

Interview with Robert "Bob" Money
Sault St. Marie, MI
May 26th, 2009

START OF INTERVIEW

Josh McDowell (JMD): Josh McDowell interviewing Robert Money May 26th 2009 Sault St. Marie Michigan. Bob can you tell me a little bit about yourself, you're date of birth and where you grew up or where you were born.

Robert Money (RM): Well, I was born in 1930 in Madison, Indiana. The reason I'm involved in this is, we moved to Marquette in 1947 and my dad was the coach at Northern, Northern Michigan College of Education at the time and I finished high school there and all four years of college. I started college in 1949, graduated in 53 and immediately went into the service, like most of my classmates at that time. So, I was involved with the college, actually. I went to John D. Pierce, which was the college training school so I actually was involved in the college area for the six years after that. We moved away got married and have not lived in the Marquette area since that time. My parents did until my dad died and later my mother moved over here and lived with us until she died.

JD: Can you explain the John D. Pierce, what branch of the college was that?

RM: Well, years ago all of the state colleges that specialized in education, that would have been Western and central, eastern and Northern and well, even the big schools Michigan and Michigan state, they aren't their own school systems k-12 and these were, see originally they did not farm teachers out to the public schools system, so what happened was they met, ran these schools and they were very high class schools, it really outside of a private education, you couldn't have gotten a better education and in fact some of them like, University High in Ann Arbor used to do very well in state athletics, but anyway I went to John D. Pierce he was one of the first superintendants of education in Michigan and that's what the schools was named for. I don't know if the building has been torren down now or not, it may have been torren down, but anyways I finished high school there and all many of us did was just walk through hallway and we were in college. It was no great, big, cultural shock for most of us and I think we're having our fiftieth reunion, I think, this summer, as a matter of fact, because I graduated in 49. What happened was after the war it was primarily impacted veterans, so many veterans came to school and go into teaching that there was not enough facilities. I mean you couldn't have ten student teachers doing an English class, so they began to farm them out to the public schools system and finally it dawned on somebody in the 50's most of these went out of business, why should we run a separate school system when we can have our student teachers go out into the public school system and so most of them, then, have been discontinued. I think Michigan State may have a Special Ed program up through the fourth grade or something, but I don't think any of the state schools run them anymore. This was not an unusual thing it was done in other states too, but it was primarily the impact of too many student teachers and not enough facility.

JMD: What sports were you involved in, in high school?

RM: In high school it was track, football, and basketball since it was the only ones they had and then in college and I was not a devoted sports fan, it's like working in the ice cream factory for your dad, you after a while are not really enthusiastic about ice cream. When I got to college I had not intended to go out for sports but I was the football manager because I knew exactly how my father thought, so for four years I was the football manager and then when I was a junior they needed basketball players. I had played on a fabulous intramural team The Ditmore Dandies, we always said that the D. part of John D. Pierce stood for Ditmore, so we were all grads from John D. Pierce and we had an intramural team and two of us went on and played then on the college team and then so I played just two years on the college basketball team, but because of my association with sports and the fact that many of the people you'll be talking too were in a number, I mean we had people that earned twelve letters, ten letters, nine letters, this sort of thing. I knew almost all of these people until I graduated. Now several of the groups you'll talk to or have contact with came in after I got in the service in 53 and so I didn't know them, but the rest of these people I knew almost all of them, quite well some of them. I actually played with some of them on basketball teams or was their manager in football. So, that's how I knew a lot of these people.

JMD: Can you tell how the Barracks Boys program started, because your association with your father and him being the one who started this.

RM: Well a little bit about pop's background. Pop was a very, very, fine athlete in high school. He was literally a legend in this little high school. He was actually born in Indiana, but there was no high school close to the farm where he grew up, so the state of Indiana paid tuition to Fort Recovery, Ohio to have him be allowed to attend high school there and he was a very, very fine basketball and baseball player. Quite literally at the time was a legend for years. Well, what happened was, they were just dirt farmers and this was in a period right at the end of World War I there was a little depression and everything, they didn't have any money, but Ohio Northern heard about him and offered him an athletic scholarship. It's one of the earliest ones we know about and he never could have gone to college without this kind of help, you know, without the help that he got from the scholarship and he never forgot that. And so see when the G.I. bill began to run out and not necessarily the bill ran out, but the men who were using it. They came in right after the war so around 1950 or 51 you were running out of the veterans from World War II and that's where a lot of his teams, he had fellows, well, two brothers from the Sault very fine men, Dick and Earl Bide. These fellows are playing football for nothing but a sweater in their thirties, walking to school in the morning with their kids. I mean, this is a really remarkable group of people. Well, he got the idea, if he could get one, see, during World War II the only thing that kept Northern open was the Army set up an ROTC Officers Training School there and this kept a lot of schools going. A lot of schools or they would have folded and what happened was they built barracks for these people on the campus. It's about where the Bottum Student Center is today. That was the football field and believe it or not they put the Barracks on the football field, because it had track around it and all this and some of them were prefab metal, they weren't Quonset huts. They were prefabricated metal ones and some of them were, literally I think, treated cardboard. They were pretty temporary-type things, but I lived in things like that in the service, so I know just what they are, so he asked if he could have one of those and if they would guarantee him a certain number of on campus jobs, you know, like cleaning and doing jobs like that and working in kitchens, things and they said yes because they didn't have any scholarship money and so that's where he got this idea and he literally went around and looked for people that couldn't have gone to college and I think some of them will tell you that, if you interview enough of them. One family didn't have a car, to come talk to him in Marquette they had borrow a car from an uncle. These people didn't have any money because as you know the U.P. is not a very wealthy area and I remember one woman, just last time, came up, very

emotional, said that, "If it wasn't for your dad my husband would have been working in the paper mill and he ended up a superintendent." So, Pop I think saw some of his background in these kids, because a lot of them did not have money and his idea was that they would run themselves. They elected their own people to be secretary and treasurer. They bought their own food and they bought their own oil. They lived in, they were not luxurious believe me, well these are Army barracks in double deck bunks and space heaters, the oil space heaters and they bought the oil and they paid the phone bill and bought groceries. In other words they ran themselves and he made them work. He tried to make sure that they did their jobs on campus, it wasn't a, I don't know about your thing going out...oh, ok. So that they actually did something and it ended, I think, around 55 or 56, you may know that better than I do because I wasn't there when it ended and I think it ended because we got a new president who put a great emphasis on athletics and he began to issue scholarships and we got an entirely different type of person that came in. It was not the hard scrambled from the U.P. it was, we got them from all over and he emphasized, he had come from Michigan State. In fact, he had gotten Michigan State into the Big Ten, he was the negotiator that had got Michigan State into the Big Ten and so he saw athletics as a very, very powerful lever and so all of a sudden, and that ended, kind of, the amateur era of NMU and in that period it became a bigger thing, okay?

JMD: So, it was called a Grant and Aid Program?

RM: Yep, Grant and Aid.

JMD: Did they receive money from the State or from the School itself?

RM: No they had jobs, the school made them perform jobs and it was State money. One time, I remember, he was running the budget for all the major sports on 25,000 dollars a year. Now, I know back then that was a lot more money than it is today, but even if you inflate for the time that's passed he was running a very, the president was a very, very nice man then but he was not completely interested in athletics and I used to work in the summer time repairing football shoes and putting new cleats on them and blackening them up for the thing. New stuff was very rare, they had some pretty old equipment that they used in this and these people were playing because they wanted too and that's the thing because they didn't get, all I ever got for being manager or playing basketball was a couple of blankets and some sweaters and that was about all. Not even a big banquet at the end of the year for the sports, so those were the amateur days, they're gone forever.

JMD: So how did your father maneuver this, this program into being with the school?

RM: I really don't know how he convinced the president to go along maybe it's because he was a good Presbyterian too. That might have been it, because all I know is that they were willing to do that. We got the Barracks, everything and I never remember any scandal about that. A bunch of people had really, realized this was an opportunity they would not otherwise have, so none of them soured it and I think that was one of the nice things. Pretty, pretty nice bunch of people. It was like the veterans, they were a pretty classy bunch when you get right down to it, and so I think, I had no idea how he managed to persuade them to do it or who was the instrumental individual in the administration, I don't know anything about that, because I wasn't involved in the setting up of the, because I think it was, I don't know you may have the dates, I think it was set up around 51 or 50 somewhere in there and it only lasted 5 or 6 years. The thing that, as Margaret was saying to you before, the number of times they mention his name is quite a tribute to him, but the closeness that the, because, you know, they all came from and I don't say similar, but this was not from all over, almost all these people were from the Upper

Peninsula, which is an isolated area far more back then than it is today and there was a closer sense with them than I think most fraternities have with their alums. These people are still very much in contact and the last get together, I don't know how many were there. One of them there was about 30 or 40 people. Judy Bailey was the president then and George Tomasi had a get together, he lived out at Lakewood at the time and she came out after graduation and I think she expected to be bored by a handful of people and she, literally, was shocked to find how many people were there, you know, when you have wives and everything else it's a much bigger crowd than she had ever anticipated and several of the fellows spoke and began quite emotional and I think that impressed her too and we've had, I think, three or four and the last I'd say was the smallest one. Then Matt had that thing in the dome and everything, and then we had a nice banquet and that's where Russ came with his wife and we had a nice, nice, evening there, but it's a very close knit group of people. Some have died, I mean we're all in our 70's; we're not a young bunch at all. I'm as old probably as just about any of them because I actually started college before most of them. Most of them started when the program started 50, 51 and I suppose even the ones at 55 or 56 that they started school are in the middle seventies, so were an old bunch of codgers, and so I did not need the grant and aid. I lived at home ate at home, paid 140 dollars a year to go to Northern. 70 dollars a semester. Try that one!

JMD: If your family, or one of your parents teachers there it's free.

RM: I don't know if it's free, maybe half. I think it's half here because our son went here, our daughter went two years here and then went to Alma, but you get a reduced rate here and I think Marg could take a course a year free, but I think she has a masters and I don't think is going to go to school anymore at this point, but yea it was let's see 32.50 tuition and 37.50 fees and we paid less than 15% of the cost of our education and thanks to editorial comment now The West Michigan Dutchmen, who do not believe in public education, you all pay probably 85 to 90% of your cost, that's the difference. The pricing and this bothers me teaching at a public school here, that the college here. We're pricing public education out of the means of the middle class without huge debt at the end of school. People I knew never, never, got out of college with a debt and you could actually get a job and work part time and pay most of your college costs. You can't do that now, I mean you can't work at McDonalds or something like that or clean up at the A&P or something and get through college. WE had one fellow Charlie Hugo, he got the G.I. Bill worked as a linotype operations. He bought a new car about every two years and was banking money going to college try that today, this sort of thing, and this is one of the things I really regret. If education is the key to where you're going in this world, we are making it very difficult for people. I have kids over here getting out 30, 40,000 dollars or more in debt and it used to be in a debt like that at least you had a car and a house or at least partially paid for. They don't have anything but a used rusty car. Things are not the way they used to be.

JMD: When did you enter Northern?

RM: '49.

JMD: '49, so you were right at the tail end, the beginning basically when you left of the barracks boys.

RM: No I played with some of those people, no they started, I can't remember the exact date.

JMD: I think it was '50, '51.

RM: Okay, so when I was about a sophomore was when, maybe, the thing started, so I was there three years and then I graduated and I went into the service, it was right at the end of the Korean War. The service right away is most of the people I graduated with, if they hadn't been in the service, they ended up in it. There was a draft, they were doing at that time, so the people that you had that would be listed, you know, that came in 54 or 55, I never knew them, except on these reunions would meet them then, but I didn't know them personally.

JMD: How's the relationship between the guys in the Barracks and then the guys that stayed off campus?

RM: I don't think there was any problem there. A few them left and actually lived in a fraternity house, but by and large a lot of them at least started and lived there a few years, some of them, I think probably the whole time they were in college. What I don't know, not being there, being in the service, when they cancelled the program around 55 or 56, did they let those people finish the four years or was that the end of the program, see I don't know. That you'll have to ask some of the people who got into it late, I really don't know and not everybody, if I recall, I don't know that everybody lived there. There was some, Sandy McLean, his mother was the house mother at Carey Hall and I don't know whether he lived in the barracks or not, but he was one of the barracks boys. In fact, he was one of the real hoopers that gets the reunions together. He lives in St. Louis and he's vice president of the Missouri College, so a lot of them did very well. Pop did a good job of picking people.

JMD: What was the relationship between the athletes and your father, especially with the Barracks Boys?

RM: Well it's hard to separate them. Some people thought he was the greatest thing since sliced bread and other people didn't like him at all. A very interesting thing, it wasn't a Barracks Boy; in fact, it was a veteran here from the Sault. I won't mention his name but a delightful individual. For two years he hated my father and the last two years he said thanks to my dad he's the biggest influence in my life. Pop did not try to be buddy-buddy to athletes when they were in college. Afterwards he'd give you a hug, after you graduated but tried to keep the distance because that's a break down in discipline when you get too buddy-buddy and he even yelled at me, screamed at me in basketball. "Money!" There were times when we didn't speak for days at supper. My poor mother suffered this, so some people thought he was wonderful. Just like anybody else, just like every President of the United States or anybody else. There was some people who thought he was wonderful and others that didn't. A lot of these people, because he did them a favor and they remembered and as far as distinction between Barracks Boys and other athletes, there was none. As far as I know, never saw any relationship that was anything but just the same for both. They weren't preferred or anything like that, so if that's what you meant or anything like that and the athletes by and large my world was the locker room. I majored in history and geography and minored in English and science, but I was not much into the science club or something like that. My world was down in the locker room which is, at that time in the old administration building, the gym and the locker room. In fact, I had a key to the locker room, to the towel room because I was the football manager. That's where I kept my books and this sort of thing. That was my locker, was the towel room and that's the world that I grew up in and never played a basketball game after I got out of college. Never had any desire as I mentioned to you before and people said did you ever think about going into coaching and I said, "No because I grew up with one and it's not an easy life. You've got to be willing to spend a lot of time away from your family, a lot of time traveling. As I say you tend to credit the players when you have a good team and blame the coach when you have a bad one. No way, so history it is. History and Geography."

JMD: Was there any differences between you and your father then, your father being coach?

RM: Not so much in football. In football I was really good, because I could anticipate it, which at times made him mad, because people like to ask and when you already got it for them then they think I'm in a rut, but yea occasionally we had spats. I told you in basketball he would yell at me and we wouldn't talk for a few days and that sort of thing. No, it's not easy playing for your dad, not easy at all. In fact, I laughingly tell people, see because he also did the intramural program which meant that he would get home again at nine or ten o'clock at night and I laughingly tell people the reason I went out for basketball is so I could see more of my dad and there is half truth to that, because when you had one person doing all these major sports and they overlap and all this sort of thing and you don't see a lot of them and he never complained, so I know our coaches here complain about not getting enough credit for their coaching time and their practice time. He never complained. He always said, "If you didn't like that sort of thing then don't go into the business." My mother accepted it and in fact, I remember one time she startled me when she said, "Your father had a mistress." And I thought, "What!" and she said, "It was work." But she put up with; she put up with it, pretty good grace. Because, he really did spend a lot of time and I think the number of people that have respected him down through the years and they're dying off. These Second World War vets and all this sort of thing, but he had a very excellent reputation with these people and I think that was a tribute to him. Okay.

JMD: So, that's what life's all about _____ priorities.

RM: Yes it is.

JMD: What was the relationship between the athletes and the Barracks Boys and the campus itself?

RM: As far as I know they were just, pretty much, the same as anybody else. They didn't have a men's dorm at that time. Now later they built Spooner Hall, was the first one. They had a girl's dorm, Kerry Hall. In fact you still had several houses around the campus that were certified to have women live there. They really didn't have enough room for all the girls. See, when I went to school and this would be true through the early fifties. Northern had about; three fifths of the students were women. When I graduated, there were less than a thousand students at Northern. In fact in my graduating class, I think there were around 93, 95 people. This was the interesting about playing Houghton Tech who was the big rival. When we first went to Marquette, the State Legislature had told Northern and Tech they would play a home and home football series every year, because there aren't many schools around and I never heard of colleges having home and home football in one season, but they had it. Well, what happens is the Coach at Tech was named Bovard, and he would film the games. Now Tech had about 2200 men and Northern had like 950 total and about 400 of those were men and they would beat Northern, they would beat Northern. And, Bovard would film these and then go around to these high schools and recruit showing the films of Tech beating Northern. OK? Well, I got into the service and I forget, I was at Fort Riley Kansas and a very interesting thing happened. We're out in the middle of the boondocks doing rifle work and all the sudden a jeep comes bouncing over the country side, "Telegram for Private Money." And I think somebody's died, you know, this is your thought back then. Telegrams were always bad news, so you're bouncing ten miles back into the message center and I get this telegram, what was it like; "Northern 21 Tech 18-Hooray, Love Dad" Then wrote home and said, "Don't you ever do that again." They beat Tech two times in a row and suddenly Bovard didn't have any place in the schedule for Northern anymore, there just wasn't room for them and I thought isn't that too bad. Those were the days yes! So tech is not one of my favorite schools. He was very, very snotty, but I was football

manager. You would give them like 45 towels and you would get 20 back and I'd say, "You know you have 25 of my towels." "We won the game kid, shut up." So we were up there playing basketball and after the game was over, when I went to get my towel from their towel room and our towels had blue stripes and theirs had green stripes and I pulled out about fifteen or twenty blue stripes and he stopped me and I said, "What does it say?" They were all made by the state prisons back then and they had the initials of the college sewn in them and I said, "It sure looks like an MCE to me and that's not Houghton Tech." I didn't like the man. That fun! Ha ha!

JMD: Axel Anderson had a story of where he was dropped off at your house; do you have anything to add to that?

RM: Ohh! No, if he told you this thing. We were eating supper and all the sudden there's a knock on the back door and Axel had a pork pie hat, which was big back then, it's a round brim hat but flat on top and he had a suitcase and he knocked on the door and pop opened up the door and he said, "I'm Axel Anderson of Escanaba, Michigan." We have...My parents until the day they died never forgot that moment. That's one of the nicest people that he had in that whole program. Yep, yep. In fact his wife was his wife that said about working in the paper mill.

JMD: That's what they said when I interviewed them. What was the relationship or what was it like between the athletes in the community, because through the interview I found that your father had them working for the community itself.

RM: Tried to, yeah. The college up until the new President came in after I left, there was an excellent relationship. He soured a lot of that, but it didn't have anything to do with necessarily the athletes or anything like that. It was his attitude towards the town and it sort of became a town-gown thing, we've had the same thing here in the Sault. The college is either loved in the town or not and in Sault St. Marie for instance there are an awful lot of people who don't. They make fun and call it The Harvard on the Hill and they don't mean it as a compliment, but when we first moved there the college, I think had a much better repertoire, so I don't think there was any problem and I don't remember many problems with, like, drinking in the local saloons or fighting or anything like that. There didn't seem to really be, the college wasn't that big, because even when these people, if they graduated in 55, 56, I doubt that there were 1200 students there and Marquette is a bigger town than say the Sault, so it was less of an impact. Later as the college began to expand and they began to condemn property to build and all this sort of thing and the President's attitude was a bit heavy towards town and he got involved with a private power plant in competition with the city power, this sort of thing. Things went downhill and they actually had some pretty sticky moments, but that was after I was done with school. I know about them because my parents were still living there, in fact my dad was still with faculty when some of this was going on and they had some really hot issues, but at the time I don't ever remember any antagonism. It may have been there but I don't remember and remember I was a townie, so I didn't. My friends, we were talking about this not too long ago, with a friend. See, my friends were the people I went to high school with or went to the city high school or the catholic high school that I had played basketball with or knew just around town. I did not identify with the college people, I mean my high school there John D. Pierce but we were all close, the people that graduated we still are and see each other rather frequently and the group will meet this summer, The Faculty Brats. My friends were very often, the closest friends I had were the people whose parents taught at the college and were still getting together. The people that their parents taught there in the 40's and 50's and early 60's, we have a group that we lovingly call The Faculty Brats and we get together every summer. And so I never had any trouble; nobody ever made any remarks to me about the college. Now whether somebody from

Escanaba or Iron mountain, that came to Marquette and lived in The Barracks or in the dorms or whatever, whether they, I don't really think there was any, I never recall anything like that, so as far as I know it was good. When they started issuing the scholarships for people, they did not always get, I think, some of the cream of the crop. Then they began to have some trouble.

JMD: Was it quite different when they started bringing in athletes?

RM: I think there were some problems, yeah.

JMD: Because your father was still there when they started bringing in people from...

RM: Yeah, he...My father stopped, we had a president, who I told you, was very interested in athletics and he began to do things and my Pops stepped down as athletic director and quit coaching. Stepped down from athletic director and said he couldn't look people in the eye that he had known for 30 years. Several things I remember, there was a real, real fine basketball player that started over here. This was a two year branch of Houghton Tech at one time, Okay? A tremendous basketball player, the guy was like forty-honor points down going into his junior year. They wanted him at Houghton Tech but they couldn't take him. He was ineligible. The President made him eligible at Northern with a letter and things like that. We had players that ended up playing five years of college. They are much different, there rules now in eligibility. See back then, unless you were in the service, if I started in 49 and dropped out for a couple years and came back, I lost those years of eligibility if I wasn't in the service. So, when your class graduated, unless there were certain circumstances you lost your eligibility, now they have people working on Masters degree that are still playing and they are red shirting people, things like that. Things have changed a great deal and the result was that he stepped down as athletic director. We had an interesting little thing here from Russ, this fellow was a real good halfback or fullback, I forget back-field, in the team and the Detroit Lions drafted him when he was a junior and everybody in Marquette was saying wasn't that an unusually wasted draft choice on somebody that hasn't even graduated yet. Well it turns out they beat St. Norbert's and some other school by huge scores and they turned in this fellow that, he was a senior or going into a senior and it was actually his fifth year, and so there was a hearing. So they took this kid down and they had this hearing and they said, "Now you were in the service right?" Yeah he was in the service. "Before you were in the service though, you entered Superior State in Wisconsin." "Well are you sure you aren't thinking of his brother, his brother went there." "No, they thought well yeah, I guess he had gone there. And that he had gone out for the football team, No, but he practiced for the football team but he doesn't recall that he had ever, ever gone out for the football team." And they said, "You were the second leading ground gainer." And he started as a freshman at Northern, see? Things like that and so we had kind of at time a sort of reputation, but it the kind of the "Michigan State win at all costs sort of syndrome" at the time.

JMD: Was your father focused also on the athletics and academics? Whereas now there is a shift?

RM: He was an English major. And so he tried... He was real proud of the kids that did well academically, real proud of them, so yea he did try to stress that about eligibility and studying and all that. We almost never missed school, I mean it's amazing we played, for instance in basketball the spring break, my spring breaks are always gone because you went down state and played four, five, six basketball games in that ten days. We almost never missed more than a few days all years in all the sports, that he would schedule those things, so that they didn't miss school. As I say that's how he got through college, was an athletic scholarship and maintaining good grades. He was really hot on academics, yep.

JMD: Is that where he kind of had a falling out with Northern or the President that came in?

RM: Well, they were not close, yea it really bothered him some of the things. Again St. Norbert's, St. Norbert's used to beat us and then when we got the athletic scholarships and stuff, we started beating these people. Central, Central came up one time, Pop had about 33 or 34 players on the football team and they brought up 70 men. They went from 20 yards to 20 yards this sort of thing, and they beat Northern and then same thing at Houghton Tech, Northern beat Central a couple times and Central didn't have any room on their schedule for them anymore. But yeah, then he made some of the... To get back to this sort of thing, basketball one time, St. Norbert's told the coach at the time, told Stanley if that player steps on the basketball court we're using your phone to call the NCAA, so not only didn't that player dress but another player they didn't know about didn't dress because they'd played two or three years for junior colleges and then transferred and actually this was the fifth year and that sort of thing just bugged him, really bothered him.

JMD: So when athletics became more commercial he decided to?

RM: Commercial. That's when he quit coaching and stepped down as being athletic director. He retired I think, when he was like 66, 67 something like that and I'm 78 and still teaching. I took up from him, I just thought I would last a little bit longer.

JMD: Going back to your father and you was there any disappointment or was he happy that instead of pursuing?

RM: He probably wished I had been Larry Bird or somebody with a lot more talent than I had. Axel and I had kind of a unique rule. We had three people who liked to shoot and then there was Axel and myself, I would throw the ball in to Axel, Axel would pass it in and then we would fall back and then we would fall back on defense well one of the three shot. That was kind of a joke but that was kind of our mission, was to get the ball into the hands of the people who dunk. But, no I except for occasionally mad at each other, there was no problem and football wasn't any problem at all I wasn't playing. I almost never forgot anything or never and its sad, I used to travel with the team, in fact when we were out in North Dakota and the end of the war they had a Naval Officer training program there and the manager of the football, excuse me, basketball team got on the tree. Which meant his grades slipped and he could not leave the campus and they didn't have a manager, so for about five or six games I traveled all over the state of North Dakota being manager and missing school and I was probably 14 something like that, and so I really that was an easy thing to do, I could anticipate what he was thinking and what he needed and expected, and all that sort of thing. Basketball that's a different thing, I would be lying if I said I had any talent at all, but one thing I was willing to play defense which not everybody is willing to try, so no, it wasn't any problem at all.

JMD: I'm sorry I should clarify, your career choice is more academic, more oriented toward academic instead of sports, and you father being very...

RM: Oh that didn't bother him at all, he's the one, he was very interested in history and ever since I was a little tad pole. Growing up we stopped at every fort, every marker. My kids will tell you, "We can't pass a marker without dad getting out to read it." At Antietam Battle Field when it was about 110 degrees and they're madder than boiled owls. Their comment to their mother was, "Is he going to stop and read every monument?" And her answer was, "Yes." And so he's really...He grew up in a historic area, the Area of Fort Recovery, Ohio which goes back before 1800 into the period of the early, early, federal

“Mad” Anthony Wayne, all this sort of thing. He grew up with history and he was very interested in it and so I think that’s where I got my interest in history, you know, not wanting a coach and he never, never once ever, ever, thought or suggested or even intimated that he thought I should ever have gone to coaching and my mother she was a French major in college and she never, in fact, I think she probably didn’t know it. Having growing up with a coach’s wife, was probably tickled pink, Margaret’s a very tolerant person but whether, it’s a hard life. It really is. You’ve got to be willing put up with it and so no. I think he was quite happy.

JMD: Do you think your dad realized the amount of time that he devoted to coaching and working?

RM: He knew what it was, but he said this, that’s what bothered him. Him, some of the younger coached who lamented the time and that they weren’t always given credit for the number of hours they spent. I told you his remark was, “If you didn’t expect to have a life like this don’t go into coaching.” And he coached all these sports it wasn’t just one and that’s another thing he could not tolerate was this you think football, you sleep football, you do nothing but football. His ideal athlete was a 12 letter man and he had some of them. I wouldn’t be a bit surprised I think, nice Jack Shields that we will see at Faculty Brats, I think he has 11 letters. I wouldn’t be a bit surprised if Axel didn’t have 10 or 12 letters.

JMD: Yea I think he said he had 11.

RM: This sort of thing, this to pops was a well rounded athlete. This idea, this happened when I was teaching humanities at Michigan State and there was this real nice kid I had in class and he was a very, very good halfback and was also a good third basemen and he came into talk to me, because I mentioned somehow in class or something, that my dad had been a coach and all this. He came into talk and they had told him, “Son, Football.” See he was there on a football scholarship but he wanted to play baseball and he came in said, “I went in and told the coach,” I think it was Duffy Daugherty at the time, “that I wanted to go out for baseball in the spring and that I would miss spring training.” Which is a big thing in football and they used to allow that. “Well you son, you were well on your way to being the number two halfback but if you miss spring training, that just wouldn’t give you much of a chance in fall.” In other words forget the baseball just think football. I said, “Do you think you could ever make it in the pros?” I didn’t think he could and he didn’t either. He wasn’t big enough, very, very fine. I mean he was All State. I said, “What do you think your best sport is if you were to bank your career, if you had a chance to make a career.” And he said “Baseball.” And I said, “I think you’re right.” My dad was an excellent baseball player, and he said, “It’s the only practice that a coach has, that is fun.” That he’s champion he could be in one pro-game and break a leg or something and he would be through, he could never go on. I don’t know whether he ever did or not, but he has a much better chance in baseball and a longer career. I had another fellow in hockey and football, he was an end and he chose hockey over football and of course they were madder than a boiled owl. He was their starting end and he ended, he played with Gordy Howe for five or six years with the Red Wings, this sort of thing. Another friend at Michigan, he was an all state basketball player at Kalamazoo Christian, 6 feet 7. He was also a superb tennis player. He went in and told the coach or the athletic director that he wanted to concentrate on tennis and they were going to take his scholarship away because, “We don’t give scholarships for 6’7 inch tennis players. We want you to play basketball.” He had to almost go to court to keep his scholarship. He was their number one player for two years in a row. One of the best players in the whole Big Ten, but basketball see, was more important. Pop couldn’t tolerate this idea that there is just one sport and you have to think about that nothing else 364, we give you Christmas off. He couldn’t stand it, because, now he, he played football in college which he had never played high school. He played football, he went out for track which he had never done in high school. He earned letters all over the

place at Ohio Northern, but he was one of the first inductees into their hall of fame and we actually found a newspaper man years later who said, "They used to refer to him as their Money man." Who still had heard of him and I my dad graduated in, I think, 1923 and this was a young newspaper man, so they still talk about him. So, that was his idea, all of these things, that was the good athlete, so that was another reason.

JMD: So, you want kind of like a renaissance man, a man that could do?

RM: Yeah I mean in a way a lot of different sports.

JMD: Do academics and sports and be well rounded. Rather than...?

RM: He was always going to write that great novel or his memoirs and he never did with his hunting pack two fingers in the basement down there, but he never did it, which would have been fun. In fact, I gave the scorebooks to Russ and it's really quite a valuable thing. It has college basketball score books from about 1927 to I think the last year he coached was about '56 or '57, so we have about 30 years of the transition. Where you have the number of shots, the number of fouls, each one of them is marked where the shots were taken, where they were made, the number of fouls all this sort of thing. You can trace statistically the change that occurred in football, excuse me basketball over a 30 year period of time and if some people in sports or history want to do some interesting statistical research, these scorebooks will be the thing to do. I mean he saw the change, the very change and then having played sports, he taught four years in high school, coached four years in high school, before he got started in Southern Indiana, which is where I was born in Madison and he was coaching at a little Presbyterian College there. When you consider, he started college about 1919, so the changes that he saw and the emphasis on sports and like I say, the scholarships, the "think only football syndrome" and things like that. He couldn't have stood the people with the long hair today, the baggie uniforms; he got out of coaching at the right time, because he was not that resilient when it came to things like that. Tolerant towards people, but not towards the change, he didn't like some of the changes in the game that they had made and I'm thinking of some of the players even in the pro's with their long hair, their braids, and the tattoos and things. That would have driven him up the wall. We all had our hair cut short, this sort of thing. We couldn't wear any jewelry, anything like that, which is good because one time they allowed people to wear rings and I had a terrible scrape one time, somebody's class ring across your back, but he couldn't have tolerated that. He said, "If you wanted long hair either get a violin or a cup. Either beg or play the violin." He literally came into the class one time, he brought in a little plastic violin, went in and that's what he told them with the long hair, "Either play the violin or beg." Probably be taken to court today, yeah.

JMD: Did he also, because he also had the players build things like hurdles, is he also saying there is a way in building life skills?

RM: Well, I don't think in a sense of life skills. It's a fact, several things, one is he had a limited budget and a lot of these guys were going to go out and they would be coaching or teaching in high schools that didn't have very much money and he was showing them that this is what you can do and they helped the pits for broad jumping and things like that and they did. They built hurdles and they did things like that and it also, it's kind of like a work beat; that builds cohesion, when you do things together like that, but it also shows them that hey on these little hard scrambled little high schools and things like this. You can build a lot of this yourself, because he didn't have a big budget and quite literally had to do this. As I say, I spent my summers some of the most battered shoes you'd ever see and he had a shoe man that

could do sewing and literally patching football shoes and stuff like this. Some of those things are antiques, I'm sure they belong in a museum. I'm sure they've all been thrown away, but quite literally, yea, he used to do things like that and he also made them referee the intramural things and whenever they used to run high school track meets, you know they would run the U.P. things and all this sort of thing and always got his kids involved in that because he said, he was very good at organizing. I'll give him credit. He was very good at all the things you needed to do to have a track meet or tournament. He was very good at tournaments, basketball tournaments and thing like that and he used these people because he said, "This is the kind of the thing you're going to be doing when you get out." Now not everybody was going to be a coach, but an awful lot of these people were coaches. Now a lot of them ended up in other things. Ended up as administrating, superintendants, principals or they taught something else, but they started out as coaches. In a lot of these little schools, you know, I always made fun that the coach does history. Which is very often true, but none the less he wanted them to know that this is what you're going to have to do to organize things, and you're going to have to be responsible for them. So yeah, an awful lot of them did a lot of experience refereeing and umpiring, things like that, judging and even in high school, because we used to have the districts over in Marquette and the track there, you know on the field, the track, they redid the track and Marquette became the track center of Michigan. They were setting anything over 220 yards, Marquette was setting records. Then they found out that the man that had built the track, had measured the quarter of a mile on the outside of the track, not on the inside, so you weren't going 440 yards anymore, and no wonder! We were just, people were just astonished! And so now you see the track going right up to the street. If you remember how it is set up there, it goes right up to the street. There used to be a grassy area in there and they had to lengthen it to make it a legal track. Love it! That sort of thing, but anyway what else?

JMD: Did the Korean War affect a lot of the Barracks Boys? Was there a lot drafted?

RM: Yeah.

JMD: Were you drafted yourself?

RM: No I enlisted, I enlisted for three years. Well almost everybody that hadn't been in the service, a lot of my high school, all the boys in my high school class, everyone was in the service. Now I can't say, because I didn't know all of the 90 some people and I don't remember, but we still had some veterans then and this sort of thing, but most of the athletes yeah, they all ended up in the service. The Marines were always an enlisted body. You know, this sort of thing; the arrogance of the Marine Core. We had two guys that went down to Milwaukee and a sergeant came with a whole bunch of nerds, "Any you guys from the U.P." and they raised their hands and said, "You guys are marines." And they spent two miserable years in the Marine Core, but yea of course it did. It made them. A few of them died, one that pops really liked, it was also a cousin of a friend of mine. His name was Anglem, Tony, or we called him Tiny Anglem and he was killed, but I don't know if any of the others. Again, you see, the younger ones that came in right at the end see, I don't know. I can't tell you how long the draft lasted, when I got out of the army I wasn't draftable anyways so it didn't make a difference to me how long they had a draft, so I really don't know. I can't honestly tell you, I'll tell you it was a little stimulus to study because, I forget, you had to stay in the upper two fifths of your class to remain ineligible, so there was a stimulus there to study, because otherwise you get drafted. In fact, that was one of the things that I do, which has nothing to do with Barracks Boys. I planned to have my senior year just be a, you know, drop in for a couple of classes each semester, kind of wave to people and act like a big butter and egg man on campus, so I was taking 17 or 18 hours every semester so that I would have all of those extra hours, so

when I was signing up in my senior year and the DMN said, "Well you aren't going to play basketball this year are you?" "Oh yeah, sure." "No, no you only got 6 hours." Said, "You need 14 to be eligible for NCAA." That's why I majored in geography, I had all those hours I had to take and I was just going to kind of be casual about it and I was too casual.

JMD: Umm...

RM: Running out of things?

JMD: I'm just kind of trying to think because your father and you, kind of, were like with the Barracks Boys so you have this other background information that they might not have.

RM: I don't suppose they necessarily do and they all have their stories about things they did in sports and all that sort of thing, but yea I have of course an obviously different view and as I say knowing them all and playing with them and going to school with them, but I was not one of them. In fact, I was only in the barracks a few times. I had no reason to go there, because I say I was from Marquette and so many of my high school friends were that, that was the group that I hung around with and so I did not, did not, have a lot to do. In fact, we lived close enough to campus that if there was a break and if I had a hour or two break I could literally, you talk about sleeping psychological, I would come through the front door I would barely stay awake until I got to bed. I could take a 40 minute nap get up and go back to school, well a lot of other people that didn't live in Marquette they went over to the Student Union to play pinochle or cribbage or something like that and I didn't. My social life was with the people in town and so the college, I did not have a lot to do with the college as such. The faculty yes, the faculty was much closer back then. We did a lot of things together. Not necessarily as departments, it's kind of ironic in this day and age but most of our close friends were Presbyterians, there were an awful lot of Presbyterians and they were always at that time very, very heavy in college because Calvinism stresses education, so as a result of this you had a lot of the teachers and we did a lot of things together, you know Fourth of July, Memorial Day, Christmas, Thanksgiving, groups of people would get together and we would have these picnics if the weather was nice and in fact, one of the nice places it's where the hospital is today had an absolutely specimen maple tree. One of the most perfectly formed things you've ever seen and we literally could have a picnic under it and it could rain and we never got wet, you know things like that, so that was the social life there and I didn't have that much to do with the college. There were no national fraternities on campus at that time and I think that may be why the Barracks Boys in a sense have a cohesion, that the others were basically boarding houses, the tri-Mu and the couple others that they had, so in a real sense I think The Barracks Boys were a truer fraternity than some of the fraternities because they were so close together and they had a common background and they had also a common experience, which the people in the other fraternities, I mean they were there for business or English or whatever. These people, I wouldn't say all of them, but the great number of them, were at least Phys Ed majors or minors and that made a difference.

JMD: Was there any tension between the townies and the athletes?

RM: No as I told you back then, I don't remember any particular trouble like that. As I said there weren't that many, Northern wasn't that big and so there wasn't the tension. That came, there was tension later, but that came after the Barracks Boys and it's not the Barracks Boys at that era, I think so many of pops athletes in the 40's, were second World War vets and it was really hard for anybody to get mad at those people, because so many of them had families and as I said, these others, these people who were married with kids. In fact, Dick Bide and Davey McDowell were the nicest guys the world ever saw.

When there would be an alumni thing down state, Margaret can tell you this. Now they knew me first when I was a junior in high school but when they had a couple of drinks they practically took me to kindergarten by the hand and they practically raised me. Margaret got so tickled that these two guys talking about practically raising me from this little tad on, and she knew I was seventeen years old when they first saw me. That's what a drink or two will do for you, but just some of the nicest people and a lot of them are gone. There are very few of that veteran group that came out of the Second World War. I think Dick Alan over in Manistique; I don't think there were many more of them, Rudy Mazga. "Bye-bye sweetie, see you later hair appointment, so anyway." There were two groups that really impressed him, the kids that played for him in the depression because we were in a little Baptist school in southern Illinois and these guys went to school, worked short shifts in the boxboard plant or the steel mill or something like that. We're probably done, I don't know what else, we're reminiscing about me and not about Barrack's Boys.

JMD: _____, okay.

RM: But anyway, he always admired them and the sad thing about that is he lost so many of them in World War II and that really bothered him and then the post World War II vets that he really, because these came out and played basketball, and football, and track no scholarships or anything. A lot of them had families, G.I. Bill; I mean mine was the Korean one. I got a whole 110 dollars a month and that's everything you paid your own tuition. They got their tuition and some of their stuff, but he always thought then that long after he was dead, that book came out, you know, *The Greatest Generation*. Grew up in the Depression, fought the Second World War and went to school. He thought that the G.I. Bill was probably like the CCC, the best programs the government ever had. They got more for their money, more bang for their buck than any other program they ever had. You had people arguing against it, even now they don't get the gold mine that it used to be and it's nothing but a dividend. A lot of these small government people and like our West Michigan friends just don't like the idea, he did.

JMD: Anything else you would like to add about the campus with the athletes or the Barracks Boys.

RM: No, they destroyed all of the old buildings that were there. John D. Pierce was there and it was connected, then you had Longyear and the Main Administration building and the Peter White building and all this sort of thing. It made for a closer knit college than you have today, with it spread out all over and this type of thing. It was more like a small private college, I mean you had less than a 100 students and there weren't that many faculty either and in a very real sense, I think the athletes, it was a better world for them because the teachers knew them and they knew the teachers. I remember, just a delight, she was a southern girl, single and these in fact, I think the Bides were some of it and they would go up and kind of flirt with her and she would just get so flustered, you know this sort of thing. Both big fellows and they would just flirt with Honey and she would get so flustered and this sort of thing, you can't do that today. That sort of thing was gone and they had some real characters that taught, I mean the characters in a nice sense, but were different, not run of the mill, definitely stood out and some of the amusing things that would happen. Even back then if you were getting a teaching you had to take penmanship and Casey Williams taught penmanship and you here he had these great big characters out there, doing their loops on the board. You just don't have that, and I give essay exams and I think we need penmanship back in the high schools. I get some pretty lousy handwriting that I have decipher and decipher is the word for it. You don't read it you just, I had one student I couldn't read his paper, so I said, "You come in and read it." He came in, I could read more of his paper than he could and he said, "You know my mother says that I have terrible handwriting." And I said, "Well you listen to your mother." And he said, "But my dad never says anything because I write like him." I love

that, but I've had kids that bad that I can't read their writing. They feel that everything is your computer today and I tell them life is not a computer and it doesn't have spell check and writing is still a form of communication. It's legal too. So, no, I think it was. I don't think there's necessarily a need for it today maybe there is, but now they do scholarships which are entirely different. This was not a produce-or-else sort of thing, these kids if they weren't that good it didn't make any difference. I mean there was never that, you never flunked out of it as far as I know. I think it was the time and place and maybe a unique one. It could have worked in the 30's maybe up through the early 60's. I think the emphasis on sports today with the attitude of coaches and scholarships that it was not feasible. It would be in a division three school that doesn't offer scholarships. I think it would be very workable in some of these little schools that are in division three, this type of thing, I think would be very workable. Alma can get sixty people out for football and doesn't offer any scholarships, so yea I think something like it would work, but it was a unique little moment, time and place, and...but it was when the school began to get delusions of bigger, grander things which they did and their football teams for a while were very, very good and they played in some of the play offs and all this sort of thing, produced people that went into the pros and everything. Then it didn't work, it wouldn't work. It was an interesting experiment and I think Pop did a good job with it and I think he was very proud of the people that went through. Like he was with his G.I. guys like the Bides and people like that Art Alan and Dick Bonafice, I mean they name building after these people. So, yep.

JMD: Thank you for your time.

RM: You're very welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW