

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Jackson Milton School

Personal Experience

O H 943

EUGENE YAVORSKI

Interviewed

by

John Gulgas

on

May 8, 1985

G: This is an interview with Eugene Yavorski for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Jackson Milton School, by John Gulgas, on May 8, 1985, at 7 15 p m.

Did you have a favorite subject in high school?

Y: I had no favorite subject at all I was just there to get out of school I had no interests whatsoever

G Did you have a favorite teacher?

Y: No They did not impress me at all. I was there to get out, John

G Of all of the activities listed in the yearbook, which one was your favorite that you were involved in?

Y: I liked minstrel

G: What did the minstrel show demand of you time wise and effort wise? What was involved in that?

Y: There was no script. I was just myself I felt at ease there even though it was in front of a crowd of people, which I shy away from all of the time Those crowds of people.

G You were somewhat involved in sports. Did you consider yourself an athlete?

Y No, I was just the little kid who went along with the guys.

G Did sports involve much of your time, or did you just enjoy doing it?

Y I did not enjoy sports at all I excelled in nothing in school. I played basketball and football my senior year I played one football game I fell off of a horse and broke my finger I was really happy that I did that because I did not have to play football anymore

G How about school social functions? Are there any of those that you remember?

Y: I had to go to them. There was a prom and the May Queen I was voted May King.

G: Did you have any good experiences?

Y They were all bad, not bad, but they passed

G When you think back on it, what was a typical day like for you at Jackson Milton High School?

- Y Getting up in the morning and getting on the bus
- G Was it a struggle?
- Y Not for me. I was always prompt in whatever I did. It was just a routine for me. I had to go, and I made the best of it.
- G Did you feel that they were really strict discipline wise?
- Y I feel as though they did not have to be strict with us. There were twenty-nine of us, and we all sort of behaved. There were no rowdies or under-the-table stuff. Everybody was a perfect gentlemen. Mrs. Laubin always carried a heavy stick.
- G What was lunch time like? Were you a packer or a buyer?
- Y At lunch time, I always could not wait to go to the cafeteria because I liked a different variety, and they always had variety down there. I could not wait to go to lunch.
- G Did you like cafeteria food?
- Y Cafeteria food. The girls and the ladies there always treated Pete very good. They called me Pete. When I was a senior, I was always small. I was short. As a matter of fact, I always thought the classmates who were the girls were always way above me. I always had to go out with girls who were three or four years younger than myself. I felt comfortable with them. I felt uneasy with the girls whom I graduated with.
- G What about fads, clothing, and behavior? Do any of those stick in your mind?
- Y Yes, my pegged pants and my blue suede shoes that I slept with. I loved those shoes. I wore them out from the top. That is how much I wore them.
- G What about after-school hang outs? Are there any that you remember that you frequented? Did you frequent any?
- Y I came right home. When I went out with the guys, I was the guy who drove all of the time. Whose ever car it was, all of the guys would get bombed and have a blast. I did not drink.
- G Was that your car, or did you get to drive everybody else's?
- Y Everybody else's. Whoever had the car.
- G Did you have an after-school job at all?

Y I used to help the farmers in the area That was my bag, tearing up the ground

G If you had to do any of it all over again, what would you have done to maybe make it better? Was the high school experience good the way it was?

Y I would have to say that it was good the way it was I would not want to go back through it again, but I would have to say that I would want things to happen just the way they did I was unfortunately born with no desire to study or better myself in the educational way I was just a hard worker, and that is what put me where I am right now

G During the time you were in high school, do you remember the Truman-Dewey election? Do you remember that as being big, the night that Truman defeated Dewey? Or, did it just sort of pass over?

Y It was more or less passed over It did not bother me any

G Did the McCarthy hearings strike a chord with you?

Y That was a long time ago What was over there?

G He was trying to dredge up all of the Communists in the government

Y I do not remember that. I do recall when television first came out That came out in 1948

G Now, we are going to get into practical jokes Do you remember any practical jokes that either you pulled, that were pulled on you, or that you saw pulled?

Y No I do not remember doing anything.

G The senior trip, did you go on the senior trip?

Y Yes

G Did you have a good time?

Y Yes, I had a good time

G Tell me about the senior trip What was most memorable about it?

Y Just going to Washington and being there in the hotel, throwing out balloons filled with water on the people below.

G You just told me that you did not play any practical jokes

Y. Well, now this just came to my mind

G: This must have been a surprise to the people walking underneath

Y: It was a surprise to Mrs. Laubin, too. There was Gene Chepke, Tom Propes, Rock DiMallio, and myself. Gene had just come out of the bathroom, stark naked, and Mrs. Laubin just burst right into the room. There was Gene standing there with his birthday suit on. She wanted to know who was throwing water out of the window. She saw Gene, and she did not even bat an eye. She did not even see him. It did not bother her at all, so we got a verbal tongue lashing.

G: Who was the guilty person there?

Y: I think that it was me.

G: You were quoted in the yearbook saying, "To be afraid is to make a friend." Do you still believe that?

Y: Definitely. I have thousands of friends through the business, and I encounter hundreds of people a day personally.

G: Thank you very much.

End of Interview