

Carol Caderette interview of Mike Centala and Mark Kowak for the Alpena Musicians History Project.

Carol Caderette: We're at the Alpena Country library. The date is March 6, 2018. I'm the interviewer, I'm Carole Caderette and I'm going to be interviewing today for the musician project here at the library with Mr. Mike Centala and Mark Kowak. We're going to start out our interview today with where we are right at this moment with these gentlemen's music. They go back along way together as teenagers and so we're going to start with today and go back to the beginning. And I will start with Mike, Mike who had the idea uh to continue the music as long as you have,

Mike Centala: well we kind of. uh We had a classic rock band for a long time and we kind of people when their separate ways because of college and because our girl singer went over to Europe and stuff like that. But we wanted to keep playing so wanted to keep playing so we were sitting around one night and said hey way don't we do an Acoustic trio but let's do music like from the 60s so people go like I haven't heard that song in a long time. so

And we started putting some material together. We got a female singer. now I normally don't like just singers, I think Mark will with agree with that but unless they play an instrument, but we have lacey parks, and wow. Her instruments is her voice. So, we kind of broke that rule so she's our singer, we play our acoustic guitars, so we play Peter Paul and Mary, Bob Dylan, all that kind of stuff and we encourage people to sing along, we do puff the magic dragon, stuff like that. And it's just un I think people are having a good time, so you see, and I can tell by the looks on their faces and them singing along.

CC: so that's where you are today with your music?

MC: yes,

CC: right now, and for sure, as of just a few, I know you're doing a lot of local things.

MC: Yes, Aplex and things like that Brown trout, we'll be playing the winery and we do just a lot of smaller venue things

CC: okay. So, let's go back to the beginning. Let's do it in increments of years if you can. Laughter

MC: Great

Mike Kowak: The 70s were a blur

CC: the music is a blur I understand that so uh were you childhood friends?

Mike: No

Mark: not really, they just kind of called me up one day and said we need a bass player and uh I showed up and of course I couldn't drive and on the day my dad had to drop me off. I think I was the only one with an amplifier at that time too

Mike: ye pretty much, I had a borrowed guitar because all I had was acoustic guitars uh no, one acoustic guitar and had to borrow an electric guitar. And uh We started with drums bass guitar and did we have trumpet,

MK: not at that time trumpet came later.

CC: Do you remember the names of the musicians of your first band?

Mike: Mark and I and CJ Skiba was the drummer.

Mark: And then later Ray Reynolds who played horn with us. and then we picked up another female vocalists Marie Smigelski. Hum hum.

Mike: But um it was kind of like, let's get together have some fun and then it kind of blossomed from there and we got a job playing the high school or junior high dance. That was interesting. But

CC: year gentlemen

MC: Oh man, 1976, 75, 75, 76,

CC: And style of music you were playing?

MC: Eh just rock, uh little bit Beatles not much because we weren't that good yet. But two Beatles.

just different pretty much three cords, laughter.

CC: What was the name of your band?

MC: Culex,

MK: well it was ONGE, the first one was ONGE.

MC: oh, that's right. And the drummer made a sign ONGE and it looked like Once, so we quickly changed the name

Cc: and it was spelled how?

Mark: ONGE

CC: ONGE

MC: It was Latin for something err I can't remember but it really didn't, it looks like once. We better change that so then we changed to Culex. CJ and I were in Latin class together. And so, we kept coming up with names and Culex means mosquito in Latin. So, and he did a big mosquito on his drums. It was back in the days when the drummer fancied his drums up with the band's name on it and stuff like that. So .um that was Culex. Yah, and we oh we played a few gigs and a few shows with Culex.

MK: and the wedding out at not lost Lake, Lake Winyah, by the river.

MC: Oh boy that narrows it down doesn't it, by the river.

Cc: Which river.

MC: Thunder Bay River.

MK: Oh oh Oh lake Winyah yeah. Lake Winyah we played one of our big weddings out there,

Cc: let me tell you about lake Winyah. Fellas you Remember they didn't have those 3 prong plugs

MC: oh yeah. Remember what else didn't have good grounds was the old civic center, oh yeah, yeah, I remember one night we're playing a wedding there and my lips touched the mic and I felt, I saw god first, it felt like somebody hit me with a whiskey bottle. And he's laughing he said did you see the blue spark that came from the microphone to your mouth. Yeah that was always a good time,

Mark: it was hilarious.

MC: oh, I thought it was really funny yeah

CC: Gentlemen do you think in those formative years that that's when the fun was., you know the microphone bit you oh year. whatever the reasons were and uh. things happen to us today. Oh yeah yeah.

MC: Pretty much but back then you had to think about it. It was all old equipment and the buildings weren't grounded the stuff like that and I mean we would start with a 9.95 microphone and we laughter, we'd work with that. when we first started we shared the microphone we both used the same microphone. Luckily, we both used mouthwash. Yeah stuff like that, because we would shared a mic and as the years go on and of course as you know and uh the old standard the Shure 85 yea.

CC: 58

MC: thanks, you. I wasn't that good with numbers.

CC Before we go any further into your history, I'd like to know, you had a history in music.

MC: yes, my grandfather came from New York. And played in the area with the new Yorkers and then it was so funny. I think you interviewed my mother on this. I don't know if she showed you the picture of when they first came off the train. They're all Italian, they all had the fedora type hats on they all had the trench coats and it looked like the mob was headed to town. But gramp was a heckova trumpet player, great musician, and that's what he did for a good part of his life uh before he had to get a real job and uh, they would play pretty near every night because around Alpena you know had night clubs. The Owl, the Treeanon. And stuff like that. Bet You didn't know I knew about all that stuff. U but I kind of attribute my interest in music and you know, I think you're born with the talent, but you just have to hone it, in your DNA and you just have to hone it, and it's because of my grandfather and that's what I did.

CC: How about you mike, I mean Mark, two M names.

MC: That's why were the mml trio now. Mark mike lacey

CC: Did you have someone that that other relative or friend that kind pf pushed you in the direction of bass,

Mark: not really, I had an uncle that played guitar, but he was kind of a black sheep of the family, a kind of a drunk wat have you, uh um I started playing bass because at the time I was in junior high and there were just starting to put together a jazz band. and uh, at that time I was playing clarinet and at that time there was no room for clarinet in jazz. So, they said the opening thing they had was bass. So, I learned how to play a bass.

Cc: Wonderful

MK: I took off from there.

CC: Were you self-taught? Uh do you read music but of course you do if you played in the band but did both of you notice fellas that the girls noticed you where you were playing in the band,

MC: um; yeah, I kind of figured that from you guys.

MK: I didn't really care much about that until the later years.

MC: Oh yeah, you didn't care about that.

CC: Uh, so we moved then to of course, you went through high school playing gigs.

MC: Yeah, we played a lot in high school a lot of weddings, and stuff like that was when we kind added a couple of members and things like that and we became a pretty good wedding band dance band stuff like that. we did a lot of wedding, a lot of wedding and uh.

CC: Did you come up with a more normal name for your band then.

Mark: Yeah, about that time is when we created Phoenix.

MC: No, no no , we were Midrange and Chrysalis

MC: and then I was into science, so crystals and butterfly and stuff and then we turned in to phoenix and the thing behind that name is throughout the years as we keep going, we would change musicians, but Mark and I were always together, so the legend of the phoenix is the old phoenix. Burns itself in the fire uh and alter whatever and the young phoenix emerges and we're the old ones. And the young one then so an it's been a lot of fun with the phoenix because we bring in uh mm we had a 12-year-old girl who started with us and she was with us many years so it kind of fun teaching her how to perform as we went along. As we were practicing one night, and we did let it be by the Beatles and she beautifully sang it and she looked at me and said were they famous? Laughter and I looked at Mark and said are we getting old, so yeah so yea back to where you're talking about yeah, we're phoenix. And then we were Phoenix right up until the time that type of band we had and um

CC: still again, playing, playing the music of the time,

Mike; yeah pretty much you know standards for weddings and you know the old standard type music and stuff. But then we were also able to do bars and we could do the rock and roll and the bar type music.

Cc: you had to be a little older when you were playing bars

Mike: yeah that's when, see we took a little hiatus went to college and then Mark you went on didn't you

Mark: uh

CC: did you play with other bands Mark

Mark: yeah, a little here and there not that much, I got kind of I kind of disappeared from it for a while, uh, trying to remember what time that was:

Mike: that would have been in the early 80s.

Mark: yeah

MC: Late 70s early 80s so but you know He missed me, that's what he's not saying, he just couldn't play without me.

MK: Yeah that's right

CC: let's get real as a musician, I understand there's a comfort zone with certain people and that comfort zone goes away it can it

Mike: absolutely, he and I can look at each other and know what we want to do, sometimes. But you know, let's do another chorus, so I'll look at him and he just knows, let's go.

MK: Yeah, it's like being married,

MC: Pretty much

CC: I understand

MC: But anyway, when I got back from college we started up again.

MK: That was a few years afterwards wasn't it?

MC: Yeah?? It was pretty much. cause I didn't have a girl friend or anything. And I don't know what a you were doing:

CC: but personnel changed in the

MC: Yeah, yeah, we kind of

CC: Can we talk about those along the way?

MC: Sure absolutely.

CC: Just names,

MC: Well we had four drummers throughout the years changes in drummers like Tom Reynolds, he used to drum for us. Conrad Bruski, um Gilbertson

MK: oh Kurt Gilbertson,

MC: Kurt Gilbertson Larry Tessmer, so we had quite a few drummers. I played bass for a long time, and in when we did a lot of the weddings, I played bass, he played guitar and Danny Mauer was our keyboard player and Synn smith we had a female drummer, uh

MK: Loudest drummer we ever had,

MC: Oh my god she was little thing, but man was she loud. We you know we did a lot with um Danny Mauer on the keyboard. We did a lot of stuff like that. So, when we got back we didn't do so much we did, weddings, yeah but mostly we were the house bands for different bars.

Cc: that's what we talked about earlier too,

MC: Yes

CC: So, you fellows talk about every place there was music,

MC: Oh yeah

CC: And certain night clubs and bars in and around Alpena had their certain type e of music that they hired bands to play so your music beside doing the weddings was heard where?

MC: Well we were bar band, we were the house band for Cedar Grove for at least two years

MK: Yeah

MC: You know there was a whole mix out there.

MK: Mountain Inn,

MC: Mountain Inn, Captain Corner in Harrisville yeah and uhm you know it was rough because you were playing Friday Saturday night and it was nice, I had a cottage in Hubbard lake so go out there and go to bed Saturday morning because you would get home to 2:30 and by the time you unwind, you know you'd sleep most of the day and back at err again Saturday night, you know that was back in the day when the laws were different so cedar grove was just like a sardine can. I mean There were people outside the door. Stuff like that and then. uhm you know same thing for all the other bars, now days when we you know fast forward to the future. And we'll go back again. Um our last group of Phoenix um the young ones, my son Brian, um Caitlin Borkee, Darin Emery. They wanted to play a bar, they wanted play a bar and mark says no you don't want to play a bar. No, it just no no, so we finally relented and played Cedar Grove it was cool, and we had the place just jammed. And people were out on the road and stuff and Marion um her mother and dad, owned Cedar Grove back when we played there, and she remember us of course and we got done for the night and she sat down, and she goes: it's like the old days wasn't it. And she almost had tears in her eyes, because she remembered, you bet you know it brought back a lot of memories. But then we didn't' play too many bars after that we played it one more time and then they decided that the youngsters went naaw we're not going to do this. It's rough.

CC: It's rough, It's different.

MC: Nice thing about it though, was you didn't have to burn your clothing afterwards because of the cigarette smoke and stuff, oh remember that? Oh, good guy. Come Monday, you'd be hacking, and everyone was smoking, your eyes would be blood shot and everything else. It was fun.

Cc: like I said you know you had you; had many years from the get go from get go from high school right on up to today I think you played a gig last weekend, didn't you?

MC: We were at the Aplex

CC: so again, You're the only guitar players, uh you had um several drummers, you had several keyboard players, did we name all of them?

MC: uhm, I think so.

MK: no, we had T's, T's,

MC: What's his name

MK: for a while.

MC: Laughter, shoot. It's old age when you can't think of names.

MK: He was a phenomenal keyboard player,

MC: He was a phenomenal keyboard player, went off to college. Dang him, but I can't remember his name right now, we also had Phillips kid play lead guitar for us. But uh, you know what's fun, because he again was just starting out, a phenomenal player, excellent player

MK: Frampton,

MC: yeah, the keyboard player,

MK: last name was Frampton,

MC: you keep thinking of the first name and I'll tell her this story. He had just this basic mail order type guitar and he really wanted this guitar. So we the band we would have so much money that each player would get and then we had an account that we put money aside just in case, you know something would happen so we had to buy something, so we loaded him the money to buy this guitar and it was you know I managed the band so I made sure we got paid back so that was kind of cool helping the kid along and you know a good guitar like and good instrument makes a difference. A big difference so, and we're finding out now, I've changed strings so many times, our is all acoustic now, we play four hours of acoustic guitar that hurts.

CC: So, you're talking hollow body, but are you talking amplified,

MC: No, they're amplified

CC: they're amplified acoustics.

MC: but I went from heavy string to medium strings to light strings now I have extra light. Now I have a problem and I think I've solved it...I really like to pound on the guitar now I went to extra lights and thin pic.

MK: you didn't break a string?

MC: And I didn't break a string and it was the first attempt this weekend and I didn't break a string so that was good. But anyway. Uh but... if you want to, I can keep going on our little history if you want

Cc: that is what we're here for,

MC: Okay fantastic so you know we got to a point where we were both married. alright and kids were in the picture and things like that and we had guitar player quit and a drummer. At the same time. these youngsters just didn't have that drive

MK: I'm trying to remember

MC: So finally, I told mark, I'm not doing this anymore and he's like, I can't do this anymore. So, we took a hiatus and

MK: That's right

MC: And he didn't talk to me for a while but um we had to re-train new musicians. didn't want to do this again with new players so we took a hiatus for a while and we were still best for 40 some years and we was out to our house one time and for burgers and beer and something like that and we were having a little grilling thing, well in our neighborhood this young gal ended up with breast cancer and they were going to have a fund raiser and my wife Mary and I were on the committee and they were going to rent the K of C hall and stuff like that and uh and they were going to have a band and things like that. All of a sudden, the light bulb went off. Now I had been playing in church all this time. and you talk about playing rock and roll and then playing church music. The light bulb when off. Just hold off before you get a band, so I talked to him and said alright do you think we could do it again?

MK: yeah

MC: we still got all the equipment the PA the whole smear.

MK: 25 years later,

MC: no it wasn't that long,

MK: yeah it was 25 years later.

MC: Wow anyway so I went alright. Let's let's give it a shot. So, we wound up getting our old drummer Conrad Bruski, I played bass, he played guitar. Our voices were crap. Because we you know, it's 25 years later and you know it just if you don't use it all the time you lose it. And uh you know you tried, and yikes, my son Brian excellent voice says you be the vocalists, I said ok, so we told them we'd do it. So, we wound up getting in the Frampton kid on keyboard and uh, we played it and played our first set and it worked again and I had an oxygen mask hanging on the microphone stand but it kind of worked. So, my son comes up during the break and says I booked wedding for next year, excuse me? This is supposed to be a onetime thing.

MK: A reunion

MC: Yeah and he booked a wedding and it's like okay, so we did that and again my son was the vocalist and stuff like that, so we said, well let's just keep going. And my son how hard is it to play bass, I said not that hard, but you got to remember you're most likely doing some different than the guitar players are doing. He picked up the bass and he started and he there's the genetic thing, wow. He's one helluva bass player now, and so that put me back into playing guitar. So in the meantime his buddy Conrad didn't want to play any more so his buddy Darin Emory played drums, got him as the drummer and so we wanted a keyboard player so because Frampton went off to college so we got again back to the 12 year old girl Kaylyn Borkie and she played keys and she's a heckuva singer and that's how the new Phoenix developed and that's and that's was about an 8 year run on that. That been an 8-10-year run.

MK: Yeah that went by fast

MC: That went by real fast. But we played a lot of places um you know different venues, we played the tractor show quite a bit we opened for Bucky Covington at the fair and for Josh Grayson um, just we played all over the place, the only problem was, we could have been booked all the time and that's when we're good. Really really good. I mean my wife's a critic. Will tell me well that song sucked or something like that and she said you guys are really good and um but it's you know with that young talent but the problem was as Kaylyn got older um she got into theatre, she was into beauty pageants

and some like that so it was like an act of congress to get the whole group together to play and then Darin is Mr. sports, beach volley ball, pool, bowling and he has this one habit too, you tell him practice is at 7 and he shows up at 9 and you know and I mean we all did well together, we all did well together but the last one we played we played at the tractor show and that was it because Kaylyn was going to Europe for 14 months and my son and Darin wanted to go in a different direction, they wanted to do a 90's band an um Mark and I are like seriously, but that's our age group, that's our age group okay. they have since done a little more classic stuff, they kind of learned but that was it and that's when Mark and I decided well I wanted to keep going for a while and that when I decided to join, start the acoustic trio. now we were doing rumblings the other day and I'm thinking another drummer and keep 60s thing going with the keyboard and drums because I don't know about you, but 60's music and understand most of the lyrics and there's some good tunes and you know what? It's easy to play too. The older you get. We used to have all that in our heads. you know all the song and all the song s and now we got it on a computer screen now. Anyway

MK: Vincent Frampton,

MC: Vince Frampton, that's it.

MK: I had to text my daughter

MC: our keyboard player, Thank you

CC: I remember him,

MC: he was phenomenal

CC: he was a phenomenal artist and he started young really did.

MK: He was a savant I think

CC: So, In the mean time you both held down jobs, you not only played music that you loved and did and played it together but you both held down jobs, and Mike you worked at WATZ for a good many years

MC: Yep

CC: And I think um this guy over here over here is still working

MK: Oh yeah

CC: and you're working at whatever it takes to fix anything that's electronic

MK: Pretty much.

CC: does petty much say it.

MK: I keep the radio and televisions stations going

CC: and do you work at WKBK?

MK: Yeah, I work for them,

CC: Okay you work for them and you also look at old amplifiers and

MK: Got to keep the music going

CC: Got to keep the music going; yes, you do. Is there any other special stories that you gentlemen would like to tell?

MC: there are a couple I told you, but you said no (laughter),

CC: Well no, you I don't remember, over this period talking with all the musician all over Alpena, we're into over 30 now, I've heard some stories....mmmmm and you know we can cut it out. (laughter)

MC: okay, I have got a couple, but I think the best one is, we were playing a wedding at the K of C before the apex came along and stuff. It was the night. First, Mark wanted to have the latest gadgets, so he's like I got a wireless for my guitar. That's nice, are we ever going to use? That cool you know. So, he insists on playing with it. Alright, so we're doing this wedding and the Bride and group came out for the bride dance and stuff like that all of a sudden, we look, and all the men are gone like what is going on here. Come to find out the Alpena Babe Ruth was like in a world series type game or something like that and all the guys are outside or in the entry way of the K of C hall listen to the game. Meanwhile the new bride and all the wives and all the girl friends and stuff on in the like this isn't good. So, I mean we're all out there and we had a lot of women dancing with women the first set and we got done and went on break and a cheer went up and Alpena won. Thinking real quickly and being the ham that I am and full of BS, and I have this where I can make up words as I go, I told mark, I said, I want you to go to the back of the K of C hall and start with sweet home Alabama I'm going to change the words to sweet home Alpena and see what happens. Well, he started the beginning to that song, walked up the center, and started the words to Sweet home Alpena stuff and the dance floor got packed. That was one of the best nights we had. Finally, we keep going and going and going. Finally, Mark

MK: No one stopped

MC: I know no one stopped finally Mark comes over to me and our ears are like bleeding and I look at my watch and said one more song and we're done for the night that's how fast it went. And that was probably one of the best nights we ever had. It was just unbelievable. but We started out going this isn't going to be good.

CC; started out rough and got better along the way.

MC: Oh yeah, we used to um Komo's pizzeria number one sub it was our bands favorite sub and they used to be open until 3 in the morning so we would one of us would swing by and usually it was me and I would say hey we're playing tonight so she know what that meant, so she'd have 4 or 5 subs ready for us, number one at about 2 o'clock in the morning so what we would wind up doing is picking up the subs, going back to his house, maybe unloading the equipment or just having the subs but back then because of the privacy acts they don't do it now, the Alpena news used to uh publish divorces in the paper.

MK: They don't do that anymore?

MC: No, they don't now so we would place bets if this couple would last not going to last, not going to last, I think we would mark it down on a calendar I'm not sure, about a year later.... Yep just saw it in the Alpena news yeah, but it was

MK: Oh boy

MC: Ah we just had a good time. It was a lot of fun, it really was. back when it was busy, and we didn't a lot of time to practice new songs because we just keep stuff loaded up. And why take all that stuff out when you were going to load it back up again and our old grey van

MK: oh yeah, that old beast

MC: We had a gig at the Wurtsmith's Air Force base, guess where it broke down, in Harrisville, so we had the air force come to our rescue. they brought air force trucks and stuff like that finished bring us.

MK: And that was nice that packed up everything thing for us.

MC: It was really good. It was ...

MK: Then there was the Metropole.

MC: Oh, my lord did, we played the metropole

MK: in Onaway.

MC: Onaway. it was New Year's Eve in a snow storm. We made it. Trumpet player made it. The drummer didn't make it. thank God Ray Reynolds could play drums and so we played the night, I mean there were a few people. We looked outside and said there's a lot of snow out there. And stuff and they go, you can, you can spend the night here if you want.

MK: It was a motel above the bar.

MC: Yeah hotel alright, let's go check the room, so she used a butter knife to get into the room. took one look and now we're musician and we're pretty much used to anything nay, once we saw the sheets and everything... we're going to take our chances to drive home. It was

MK: Cockroaches scattered, Blood on the sheets.

MC: It just wasn't a good scene.

MK: Had to open the door with a knife. That just

MC: Naw it wasn't, I mean we would put up with a lot, but we had some class.

MK: and that time we drove my dad's old ford back snow was so deep, the lights were dimming the alternator getting wet. And My wife at the time we were going together, her house was on the way home and we basically kicked her out the door and said see you later.

MC: Slowed down enough bye.

MK: Then we got to the Alpena county line and the car dropped 3 feet.

MC: Yeah it was all plowed roads.

MC: So, but we've done many a snow store and stuff like that. You do what you have to do.

CC: I'll tell you what. I'm watching the both of you and I want the reader and the listener, that is going to eventually listen to this interview on the world wide web, uh, you gentlemen asked to do this

interview together. Now I understand really why you wanted to. Because I'm watching both of you and I can see the friendship, I can see the, that you've had a great life together as friends and with music, you know gentlemen, I think you look great and it doesn't get any better than that.

MC: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely

CC: Music is the universal language and, in your words, but if in your world but if you're not part of the music scene you can take those words, but you understand it until you're there.

MC: Yeah, absolutely you're right and I'm happy glad my son is doing it too now um, He found they found their own path and stuff like that but it's still kind of funny to go and listen to them practice over at his house we'll though some songs out and we did oh donna by Richie Valens and I get a call the next day, thanks a lot, I go what do you mean thanks a lot? got an ear worm, an ear worm, sings oh donna oh and it was so funny uh, what is neat is this next generation like that classic and my youngest son, we did the song, uh and he heard us play it. Summer wine, Nancy Sinatra and Lee Hazelwood and he went up to Alaska and it got it on my iPhone and come back it Summer Wine. So, it's kind of neat to see these young kids going well this stuff wasn't half bad.

MK: there isn't any decent music out today. So they got to go back to something that's lyrical.

MC: Naw it's been a lot of fun, it's been a good ride, like I said this you know it's just him and I and Lacy and it's easy to set up and we can play small venues and we can play if we want. If we don't want to pay, we don't play. But um I prefer the shorter shows with the acoustic guitars, 4-hour brown trout ones were killers. But it's been a good ride.

CC: anything else you would like to add before we close this interview

MK: um mm nay we can't tell those stores

MC: no, you're thinking the same one I'm thinking, and we won't tell them on tape, but we've seen a lot and you'd know, they had that one series bridezilla or something like that. Because we've run into Bridezillas. We used to set up that morning or something, so we wouldn't disturb people during the... thing she threw a fit. "I'm not getting married ever. just screaming, dada dada, I told Mark should I tell her she has a signed contract, but she would have to pay any way, I would leave that alone. She was the one on the calendar. they made 8 months.

MK: forgot about that one.

MC: yeah so so oh, I got one little quick one, it was kind of cool, we played a wedding for a gal and um we had a great time and actually it was on top of roller rink, what was that called right in this block here, oh it's here where we sitting right now, we're sitting right here now, the wedding was up here and stuff forgot about it, of course I play in church, Cindy goes to our church and stuff like that, well her daughter got married and she asked me to play her daughter's wedding in the ceremony, so that was kind of cool. I told her I played your mothers reception, yeah, I know that's why I asked you. A few years later. That was kind of cool and made me feel good.

CC: yeah for sure. Alright as I said before I um thrilled that you gentlemen decided to come and do this, I think once you see what have you sat with me but wait until you see it and you have become part of

what this project was meant to do and that is to do and that is to keep the history of how many wonderful musicians we have in and around the Alpena area,

MC: Absolutely yeah absolutely people don't realize

I know they don't

How many good musician

MK: A lot of them have come and gone.

MC: I ran into Don at the Apex and we start reminiscing and stuff and his father used to play with my grandfather, don played for years and his son went on to play. You know I bought my first guitar. From Don so he is kind of like my addict right here and he got me my bought my first guitar and we kind of...

But you're right, there are so many good ones

CC: And for those of folks who might be listening and reading this if you're aware of anyone that should be interviewed whether they're playing music today or not. Uh Or have a history that they can talk about of their family as your other did, so about Mr. Jerome.

Gentlemen thank you very very much

MC: Our pleasure. Do we have to hug now? (laughter)

MK: Yeah that's it.