

Rachel Schroderus's interview with Mathew Schroderus
Interview date January 4, 1998

Me: This is Rachel Schroderus at Rt. 1 box 31. I am interviewing Mathew Schroderus about his life.

Me: When you were little what were some of your favorite things to do?

MS: Catch snakes, go fishing, and go hunting.

Me: What were your brothers and sisters names and dates of birth?

MS: Joseph Robert-Sep. 23, 1958, Ellyn Jane-April 13, 1954, Jean Marie-Feb.11, 1952

Me: What kind of games did you play when you were little?

MS: Hide and seek kick the can stuff like that.

Me: When school was out for the summer what kinds of things did you do?

MS: Road bicycles a lot, fished a lot

Me: What kinds of vacations did you go on?

MS: Not to far, we just stayed in the local area.

Me: When you were younger is there a teacher that stuck out more that you like or disliked?

MS: Mrs. ^{Parviainen} Pollyanna, my kindergarten teacher cause she was more like a grandma.

Me: What were your favorite classes?

MS: Art class, science.

Me: Did you make pots in art class?

MS: yes

Me: Did you have pets growing up?

MS: yes

Me: What kinds?

MS: Dogs

Me: What kinds of hobbies did you have growing up?

MS: I like to go fishing.

Me: Do you have the same hobby now?

MS: yes

Me: Did you like school?

MS: Yes

Me: What school did you go to?

MS: North Lake, Champion, Westwood.

**Me: Did you like to read lots when you were little? **

MS: yep, mostly science stuff.

Me: Did you go to drive in stuff?

MS: yep, horror movies.

Me: When you were in highschool did you play in any sports?

MS: Nope

Me: What was the first car you owned?

MS: 1966 Chevrolet BellAir

Me: What color was it?

MS: Brownish tan

Me: How old were you when you first got your car?

MS: seventeen

Me: What kind of music did you listen to?

MS: All different kinds. Rock music mostly.

Me: What types do you like know?

MS: country and classical.

Me: What was your first job?

MS: Washing dishes at a restaurant.

Me: Which restaurant?

MS: Venice Supper Club.

Me: Is it still around?

MS: yes

Me: How old were you when you got your first job?

MS: sixteen

Me: Did you work weird hours?

MS: yes, some were late night hours till two in the morning.

Me: How old were you when you got married?

MS: Twenty, the day after I turned twenty.

Me: Where did you get married?

MS: Marquette, by the Justice of The Peace.

Me: When you were little what kinds of chores did you have to do?

MS: Take the garbage out, mow the lawn, stuff like that.

Me: What did you dress like in high school?

MS: pretty much like the rest of the kids.

Me: Did you have different hairstyles?

MS: Ya, I had long hair.

CARVINGS

Me: What kinds of stuff do you want to do next?

MS: A gargoye.

Me: Which one is your favorite?

MS: My big bear.

Me: What do you like carving with a chainsaw better than any other tool?

MS: Big animals

Me: You sell your carvings in stores right?

MS: I did.

Me: What kinds of people came up from other states to buy your carvings?

MS: People that owned construction business from Texas.

Me: Do you enjoy working on them?

MS: yes

Me: How long does it usually take you to finish a big piece of work?

MS: Like a big bear, twenty hours.

Me: What about a smaller piece?

Ms: about two hours

Me: What would you rather do, animals, people or statues?

MS: I'd rather do bears.

Me: What about people?

MS: Indians.

Me: Are they fun making?

MS: yes

Me: When was your first carving?

MS: With a chainsaw, it's got to be about ten years ago.

Me: What about in school, did you work on stuff in shop class?

MS: Ya, I did wood working but not with a chainsaw.

Me: Like with smaller chisel tools?

MS: Yes I did a little bit of carving with them.

Me: What kinds of carvings do you plan to do in the near future?

MS: Maybe a big sitting gargoyle, for the woodshed.

Me: Do you know where carvings originated?

MS: Na, they have been around for millions of years, the Egyptians made them and stuff. Indians did a lot with Totem poles.

Me: Do you want to do any totem poles?

MS: I started one.

Me: When you were little did you take a stick and carve on that?

MS: yes

More about Carvings

1. Book- Sculpture The Shades of Belief

PG. 15- The American Indians of the Pacific Northwest have been carving for quite a long time. They used trunks of large cedar trees to carve the magical animal origin of their tribes. Each animal represented a different animal spirit. These animals were regarded to as family emblems since the Indians thought of them as blood relations. Legends were told about how animals had helped the Supreme Creator. The names of these animals were also used as names for their people.

A Raven was thought of one who brought light to the Northwest. A Thunderbird made thunder when he flapped his wings and lightning when he flashed his eyes. His folded wings meant peace. The Bear, Eagle, Salmon, Wolf, and Whale were also put on a pole in front of their houses; which was ment to inspire respect for the spirits of the past.

Around 1850 was the time of carving totem-poles. White traders introduced a steel-carving tool, which Indians used for the totem poles. After the traders had left missionaries came in hope of converting the Indians to Christianity. They told the Indians of horrible stories and convinced them to destroy all of the poles. Fortunately some of the totem poles had already been brought somehow to museums.

Rachel Schroderus

Carvings

Book: The Art of the North American Indian

The Indians of the Northwest coast lived in houses built of huge cedar logs. In front of the houses where chiefs and important members of the tribe lived, stood big totem poles. The artist of the totem pole was a very important member of the tribe.

The great-great-grandfathers and great-grandfathers of this tribe were believed to be fish, birds, and other animals besides men. The totem pole expressed the story of the ancestor.

The animals were carved in certain squatting positions and they had to fit the shape of the pole so they were put one on top of the other.

Red Cedar wood was used by the Tlingits, of the Northwest. One of the things they made was used to comb their hair. The comb was made of bone or wood. Silver-birch trees were used for many things including, canoes, wigwams, and many other useful things. Birch bark was often used for making pictures. The Indians would scrape away the outer layer (white) of bark to form silhouette designs in the layer underneath (brown). The Cree Indians made animal pictures on the side of a box then sewed the sides together with roots of a certain tree.

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