

Batina Rand's interview
with
Mrs. Manly

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Batina - This is Batina Rand and I will be interviewing Patricia Manly a student from National Mine School on Dec. 13, 1990 at her house, 210 Daisy St.

Batina - Please tell me when and where you were born,

Mrs. Manly - Okay, I was born in Escanaba in Nov 30, 1947,

Batina - How many brothers and sisters did you have?

Mrs. Manly - I seven brothers and three sisters. I am 3rd to the oldest in our family,

Batina - when and whom did you marry?

Mrs. Manly - I married James Manly, He was an Ishpeming High School graduate. And I got married in 1969, almost 22 yrs.

Batina - How many children did you have?

Mrs. Manly - I have 2 boys. Scott is 18 and Chad is 16.

Batina - when and where were your parents born?

Mrs. Manly - My mother was born in Marquette, Wi, and my father was born in Gladstone, Mi and what year? - I believe my mother was born in 1923 and my father very close to that time.

Batina - what years did you attend National Mine?

Mrs. Manly - I was a '65 graduate so about '53 in 1st grade

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Batina - Do you remember some of the names of the grade school teachers?

Mrs. Manly - I remember the name of every grade school teacher, as well as high school. When you go to a small school as we did you are very closely knit and you have a special bonding and therefore YES I remember all my teachers. I could name them one by one each grade if you wanted me to. (Hahaha)

Batina - what were your teachers like?

Mrs. Manly - Everyone was different and special in their own way. Mrs. Gleason was a kindergarten teacher I did not have her for kindergarten but I had her every year throughout my education for music and art, and I loved her dearly. She was very dedicated, she put on - she worked with every grade throughout the whole school which is really exceptional when you think about it. She taught a half a day of kindergarten, and her afternoon was music from 1st grade - 12th, and she was so dedicated, she put on beautiful school plays, always a spring play and a x-mas play it involved the whole school and at lunch hours I can remember practicing nights and she was very dedicated and very loving, when I think of her one of the things I remember about her especially she always wore jewelry and bracelets bright stones and bright danglers because she knew the kids liked it, we would always say "Mrs. Gleason we like your jewelry and she wore it because she knew we liked it, she even dressed for us, and other special teachers. Like I said I remember each and everyone, they were all special in different ways other teachers that stand out in my mind, I think of Mrs. Kaura she was my 4th grade teacher and she was always so bubbly, always greeted everyone. In the morning it was always "Good Morning Girls & Boys"

Mrs Manly Cunit

and she always made you feel special. Mr. Benzy my sixth grade teacher, I just loved him dearly because he was one that just tried to get everything out of everybody, He made us all get involved in everything. The science fair, he just loved science and collecting rocks. And he made sure all of us got interested in these types of things and he would get us to compete in the science fair held at the university every year. I can remember when he left our school to go to Neugance to be a teacher and we all felt real bad about that, and other teachers, another one of my teachers was Mr. Tonkon, he was my band teacher and also I had him for history in JR. High. He was one who included us kids in so many things that he got the most out of us. I ended up being on percussion in the band because the school owned the drums so. Mr. Tonkon would always take some of us kids who wanted to go to Musikak at NMU, He always did those x-tra things and the band would have - we would always have a x-mas party and we'd go out on Millmaki pond and have a skating party and a bon fire and those were real fun things for us we really enjoyed it. We'd always play at the basket ball games and visiting concerts with Republic and Champion and that was a nice experience for us.

I enjoyed it very much. And in high school we were weak was at NMU, we were a sm. school more

was real tight and we never had extra money to do special events for the kids. Unless we raised the money. Although that's still the same today in many respects. For instance I can remember I chummed with a lot of Ishpeming students and we wanted to have a prom at our school and they never had proms. We had no money and I was on the student council and a group of us were determined we were going to have a prom and we approached Mr. Limberg, he was our principle and student council director and we came up with the idea he kind of rolled his eyes and said "oh no you don't have the money, we tried this before and the school got stuck paying the bills" and this type of thing. So we kind of negotiated with him that we would have fund raisers and make sure we had enough money before we had the prom, and he kind of kidded us saying "you'll never do it and I don't know if he did that to kind of challenge us which I think was his real way of doing it as I think back. But we did and we were determined we were going to raise enough money, and we did! We had car washes and bake sales and we were just thrilled we had made enough money to have a prom and we did and it was really nice all of us enjoyed it and I think the good part of it was we knew we raised the money and decorated

Mrs. Manly (cont)

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and did everything ourselves. And everybody enjoyed coming, so that was a nice accomplishment for us. So that would be it about teachers

Batman - Do you have any funny or interesting stories about school?

Mrs. Manly I don't remember a lot of funny things happening. One of the memorable things we had that was always funny, when the Freshmans came to the high school. We had what was called initiation day. It was usually held in Oct, and the Seniors of the school would initiate the Freshmans. And what they would do is they would make a list. The Senior Boys would make a list of things the Freshman girls had to do or dress as or like and it would be real crazy things. The Senior ~~girls~~ girls would make a list of things the Freshman boys had to do. The year we were initiated I remember we had to wear hunting cloths, flannel shirts, one boot with one sock, we had rags tied into our hair. And we had to carry a pail of candy for the seniors. The seniors only were allowed to eat that candy, that was a fun day. We had a lot of laughs and the seniors always enjoys tormenting us. Then that evening there would always be a high school dance

(Mrs Manly cont)

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and then again that was really scary.
at that time N.M. School were the gymnasium
is now that was like a stage and there was an
auditorium. all the high schoolers would sit in that
auditorium and the freshman would be
called onto the stage to do something in
front of the whole high school. That was one
of the scariest most embarrassing nights of
our lives. I can remember they asked me to
imitate Elvis Presley and handed me a guitar,
so that was one of the funny things I remember
another funny thing ~~was~~ Mrs. Gleason as I
mentioned earlier always put on school plays
and the x-mas play she wanted to put the Scrooge
have the x-mas play Scrooge and she could not
get a boy to act the part and she asked me if I
would take the part of Scrooge, in the play and
I just felt so embarrassed about it and I just know
she ~~kind of~~ begged me saying well, you can
do it because you have a low voice and I
know you could really do a good job. So anyway,
we did it and I was Scrooge in the x-mas play
and it was really funny because I can
remember at practices at lunch and soon
Mrs. Gleason would be laughing so hard she would
have tears coming down her eyes because I'm trying to

Mrs Manly (cont)

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have this low voice and be this really crabby grumpy person but that was another of my funny memories of school.

Batina - were there any other plays you participated in?

Mrs. Manly - I participated probably in almost all the plays, I enjoyed it and being in a sm. school, like we were it was basically you were in everything I mean like so many of us we were all in the chorus and plays and all in the band and all in student council so that can be a nice thing in a way because you get exposed to everything but at times it's not always as challenging cause you don't have enough competition. ~~When~~ like when you compete to be in a play or to take part you're just there because there aren't a big selection of kids and I did enjoy it and I loved Mrs. Gleason and I think that's part of the reason I enjoyed speaking parts

Batina - what kinds of extra-curricular activities were there at N.M.?

Mrs. Manly - There were not much, Basically, student council, chorus, the girls didn't have basket ball like they do today.

Mrs. Manly (cont)

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and I can remember being real angry about that I loved playing basket ball, and I used to be one of those complainers who would say the boys can have basket ball why can't the girls and today I just think it's wonderful that the girls get to compete in the same type of sports as the boys do. Not that being a boy or a girl should determine whether a boy or girl gets to compete in a sport or not, I was in track, I remember that in Jr high but I don't remember if that was just track in gym class I don't remember competing with other schools, I was in High School band I remember I was in band from 6th - 12th grade and that was very much fun for me and a very important part of my high school.

Batina - What kind of punishments were used?

Mrs. Manly - I can remember what they called the demeritate system for instance if you were caught in Study Hall chewing gum you got a demeritate the teacher would put a check mark and I believe it was after you got 10 demeritates you were reprimanded or ~~dismissed~~ dismissed from school for one day. I remember the demeritate system was tried. But I don't remember it lasting long a year or two. It wasn't something easy to keep track of

Mrs. Manly (cont)

And you were expelled and they did have say if you were on a team or a cheerleader if you were caught drinking or it was heard about or something you were expelled from it for 3 days

Batina - How did the kids dress while you were going to N.M. school,

Mrs. Manly - I don't remember a lot from elementary school because coming from a large family I just remember getting a new pair of shoes was a thrill for me and speaking of shoes I can remember saddle shoes were the big thing in 2nd or 3rd grade because I can vividly remember standing at that water fountain and it was like my first pair of new shoes looking down at my new shoes thinking how proud I was of these saddle shoes I'm wearing that are in style. In high school I can remember the Mohair sweaters were in. And again those have come back in again. Basically kids did dress up. I can remember wearing skirts and dresses together, never wearing slacks I don't even remember them being permitted. I basically remember wearing mylons and dress shoes and skirts and dresses.

Batina - were there any special facts or sayings?

Mrs. Manly - I'm sure there were but I can't think of any at this time.

Batina - what kind of music did you listen to?

Mrs. Manly - when we were in high school I can remember the Beatles were a big thing, Elvis Presly was a big thing Pat Boone, Of course Pat Boone and Elvis Presly were before my high school years. In high school - The Everly bros, Neil Dymond Neil Sadacca? Brenda Lee, Connie Francis, as far as listening I can remember every night the local radio station what they called Night Beat and Jack Forrest was the D.J. and everybody just enjoyed listening to it, And I can remember often falling asleep at night with the radio on and listening to it

Batina - Did you go on any special yearly picnics or outings.

Mrs. Manly - I dont really remember picnics. I remember every year through Highschool in spring time wed go to the school forest which is along 581 and wed always spend a day there picking up cleaning up the woods picking up dead branches and any liter that had been thrown, I do not remember school picnics at all.

Batina - Did any trageties occur while you were in school?

Mrs. Manly - The biggest tragedy that everyone remembers. that stays in my mind. (11)
I was a Jr. at High School. I remember I was sitting in Study Hall and Mr. Limberg our high school ~~principal~~ superintendent he came to us and said ^{Tennedy had} ~~we were~~ been shot at that time ^{ent} sure if he was dead I remember going home and laying ~~the front~~ ~~concrete~~ TV just watching ~~anthy~~ That was just so hard for me. It's in my memory

like it was yesterday. Another tragedy for me. For me it was a tragedy. My best friend eloped and I remember that same month feeling so heartbroken because she had left and we were best friends since 1st grade and very close. We did ~~one~~ everything together we were in band together cheerleading together a club together and that was real hard for me to accept and go on without her. So those would be the only two tragedies.

Batina - Have you maintained contact with any childhood friends?

Mrs. Manty - Oh yes we still do, the one I mentioned who eloped we still are best and dearest friends and there probably are 3 of my classmates and we get together at x-mas time when they come home and summer on the 4th of July and with a Sm. school you're not only close to your classmates but with the class ahead of you and behind as well and I was very attached to the people as well we often meet 2-3 times a yr. and go out for brunch or something. Its like my close friend said, when we were together last summer, Its like we never have to make up for lost time we often don't have time to write but we can just pick up where we left off.

Batina - what was the graduation ceremony like?

Mrs. Manty - It was ok. It wasn't as special as it should have been. By the time we graduated several of our classmates didn't pass I believe we only had 14-15 graduates our class only had 19-22 throughout those years and that was a sad time because you're parting and we were all very close to one another like I said going to a small school you have a real special bonding with each other so that was a real sad time for us.

Batina - what do you think is the biggest change ⁽¹³⁾
in the school.

Mrs. Manly - What I love about the new teaching
a methods today, I think education has come
a long long way. When we were in
elementary everything was so not creative not
letting a student be creative. Not always giving
a child a fair chance. A real bad experience giving
1st grade

speaking of getting back with old
friends, we were talking about 1st grade at our
school, the teacher had it set up so you were
divided in the class she remembers it as
the teacher calling you the dumb bunny or
the smart squirrels, if you were a good reader
you were a smart squirrel if you were a bad reader
you were a dumb bunny, I just think what
an ignorant way that is for a young child
to come into 1st grade and be labeled as a smart
squirrel or a dumb bunny and the impact that
has on the rest of their lives. One of my
friend had mentioned and she was a year
ahead of me and she always thought she
was a dumb bunny because she was put in the
dumb bunny group and found when she was in
6th grade she had the 2nd to the highest IQ,
in class was a very brilliant person but for
some reason ~~that~~ the teacher chose that she
was going to go in this dumb bunny group
and the new methods have just come such a
long way and there again the teachers
today have to be so much more skilled. They
have to be so perceptive of a child.

Ms. Murky (cont)

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Their environment, the home they come from they have to be ready to challenge the brightest child or help out the slow child and come along with a healthy balance. I think also with the home life today, our family life today has really deteriorated and that has probably put such an impact on education because with broken homes and both parents working, a teacher has to be so — to me I'd be so overwhelmed to be a teacher. I love to be a teacher that was my first love, I started to go to school for that to be a teacher.

but when things didn't work out in my life that I ended up not being one but a teacher today has a load to carry, a big load and it's hard for me to explain what I'm trying to say but I think the methods are wonderful, they're challenging, the kids get exposed to so many things

for example The Red Dust project. Look at all you kids are getting exposed to you are learning to

be creative ~~the history~~ you are learning about art because often art is integrated with ~~the~~ Red Dust Boots you are exposed to talented ~~the~~ teachers.

You have just excellent teachers out at U.M. many of the best. They are dedicated, if

they weren't dedicated there would never be a Red Dust project. And it's wonderful how they all relate to one another. They work together. An example, the Red Dust program they have to work together to make it work and what I think is greater about education

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is a teacher teaches what they major in for instance you'll have an English major teach you English and History major teach History. When I was in high school a teacher wasn't always teaching their major in most cases was not. and I believe that is what hurt our education the most, I know definitely not one of my English teachers in high school was an English major and that really hurts because you will not have the quality education if that teacher does not major or minor in that area. There's just no way it can be done and they are making more and more demands on teachers today to be top notch and the people who are not familiar with the school system can not believe the hardwork, dedication, and stress that must be in the teaching field. It is really tough to be a good teacher today and I think N.M. is real fortunate to have the quality school and teachers they have.

Batina - what would be the fondest memory you had at N.M. School?

Mrs. Manly - Most of them were fond memories. I was one that really loved school. It was an important part of my life.

(Mrs. Manlykait)

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I enjoyed my classmates and loved them dearly. Some of them were very special when I think of band, I loved music so it was always fun and chorus was fun. The mix of kids, we had such a mixture of kids in our school and being in a small school we were all so close. But sometimes you took so much teasing too, I can remember being teased sometimes too, one thing I can remember, my fondest memory of school was we had the best lunch program, we had probably the best cooks any school would want to have. So many things were wonderful, we couldn't wait til lunch time and the cooks were so caring, I can remember

Mrs. Anderson or Mrs. Coulburn?, they'd always come and walk through the lunch room and make sure every one was eating, they were always concerned that every child ate and I remember the chile with corn bread with melted butter on it. I remember the apple crisp, I just remember everything they did they put their heart into it, and I remember if there was food left over you could go stand in line for seconds and I always stood in line for seconds and that was a real fond memory to and I can remember the challenges, I remember enjoying student council so much and my science classes and french

(Mrs Manly unit)

classes I remember we had Mrs. Maylew and we teased her so much and those were many good memories of school. (17)

Batina -

What would your message be for students today?

Mrs. Manly -

My message would be, love school enjoy it you'll never get it back work hard Challenge yourself Don't be afraid to try something new Don't be afraid to fail you will learn and be a success by failing and believe in yourself and have the attitude that you can do it. If you want anything bad enough in life you should try because you'll look back in 10 yrs and say I wish I had tried something. There is nothing wrong with trying and failing you will only learn to be a stronger better person for it.

Batina - Is there anything else you would like to add about NMSchool?

Mrs. Manly - these sound like silly little things, but I guess I'm the type of person who remembers silly little things. Recess time in elementary I can remember all the girls jump roping and playing jacks on the sidewalk.

Mrs. Manly (cont)

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the boys playing marbles and as we got older lunch hour was often the boys playing baseball the girls playing jump rope or sliding down the hill. I can remember that USA flag because I always walked to school I remember climbing up that hill and one of the 1st things I'd see is the flag, and the pride the school took in being a clean school it was always well kept up the windows shining and the floors were clean and a lot of pride in the school. The community was totally supportive. I remember our band concerts were the auditorium was always packed to capacity and more. The school plays were everyone would come early really early for the spring play and x-mas play. It seemed like everyone really supported the school the teacher and the students. People were proud N.M. when I think now walking up to school everybody kept up their yard, kept up their homes. Often people were poor and didn't have money but their homes and yards were kept up. They had pride and took care of their homes and the area. You know the beauty of it the school being on a hill. I can remember often at lunch hour we would go sit on the

(Mrs. Manly cont)

hill and look over everything. You could see so much, and the spring the beautiful hics. We would often pick bouquets of litacts and bring them to the teachers. Those were basically the neat little things I remember.

Batina — what did you do after you graduated from high school?

Mrs. Manly — I worked at VMU in the political science dept, as a secretary. Then I worked for 1 yr. as a CPA. Then I decided to go to school myself. I'd always wanted to be a teacher and I think that's why I have so much love for school and students, I still do. In order for me to go to school, I was going to school full time and working full time and I got very stressed out over it and I had health problems. I was seeing a doc. and he recommended I either go to school or work. So I dropped out of school and cont. to work. I always worked in offices or secretarial work which I enjoyed but it wasn't what I loved to do. I had gotten married and we had moved, and I worked while my husband was getting his masters degree in education. I worked full time in

the auditing dept. at a large bank in lower Mich. We moved back and I worked in an office til I had my children. Then I stayed home with them and once we moved out in the township I was real concerned about some things in the community. Me having two young children. I moved into a developing subdivision with all young families with little children. And a group of us parents had approached the township about developing a recreation area and a little league program so our children would have things to do and a place to go and that is how I got involved in township gov. Many people in my neighborhood had encouraged me to run for an elective position to be on the township board. And I thought Oh, why not and did so. So I was 8 yrs. Ishpeming township treasurer and enjoyed it. It was challenging, it was very constructive I feel like I gave to my community. A community that I truly enjoy and am proud of being part of it. And I decided I needed to go into something full time. There was a county position opened and I decided to run for that position and it was County Register of deeds. I was very frightened. It was definitely a challenge. I felt I had a good background with my experience as a township official. I was very active when I was a township official in many different committees. We had a recreation comity in our township. We worked very hard it was fun and constructive. and we accomplished a lot developing a recreation area over there and recreation programs. I was active on the Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce board for at least 6 yrs. Through that board I was active in youth dialogue community and Miss Ishpeming Pageant community and the clean sweep community and there again was exposed to a lot of community projects.

and service types of organizations. When I ran for the county position there were 6 of us running for this position 3 men and 3 women. It was very scary and a lot of hard work. I had to do a lot of comparing a lot of reading and research. I had to get out to the public and meet everybody. Go to every social function there was so my name was out there and people knew me so when people went to vote there was hope that they would remember me and vote for me. And I can remember staying home the earlier part of that weekend and thinking oh my God what did I do I was quite frightened at what the outcome may be because I had invested money as well. It is expensive to run for county position. You have to pay for advertisers, paper ads, radio ads and your advertising material. It was very draining to campaign. You had to be out to every social event there was in the county. I remember during that summer I was gone every weekend ~~from~~ from morn. til night and I would work my township position during the wk. and often afternoons and night do other things for the election. But the evening I was home waiting for the results I was fortunate to have the support of the former county clerk who was Henry Skews (?). And he was just so supportive and wonderful to me. He shared some of his experiences with me. The Do's and Dont's of politics and he gave so much of himself to me to show he ~~was~~ believed in me and was so happy for me. ~~that~~ He encouraged me to read and be aware of certain things.

(Mrs. Manly Coit)

and be familiar with the county and certain statistics ⁽²²⁾ and so on. And anyway he had called me that evening and had stopped to see me. He had set up a PA system on his vehicle and went to some of the smaller communities and encouraged them to get out and vote and support Patricia Manly and I felt very proud of having his support. Anyway it was later on that evening and I was getting several phone calls saying that I was winning in their precincts ⁽³⁾ and things were looking real optimistic. I went down there and all the other people running in the election were there and taking the statistics that were coming in. And things were looking better and better as the evening went on. I remember about 1 hr. of being there it was quite obvious I was winning. I had one in every precinct throughout the county except for I believe 2 precincts and there I'd only lost by one or two votes. It was a very proud time in my life. I remember too what was very important was the support of my family. My sisters and sister-in-laws my nieces and nephews all through the summer, when there was a parade they'd come and march with me and give my handouts to the people along the parade routes. They made a big float for me for the Ishpeming parade and they all had gotten T-shirts that said "Vote for Auntie Pat or Vote for my sister". When I think back it was just more than anyone could expect. The type of support they gave me and I feel it was their support that helped me get through those hard times. Coming from a large family can sometimes be very demanding but can also

(Mrs. Manly cont)

it's so very rewarding.

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And what I do as County register of deeds is where all records of the properties are kept, all deeds are recorded in our office, all mortgages, all discharge of mortgages, all land contracts, all federal state tax ~~_____?~~ ^{anything} that pertains to the property, The record of who buys that property, who owns it, who sells it. All that is done in my office. It's a very very busy office, I'm also a member of the county plat board which oversees all laws that pertain to property description and your lot splits. Many people will buy property and not be aware there are certain laws that dictate how many splits there can be and what the ordinances are that control these plats. We basically oversee that these laws are followed and make people aware if there is a violation we make people aware they are making a violation and we try to help them resolve the problem that has been encountered.

Butina - That is all the questions - Thank you for letting me interview you!

Mrs. Manly - Thank you for asking it was my pleasure.