

My Uncles Childhood Story in Germany

My uncle looks 10 years younger than he should. He's about 70 years old with brown hair and a gray hair here and there. He dresses in all gray and tan colors because he's color blind, he's about 5'10. And he is very much of a snappy person.

It was about 7:40 and my dad came into my room and told me to get the interview done with. So I grabbed my chrome book, my phone and asked my dad for my uncle's phone number. My aunt Pala picked up the phone "hello?" she said in a calm, sweet voice, "Hi, it's Payton". We chatted for a while but then my uncle came into the room and she handed the phone to him. "HELLO!?!?" he screamed in my ear, "Hi uncle John" then I had asked him if he would be in the interview, he agreed. He sat down and had to put his phone on speaker "how in the world do you do this" he said in a snappy voice. It took about 5 minutes for him to get it. Then the interview started.

My first question was "what was school like in your day" his answer was...
"Well my first year in high school, I went to a Catholic High School and I think there were only like 250 students and then I went there for a year, then we moved to Germany and I went to a school over there that was a government school. It had 2,000. When I was in the second break and I moved from here when I was a freshman, going to a Catholic school when I was in grade school it was a relatively small school air force base. We're moving in and out but most of the kids I knew the whole time. Then I asked "what was the style back then" "That is much different than it is now. There was a dress code and I was not allowed to wear very revealing clothes even when I was in Germany in the school over there everybody was dressed up more. Almost always in high school's girls were required to wear skirts or dresses. There was nobody in shorts or tank tops or any of that. And Everybody, we dressed more the same as professionals." I asked him "What was the tech back then"

"Well as far as no TV, we got our first TV when I was in the first grade and I hardly remember much TV as a real little kid and after that there seemed to be enough TV came on in the daytime and it did go off every night about midnight all the TV stations went off but there seem to be enough channels to choose from nothing like today and for the networks. Cell phones but we spend more time with them (Bowling alley was popular)". Then I asked "What did kids do for fun then" "Lots of stuff they got together and played games that weren't electronic things like that And now all kinds of different games I don't know when's the last time you went down a side street and saw some kids playing hopscotch. Growing up, there were lots of kids in the neighborhood and how you can look out on the street just about any day down the street somewhere if it was sunny kids are playing hopscotch and roller-skating are playing jacks on the sidewalk are you know." (Little league was the most popular)

My next question was about "How was it like being the oldest out of 11 kids"

"I don't know how a real family everybody was expect take care of themselves as much as they could from a very early age and it was because there was always babies and little children that mother was busy with and probably the most distinctive thing of being the oldest is that you got to take care of a lot of babies hi I knew how to change baby diapers by the time I was 8 or 10 years old and do it well I think that was the only difference that I can understand I had to help more and is it went down the line by the time Stephen (my dad) was a teenager earlier and but

that's only natural when you think about it I don't I don't think it was When I was young we're very had to watch their money because there are a lot of kids by the time Stephen was a teenager and he was they didn't have a lot of kids how many of the kids were out of the house and stuff and so they had more room to get clothes for him. I don't know some people say the oldest kid is you know they're the first and so they're the boss and and and it's kind of like that very big brother and your big sister and they act that way but and and I seen that in other families where some my friends were the oldest but there was only a couple younger children and put in my case Peggy wasn't even a year behind me the children were all so close together that I barely noticed whether you were the oldest or not."

One of my last questions was "How did the almond Orchard start"

"Alan and my dad were the main reasons to start it although when we when I was a little kid when we first lived here and dad was a officer at the Air Force Base here and some other officers they bought and almond Orchard and then they worked together in their spare time so I knew a little bit about almond Orchard plus being raised I worked in Orchard on my summer jobs almonds and peaches and grapes. So we knew about them and when I was raising my kids I worked for a farm company so I also knew a lot about almonds. But when my dad retired from teaching at age 70. He wanted to have something to do is sort of a second career and in his case of third career something to keep him busy and and then my brother Alan he has done pretty well in some business so he had a quite a bit of money so him and Dad decided to buy an almond Orchard together and dad would have some work and Allen would have an investment and at that time I had just sold a trucking company that I have been Drive as a business and they asked me if I wanted to come to work for them and I did but while I was working for them all my money went back into the company I would buy shares in the partnership with my pay and we were just living on Pala's income what she made is what paid our bills and everything I made I gave right back to my dad and Alan to buy more shares of the Farm and when it came time to sell about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the farm, Mom and Dad really got old and ended up ealing we made a house for Kenny who passed away, was VERY mentally ill and we made a house for him to go to."

My last question was "what would you tell the generation now"

"Well go outside that the real life is outside and on The Living Planet it's not electronic I'm sure your dad's telling you that all the time The way he thinks kind of he's a biologist and that's what I believe to I think get outside to get in touch with license forget their technology for a while that's what I would tell them. It brings a lot of joy to the present generation. I think they're missing out by not getting in touch with nature. It sucks, that's what I would tell him."

Around 8:00pm he had to go because Pala had made dinner, but the last thing he said before he left was, "I'm so glad we talked, my kids have all gone off and had there own families and don't really talk to me anymore so thank for talk to me" and I said your welcome and how it's nice to talk to family sence we can't see each other in person., anytime and then we both went are separate ways.