EM: I've been, it's about four years ago now since I've been here, and then I've been on Northern's Board of Control for three years now and of course, I think I'll be out in 1980 – or 19- no, gotta move up here, the turn of the century I'll be off the board. Some of the things that I left with favor on, of course I was instrumental in starting the banking school at Northern and that's 32-33 years old at the present time, and we've averaged there between 25 and 30 students and they come here for a month's stay, normally used to be in February, they've changed the agenda a little bit now on it, but, you know, we had that for many years and it was a two year course they came in for continuing ed for their two year period. So we, we think that that has

helped the banking industry considerably in the Upper Peninsula over the period of time and it was a good experience. I'll always remember, we started out when Dr. Harden was here and he went along with our suggestion and I always remember the first year, all we could raise was about 17 students, I knew we were gonna be in the red, but he said, "Go for it" anyway and he, and then in subsequent years we picked it up there, but we were in debt to Northern for a few years until we climbed out, but the school has been excellent, it's really helped a lot of career students or people in the field of banking.

RM: Now, do those students then tend to stay with the local banks in the Upper Peninsula?

EM: Yes. Most of them did there on it. See, but most of the banks they took some people in off the streets, you know, they didn't give them proper training in economics and why the purpose of the bank and how they operated, and so, and then we went out and got these experienced bankers to do the teaching, plus people like Neil Carlson on base there, and probably one of the top economic presenters in that he can, within a few hours, he can kind of fill you in a little bit on banking here. And he still teaches in the course, that's over 30 years now that he's done that. So, but this is one of the things that I've been things that I've been real pleased with here on it. I've been involved with the 75th anniversary here, I represented the community as a co-chair during that whole thing. And that's when, at that time we had something going on every month of the year, we had some program, bringing in outstanding speakers for that. And I always remember we ended up with a big party in the fieldhouse over here, and we probably had a couple thousand people in there, and I always remember there that we had a whole ceiling full of balloons that was in a net and at a certain time we would cut the net, and so we had just a big party over there. But we got a lot of dignitaries in that too here, it was a fun time for us.

RM: So I just have a question back to the school of banking, was the, I know this was true out in the far west, being that they were so distant, like in California they wanted to, from the very beginning they wanted to make the West Coast kind of self-reliant in terms of loans and having money and so on, not having to rely on East Coast banks. Is that sort of what the banks had tried to do up here, is to make, you know, to kind of keep the money here and keep a strong banking community so that people in the Upper Peninsula don't have to rely on outside banks for –

EM: Yeah, that's one of the things we tried to do there on it, back then I think there were, when we started the school there was 48 banks in the Upper Peninsula, today that's probably cut in half there with the mergers with _____ companies and so forth, but that was the thought that we needed to stimulate banking to help the economic conditions in the Upper Peninsula here, and we think we've been somewhat successful on it. For instance, at the Marquette Medical Center out here, that was not an easy project to get off the ground there with their vision on it. And so, Northern put that through there and Dr. Wright and Dr. Sagan [spelled phonetically] were kind of key players way back in its origins, and I met with them and then we went out to banks across the Upper Peninsula to help fund that, locally we weren't big enough here so we had both local banks, plus we had all these other banks that came together here to finance that, and they continue to finance it as they expand it today on participating. It's that kind of thing that we tried to do there on it.

RM: Now was this part of, I know when I interviewed Dr. Hart [spelled phonetically] and he pointed out that when he came things were really, in general, were a depressed state in the Upper Peninsula and so on, and then he, part of his vision was to use Northern as an engine to help the economy and the people and the culture and so on, so all of this then kind of this school of banking then fit into that –

EM: Fit into that, yeah.

RM: Into that.

EM: Yeah. It was hard, we started, of course, operation activity was the trust behind that, and Dr. Vandement is doing the same thing today, you know, I work very closely with Dr. Vandement on that we have to stimulate the Upper Peninsula economy, and I think Northern by its role is just a natural engine, though, to move that thing ahead.

RM: Did the other, is this, this was done by, Harden was directly involved, you said Vandement, were the other presidents?

EM: Yes. They all supported it, very much so. I would say Harden was probably the biggest pusher there, and then they kind of, I think it leveled off a little bit but then I think Vandement has really picked the ball up again on it. Sure there's a lot of banks up that instead of loaning their money out to aid the economy up here, what they do is buy bonds with it here, you know, for investments, that's an easy way they're on it, but my philosophy has always been, we gather together the assets of the community and the bank has the responsibility to put them to work in the community, and when you do that you have successful banks pushing that way, you have successful communities, too. And that's what we tried to stimulate, and working with Sam Cohodas that's when we, over a period of a few years we raised about a million one hundred thousand dollars to fund the chair of banking here, so we had, that's the only chair Northern has is the chair of banking here, and we funded that about a million one on that, so that they would average maybe 85-100,000 dollars a year to use that in doctor, er, in the business department there – I was gonna say Gunther but that's not the name, he is the chairman at the present time on that. So it has been effective, and what they're trying to do with that is get the bankers in on

seminars and whatnot, bring speakers in, and to stimulate them to see what's happening in the Upper Peninsula, and, so we feel to a certain extent that has helped considerably there.

RM: How was the money raised, you said over a million dollars were raised - ?

EM: Yeah, we did, we raised largely with, Sam liked to have a birthday party every five years and so starting with his 75th birthday, it was 75th, 80th, 85th there, those were the three, we had large birthday parties here just to get a couple thousand people here, but tied in with that we worked on all the banks in the U.P., all the industrial industries in the U.P., plus the Cohodas family of course were heavy in the prose [?] business at that and they got donations from all their suppliers and whatnot, and so, plus a lot of that money was donated by members of the Cohodas family on that, so that's how the dollars were raised there on it, but it took us a few years to put it all together there, but it's a program, I think, that's, it's a good program there and hopefully it will have, it will grow as time goes on, so... Looking at all the buildings on campus, you know, I knew all the people involved in that, what their contributions to Northern were there. I always remember one time when the housing at Northern has, west of Lincoln near the president's house up there, there's married student housing up there, and when Dr. Jamrich wanted to build those, he had a lot of flak from the community here, that other, that they were hurting the housing market in here, I always remember one day he called me, "What should I do?" I said, "Well, John," I said, "You run the university, the university needs 'em, build 'em." You know, and that's always been my philosophy, you know, John, or whoever the president is, if he runs the university, they gotta, and this worked out very good for the housing was full all the time but I always kind of remember what _____. I was around, of course, when they started the golden wildcat cup, you know, probably 15 years ago, and been a part of that and a push on that, on it, and though my real feeling is for the overall development of the university, pushing

hard here to do that, because with the development fund we can do things that you're not going to get state aid from and whatnot, and I think there's been a good shift here now, originally, you know, the emphasis in this department was a lot for the athletics and whatnot, but the bigger emphasis now is for the total university and to other aspects of it, and so we feel real good about it. We're up to about four and a half million in assets of the development fund, and we're raising about, oh, two and a half million dollars a year in here, some of that goes for operation and scholarships there, but there's some of that it just, you know, it's just building up there, and I'd like to see that, you know, somewhere 20-25 million dollars, somewhere along there, and I think there's a possibility for that coming along on it.

RM: Just, I just want to ask you about the, and I was looking at some things over the weekend, about the history of the university, and at least from my end, you know, from the academic end, I would always hear in the past, I would always hear faculty complaining that athletics had the Golden Wildcat Club, and this, that, and the other, and they were raising money, and so on, and maybe even the school of banking, they were getting money. Over the years that you've been involved with this, have you ever seen any other, like even an academic department, try to, you know, form some organization within the university and raise money on their own?

EM: That's happening in the last few years, but prior to that there was really very little of that.

But yeah, I do see that now, for instance in the arts over here, Dr. –

RM: Panowski?

EM: Panowski, yeah. He's been very active in that, and the organizations have started clubs and whatnot. The business department has a _____ here in Brian Knock [spelled phonetically] and we worked with him, but he tried to raise a million dollars for his department, and I think he was close to the seven hundred thousand that he has raised as part of the development fund that

he has gotten, and we went out on several visits with him largely through the Upper Peninsula here. So he's up around seven hundred thousand that, and so all that money flows into the development fund but the income from that just flows back to whatever needs they have in that department, so they've been active in it, and I know, I think they've done, they're doing something in the physics or chemistry departments now, too, on it here, and I know Bruce Henderson has been kind of pushing that, and Dr. Vandement has, too, that all the colleges here, and that we have on the university campus, that they go out in the counties, which is in the best interest here, on it, and to the telemarketing program, now, there's a lot of that funds that get shifted to various departments, and I'm kind of happy to see, with the athletic program if you have winning teams that'll grow, but it's the other areas where on it, and you have to really go back to the alumni and those departments to pick up the real dollars on it, and I think that's interesting there.

RM: Has that been sort of, have you noticed that, have departments started doing that during the Vandement administration or was it going on even before?

EM: I would say it's largely through, since Vandement has been here that this stimulus has been started. I really don't know who really gets the credit for it, but I mean it's being done _____ and I'm personally real happy to, it's good for the future of the university to have those dollars coming in. It's interesting going back to, you know, when I came to Northern, I came under the GI Bill, you know, and that's when you've got, I think you've got 42 dollars a month, but they paid your tuition and paid for your books on it, so, with the 42 dollars and working a little bit on the side, you know, you didn't, you got through college rather easy. My dad was still living then and he always wanted to help me and I said no, I said, "I've got to make it on my own" so I, with the help of the VA there down at the _____. But you know, I stayed

here at a house on North Front Street and with a Mrs. John Olson. Five dollars a week and she did my laundry, too, for that. And then stayed with Mrs. _____, she had a boarding house. She had 12 students there on it and she used to charge us 12 dollars a week. She served 20 meals, the only meal she didn't serve was Sunday night, for 12 bucks. So we got by pretty easy. Going on, going to school at that time.

RM: Now just to kind of update what you're saying, at that time Northern didn't have any dorms?

EM: No, they didn't have any dorms, and the cafeteria was in the bottom of the old Kaye Hall, there on it, and you, two things I remember there on it, the very crowded conditions there, you had to kind of walk on benches in order to find a seat in there, but I remember potatoes, boiled potatoes and cabbage, those are the two things that stuck out in my mind, but then by the basement of Kaye Hall they had, the bookstore was there and then the cafeteria was there, so, you know, everything was contained here, and of course that's all students you have, but I remember we thought we were in heaven because while I was here they constructed Lee Hall over here, and where the security is now that was a cafeteria, they opened that as a cafeteria on there, but we just thought we were living high at that time, but, you know, you look out here and they had just had the athletic field out here, and so you've seen all, I've seen all these buildings being built here.

RM: And were you here was Vet still out here?

EM: Vet Field was right out here.

RM: Now, you didn't live there?

EM: No, no.

RM: Was that for married students?

EM: Married students, married students, and they brought those in. If you ever want to see some of those, you know, you can probably go by them when you go to your, they're in Harvey out there on the river, you know, by the tavern there right in the city of Harvey. But if you just look before you'll see them, they're all there, they're still being used today on it.

RM: Then I think at about that same time, didn't they also bring in about '47, '48, the, I think it was the army surplus, the cafeteria that was out –

EM: Yeah, that was the first cafeteria, it was right out here, it was kind of a military building.

But then they moved from that to Lee Hall, where the security is today. But it's been quite an experience through all the years here on it, and I guess I have no regrets at all on it. People like, that I've felt really helped me were people like Leo Van Hessel and he was in charge of the Business Department and then he later became just like Mike Roy is today, the treasurer, handling the university dollars there on it, Mrs. Magers, she really was good in bringing us along in English theme papers and that sort of thing. That was tough going, you know, when you didn't have, lacked that experience, but it has aided me in my career considerably.

RM: So she kind of, she was big on writing?

EM: On writing, yeah. You had to have a term paper every Monday morning, and, you know, and she'd give you some, she gave a lot of leeway in subjects. Forest Roberts, you know, and his speech making where you had to get up and make your speeches, you know, and I was working at the bank, I remember, at that time, so I could always pick up some unusual type of thing to talk about, whose pictures are on there and counterfeit money and some of that stuff, so I could bring some interesting stuff in there, so I got through that, but he's remained a good friend since, too. Richard O'Dell, and one thing I'll always remember about Richard O'Dell is that he allowed you to speak, you know, express your thoughts, as long as you backed it up with why, you know,

I mean this wasn't just a comment but justify your position, and I felt he, you know, you could grow in that atmosphere. I had all my economic courses there from Dr. Burles [spelled phonetically], and he was in the Longyear Building, I remember him. He's the only lecturer I ever had that fell asleep lecturing, [laughs] can you imagine it? Yeah. I always had a 1:00 class after him, and I don't know if you want that on tape but _____, but he was a big man and I assume he had heavy lunch, that was a real hot day, but he knew economics so much and he was lecturing and he was kind of leaning on the podium a little bit there and voice just slid off there and he dozed for a few minutes then shook himself awake. [Laughter] So, but he was a good instructor, you know, he knew economics and did that very well.

RM: Now, was he the only economics instructor.

EM: No, they had other ones, too, there on it, but I had most of my courses with him.

RM: When you were here, at that time, do you remember Richard Current [spelled phonetically] in the History Department?

EM: No, I don't, no.

RM: I think he was here for a period of time and then he went on to become a famous civil war historian.

EM: Oh, is that right?

RM: Yeah, and has written quite a few books.

EM: But you had, you had some good, and still do, you have good, solid professors here, like Luther West, you know, and I've been on the Hospital Board every year, but he was on the Hospital Board when I first came on, a real scholar, you know, kind of a big thinker, and so, you know.

RM: Did you find, over the years, have you found that there, was there, I don't know, and the question is, was there, in the past, was there more, like, community involvement by the faculty? I know the university administrators and so on tend to be involved and have to be involved in the community, was there more community involvement you feel from the faculty end of things in the past or is there more -?

EM: I would say there was, probably there was, see, Lynn Halverson, I think, was active in community affairs, Dr. O'Dell was, too. Leo Van Tassel [spelled phonetically], of course, when he got to be treasurer, of course this made a difference there, but I would say probably among the male members I think there was more participation, not so much from the female teachers. And then there was a lot of longevity, you know, at Northern there's always, you know, people come here and they stay on as, they made a name for themselves here. I remember Nellie Johnson, she was in the training school here for many, many years and died a few years back, and I see a lot of the retirees around town today and they've been good citizens. But I would think that one of the strong points in Marquette today is in education, that's what pulls Marquette together, that plus the medical community, retail, a little bit of tourism, that holds us together, and the fact, and I think Northern is a big draw for many cultural things that we would never have up here if it wasn't that we were a university, and so it's a real pleasant area to live in. I did for a while live in the old Theta house which is gone now, that's Theta Alma Kron [spelled phonetically] row, it was a fraternity, kind of a local fraternity here on, they had a house on –

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RM: Ok. You were saying the property was owned by -

EM: It was owned by Peter Cal____, the dentist at the present time, but it was a former Kaufmann House in Marquette here, but I've even laid off [?] for a fraternity on the chapter room and large areas for dancing and that sort of thing. In fact, over the weekend I met somebody that had lived in the house after I'd lived there, but that house has been gone for, you know, 15 years. But it was a real active fraternity at that time, and we were kind of competitive on campus with the Tri Mu [spelled phonetically] fraternity up here. And then the Thetas went national and then after I was a member there, and then it just phased itself out, I don't think there's segments on campus at all at the present time.

RM: What's sort of happened with the fraternities, you hear about, you hear about them and like back, you know, when you were here, they seemed to be very active, I think at one time a lot of, like, student body presidents and so on were from a fraternity and there was that –

EM: Right, yeah. They were real active, the Tri Mu [spelled phonetically] was more the athletic group there, the Thetas were more just a mixture of everything else, I guess, there on, and they were very active on it and we used to put on shows, you know, in Kaye Auditorium here on it for fundraisers and that sort of thing. The Tri Mus did a lot of things in the athletic and all that, and, but now we hear very, very little about any of the fraternities. There's one on Fourth Street there and then there's one of Front Street, I think there's one up north there, but the sororities have never had a building ever on the base here. And I think, and I don't know, I mean, I remember Dr. Hyman, Henry Hyman, was advisor for us when I was a member, over there, whether that's gone away now or not I don't know. But the, and I know Northern has kind of set aside a piece of land out north here for a fraternity house, should they choose to build. Another thing that's probably not known here that might be of interest to you, and this was during Dr. Harden's years here, he was concerned about having adequate land for buildings here, and he thought Northern's

campus should extend all the way to Wright Street, and over a period of time eliminate those homes, so I and people from, it was _____, which is now First of America, it was the Union National Bank at that time, and Northern got together, and we formed a corporation, we each had a third of the corporation, Leo Van Tassel represented Northern, and we purchased all the property, as you go on the other side of Wright Street you've got these ball fields in there and you've got the low-cost housing, our corporation bought that from the Dow Chemical Company or _____ Dow people out there, with the thought of these houses on this side of Wright Street, we would, Northern would eventually buy them, and we'd take those houses and move them over there, so if you look there today there's two or three kind of old houses in that lot, but that's what the start of it was there. But then the momentum seemed to die on it and so we had this piece of property, so what we ended up doing there was selling a good chunk of it to City of Marquette for the low-cost housing that's out there. And so we made, then, about 60,000 dollars on our venture there, which we donated to the city and that's why we've got the ball fields there and all the equipment there, so that came as a donation to financial institutions in town, and Northern doing that on its own, it worked out very well here, but Northern felt, or, Dr. Harden felt we should have control of all the land here, and we still, you know, every now and then a house becomes available there and if it ties in there Northern continues to buy those for long-term ranges.

RM: Now, the, I've heard about that, the purchase of the, the story that you usually hear, now you're giving me flipside [?] was that Northern wanted to buy all the way to the lake, but the actual concern for Harden was just to swear off the campus here and buy this section around here.

EM: Right. And the president was also to do the lake thing on it, and see Northern owns to the lake where the dome is there, and, in fact, you know where the, where you've got the center there that the city owns there, Lakeview Arena, where their property ends and then Northern's starts they go right to the lake, there on it, and that land was donated to Northern by Sam Cohodas and Morris Roshaski [spelled phonetically], that was a part of the Dow Chemical property, and so when Dow Chemical went out of business, then Morris Roshaski and Sam brought the property out there, and Greg Marsh was in the steel business and of course he tried on the buildings and equipment and whatnot there, but the two of them there that donated that land from there, and now you know that property that you park in coming off of Pine Street to come in the dome, that was all part of the donation to the university.

RM: Oh, so that's part of the strip as well?

EM: Yeah. And that goes right to the lake where they own –

RM: Now is it just that piece, the width of that land, or more?

EM: Yes. As far as I know I think the land goes right straight through to the lake, so between Pine and Lakeshore there's a chunk of land that Northern owns also. And Dr. Vandement and I have been working with Morris Roshaski to acquire more of the land on the other side of the dome out there, up to Wright Street, I'd like to see Wright Street extend into Lakeshore Boulevard there, and that land, they can test and whatnot, it should be clear, and we've been trying to get him to donate some of that land, and also some of that land goes out to Presque Isle. So we've been encouraging him to try to work out some kind of financial deal or something, part purchase, part donation, but we haven't been able to finalize it, we're too far apart. But I think Northern should control that property up to where Wright Street comes through there, and so hopefully someday they will acquire that. Of course, through my years here I've worked very

closely with Sam Cohodas, you know, he and I worked together for 27 years and we, you know, we never had a serious disagreement in all those years, we worked very well together, and I used to push Sam a little bit to, you know, to be something for Northern and that's what he did with the committee donation towards this building and this other land and that out there on it, and so it's worked out, advantageous to him from a tax standpoint, too, to do that, but I, you know, it's property that's valuable for Northern.

RM: So actually, now, this is kind of interesting because the story that you hear, the general story is Sam Cohodas lent some money for the Cohodas building, but then you have, that's part of it, and then you have the land down by the lake there that was money, I mean land he owned and donated –

EM: Right, yeah.

RM: And then you have both the birthday parties that raised money used as fundraisers for the chair of –

EM: Chair of banking, right, yeah.

RM: So then actually we're talking about a lot larger gift than just the money for the building.

EM: Right, yeah. See, it was a million one that we raised for the chair of banking, here on it, and what the property was down there was several hundred thousand dollars, if you'd have put it on the market, so that donation, too, plus I think there's a quarter of a million or something like that that went into this building here, but it was the makeup of all of that is what they honored him on.

RM: So you're actually talking about two million in properties and dollars –

EM: Right, yeah. Yeah.

RM: If not more, that he did.

EM: Plus the fact he has established a number of scholarships, you know, here at Northern, too, and so probably all of that if you add it all up there, but, you know, I always look at the university and it's just not here for today, it's for the long run, and I think probably around the university the area should be acquired by the university so they have some options to work with. Having been involved, like with the high school having been involved there, having been on the school board for 25 years, but when we built that high school out there, you know, we worked hard to get all the land that we can, and you see, and yet today there's a parking problem, you know, despite the size of that, so times change, and even here today the department problems still Northern has, you know, they're digging up lawn to create more and it kind of bothers me they're thinking to lost a little bit there, but you've got to accommodate people, too, so, you know, I think that the land around here is very dear to the university. Little anecdote there, eh? I knew Dean Bottum quite well, you know, and then of course he was dean of men when we came, and it was kind of a shock to him to have the older students come in on this, and so he'd listen, he'd always be out in the hallway, and evidently I was with a group when they walked through the hall and somebody said, "Well, we've got to go get some TLC now" and he had never heard that, meaning "tender loving care" so the next day he kind of cornered everybody, "Hey what's this stuff you guys are talking about, TLC?" [Laughs] And I chuckle to myself on it, but that's the way it was with Northern at that time.

RM: Now, when you were here, now maybe it didn't affect you as much, did you remember some of the, some of the regulations that the students were under, like, you know, with Dean Bottum or with Dean Carey, and some of the regulations?

EM: Yeah, well, of course Dean Carey didn't like red, you know, on this, and so she always talked to girls if they were wearing red on it, and I know even at Christmas time when they

would tie the red bows on, going up the staircase in Kaye Hall there, she didn't approve that there, but she was very, she was very stern as far as dress code and that was, nothing like what they have today, but she was real tough on that, and that's all gone by the wayside now, but those were the conditions that we lived under there, but, and I remember the Tip Top, that was the hangout for most of the people, all the students on it and for many, many years that was the hangout there on Third Street.

RM: Now, did that go back to when you first came back to school?

EM: Mmmhmm. That was in 1946 that was operating –

RM: And it had been around even earlier than that.

EM: Right, yeah. And then there was, where the church is across the street here, the Gospel Tabernacle, that was built originally as a restaurant. And then the church took it over, but that was originally a restaurant.

RM: You mean for the Lutheran Church?

EM: No, the Gospel Tabernacle. That was a restaurant.

RM: Across from Saint Michael's, that one?

EM: Yeah. And then there was another restaurant where the bank has parking garage there, right on the corner there, there was a small, liked to call it Snack Shack or something like that for lunches and whatnot, but that was the food type of thing you had around here, and then of course you didn't have the vending machines, you didn't have that, life was a little bit different there.

RM: So you had the cafeteria on campus, and then you had these two places across the street there close by?

EM: Right, yeah. The original cafeteria was in the bottom of Kaye Hall, which was not very good, but then it opened up here and, you know, just, they continued to change it like they do

today, you know, on it here, and upgrade and move with the times, which I think is great there. I was here when they had the job corps, I was here and I lived in Marquette when job corps was here, which was a good program but they were partly a little naïve in the area and how we handled it, there was no control over the people, that was the biggest criticism, you had free reign, and some of that carried over now as the job corps wanted to come into K.I. Sawyer, but people, a lot of that history in the background there, there was opposition for them. I think when Ed came, Ed Harden came, and they brought in Harold Sponberg [spelled phonetically], Bob Bosworth, and they got really caught in the extension service throughout the Upper Peninsula, which was a new thing as far as Northern was concerned, the extension service, brought a lot of people in and pull all the educational institutions in the U.P. like the high schools and that together to Northern, did a good job. And both Sponberg and Bosworth were excellent speakers, and they're much in demand across the Upper Peninsula here of course, as well as Ed Harden of course. But Ed did, he was a good administrator, and very, he had a big vision for the school. And in my time here we did get up a little over nine thousand students one time there, of course we've drifted back now, largely through K.I. Sawyer, but hopefully we would kind of build it up again.

RM: So all of these, so when Harden came it wasn't just a lot of talk about, you know, activating Northern, there were actually programs either activated or started to make Northern part of the community?

EM: Right, yeah. See, he, I think he came out of the extension service at Michigan State when he first came up here, so he had that vision when he first came up. And he thought, so he had conferences, you know, daily conferences, not only from educational people but industrial people and banking people and homemakers and whatnot, so this place was jiving all the time

here with that, because he felt that that was the, you know, Northern should be the center of all this, if you bring it all in here, and with Jamrich and with Appleberry they did a certain amount of that, but, and Appleberry's term was when they retrenched some in there on it and they've never been able to pick up the momentum on it again, but, and I still feel that probably some of the reasons why we've lost some of the students from outlying areas in the Upper Peninsula because we're just not as well-known or as prominent in those communities as we used to be there.

RM: Well that's interesting, perfect example is years ago when I was first here, I came in '69, and a lot of us used to, we used to have a car loaded we'd go one night, Neil Pearlson [spelled phonetically], myself, hired by people to go down to Iron Mountain to teach extension courses, and then it died in the '80s and I don't hear of any, oh, education does a little of that, but the other departments I never hear of anybody doing that.

EM: No, no. And we have tried, of course, to rejuvenate that, been much concern about the role of community college, I think in the central part of the Upper Peninsula, people look at Northern not only as four-year degree place but also as a community college in the area, and that's the backbone, of course, of the Jacobetti Center there, and some programs over at Jacobetti Center work, have been very well done and whatnot, and I think with Dr. Slimmer [spelled phonetically] there now, I think some of the stuff is coming against the service and I'm real happy to see that be a part of the future here at Northern. I've been involved, too, in the, I was probably one of the pushers on the distinguished citizen awards that they started here at Northern to recognize people across the U.P. and this has been a real effective program, I think they're at 65 or 70 now, people that they have recognized. But it ties in, these communities, you know, and people, there on it, and so I think this has been very good there on it.

RM: About what year did that distinguished citizen award go back to?

EM: Probably 1970. Between '70 and '75 I think we started it. And, which I think has been a good program, and it has paid off in many ways, through gifts _____ what we need is support by people. But it's an interesting thing here, I like being around here because, you know, you've got youth around here and you just, even if you don't talk to them just to hear them buzzing kind of makes you stay a little bit younger. [Laughs] That's good.

RM: Yeah, I know, if find a lot of times when I'll talk to friends and so on, even family, who aren't connected with the university, they'll see the kids and the outlandish ways they dress and so on, they'll get all upset, you know, and I see that every day, so it does keep you kind of attune to what's going on –

EM: It really is, it really is. And the majority of students are good students, you know, it works out very good. Well, I don't know if I've got anything else. A concern that we do have, you know, living up here, that I've had for many years is that we raise good kids here and I feel they're as smart as the kids anywhere else and we don't pull enough jobs up here so we raise them and we send them out and they do well all over the world, you know, kids get a, students get a good education here, and they go out and apply themselves, if you look at the alumni records at the university here and they, you know, a lot of corporate leaders today have their roots up here, and so, I, to me that means in the long run here that we should be able to do some of that, pick up more gifts through our development fund working with these people. Early on it was mostly teachers and they never acquired much wealth, you just couldn't pick up the dollars, but now a lot of the students go out and do very well out there. Like the nurses' program or the doctors' program here, you know, the MD program, you have these kids just go out and do a lovely job. CPAs go through this place here and the first or second try on their exams they make

it and English people too and risk, so I just, when people are critical or say it's a fun school or whatnot here, you know, I don't buy that, I just see the other side of it, you know. And we need to, I keep telling Vandement that this is something that we need to continue to sell here. We have a good product here, and you have, you know, just the fact that professors really are in the classroom with the student, so the instruction is there, so, and we have to trade more on that quality education. I don't know if you had any more questions here?

RM: No, we seem to have answered most of the ones that I would have asked, that was great.

Ok, thank you.

[PAUSE IN TAPE]

EM: I worked with the business department up here and then as I grew up _____ came up _____ the bank. We used to hire 10, 15, 20 kids to work part-time at the bank and still go to school on it, and I kept telling the kids, you know, you go out looking for a job on the resume you can say you worked at a bank for, even part-time for two or three years here, is helpful. And then out of that we picked the people that we wanted, you know, to stay with us, and so our whole Michigan Financial Corporation full of Northern graduates because they all had to train downtown Marquette here, and we are continuing that program yet today there. So they have 10, 15 people in training all the time now that are part-time students here at Northern so this is sometime we started also in the years we've been here, and so I can go into any of our banks in the U.P. here and see kids that we worked with. Over the weekend there was young fellow by the name of Mark H_____, he comes out of Ironwood originally, and he worked part-time and he worked in our press department for a few years, then he went back to Minneapolis and he's a broker there for Paine Webber at the present time, but he never forgot here and he's actively working with some people up there trying to interest them to come back and open up an

operation at K.I. Sawyer, but you see, here's somebody that grew up in the U.P., had his education here, and, you know, and he knew my concern of getting people up there, you know, and he's been gone 7-8 years now, but these are the things that make you feel good that you helped somebody along the line, somebody was thinking of repaying you, but there's many students like that. And as you know, living here, a lot of the students want to come back here and live but we don't have the employment for them up here that we'd like to have, and these are one of the things that hurt, and losing White Pine and losing K.I. Sawyer we lose a lot of people. One of the big things we lose, I think we lose out of K.I. Sawyer was the, kind of the cross-fertilization of people too, there was people from all over the world and so they'd bring something into your school systems and whatnot on it, they wanted to participate, and they bring a different lifestyle that they had, and broadened our vision a little bit, those that live in the U.P. So we're going to miss that in the area over a period of time.

RM: The air base was like a window to the world with these people coming back and forth.

EM: Right, yeah.

RM: I know I would see that in my classes, the airmen always had a little broader view of life, than, you, know, especially the undergraduate students, it was a nice, yes, a nice cross between the two cultures.

EM: We're going to miss that in this, here. Whenever we had a function anywhere and we needed entertainment or whatnot we'd just call up and they would come. They offered a lot of good things there on it.

RM: The other one was run the low-flying B-52 there right above Washington Street, I remember for the sesquicentennial of statehood we had that set up, yeah.

EM: Yeah, they promised, Colonel Rider was the last C.O. out there, he promised to bring that back for Finn Fest next year, they're going to have a flyover when they have the parade here on it, some function there. Well that was a place too that tied in with Northern, but I was there in the ground breaking and I was there when they locked the gate, so, there was 34 commanders in that period and I knew every one of them, and Northern is always very open to the air base and their people, inviting them in and trying to entertain them here, and they're very good out there, they have classrooms right there for them, so that's probably a shock for Northern, too, to lose all those students, but it's a good part of the history of the area. Nobody ever thought they'd close the base. But they did. [Laughter]

RM: Ok.

[PAUSE IN TAPE]

EM: As far as the air base is concerned there was opposition locally to having the Air Force come in there because that was the commie [?] airport at one time, but then the government came through and gave the commies so many dollars to develop the present commie airport up there, and so we were positive for them from day one and that's the reason we've been on good terms with them throughout the years, and there's been a good relationship there, and you met some of the finest people you ever wanted to meet out there at that base. The, and you could watch the change in atmosphere in how the Air Force operated, way back when it was just the Army Air Force you had more military type of thing, but then as the, you could watch it in the C.O.s and how they treated the people and whatnot, how they tried to operate with people, and then you had more social conscious type of administration coming in out there, but early on, you know, some of those commanders were pretty rough, you know. Lots of hard drinking and hard playing and whatnot went on there on it, in later years there wasn't a, last 20 years it hasn't been that

way, it's been real good, and they've been trying to work hard to upgrade the educational qualities of all their people on it –

[END OF TAPE]