

Keith Delarye Interview ①  
With  
John Aho

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me: when + where were you born.

John: I was born in Shippening hospital December 1943.

me: how many brothers + sisters do you have.

John: I have 2 brothers + 1 sister

me: what are their names.

John: I am the oldest then my brother Dennis is next then my brother Dale then my sister Gail is the youngest.

me: when + whom did you marry.

John: I married my wife Colleen Shankland in April 4 1970

me: How many children do you have.

John: I have 2 children Sonja who is 20 years old and going to Northern and John who is 15 and going to Westwood



me: when and where were your parents born.

John: My father was born in 1911 in National Mine  
My mother was born in 1919 in National Mine.

me: What years did you attend National Mine

John: I started school when I was 4 years old in 1948  
and I graduated in June of 1961.

me: do you remember the names of your  
grade school teachers and what they were  
like

John: I remember the names of almost all of my grade  
school teachers, my kindergarden teacher was Florence  
Reed, my first grade teacher was Mrs Magnasin  
my second grade teacher was Mrs Womberg, my third  
grade teacher was Mrs. Hart, My fourth grade teacher  
was Mrs. Warra, My fifth grade teacher was  
Mrs. Millmacey, My sixth grade teacher was Mr.  
Fred Benzic.

me: do you have any humorous or interesting stories  
to tell about your grade school teachers.

John: Well I don't remember any humaras about them  
except my fifth grade teacher she only had one  
arm and if you were kind of bad in school  
she would your head on one side with her  
stub and hit you on the other side with a ruler



John: wich was kind of humarous but it wasn't when it happened to ya

me: do you remember some of your high school teachers

John: ya we had Mr. Bath was the superintendent of the school but he taught us algebra, Mr. Sinberg who was the principle of the school, Peggy Brama taught us typing along with Stewart Oja he was also taught us typing, Mr. Gleason was an industrial arts teacher, Mrs. Gleason was an music teacher, Mrs Knapple taught us literature & believe, Coke Thomas and he was another teacher we had & don't know his name so & just called him Coke that must have been a nickname or something.

me: do you have any interesting or humarous stories to tell about them

John: well I guess there a few of them when we were in mrs Knapples class we went on strike we wouldnt do any work for her and she started crying so then she went and got the principle & believe we were seniors then she went to get the principle mr. Sinberg and when he came in I believe an whole class or at least 99% of them stood up at attention for him. they couldn't do anything because we wouldnt do anything they didn't dismiss the whole class or anything so we got away with what we were doing. We just went on strike for that class we were protesting something but I don't know what it was.



me: what was the first day of school like

John: the first day of school it was scary I didn't want to go to school my cousin used to come and get me and take me up to school I didn't want to leave home & would cry all the way to school and I would get in school and I would cry.

me: how long was a school day.

John: a I think it was I don't remember in kindergarden how long it was if it was only a half a day but a when I went to the other grades it was a 8 hour or 7 hour day or whatever it is.

me: How did you get to school each day?

John: I walked to school every day of my life rain or snow.

me: How far was it?

John: well lets see about a quarter of a mile maybe.

me: What kinds of subjects were taught?

John: reading, arithmetic, writing, music, art; in high school we had algebra, math, industrial arts, geometry, they had a conservation course when I started high school but they dropped that, and that was one of the courses I had been looking forward to take.



me: What was your favorite subject?

John: Probly math & have always been pready good in math & stil like my math.

me: Why?

John: Because I was good at it.

me: What was your hardest subject?

John: Probably English

me: Why

John: Why, because I am still not able to put sentences together right & understand predicates, adverbs, nouns, & pronouns they still jumble my mind.

me: How were kids expected to act and behave?

John: Well we had to obey all the rules in school we weren't allowed to chew gum if you were caught they made you were it on your ~~more~~ more or stand in the corner you just had to obey all the rules.

me: How did kids dress?

John: probly alot nicer than the kids do know a days we all had are hair cut short like hair should be no long hair a I wore swampers to school my son won't even wear swampers now he don't care he goes out with his tennis shoes but I wore swampers I didn't want my feet wet & my mother didn't want my feet wet.

me: Were there any special fads or sayings when you were young?

John: well there probably were but I don't remember them anymore.



me: What music did you listen to?

John: a + have always been a country + western music fan so most of it was country when I was in high school there was some Mck Edwiz + Pat Boone + probably some Beatles but I don't care for those type.

me: What kinds of extracurricular activities were offered?

John: Well of what I can remember the sports there was basketball + track there were a few other but I don't remember but there was no other sports that were extracurricular activities.

me: Which ones did you participate in if any?

John: a when I was in grade school I played basketball on the basketball team.

me: What was the name of the team?

John: National Mine Miners, and when I am high school I went out for the track team I just wanted to pole vault but they were making run so I quite that was foolish I should have stayed

me: did any of the teams win a trophy or tournament?

John: well I can't remember that we won tournaments know I don't know if we won any trophies we used to have some good basketball teams in National Mine

me: What affect did this have on the school?

John: Well it was March madness everybody got all excited they'd have pep rallies down in the auditorium



me: How did the teams travel and how far did they go?

John: Well we all traveled by bus that was the only way us students could go anywhere there was one bus for the boys and one bus for the girls. I remember going as far as Timbire Wisconsin for Basketball games.

me: Who was the principle when you were a student?

John: well when I first started George Anada was the principle and then later on Kenny Lingory became the principle.

me: could you please describe them?

John: well he was a stern but fair, now if you did something wrong you would be punished otherwise he was a nice man and a good teacher

me: could you describe your textbooks?

John: a I don't believe they were any different than any textbooks today unless when we were younger we had Dick + Jane and spot or who ever that dog was

me: how much homework did you get?

John: we had homework from every class every day every class you had lessons to do there was at least 4 different books that had to be taken home to study.

me: what was lunch time like?

John: well lunch was different for me than the other kids because I would walk home for lunch. I never in my life ate a hot lunch in school

me: where was the cafeteria?

John: well I believe the cafeteria was it was located in now the art room at National Mine but that was where it was. you would just walk down the stairs + there would be a boy like + you would get your lunch card punched you would



John: get your lunch + go in the cafeteria + eat.

me: could you describe your recess?

John: ya we played alot of games during recess one of them was tag we would go over on the bluff at school. and there was a sidewalk on the front side of school wich we all had used to slide on all the time.

me: did you have any special plays or programs and if so please describe them?

John: well every year we had a Christmas play there was always a Christmas play I was in the singing I was in the chorus when I was a senior we had a Senior class play wich was our town and in that I was a dead guy I looked like Adolf Hitler I thought with that little mustache they put on me I combed my hair like him.

me: do you remember any humorous or interesting stories about them?

John: about the plays ya especially about the practices were the gym is now was a stage floor a were the cafeteria is in were the auditorium was were everybody was seated + they had a and they had senery that would drop down out of the ceiling so whenever we were practicing the teacher would be looking for some of us he would find some of us because we would sneak up in the attic and we would be up there where the senery comes down + we would be dropping things down on everybody and he would be hallering for some of us because he could never find us.

me: were there strict rules to follow?

John: ya but as usual there is always strict rules to follow but as a kid you don't listen to all those rules and you brake some of them



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me: could you describe the graduation ceremony?

John: well at the time when I graduated there was 26 of us in the class I think it was 26 and at that time that was the biggest graduating class out of National Mine high school. & all we did is go up on the stage in get our diplomas and say thank you.

me: What special memories do you have of graduation?

John: hm well when I was a senior before we graduated we had a skip day that we had the whole day off and we all went down to Mackina Island we mist the first boat going over there because we had trouble in the car I was in me, + Dave Armstrongs Babbie Pivclun + Jean Keto so we had to wait for the next ferry to go over there + everybody was wondering what had happened to us. for graduation I don't remember anything different than any other graduation

me: were you able to maintain contact with childhood friends?

John: I am still friends with most of the people that I grew up with or graduated with there only a few that I graduated with and not seen or heard from. since I graduated there are 3 I think that I have not seen or heard from but otherwise I see every other one or talk to them when ever I need them so I am still friends with over half of my class.

me: are there any teachers that had a great impact on your life?

John: well I had alot of teachers that I liked I can't say that any of them had a great impact on me one of my favorite teachers was Fred Benaje



me: did you have any special yearly outings or picnics?

john: I don't believe we had any not like they do now a days they field trips + things and I don't even remember going on any I think we went out for a walk on the what they call the nature trail now we would go out there + look at the nature otherwise most of our time was spent in school or when we went out to play baseball.

me: did any traditions occur when you were in school?

john: well I remember one time when we were young I don't know if it was my fault but myf cousin says it was I think we were going home for lunch or I think we were going for lunch + he fell down + broke his leg I didn't help back up into the school and he was crawling back up so I opened the door so he could crawl in we were real young then we were in gradeschool.

me: What do you think the biggest change is in school since you were a child?

john: well I don't think the teachers are as strict as when I was in school and the dress codes + the hair lengths ain't enforced like they were and the boys look like girls + I don't know

me: what are your fondest memories of national Mine school?

john: well I always enjoyed going to all the basketball games I went to almost all of the games I enjoyed that I remember once at a basketball ball game a before the game even started National Mine was called for a foul Bobbi Birchum stepped on a guys foot from champion I believe we were playing Champion he was stepping on his foot so he couldn't jump for the ball all the guys were used to playing rough boys basketball because that's all we played when we played outside if they pushed us we could make the shot but if they didn't push us we would miss so all the guys on the team were used to playing like that ~~to~~ that was a unique thing because you never see a foul before the game.



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me: if you had a message for students today what would it be?

john: well I would say study, study hard, learn what you can in school if you get a chance ~~to~~ participate in the sports do it and try your best don't quite school graduate

me: is there anything you would like to add?

john: well I suppose I have had a few humorous things happen. When I was in Kindergarten we always had to dress up for halloween + my mom dressed me up as a little girl and I wasn't going to school like that and my cousin Ronnie came to pick me up and when they got me outside I crawled under the car I wouldn't come out from under the car and they were trying to get me out from under the car. I wasn't going to school dressed as any girl.

me: thanks

john: all right