

Janis Kozlowski: And where did you play baseball?

Paul Polink: Well, I played for the 54th Troop Carrier. And then when I came home, I played at Saint Vincent College, where I went to College – I played a few games there. But then, I got



married and I couldn't afford the time. But mostly, it was just sandlot for my home town team. My older brother that I mentioned pitched in the minor leagues for years. And the minor leagues were loaded with talent at that time – there were only eight major league teams in each league at the time. That meant, like, 200 jobs, only. They didn't have all these other teams that eventually cropped up in different cities. But he wouldn't let me go to the minor leagues until, he said, "If you get a bonus," – [if] they'll put money in you, they'll see you develop. But, anyway, I never tried the minor leagues.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-K] And what position did you play?

Paul Polink: I was a shortstop ...

Janis Kozlowski: Ok.

Paul Polink: ... and had some really good raves in the 54th Troop Carrier - not boasting, but ... I did love baseball, and I played very hard all the time.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did they have a field right on Elmendorf Base where you played?

Paul Polink: Yes ... you know, Fort Richardson is located there adjacent to Elmendorf, you know, the army base.

Janis Kozlowski: Right.

Paul Polink: And then, we had a ... we had a field there, and we also played in the city of Anchorage. One of my thrills was the ... we went to Fairbanks and played a team from Ladd Field, and it [the game] started at midnight - in daylight, of course.

We were quite an athletic family - we all played football in high school, and baseball, and some of us played basketball. But, I never was much of a basketball player – I enjoyed doing it, but I was not really good enough to play on the varsity [team].

Janis Kozlowski: So, were there ... just the five boys in your family?

Paul Polink: We had an older brother who - he had high blood pressure - he couldn't join the service. And then, I had three sisters – we had a large family. So....

Janis Kozlowski: I bet your mom wanted you to play sports to run some of the energy out of you.

Paul Polink: That's right.

Janis Kozlowski: [Laugh]

Paul Polink: We all were ...we all were pretty energetic, and played baseball.

Janis Kozlowski: So, did you play baseball your whole life?

Paul Polink: Well, I think I quit when I was about 30. But, then I was the baseball coach at ... for some 25 years in high school. And I really enjoyed that. I was ... I had an AA high school and we had some good ball clubs - which take good players to play.

Janis Kozlowski: [Um-Hum] So let me ask you, who was your opponents ... when you played up in ... at Elmen... or Fort Rich, or in Fairbanks, or whoever it was - was it all military teams?

Paul Polink: Yes, they were all military teams. And... But, in the city league, the Moose had a team, and some other organizations would support a team. But, they were all military personnel.

Janis Kozlowski: Ok.