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# **THE LYNCH FAMILY HISTORY**

**BY**

**Roberta Wyman Lynch and John G. Lynch\***

**As told to Robbie Terpstra, John Lynch, Catherine Pleil, Beth Dwyer, Casey Lynch, Meg Meyer, and Emily Gomez**

## **FORWARD**

**This book is a work in progress. It contains transcripts from interviews of Bobby Gay and John Lynch about their life experiences from the 1920s to the 1980s. It is a labor of love, by their children: Robbie, John, Cathy, Beth, Casey, Meg, and Emily.**

## **The 1920's As Told to Emily**

Mom: My first memory was when I was three years old, and there were just at that time three children in our family, Aunt Patty, and me, and uncle Bud, and we were constantly getting colds, and Granny had a friend who lived in Texas who kept telling her how wonderful it was down there, we should go down to Texas, where it had good weather so that we would get well, and so finally Granny decided she would take us down for a little vacation. We went on a train, it was a sleeper, and Granny and Uncle Bud slept in the lower bunk and Aunt Patty and I slept in the upper bunk, and my first recollection is waking up in the upper bunk all alone, and peeking down underneath, and nobody was down there either, and starting to cry, and then at that point seeing them trooping in from the dining room, the dining car, and they had just let me sleep because I was tired. And a couple of other times on that same time I remember the dining room in that house, where there was a jar of candy sticks, different colored candy sticks, the house of the friend, right, it's an old farm house, I don't even know, and I remember the farm yard was completely bare. It was, there was no grass, there was, not pretty at all, and that's all I remember about when we were there, but I do remember on the way home, at some point, we stopped overnight, I suppose before we got back at the train, in a hotel. It was right before Easter, and because I remember seeing the dressing table bare, and Granny had gotten little baby chickens for Easter baskets for us. Not real chickens, little fuzzy cotton ones, you know, and that is the entire memory, and I really don't remember anything for a couple years after that.

Q: ...

Mom: Late 29, early 30, actually.

Q: ...

Mom: I just remember that Granny was disappointed that it was not as wonderful weather and all that ... it was a real farm. No, no, this was Texas. It must have been, we spent the night in the hotel in a city nearby before we got on the train on the way back ...

Q: Do you have any idea where in Texas?

Mom: No, not the slightest idea, but that was my ...

Dad: ... west Texas ...

Mom: it wasn't our farm. It wasn't the Smock farm. No, no it was with a friend of Granny's. Anyhow, I'll pass it on to you, for 1922, 1920s.

Q: ...

Dad: Well of course I was born in 1922, and we were living on the west side at that time, near Washington Boulevard, in the city.

Q: Was that an urban environment at that time, in the 1920s?

Dad: Oh yeah, sure. Well, it was, the west side was the place where the Irish people, Irish immigrants, and also first generation, a lot of first generation Irish were there as well, and that's where my father was raised, he was raised at 4230 West Adams Street in Chicago and my mother was raised at various places on the west side, but the last place that, before her father died in 1914, they lived about 4500 West Washington Boulevard, and I was born in West Suburban Hospital in 1922, in Oak Park, and they were, we were living, you know, in an apartment, I'm not certain whether it was on Washington Boulevard, but it was close to Washington Boulevard, and the earliest recollection that I have is that my father and I had scarlet fever. And of course my father had had some other type of fever earlier when he was a child, which had, rheumatic fever, which had weakened his heart, and we were both quarantined for, in those days, the public health nurse actually came around, and if you had a communicable disease, they would put you in quarantine, and I remember that I was very sick, and they were concerned about whether or not I was gonna live, really.

Q: How old were you?

Dad: Um, probably maybe between 2 and 3. This probably, well, I don't remember the whole episode, but I do remember the fact that we were in quarantine, and then fortunately we recovered, and then I really don't remember too much after that, except that we were-

Q: ...

Dad: Well that was a little bit later. Well, what I was gonna say was, the next thing that I, the next recollection I have is when we went to the, I was probably 6 years old at that time, we went to the Notre Dame-Army game at Soldier Field. And this was in November and it was very cold, and those were the days of Newt Rockne (sp?) and Notre Dame had developed a terrific following.

Q: So how old were you then?

Dad: Six. Cause I was born in 22, and I would have had my 6th birthday in August, and this was in November, because it was very cold. And my recollection is that my father, it was so cold, that my father took us down from the stands into

the area underneath Soldier Field, and he gave us a little bit of whiskey in order to warm us up, and then we home after the game, which was a thrilling game, Notre Dame won 7-6, and

Q: Wow. ...

Dad: Well, of course that was kind of a high point, because we discuss it in the family I remember what the score was. I don't, I was a six year-old, I didn't know what was going on in the field, but in any event, when we got home, by recollection, we were still cold at that point in time, and my mother put us in the bathtub with real hot water to warm us up.

Q: ...

Dad: Well, that must have been around 1925, yeah that probably was in 1924 or 25, 26 right. Well Patsy was born of course in 26. But, well, I think it was prior to that, it was probably 25, and my father had gone to Florida in, to, land development down there. In other words, this was a-

Q.... business deal?

Dad: Yeah, originally it was a business deal. And he went to Florida to be involved in real estate down there, and I remember we had a Studebaker car, and it was a brand new car, and at that time you put your luggage on, there was a little luggage rack on the back of the car, and then you put your luggage on the step, the running board, and when we drove down, and the Hickeys drove down with us, so that there were 6 of us in the car. Well, the Hickeys were good friends of my parents. Dick Hickey was the best man at my parents' wedding, and they went down with us, and we stayed down there for-

Q: OK, so it was you and Grandpa and Granny

Dad: Oh sure.

Q: And ...

Dad: Six of us, yeah. Six of us in the car.

Q: ...

Dad: I'm pretty sure I was correct there. That's, yeah, we went to ... city. Now where that was exactly, I guess it was down near Hollywood Florida, because while we were down there, one episode was that, while we were there, my parents

went to Cuba on a plane in order to have a good time, and they left us with some people, and my brother and I wandered off. This was when we were living in the tent city, and my brother and I wandered off, it must have been ... Cleveland ... but in any event, we wandered off and we got on a barge apparently, or a boat of some kind, and the boat started moving, and we were on the boat, and the people of course were quite concerned. They became aware of it apparently before anything disastrous happened and retrieved us. But I can't tell you anything about the boat or where it was beyond the fact that, ... led to believe that it was around Hollywood Florida, so I don't remember that too well, but Frank does. My brother Frank does, of course.

Q: ... parents' history... how your parents met, a little of the, even if it's not 1920s, ...

Mom: Granny used to tell a lot of stories. And she told about the tent city and how they had to-

Q: How long were they there?

Mom: They were there for several months.

Q: Oh my goodness!

Mom: And they swept, they had to sweep the sand out of the tent everyday, because it was-

Q: ...

Mom: Well it must have been kind of like camping out ... you know, and I think that the deal was that there was this big land boom, only land was being sold, it wasn't actually, it was under water, and so in the long run they didn't strike it rich down there, but I think they had a good time, and, I just remember the way Grandma told about it, it sounded like fun.

Dad: ... dancing and gambling and having a good time, you know, and as I say, we were left, Mrs. Norton, wasn't that it? Mrs. Norton in Cleveland that we visited that time? Yeah, and I think it was Mrs. Norton, Mr. and Mrs. Norton who took care of us while -

Q: How long ...

Dad: I don't know, probably only for a few days, you know, but they had a good time, and I don't remember how we got back.

Q: ...

Dad: Well, my father was 7 years older than my mother, and my mother was married at 18, so my father was 25, and my grandmother, my mother's father died when she was about 14 years of age, and so she was, you know, in a group-

Q: Who, you mean your mother?

Dad: My mother, she was in a group on the west side, and my father was in another group that had, you know, like Ray Kennedy and Ann Kennedy, and her name was McGeedy, Agnes McGeedy, and

Q: ...

Dad: No, I think she became friendly through Ray Kennedy. Ray Kennedy was ...'s husband, and then there was another couple called the Collinses, and the McGees, and there's a big group that they hung around with, and then my mother was friendly with the women, this was before they were married, and my father was, you know, a young dashing politician.

Q: ... politician?

Dad: Yeah, at a young age he was the committeeman, the Democratic Committeeman of one of the wards on the west side, I can't tell you which one.

Q: ... committeeman on the west side ... starting at what age, a very young age?

Dad: Well this was at the time they were married, is my recollection, so he was very young, and you know, politics were-

Q: ...?

Dad: I don't know what he was doing at that time. But my mother's father was an assistant probate judge.

Q: ...

Dad: Not really. He was, he would be my great grandfather I guess, no my grandfather I guess. I never knew him of course, because he died many many years before I was born, but he was a lawyer, and at one time he was in business with Cummins, of Cummins and Wyman. Cummings.

Q: Cummings and ...? Really?



Mom: ...

Dad: So by the time my mother met my father, however, which probably was just a couple years after her father died, because her father died when she was 14, and she was married when she was 18, and I think this was kind of an unsettled period, for her, and unsettled period for my grandmother, because one of my grandfather's brothers, Ed Casey, assumed management of his affairs on behalf of my grandmother, and he was a ne'er do well, and he was a drinker, and he dissipated what money my grandfather had left her.

Q: So ... take over financial management...

Dad: Well, that was later, but at this point in time-

Q: ...

Dad: Well I can't tell you. But in any event, in any event, my grandmother wanted to do the best she could for her children-

Q: Grandma ... Mary Catherine ...

Dad: Yeah, and uh, so she wasn't really in favor of my mother, you know, going out with someone who was that much older, 7 years older.

Q: Yeah I remember that now ...

Dad: So this was kind of a son-in-law mother-in-law relationship, even to the day she died, and so they never got along too well, because they both, you know, kind of resented the position of the other one, you see, but in any event those are the, that's kind of the background of my father. My father now-

Q: Now, where was ...

Dad: Assistant probate judge. He was a lawyer.

Q: Where ...

Dad: His mother and father, the Caseys, came from Ireland. They came,

Q: ...

Dad: Well, on both sides actually...

Mom: ...

Dad: Both sets. Well, the father, the Caseys, came from ...

Q: ... great grandfather ...

Dad: And his father, Judge Casey's father, was a carpenter. And I have information about that. He came to Chicago, and became a builder in Chicago, and Judge Casey was his son, yeah, he had apparently been a carpenter in Ireland. And his name was John Dominic Casey also, I think, so I'm pretty sure of that. But in any event, now, as far as his mother, his mother and father operated a dry goods store.

Q: Judge Casey?

Dad: Judge Casey's father, the immigrant from Ireland, ...

Q: ...

Dad: Well now that's on the other side of the family, yeah, my mother's side, but that was on the maternal side. I'm talking about the paternal side now.

Q: ...

Dad: Like a five and ten cent store, that type of thing. And what happened, he was a cripple, my grandfather was a cripple because when he was a youngster, the only way his mother had to take care of him, because she had to work in the store, was to have him there all day, and some customer stepped on his knee, when he was a baby crawling around the floor, and apparently, he never got it fixed. However, it didn't hold him back any, because he went to law school, he went to-

Q: Judge Casey did.

Dad: Yeah. And he went to the same law school that my brother did, and-

Q: ...

Dad: Well, yeah, it was under a different name at that time but it subsequently became Kent College of Law.

Q: ...

Dad: I went there for a couple years. Janet Casey went there. And so that was on my mother's paternal side. On her maternal side, they came from Momens where her father ... from Ireland ... in 1843.

Q: This is your mom's mother's family.

Dad: Yeah.

Q: Momens where?

Dad: Momens Illinois. In Kankakee County. And he worked as a dockhand in Philadelphia for 9 years and then came west and bought a square mile of land from I believe it was the Elston Joliet and Eastern ...

Q: ...

Dad: Anthony ... And he married a Hughes woman.

Q: ... maternal grandfather. And he came from ...

Dad: ...like a township in the United States. I think it's c-a-r-a-u-w-u-d-u-a-i, something like that, Carauwuduai, it's a town ... in Ireland, and it's in, county of ... between ... and

Q: This is where Hughes came from ... maternal grandmother came from.

Dad: It's near ...that's where we started. I can't remember now. It was near ..., it was on the Rogue river in Ireland. We went there, you were there with us.

Q: Yeah, I remember that.

Dad: So, that's -

Q: ...

Dad: And my grandmother was the youngest of 11 children. I think there were 4 girls and 7 boys, and she didn't marry until her 40s-

Q: Wow.

Dad: She was being courted by Casey for many years.

Q: What's her name? What was your grandmother's full name?

Dad: Maggie. Margaret Canovan Casey.

Q: ... Margaret's father...

Dad: came from ..., which is in county ... and so Hughes came from Mayo, and Canovan came from ...

Q: And the other side of the family was Gallway?

Dad: Yep. Caseys. No not Lynches, now, don't get it confused now, Lynch is on the other side, my father's side. The Lynches came from, my grandfather Lynch came from a city, Limerick City, and his wife came from Herber... also in County Limerick.

Q: ....

Dad: Well, you've got most of it anyway, because, as I say, mother was, her first recollection was in 29, and my first recollection was in 25, and we told you about that, the trip to Florida, and we told you about the Notre Dame-Army game, we told you about the episode where I had, my father and I had scarlet fever, and then the other point was that my parents bought a home in Elmhurst, in 1928. And in 29 of course we had the horrible financial crash-

Q: What did your father do for a living at that time?

Dad: He was in the paving business, and trucking-

Q: Was he doing well at that time? ...

Dad: No, my father didn't have any great education. He never, he finished 8th grade. He never went to high school. Well Grandma went to St. Mary's of the Woods.

Q: ...

Dad: I don't recall. I think she finished.

Q: ...

Dad: Well, I don't know about that. Where did she go to college? She went to St. Mary's of the Woods and I think that was like a high school or a finishing school. See at that time-

Q: She hated it ...

Dad: See I think ... saltpeter in the food ... so I think what happened, you see, in retrospect, her father had died in 1915, I believe it was. She was 14. Her birthday was in May, May 22, and so apparently she had just, she was not very much into her 15th year when he died, and then she went away to school, and I'm sure that she was suffering the loss of her father at that time, and then just a couple of years later, then she started to go out with my father, and I'm sure that was traumatic as far as her mother was concerned, because her mother was absolutely opposed to going out with someone that much older.

Q: ...

Dad: ...

Mom: ...

Dad: Emily .. was her name.

Mom: ...

Dad: Oh yeah, oh yeah. That was in Chicago because my mother, my mother was raised on Blue Island Avenue, that's where, that's where her, that's where the Caseys had their store, and then when Maggie Casey married I think his name was John Casey, yeah, I'm pretty sure that was the Casey, John D. Casey, when she married John D. Casey, then they lived at various spots, they live on Blue Island Avenue, but then they bought this two flat, 4500 West Washington Boulevard-

Q: Did John D. Casey...

Dad: He's the assistant probate judge.

Mom: ...

Dad: So that kind of brings you up to date as to what happened.

Q: ...

Dad: A lot of people died in those days of TB. I know that a couple of my father's brothers died of TB, see.

Q: What about your father...

Dad: Well, my father had I think, two brothers, and one sister, who was Aunt Catherine. She married Harvey Strong.

Q: ...

Dad: Yeah. But I don't know too much about my father's brothers. They died at, before ... and it was my recollection that they died of TB. And, which was very prevalent at that time, they used to have the municipal tuberculosis sanitarium in Chicago, and that, you know, I knew, you see my grandmother and grandfather, well they died, that's another thing that happened in the 20s, they died, probably in about 1927.

Q: Together?

Dad: Thirty days apart.

Q: Your grandmother and grandfather Lynch.

Dad: Lynch. Well, I beg your pardon. It was probably later than that, which is not part of your story, because it was in the 30s. But they died, and this was after we were living on ... Avenue. And after the Great Crash, because we were very circumspect at that point financially, and so we had the wake at home, for both Grandma Lynch-

Q: When was the crash in 29?

Dad: October. October.

Q: ... grandparents died?

Dad: Yeah, it definitely would have been after the crash, so it probably would have been 30 or 31, and I was, well, this part of the next generation. So, that's about all I can remember.

Q: ... pass it back to Mom. Tell us a little bit about...

Mom: OK, well, Granny and Granddad both lived in Chicago, but Granny was actually born in Iowa, in Kiota Iowa.

Q: ...

Mom: Well, Granddad's family was quite well to do, I mean, well, I don't know. I don't mean loaded, but they were well off.

Q: ... educated.

Mom: Well at least, at least his father was a lawyer.

Q: ...

Mom: I don't know if his father was at Harvard.

Q: ...?

Mom: Granddad went to Harvard, but he was only at Harvard for a year, a year and a half, something like that, before the war, the first world war, and after that, why, he went directly to law school, and worked in his father's law firm.

Q: Granddad was born in 19-

Mom: Granddad was born in 1899, and Granny was born in 1898.

Q: Grandma Lynch.

Mom: Right. Right. Grandpa Lynch was born in 1893. But anyhow, my grandfather's family,-

Q: ...

Mom: I call him Grandfather Wyman, and Grandmother Wyman.

Q: ..

Mom: Oh yeah, it was Vincent Delman Wyman, and he was the oldest of 6 brothers, and the youngest brother was Uncle Ed, who was the farmers out on the family farm in Sycamore. Sycamore, Illinois, which is where their branch of the Wyman family had gone, at least a generation earlier, and so my granddad spent his summers on the farm.

Q: ...

Mom: ... his father was growing up on the farm, but I don't know how much farther back than that.

Q: ...

Mom: In Sycamore, Illinois, right. But Uncle Ed was the youngest brother. He was the one that ended up as the farmer. And ...

Q: ...

Mom: Well, it's hard to say. Now, one of them was in business in some way, and became ill and his doctor wanted him to be outside, so he ended up being a postman so he could walk around outside. He lived in, one of my great uncles, not in Sycamore, but out that general direction, DeKalb, something like that, and I can't remember where the other ones went, but as I say, the 6 brothers, and my grandfather was the one that I would say, was the only one that had a college education. I'm sure he had something, I can't remember whether he went to Harvard or whether he went someplace completely different, but it's all in the Wyman book, if you take a look at it sometime. Anyhow, the Wyman family came to the United States in 1643, I think, is when the Wyman house in Massachusetts was built. Wilbur, Massachusetts, yeah.

Q: ...

Mom: Who told you? Well, Burlington and Wilburn were split...

Q: ...

Mom: Anyhow, many of the Wymans are still in Massachusetts, that area, but this particular branch came west to Sycamore. Now as far as Granny's family went,

Q: ...

Mom: This is my grandmother.

Q: ... so your grandfather Wyman grew up on a farm and became a judge?

Mom: A lawyer. A lawyer. In Chicago, and he started a firm, well I don't know if it was Cummings and Wyman originally, but originally my grandfather and the older Cummings were in the same firm.

Q: The older Cummings, which was the father-

Mom: No, the same Cummings, I think, that was, I think that Judge Casey was not actually in partnership, but shared the office, if I remember correctly, but anyhow there was Cummings and Wyman, and then my grandfather retired in his 40s to Florida, and left the firm to Granddad, who was still a young man at the time.



Q: ...

Mom: When he got out of service and he went to Kent College of Law at night and he worked for his father in the daytime, and then his father retired.

Q: What did they do then?

Mom: Moved down to Florida, and he became the mayor of Coral Gables, and play golf, and later worked on-

Q: ... Did you go visit there ever?

Mom: Never.

Q: Did they ever come up?

Mom: They came up once a year. Yeah. But they were kind of, much more formal grandparents. My grandmother in particular, my grandmother Wyman, her maiden name was Ida May Phelps,

Dad: ...

Mom: Now see the Lowells were, which side, on my father's side, so they were... farther back.

Q: ...

Mom: But anyhow Ida May Phelps was my grandmother, and again that was a well off family, though I don't, as far as I know, I don't know that she had any education or anything like that, but it was a well enough off that she was always a little, seemed a little superior to me, you know, really not...

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah.

Q: What was your grandparents' relationship to Granny like?

Mom: Well I think that my grandfather's relationship with Granny was fine, but she was not fond of her mother-in-law. She told a story about how her, like my grandmother would receive a box of candy and hide it so nobody else could have any. And of course, Granddaddy, Granny, came from a poor family, and all was

shared, so, but anyhow, and also the other thing about Granny's family is, that they had a history of education, even though they were poor.

Q: ...

Mom: They met as freshman in high school. Their class was the first class to enter, not to graduate, but the first class to enter Nicholas Sen High School in Chicago. Which at that time, Granny thought it was a wonderful high school. I gather now it's not considered to be so good. But-

Q: Where is it?

Mom: Northwest side. In other words, in the area near where Uncle Bud's family would go if they had gone to high school, I think. I think that would have been their high school.

Q: ...

Mom: Right. They came, she talked about carrying the books over from their old school to the new school when it started. But anyhow, she always told the story how she and Granddad had met, or not met, but come together at some point or other, bumped into each other, in a cloak room, and he kissed her then, when they were freshmen, and not only that, but at some point, not necessarily then, it may have been that some time, they decided when they were going to be married. It was going to be 7 years from then, which actually didn't happen 7 years from then.

Q: ...

Mom: They were married, well of course if they were 14 at the time, they were married 10 years later.

Q: ...

Mom: They were married in 1922.

Q: ... long courtship.

Mom: Right, right.

Dad: ...

Mom: He was away in the service of course, but I gather that she had moments where she wasn't so sure and she wanted to go meet a few other boys. But he was persistent, and, so anyhow-

Q: ...

Mom: That necklace was, I think it was the 35th wedding anniversary, sometime after that. But anyhow, but he was very romantic about her you know, and I have, you know, I do have letters that he wrote to her when he was in the service. Of course, they were very romantic, most of them, they were, he was telling her how to behave, basically, you know, "don't do this, dear."

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, but in their high school days, apparently, he spent all his time over at her house, because her house was, you know, had 4 girls. Granny was one of 4 girls, and-

Q: ...

Mom: She was the third. And Aunt Bernice was 7 years older, and Aunt Mir was 2 years older, and then Aunt Viv, who's ... Virginia, was 7 years younger, so, but anyhow-

Q: ... grew up in Chicago?

A: Yeah, she grew up in Chicago, and it was one of these things where they lived on one floor of a two flat, and the aunties, her aunts, that is, my great aunts, Aunt Juno and Aunt Edie, -

Q: ...

Mom: Yes.

Q: ...

Mom: Yes. And Edie was, well Aunt Nell actually was married not really late, but I felt that it was late, that was the way I used to understand the story, but she wasn't really late, but she was probably there for a while anyhow, but they would take their nieces to the theater, and you know, they'd sit up in the top of the upper balcony, but she'd get the chance to do things like that, but all of these, my grandfather was one of 6 children, as I say.

Q: ..

Mom: The other grandfather. My maternal grandfather. Harry Wilson Smock.

Q: ...

Mom: Alice Grace Ritchie. And she was always called Grace. But she was, well my grandfather was like, they all went, he was the oldest, and then I think Aunt Juno was next, and then, or maybe Aunt Nell, and then Aunt Nell, and Uncle Guy, and Juno, and Aunt Edie, and Uncle Toddy was the youngest. He was Uncle Charles. Uncle Guy was Cousin Margaret's father. And Uncle Toddy was Cousin Harriet's father. But anyhow, that family was very close, and they had a lot of fun, you know, singing around the piano and all that kind of thing, so granddad spent all of his spare time over there, because his family was a more sterile kind of a life. His sister, I don't know what she was like as a young girl, but apparently she was not super bright, and she was probably brighter than she was given credit for, but you know, she, her mother didn't consider that she was bright, and she became an alcoholic later on in life, and was a severe alcoholic.

Q: ...

Mom: One sister, and then he had one brother who was Uncle Burnham. And he had had some ailment as a child, so that he was, well no, slightly physically handi-, however, he was kind of a different sort of person, you know, so that I was kind of uncomfortable with him, in that he was always trying to hard to be friendly and all that-

(Side one of tape ends)

Mom: I'm talking about when I was a teenager, he was kind of, Uncle Burnham, granddad's brother-

Q: ...

Mom: It was like, I almost felt like he was treating me more as a date than a niece, you know. I don't mean he did anything inappropriate. I just had that feeling. So, but he was a nice guy-

Q: ...

Mom: I never saw my aunt. I believe I saw her, Aunt Virginia, that was granddad's sister. And she came to visit one time that I can remember. That's the only time that I remember seeing her. Now there may have been another one, but

that's the only time I can remember, and, so she had two sons, and I never saw them, you know.

Q: ...

Mom: Well the one was Lowell, and he was killed on a motorcycle when he was a teenager-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, yeah.

Dad: ...

Mom: Yeah. And then Arthur was the older one, and he was considered to be slow, so-

Q: Virginia ...

Mom: Yeah, though, you know, from all I could gather, the way Granny talked, she was a nuisance, cause she came and lived with them for a while, Aunt Virginia, came and lived with Granny and Granddad when they were young married people-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, no she wasn't an alcoholic then, but she was I believe going to school. Yeah, she wasn't married, she was going to school. She was younger, yeah, right. She was married subsequently. Actually, she was married, and she was divorced, and then she was married to somebody else-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, I guess, and then married somebody else, married somebody else, was divorced again, and remarried the first husband. I can't remember whether she stayed married to him or divorced him finally again or not, I don't know, but it was at that point, at that point was when she started apparently having drinking problems. But she was considered to be a real problem in the family. I never heard much about it until much later, of course, but then-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, I liked Grandfather. Grandfather Wyman was really, he was fairly-

Q: ...

Mom: No, no, he didn't have that feeling, it just was, he was more formal. My grandmother, she always, you know she would tell me that I was her favorite, and things like that, which all that did was make me feel miserable, you know, I felt really uncomfortable with that. And, but I think that my feeling about her was somewhat colored by Granny's feelings toward her, you know, so anyhow, then on Granny's side we saw that, we did see, you know, we did see Granddad's family, his father's brother's family, in other words, the, we'd go out to the farm at Sycamore once a year-

Q: ...

Mom: Uncle Ed. Uncle Ed and Aunt Blanche. And every year we'd go out to the farm, and they had, you know, they had an outhouse, that had, they had one son that was actually, the son was younger than Aunt Patty, I mean that's,-

Q: ...

Mom: But he was, they had an outhouse that had 3 holes. Two big ones and one little one. And I always was really quite intrigued by that.

Q: ...

Mom: One for the father, one for the mother, and one for the child. In case everybody had a problem all at once, I guess.

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, really. But anyhow, we used to go out there once a year, and we'd get to go out and get the eggs from under the chickens-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, yeah, that was always fun. And they were very welcoming, they put on this big farm spread with 2 kinds of meat, and 3 or 4 kinds of vegetables, and potatoes, and salads,-

Q: ...

Mom: No, we'd just gone on a Sunday, and the other brothers and their wives came too.

Dad: ... was John born...

Mom: I only remember him when Robbie was there. And we've got a picture of Robbie sitting on the fence there at the farm, but however, that farm, I mean that was a, like, an original, historic place in Sycamore.

Dad: ...

Q: ...

Mom: But anyhow, so from that part of the family, we liked those people. It was just, we weren't close to the immediate family. And there was only the two cousins that we never saw, other than this one time that I remember that she came to visit when they were quite young.

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah. Other than those, I mean, Uncle Burnham never married at all. Uncle Burnham. So he never married.

Q: ...

Mom: A brother and a sister. Granny had 3 sisters.

Q: ...

Mom: No, no, no. Granny's sisters all married. That was Granddad's sisters, yeah.

Q: Aunt Juno, and Aunt Vern...

Mom: No Aunt Vern was Granny's older sister. She was-

Q: Juno...

Mom: Juno and Edie.

Q: Oh.

Mom: And then there was Aunt Nell, but Aunt Nell married Uncle Claude, but they, you know, originally, as I say they were in Chicago, but they all moved out to Park Ridge at some point, so by the time Granny and Granddad were married,

they were married in Park Ridge, and they lived out there, and the Aunties lived there too. Aunt Nell and Uncle Claude lived in a house and Aunt Juno and Aunt Edie lived in another house, and then Granny's father and mother and whatever ones were around, I guess everybody was, well Auntie Vera was already married. She was married and divorced. That is, her husband left her and went home to mother.

Q: Aunt Vera's husband left her and went home?

Mom: Right, But you know, after they'd been married for a couple-

Q: ...

Mom: Aunt Miriam, she was Granny's next oldest sister. She was just like a couple of years, yeah, and she was married to ...'s mother. Aunt Bern was the oldest, right. But anyhow, they were all out in Park Ridge, and later on, we used to go out to Park Ridge for fourth of July, and Thanksgiving. And we'd go to one or the other of the aunties' houses. Cause by that time, by the time I was born my grandmother had died. My grandmother Smock. She died-

Q: Granny's mom.

Mom: Yeah. Actually, she died after Aunt Patty was born. When Aunt Patty was born, she had both grandmothers and three great grandmothers still living. By the time I was born two and a half years later, I had one grandmother and no great grandmothers still living. That was how, they went all at once, you know, but anyhow, so my grandmother Smock died quite young, and-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, she was in her late 50s, I believe. And-

Q: Was that considered quite young...

Mom: Yeah, yeah. Oh yeah, yeah. Because in her family, you know, lots of them lived, Aunt Juno lived to be 96 years old. I don't know exactly, but anyhow, so, they had two different, completely different kinds of families, and it tended to be Granny's family was the one that we really kept contacts with because Granny made the effort, you know, and so at Christmas time we a;ways had the whole Smock side of the family, whoever was around, sometimes-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah. Sometimes-



Q: ...

Mom: Yes.

Q: ...

Mom: Well, yeah, right. But like Aunt Vern-

Q: ...

Mom: Aunt Vern and Uncle Merle lived in Detroit, and they both were teachers. He taught manual arts in I forget what the high school was, and she taught, what is it, she was a dietician, she taught that kind of thing.

Dad: ...

Mom: Yeah, right, right. But they would come occasionally for, either for Christmas or sometimes they would come for Fourth of July, and, so anyhow, so but when we'd go out to Park Ridge for these Fourth of July things, Fourth of July, you know, we'd have the picnic out in the back yard and we'd have watermelon-

Q: ..

Mom: No, no, this was in Park Ridge.

Q: ..

Mom: Well, let's see it was either at Aunt Nell and Uncle Claude's or Aunt Juno and Aunt Edie's and I don't remember which house-

Q: ...

Mom: were my grandfather's sisters. They were-

Q: ...

Mom: Spinsters, right. And either it was at Thanksgiving or Fourth of July-

Q: grandfather lived in an apartment building ...

Mom: Yeah, right, right, right. Yeah Granny used to talk about how when they wanted to talk to the Aunties they would knock on the pipes to, you know, knock three times on the window-

Q: ...they needed help?

Mom: No, that they wanted them to come down. So anyhow, but the, you know we'd go out there for fourth of July, we'd have watermelon, we'd be spitting the seeds all over the yard, and it was just an old fashioned, country kind of a-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, it was lovely. And then of course at Thanksgiving time we were at the other house, whichever the other one was, and again it was the same members, it'd be our family, and Auntie Mere, and Mary Eugenia-

Q: Mary Eugenia

Mom: Is Auntie Mir's daughter.

Q: ...

Mom: Well she was the one that was divorced. So later she was married to Uncle Bill, but that was, you know, maybe by the time I was ten or something like that.

Dad: ...

Mom: Right, right. Well I know that Auntie Mir's divorce was really something that was not really spoken of, you know-

Dad: ...

Mom: I doubt it. I doubt it.

Q: ...

Mom: Well yeah, except that after all, I mean, in-

Q: ...

Mom: In those situations it was cases of spousal infidelity that caused, in my siblings, so, where in Auntie Mir's situation, I mean, this guy, they were both actually trying to be actors and actresses, Auntie Mere and whatever her husband's name was, Harry Mainard, I believe it was, and uh, but as I say, he went home to Mamma, so she lived-

(Male voice): ... all these stories that I had no idea about ... last Christmas ...

Mom: And then there was, let's see, we used to have, well see Auntie Mere and Mary Eugenia lived then with Granddaddy Smock. They shared a home, you know, until Uncle Bill married Auntie Mere, and then-

(Male voice): ...

Q: Granddaddy Smock married when? ...

Mom: Granddaddy Smock was my mother's father. And he was widowed when my grandmother dies when Aunt Patty was a baby.

Q: So Granny was how old? Granny's mother died when she was

Mom: When she was 57 or something like that.

Q: Wait, wait, wait. Granny's mother died when Granny was how old?

Mom: Well, she was in her 20s, because it was when Patty, it was between Patty and me-

(Male voice): ...

Q: So you grandfather, you grandfather's son never remarried.

Mom: No, he never remarried.

Q: Sisters then came to move in...

Mom: No, his daughter, his daughter, Auntie Mere, my mother's sister, and his granddaughter.

Q: How old ...

Mom: So this was right about the time that uh, I mean Mary was born, I presume, Mary Eugenia, I presume that Auntie Mere and her husband were still together at the time she was born, though I don't even know that for sure.

Q: ...Mary Eugenia ...

Mom: Yeah. She's my first cousin-

(Male voice): ...

Mom: Very close one, right, right. Because we, you know, they lived in Glencoe, and-

Q: ...

Mom: Yes, right. So they lived in Glencoe and, you know, so we saw each other all the time.

Q: ...

Mom: Oh he was a printer with the Chicago Daily News, for many many years, and then in the, about 1908, I think it was 1908, he and his father-in-law, who was Ritchie, what was his first name, Charles Ritchie I believe, I think, in other words, my great grandfather Ritchie, they decided they were going to go out to Texas and have a cattle farm, and make lots of money, and ... Grandfather Smock, and so they went out to Texas, and it was in the panhandle of Texas, and Granny has a wonderful memory of these two years they spent out there, you know, she talked about riding bareback, and you know, cracking open watermelon and just, we used to make up a story about how she was riding bareback and spitting watermelon seeds as she went, but that was not really true, but anyhow-

Q: So how old was she-

Mom: From the time she was 10 til the time she was 12-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, then she went bust. But Granny was considered her father's son, for that, she was a tomboy, and she was the one that helped him with the farm work and you know, that kind of thing, so she just loved it, and Auntie Mere, no, Aunt Bern was enough older at that point, and in those days you didn't have to have a college degree to teach, and she actually taught in a little schoolhouse that was near the farm, and-

Q: ..

Mom: This was Aunt Bern. Aunt Bernice, yeah-

Q: ...

Mom: Well it must have been at the end, you know like, so she must have been 19, yeah, you know, you were with us, yeah, you and Meg were with us-

Q: I remember ...

Mom: You were in high school-

Q: ...

Mom: I think it was driving. You were talking about that trip having been by airplane. I don't think it was. I think we drove. ...

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah.

Q..... we didn't go into the farm, we just found the gate-

Mom: The gate that had the, but the thing was, that it was so barren, and you know Granny used to talk about-

Q: ... start again ... summarize how, what happened ... Texas ...

Mom: Oh, actually that Texas trip was not with Meg and after all, that was a different trip we took out to California, when we flew, but in this trip we had, Dad and grandma Lynch and I had gone out to an Adapso meeting and being driven in, so we were, we had gone to Texas, and we took a picture of the, there's still a sign on the outside fence, just a plain bare wood sign with faint white letters painted on it that said H. Smock, and-

Q: ...

Mom: Harry. And we also found the schoolhouse where Aunt Bern had taught, and so, it was interesting, but how, as I say, it was barren, the countryside, and it was, part of it was because it had the oil wells, and-

Q: ...

Mom: Well first the dust bowl had come, you know, the dust storms had come through and created a dust bowl, and that ruined all the Texas bluebonnets and all that, and then, but besides that, when they finally did discover oil on the property, even though it wasn't a huge amounts, it was, I'm sure enough that they stopped trying to farm it. It sure didn't look like they were doing any farming on that property, did you think? You know, and, but you know, it was a-

Q: ...

Mom: Oh yeah. Yeah. The property actually was owned originally by my grandfather-

Q: ...

Mom: Grandfather Smock. Harry Smock. And his father, Charles Ritchie. At least I hope it was Charles. I'd have to look at my book to make sure. But, and-

Q: ...

Mom: His father-in-law. And, but the property then went down to Granny and her three sisters, and then Auntie Mir had died, and so he share of it had gone to Mary Eugenia, her daughter, and Granny had bought the shares of at least one of the sisters, if not both, of the other two sisters, but in any case, the time that Granny died the property was sold, and, but all those years they were getting small little dividends from the oil wells, so it was enough so, you know, they could pay the taxes and still make a little bit, yeah. So, anyhow, now where shall I go from here?

Q: ...romance of Granny and Granddad, and you parents, ... how they got together-

Mom: You know, and then, like Aunt Bern and Uncle Merle had the two kids, Jack and Peg-

Q: Where did they live?

Mom: In Detroit. And I sort of had a crush on Jack when I was a teenager. You know, have a crush on your cousin, but I, you know, I thought he was so-

Q: ...

Mom: Like a year or two older, and very good looking guy, and they came out, I remember they came out for fourth of July to the family gathering in Park Ridge, and I was sort of tagging along behind him, and feeling very grown up. I think I was only a freshman in high school at the time, and, but they were, you know, we liked them a lot too, but the only thing is, we didn't see them very often-

Q: ...

Mom: Oh, maybe once every couple of years.

Q: ...

Mom: Everything's all, this family history, so it's not according to-

Q: ...

Mom: Let's see, and then of course, Aunt Did and Uncle Wally, oh Aunt Did and Uncle Wally, their situation was always interesting-

Q: Aunt Did is...

Mom: Aunt Did is Granny's youngest sister. Was her youngest sister. And she and Uncle Wally both went to University of Illinois. Now Granny had gone to University of Chicago for one year on scholarship, but they were so poor, that they couldn't afford to have her not working anymore, so she had to stop after one year, but they must have been a little better off, maybe because Granny and another one of her sisters were working-

Q: ...Granny didn't marry until she was 24?

Mom: Right, right. So anyhow, but Aunt Did went to University of Illinois and did graduate and she met Uncle Wally there. He was a year ahead of her, I believe, and he was the editor of the Daily Illini, and she worked on the paper and-

Q: ...

Mom: Deuel, Deuel. Wallace R. Deuel. He was a very well-known journalist in the-

Q: ...

Mom: D-e-u-e-l.

Q: ...

Mom: Editor of the Daily Illini, and supposedly, the story I always heard was that they loathed each other in college, though their son Pete said something about this to 'em quite recently, and he didn't-

Q: ...

Mom: Yes, right. He didn't-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, Pete was a journalist for 20 years-

Q: ...

Mom: Uncle Wally, his father. Aunt Did's husband. And they were such an interesting couple. You know, I can remember going to visit them when we were in college, and they had, they lived in Georgetown in Washington, and they would have the Secretary of State coming to visit, or some famous playwright, and I mean, it was really, you know, they were very interesting and different people. Quite political-

Q: ...

Mom: not parties so much as they were, Aunt Did was working very hard for, what do they call it-

Q: ...

Mom: For the DC, you know, for the District of Columbia statehood, or at least for the right to have representation-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, home rule, that was it.

Q: ...

Mom: Anyhow, so they were very interesting-

Q: ...

Mom: They had Mike-

Q: ...is this the, your aunt and uncle, did she used to live up there in northwest Washington when we ... visit recently, in the last 10 years?

Mom: In the DC area?

Q: Yeah.

Mom: But she didn't live there anymore. I mean, she died, they both died actually, well, their son Mike-

Q: Who lives up there in DC right now ... relative



Mom: Oh, my cousin Jack. Jack Perry. That's Aunt Bernice's son.

Q: ...

Mom: That's Mary Eugenia's husband, Roy Gussel. He's a metal sculptor.

Q: ...

Mom: Oh yeah. And-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah they do, yeah-

Q..... pot smoker

Mom: What? What makes you say that?

Dad: She told us that.

Mom: When?

Dad: When we were there ...

Mom: I think you're imagining it.

(Everyone laughing)

Dad: ... help buy ...

Mom: Well I never heard that. She has had colitis for many many years, which is what her mother died of, but, ulcerative colitis.

Dad: ...

Mom: But in any case-

Q: ...

Mom: He's talking about Mary Eugenia.

Q: What about Perry? Who's Perry?

Mom: Jack Perry. That's Aunt Bernice's son.

Q: ... oldest

Mom: She's the oldest, and then Peggy Perry Roarer now live, she lived in Ohio for many years, but now she and her husband live in Florida-

Q: ...

Mom: Peggy Perry was the younger, Peggy was Jack's younger sister, my cousin, right, and she was, she and Aunt Carol were pretty close, I mean they were in each other's weddings, and-

Q: ...

Mom: So Jack and his wife were, both went to Michigan, University of Michigan for college and for law school, and they had a practice together for many years. They are just semi-retired now.

Q: ...

Mom: What?

Q: ...

Mom: Well it's hard to stop ... turn it off for a minute ... there were pictures down in the basement, in the family room that everybody wanted-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, there were pictures, there were cartoons that had been made by I think the guy's name was Burke, was a well-known cartoonist, this was when Granddad was, first of all, when he became the chairman of the Illinois tollway, and it was like ... the toll road, and then the others were when he was running for the Senator of, if he had won it, he was running for the nomination for Senate, on the Republican side, and if he'd won it, why he would have had to go against Douglas, which never would have won, you know, cause Douglas was still very popular, but anyhow, so there were pictures like that, but the one that I just particularly wanted so much, there was a newspaper article that was printed in the Civil War, and there were things on there like, you know, how they were eating the dogs and cats, and all sorts of things like that, and the newspaper article was printed on the back of wallpaper, cause that's all the paper that they had to print anything on, and it was just a marvelous historical piece, and we all would have dearly love to have it, but

Ritchie caught Granddad down there, and she said, could she have em? And he said, "Sure take 'em." Gave 'em to her right then. This was, you know, like-

Q: After Granny died?

Mom: No, Granny was still alive. And, you know, it was really, everybody else felt rather upset about that one, you know-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, those pictures were down there, and it was like, you know, that's something that should have been-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah ... or something, you know. Everybody should have had an equal chance.

Dad: ...

Mom: Well, no, but we did get the, my grandfather Wyman made this wonderful genealogy, you know, and so-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah. Right.

Q: ...

Mom: Right. This was very late days, you know-

Q: OK, so this was grandfather Lyman?

Mom: Right, she was working on the genealogy too. But unfortunately, after he got through with the genealogy, he had no more interest in anything, so-

Q: ...

Mom: Well, anything to keep him sane. You know, that was-

Q: ...

Mom: It might have come anyhow, it might have come anyhow, but it was really a shame. See the thing was that he went blind-

Dad: ...

Mom: He went blind. He had been such an avid golfer, and then he lost his eyesight, and I don't know what, why he lost it. That I don't know. But anyhow, he was totally blind, and of course, so he did the genealogy when he was blind, but, you know, so he couldn't, and also the tribute to his wife, his first wife, my grandmother-

Q: ...

### **The 1930s As Told to Meg**

Dad: Well this is the experiences of John and Roberta Lynch during the 1930s. Well I, John Lynch, started Immaculate Conception School in 1928 when I was 6 years of age, and that was shortly after my parents had bought a house at 607 South Poplar Avenue in Elmhurst, Illinois, and the early years of school at Immaculate Conception are not too much as far as my memory is concerned, but in 1929, of course, the Black Monday occurred, which was disastrous as far as jobs and people's ability to make a livelihood, so that beginning in about 1930, my father was not working, and we were not able to keep up the mortgage payment on our house at 607 South Poplar, and as a result, the bank foreclosed on the mortgage on the house in the early part of 1931. However, times were so bad the bank could not sell the house, and rather than evict us, they allowed us to continue to live in the house, which of course, gave it occupancy and some protection.

However, the contractor who had built the house had included the, all the appliances in the mortgage, and that of course had not, I beg your pardon, he had a mortgage on the all the appliances in the house and of course he defaulted on his loan obligation and as a result the store that had furnished the appliances got a writ of replevin from the sheriff of DuPage County, Illinois, where we lived, and the sheriff came over one day, and presented this writ of replevin to my mother, was probably on a Saturday, because I remember I was home at the time, and that was a sad day, because they took the refrigerator and the stove, and we were then without a refrigerator and stove for a few days until we could get them replaced with another stove and refrigerator. All this while, of course, my brother Frank and I were going to school and it was fairly uneventful during the early part of the 30s, when I was, say in 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th grade. However, apparently I was kind of a cutup at school, because I was, I remember being disciplined fairly frequently by the nuns, and what happened when I was in 7th grade, was that the Sister Agnes, I believe her name was, who was the principal, gave me a whack and I think sent me home, and of course when I reported this to my mother, rather than to discipline me further, she was very upset that I had gotten, you know, hit by the Sister, and since this was fairly early in my 7th grade, she took me out of the school at that time and put me into the Hawthorn School in 7th grade, and I went into Miss Vogel's class at that point in the Hawthorne School, and apparently my behavior was better, because this particular class that I was in was one of about six 7th grade classes, and it contained some of the more adept students, which in retrospect had a surprisingly (laughing) because I was full of energy, of course, and as I say, quite a cutup, for instance on Halloweens and that type of thing, we would go out in gangs of boys with tomatoes and other types of disposable vegetables and eggs, and throw them up against houses, and tip over garbage cans, and that type of thing. We were a general nuisance, and one episode was with my brother Frank, and Ray Herman, who was one of his friends in the 8th grade at that time. Well, probably we were probably, he was probably a freshman in high

school. I was in the 7th grade or possibly I was in 8th grade and he was a sophomore in high school, and we went over to a girl who was quite popular by the name of Mora Sheehan, and these boys, Frank and Ray Herman, apparently were rather enamored with Mora, and we threw tomatoes and eggs at her house, and her brother Bob Sheehan was waiting for some activity like that, so as soon as we did this, he ran out and caught us all, and then of course the following day we had to come over with hoses and brooms and such and had to clean off the mess that we had created. That was one of the things that happened. And my brother at this time was learning how to drive a car, and so although we lived quite a ways from the school, when I got into high school, we drove over to the high school from where we were living at 607 South Poplar, because at that time they didn't have any school bus service or anything like that for, at least for students that lived within a couple miles of the high school. So my high school was rather uneventful. I was quite small and light, and although I went out for football, I didn't really amount to too much, but I liked to, you know, I liked to be with other people, and I used to go, there was a, every Friday afternoon there was a dance in the gymnasium, and we'd go dancing, you know, with girls, and on those occasions, and we had, one of the things that stands out in my mind was that we had Roman dinner, because Miss ... and Miss Ashton, who were the two Latin teachers arranged every year they had a Roman dinner and we all wore togas and this type of thing, which were a lot of fun, and that was kind of an annual affair, and they were very fine teachers, and I took Latin for 4 years, as did my brother, and I will say that although I didn't do very well in Latin, that it probably helped me somewhat as far as English is concerned, because I don't really feel that my English training in grammar school was all that good. Not that it wasn't, not that the teachers were incompetent, but I didn't pay the attention that I should, and as a result I didn't learn as much as probably I should have. So as time went on the bank that owned the house at 607 South Poplar, in 1936, sold it, and the house my parents had paid about \$27,000 for the house in 1927, and then the bank had offered the house for sale at \$6500, but was unable to sell it after having it on the market for a couple years. But finally in 1936 they sold it for I believe \$4000.

And we moved then, I don't remember the exact address, but it was on Washington Street ... We moved to Washington Street on an interim basis because at that time my parents had contracted, had obtained the first HOLC loan. HOLC was a government program called the Home Owners Loan Corporation, and they obtained the first house in DuPage country, with the help of Joe Riley, who was the president of the York State Bank, and a good friend and neighbor of ours on Poplar venue, so in 1937 then, we did move into the new home at 201 Grey Street, which is right between the college and high school, and so for the, my brother's last year, which was 1938, we lived close to the school, and at that time I was a sophomore in high school, and that made it of course more convenient for us as far as getting to school and such as that. I played lightweight basketball during this period at York Community High School, although I was no sensation or anything

like that, but that was sports activity that I was interested in, and the proximity to the high school allowed me to come home for lunch everyday, and one of the things that stands out in my mind was the fact that my mother was a great reader, and she also played the piano, and because of her other duties during the daytime she didn't get a chance to do that in the daytime, so she made time to play late at night, and I can remember many times coming in at noontime, at 12:00 for lunch, and slamming the front door in order to wake her up and come down and make my lunch, or at least supervise a lunch-making. So these were things that happened, now in, unfortunately in the fall of 1937, right after we had moved into the house, my grandmother Casey died, and she had lived with us for several years, and she was, she died, I'm pretty sure in the fall of 37, and I can remember the funeral.

We took, the funeral was in Elmhurst, but the burial was out in Mense where she was buried with her mother and father, because she had stayed home with her mother after her father had died until she was up into her 40s, at which time she had married my grandfather, John D. Casey, and of course he and Grama Casey were the parents of Mary and John Casey, my uncle, so that happened in 37, and then as I say, in 38, my brother graduated from high school, and I continued in high school, of course, until June of 1940, and during that time we had one of the things that was, that we had at that time, a group of us boys, had a paper which we called the Campus Eye, and this was a paper that we published that was full of rumors and dirt about various students in high school, and we distributed it to various people that were friends of ours, and then became rather notorious, and the school authorities were not too much in favor of this, but that was, nonetheless was one of the things that happened during that time. During the early part of the 1930s my brother and I went to Michigan during the summertime and stayed with my Aunt Catherine and Uncle Harvey Strong, and our two cousins, our two first cousins, Joe and Dan, and we probably started doing that in the early 30s, possibly late 20s, and continued to do that until about 1934, and when I was 12 years of age, both my brother and I had jobs with the American Flier Train Company in the summertime. Mr. Shoemaker, who was our next door neighbor at that time was able to arrange this. He was the general superintendent, and we worked in Chicago on the near South Side on Halsted Street, so we worked in order to try to collect money for school, because it was always intended by my parents to have us go to college, and my brother was a pretty good student, and as I say, particularly in like history and English and Latin, that type of thing, and as time went on, and he went off to school in the beginning of 1939 at University of Chicago, I was still in high school of course, and continued to take junior and senior Latin, and Miss Hatten, who, my Latin teacher, had inherited from her uncle, who was ...

Wisconsin, she had inherited the ability to name a student, give a scholarship to the student too to Lawrence University. Actually, at that time it was called Lawrence College. And so, although I wasn't a very good student, we were on very good terms with her. She decided that she was going to give me the opportunity to go to Lawrence on the scholarship, which I did. So that is, is what

happened in the fall of, September of 1940. I entered Lawrence college and my brother at that point in time was entering his junior year at the University of Chicago, so that kind of is a synopsis of what happened to me during the 30s.

Q: ... story about Grandma, she tells a story about, I don't know what you did, but she says she was chasing you around the house ... hairbrush ...

Dad: Well as I say, ... kind of funny in a way, as I say I was kind of a cutup and hard to handle. My mother had one of the shortest tempers. She had a real Irish temper. My father was more even-tempered, but my mother could lose her temper over little things very rapidly (laughing), and one episode of course was where she had told me to do something, and apparently I was delayed in getting the job done, and she came after me (laughing) so I went into the bathroom, the upstairs bathroom, and I locked the door, and she was rapping at the door of course, demanding, ordering me to come out, and for some reason or other, I decided that I wasn't gonna do it, because I knew she was gonna pounce on me (laughing). SO there was a window there out to a porch which was beside our bedroom, Frank and my bedroom, so I went out the window, and she was so mad, that she put her shoulder in the door and broke the door down (laughing), and well, when I got off the porch I realized that sooner or later she was going to catch up to me, so she came around, out of the bathroom and down into the bedroom, and went out the door, out on the porch, and there I stood waiting for my punishment, and she obliged (laughing). So that was one episode... that was, ...well yes, during, well, John Casey was mother's brother, of course, didn't live with us during this period. He, Grama Casey lived with us, and John would visit us quite frequently, to come, you know, come see his mother and sister, but during the 30s he had passed the bar examination, and was practicing law with his two first cousins, cousin ... down at 127 South Dearborn in Chicago, and of course my sister Patricia, who was four years younger than I and I, she started high school in 1940, no, in 1944. So during this period of time she was going to grammar school and, let's see, she started college ... so she didn't start high school until 1940 I guess.

Q: So when you were going to college she was ...

Dad: While I was going to college, she was going to high school, and so she didn't, she had her own friends, of course, and she hadn't entered into, you know, enter into the activities with the boys too much. During this whole period, during this whole period of grammar school and high school, it was pretty much of a boys' world as far as my brother was concerned, and as far as I was concerned, and although we went out with girls, most of our activity really was athletics and other activities that boys were involved in, and my sister had a lot of girlfriends that she was, you know, close to. One of them was Marilyn Davis, who has been a lifelong friend of hers. Marilyn married a fellow by the name of Darv Swenk, and



he's dead now, but she's living out in California, and has her own suite, so this is just a little bit about what happened during the 30s, of what it's worth. Now I'll put my wife on here and she can talk for a minute.

Mom: All right, let's see, well, in 1931, I remember on my fifth birthday, I remember getting a little toy that meant so much to me. I can't really describe it. It's like a, not a dump truck cause it wasn't a vehicle, but it was something where you could scoop up sand and then the scoop would put it someplace else. I can remember playing with that thing out on the eating porch. At that time we didn't have the porch at Granny and Granddad's house that we had, you know, at the other end. The eating porch was there, though, and I can remember playing with that. I really don't remember anything particularly until about, when was the World's Fair, 1933? I can remember going to the World's Fair, and that was a wonderful, wonderful exciting time, and they had the enchanted mountain, is that what it was called? Enchanted Mountain? It was, in the German, Bavarian something or other. Anyhow, it was like a, it was this big mountain, and then there was a slide which you slid down inside of it, you know, and I really liked that and I remember they had the rickshaws that you could, you could rent a rickshaw to pull you around if you got too tired.

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, yeah, at the World's Fair in Chicago. As I say it was 1933. If I remember rightly they actually had it for 2 years. It was such a big deal, and, that was a real highlight at that time. You know, and I had a very quiet life. We were not affected by the Depression the way Dad's family was, because Granddad, being a lawyer, you know, a lawyer's always got work to do, and I can remember for instance he was the director of the local bank, and the bank president had had this beautiful estate out in the country, and they ended up living in an apartment over the stores in the town of Glencoe, but he must have had all of his money tied up in that, and as I say, we sort of, you know, I was rather sheltered, to say the least, and you know, we had we had a maid, Florence, who came to us when, must have been when Uncle Bud was born, in other words ... house on Eastwood, cause I had lived in Glencoe in another house on Crescent Drive 'til I was a year and a half old, and that was when we moved into the house on Eastwood, where I lived all my life until I was married.

Q: ...

Mom: He's a year and a half younger. And we got Florence, Florence was, Florence Didier, and she was a farm girl. She was 16 years old. And Granny taught her everything, and she worked for us for 7 years until she got married, and she was just a kid herself practically, so, and then we had, we also had, I can't remember when she was there or when we had help on the day off even, day help,

Mary Bartling, I can remember, the funny thing I really remember about her was she was very old (laughing)

Q: ...

Mom: Oh that was, Florence was married, then we got a succession of couples. The first one we got was Hazel and William. Hazel was very pleasant, but she had a mustache. William, he was really kinda creepy. He was a religious fanatic, and he kept saying that I was the only one that was going to go to heaven, which didn't make me feel good, because-

Q: ...

Mom: Well not only that, but who wanted to be his favorite? (laughing) And later on, long after they were gone, he sent money back to Granny and Granddad and he said he had stolen a knife or something like that when he left. But anyhow, we had, and then we had Lee and Natalie. They were a young couple, very pleasant, I don't remember anything in particular about them, but after that we got Ione.

Originally it was Ione and James. And James was her husband. But he was, unfortunately, a drinker, and he would try to beat her up, things like that, so he ended up out. And then we had, first we had Ione, by that time I was 9 years old, so that was 1935, 36, no 35, and we got Ione and we got, and as I say we had her cousin and her half brother, different times, they were males ... one time, one of them was Willard, a half brother, and then we got Alonzo. Now you're getting up to about 1939 at that point, and of course Alonzo was with us long after Ione was gone into the war to work at a factory. But Ione was with us until, I think she was with us for 7 years too, if I remember correctly, but anyhow let's see, I was in Brownies, and I was in Girl Scouts, and I used to walk to school, to the North School, and you know, you did all those little things like, you know, step on a crack, you break your mother's back, so you couldn't possibly do that. You couldn't step on the square that had the imprint of when the sidewalk was put in, little things like that. You know, on the way over there there was a garage at the corner of Ernun and Sunset that had icicles dripping, hanging down, dirty icicles, and we'd always break one off and eat dirty icicles (laughing). There was a corner candy store opposite the school that we weren't allowed to go to, but which we did when we could get away with it. You know, you could get penny candy, you could get jawbreakers or licorice sticks, those were the things we got. And you know, I got my first bicycle when I was 8 years old, and before that I was just using a scooter. I really liked my scooter, and then on my 9th birthday I arrived at camp. That was my first time at Joy Camps. And I went to Joy Camps the summer I was 9, the summer I was 10, the summer I was 11, and then the summer I was 13. The summer I was 12 was the first year we went to Dairymen's Country Club. But anyhow, Joy Camps was, we went for a month. Most of the girls went

for 2 months. We just went for a month. And I do have that song, you can put a pause on for a second. This is, Aunt Carol and I are going to sing this song together. This is the Joy Camp song. And it went, you better pitch in:

Now every Joy Camps girl is quite complete.  
She looks a hundred per from head to feet.  
She's got the smile, the style, the winning way.  
No matter where you go you'll recognize her and you'll say  
Now there's a girl I'd like to meet.  
She looks like she could be both gay and sweet.  
And just one look from her is quite a treat,  
It's hard to beat  
A Joy Camps girrrrrrrl.

And then, as we got older, there was a rival girls camp not too far away, called Clearwater, and so we had our song for the Clearwater girls:

Now every Clearwater girl is a quite a drip  
She looks a hundred pounds from hip to hip.  
She's got the sneer, the leer, the sneaky way,  
No matter where you go you'll recognize her and you'll say  
MY GOSH!

OK, when I wasn't at camp, why, we had so much freedom that isn't available nowadays, and I could, for instance, get up in the morning, and have my breakfast, and make a sandwich, and go out for the day, and we would, and you know, maybe I'd go off with one of my friends, and we go climb a tree, and eat our lunch in the tree, and wander around town. And then of course we had a local, I mean a neighborhood club that really included everybody from kindergarten through 8th grade, and there was one summer when we were being detectives, and we all went uptown, and we went to the post office and look at the wanted posters so we could apprehend a criminal if we saw one, and then we stood at the only stoplight in town, and waited from somebody to go through a red light. Well nobody went through the red light. And then we waited and we waited and finally somebody went through the yellow light, so we took down their license number and we went to the police station, and they basically told us thanks a lot, and that was it (laughing). But you know, it was really, I mean, we didn't go wandering around after dinner or something like that, but we could go away all day and nobody worried about us. At night time, why, after dinner, we'd go out again and we'd play kick the can or piggy wants some ... or as we got older, there were a couple of baseball games we had. One was one where you hit the ball and then put the bat down and they have to roll the ball, roly poly it was called, roll the ball and try to hit the bat from where they caught it, and I forget what the other one was, but

anyhow, we, there was a lot of, just the neighborhood kids playing together, and oh, you know, we had the holidays, you know, in the summertime we always went out to Sycamore, to Granddad's, the Wyman family farm, it was his great uncle, Uncle Ed and Aunt Blanche that had that farm. They had the outhouse with two big holes and one little hole, so that, cause they had one son, I guess ... really had a problem, and Uncle Ed and Aunt Blanche. That was Granddad's uncle. And ..

Wyman. Yeah, it was on that site. And you know, Thanksgiving and 4th of July we went to Park Ridge, to Granny's side of the family, and either at Aunt Juno and Uncle Edie's house, who were Granddaddy Fox's sisters, and they were maiden ladies. You didn't say they were spinsters. They were maiden ladies ... right, right... there was no uncle, they were maidens. And then the other one, the other holiday, we went to Aunt Nell, who's their sister, and Uncle Claude's house, and then at Christmas everybody came to our house. We always had a large gathering for Christmas, and we had, sometime Aunt Bernice and Uncle Merle and Jack and Peggy would come from, Detroit, but we always had Granddaddy Smock, who lived in town, Auntie Mere, and Mary Eugenia, my cousin ... she was Granny's sister, and she was divorced. Her husband, she married an actor, they were both trying to act, I think, and he ran off and went back home to momma after his first child was born, only child, and then when we were about 9 or 10, I think, she married Uncle Bill, and that was, then they were a couple from there on. And, but anyhow, they lived in Glencoe ... so they were always there, and then Aunt Did and Uncle Wally, I don't think they ever came for Christmas. Aunt Did and Uncle Wally lived in Washington. She was the youngest one, and ... and Mike, were their two boys. They came to visit a couple times ... but anyhow, it was a big Christmas dinner, and Granny's meal was always ... ten o'clock, presents at ten o'clock, and then you had, everybody was hanging around there and she'd have a big punch bowl full of soup, like, not a punch bowl, but a huge tureen full of, it was like, ... like you know they have now? ... juice? But it was like soup like that she used to ... broth and tomato, and we'd have that in the living room, and then you'd go in the dining room for the dinner and have major dinner, and there were two turkeys, one of which had oyster stuffing, which I thought \*noise\* but many people liked, and you know it was like, a good afternoon. Everybody was bloated and lying around, and of course, oh we had oysters, raw oysters for dinner ... but I know we had that a lot for a long time, which I hated, which I learned to eat by swallowing them whole, and originally on Christmas Eve we'd always have oyster stew, and I hated that too, but then she switched to oyster bisque, and that was good. Those were just traditions. You had your stocking, would be lying on the bed in the morning when you woke up so you could feel it, so as soon as it was light enough to see, why then you could look at it, and not wake everybody else up, and the tree was always decorated when we were asleep, so we, you know, go downstairs in the morning and there was a screen across the entrance to the living room, and you pulled back and there would be the tree all lit up with huge piles of packages around it, and it was all a very traditional childhood. Let me see, now, in school,

well the first 6 grades I went to North School, and the last, that was only, only went K through 6, and then, Central School, that was K through 8. We had, I think, 4 classes of 8th graders from the 3 schools that originally started 7th and 8th grades, and that was a little farther distances, but I rode my bicycle to school with a couple of other girls. We always used to stop at the drugstore and either get a Three Musketeers, Three Musketeers at that time came in 3 small bars in one package, which we'd share nicely, or else the other thing you could get was a walk away sundae, which was like a paper cup, cone shaped cup like you'd get from a drinking fountain with ice cream in it, and you could have whatever flavor you wanted, and then you could either have chocolate sauce or marshmallow sauce or strawberry or whatever on top of it. I used to get chocolate ice cream with marshmallow sauce. That was my favorite. And they'd give you a little wooden spoon, and that was for a nickel, so those were the good old days. Now it would cost you about a dollar and a half, I think. Let's see, well, let's see now, of course Aunt Patty was two and a half years older. She wrote the song for North School. They had a school song that Aunt Patty wrote, which I won't sing (laugh). And Uncle Bud, being a year and a half younger, but because his birthday was in December, he was only a year behind me in school, so we did a lot of things together, I mean, it was very close friendship when we were kids. And Aunt Carol was 6 years younger, but she was, it was like, I can remember having a, when her 6th birthday party was. I did all the arranging for it. You know, I, we had a spider web, where you have a, kind of a string that goes up to the ceiling and all over the living room that you have to follow it here and there and eventually at the end there's a little prize, and you know, I did that spider web for her, and I can remember one of her birthdays, it couldn't have been that one, another birthday she was sick. She had the measles. I can't believe that we did that ... have a birthday party when she had the measles. Because we were in quarantine every time somebody had the measles. Cause I never, I didn't get the measles until I was, until you were 5 weeks old, Meg. So, but anyhow, when we were in quarantine, the girls across the street, the Seidell girls, Jean and Lynn Seidell, were in quarantine with us, because they played with us so much, and I don't know why the Lewis boys weren't, but anyhow, the girls were, and so we'd be outside playing when the kids were going to school, waving at them and having a great time (laughing), but that was the days when they put a sign on your door that you were in quarantine, and nobody wanted to come in, it was made for measles or scarlet fever. Aunt Patty got scarlet fever when she was 14, so that meant, that was in this era, and she was in the hospital with it, and she used to have to get a shot every day. I don't know what the shot was of, but it was like, they'd pump it into her for 20 minutes, and we had to have those shots everyday at home, but, like, it depended on how old you were, like mine was like 5 minutes, and the younger ones were less, but we had to have a shot of ... or what, I really don't know, but anyhow, I can remember we went to, she was over it, but not really well enough to have company, and there was a Thanksgiving and we went to Coolie's

Cupboard for lunch, for Thanksgiving dinner, and that was very depressing to us, because we were used to having these big crowds of family around us all the time, and when I say depressing I don't mean we were crying around about it, but we never really felt like that was really a proper Thanksgiving. And of course Coolie's Cupboard, now that was another one, that was a place Granny would take us for afternoon tea. You'd go into Evanston to go shopping at Marshall Field's, and you could go to Coolie's Cupboard for afternoon tea, and then of course as you got a little older, the deal was they came up with curly cues and Coke. That was the first time we ever had ketchup with french fries. French fries, curly cues were little french fries, and we'd have that for our afternoon tea, the girls would, or the kids, ... and of course Aunt Richie was just a baby. She was born when I was 11, so I always consider her my baby. I bathed her and changed her and dressed her and fed her and all those things. I understand Uncle Bud thought she was his baby too, but nevertheless, we were, all the big kids were very attached to her, and let me think, ... Granny was home. She did not really, she wasn't den mother for Uncle Bud, but you know, she played bridge, and she was home most of the time, and even though we had help, I mean, she knew how to cook and she taught us to cook and we'd do things like have a taffy pull, be out there in the kitchen pulling the taffy from one end of the room to the other, or we made, at Christmas time we made chocolates, chocolate creams, we'd dip them, sort of like one of those dippers they use for Easter eggs, chocolate that way, and she made wonderful fruitcake. I mean, no one likes fruitcake these days, but that's cause they never had hers. She had (side A ends)

## SIDE B

Mom: and of course, and Granddad, you know, he took the train down to work everyday, and he got home at six o'clock at night, and he was known throughout Chicago as being the man that never wore an overcoat unless it got below zero. He wore a hat, but he would not wear an overcoat. And it could be bitter cold out, he was out there without that coat. But he had his rose garden. He loved his rose garden. And so every night, that was one of the things he did, was he'd go out to the garden and look at the flowers and water them if they needed it, and that kind of thing, did a lot of gardening, and we also, I can't remember when we got the greenhouse. That was probably ... we let's see, anyhow he grew camelias and orchids, and he had these florist boxes that he had labels ... we wrote cat's children and crabgrass on them (laugh) but anyhow, then the orchids, that he could do in the wintertime, of course, so he'd spend a lot of time in the greenhouse, or else, you know, like on a Sunday afternoon he's be on the couch listening to the radio, listening to the ball game, but if you tried to turn it off he was awake immediately (laugh) one of those, but that was the period, when, at nighttime we'd listen to the radio. You'd sit around the radio, just like you sat around the TV, and we'd have popcorn and milk for our Sunday night supper. We had our dinner early, and we

had, of course we had the dogs. We had old Gerry. Gerry we got when I was a baby. He was keesant. Black and white, looked kind of like a chow with their black and white, they've got better dispositions than chows have. And he lived to a ripe old age, something between 15 and 18, depending on who you talk to, and

Dad: ...

Mom: OK, can I go on? SO anyhow, Gerry lived to be a ripe old age, but he was, maybe a couple of years before he died, we got Mack. And Mack was a boxer. A big boxer. And he was maybe a couple of years old, but he'd obviously been in a lot of fights. And yet, when it came to feeding time, there were two dished, and Gerry would growl at Mack, and Mack would stand back and let Gerry finish eating before Mack started eating at all. He wouldn't even try to eat his dinner.

Mack was really a really nice dog too, and of course Gerry, I mean, the cats used to, we used to have outside cats, and the cats would ride around on his back, and you know, then after, well Mack was the only, Gerry and Mack were the only ones in this era. Let me think. What else could be of interest? Oh yeah. Actually, you know, we didn't really vacation a lot at first, but from the time, the year I was 12 was the year that we started going up to Dairyman's Country Club. We always went up there for a couple of weeks every summer. And that was a lot of fun. It was very casual, kind of a place, great fishing, and all that kind of thing, and, but we had a vacation, we had, one vacation was, we went to the Smoky Mountains, to ... North Carolina when I was in 6th grade, that was 37, and that was a very memorable occasion. And it's interesting because the things I remember are sort of scattered. I remember, for instance, being terribly ill, carsick at one point, but I remember we stopped at Ashville, North Carolina, for the night before we got to ... and got up early in the morning. I got up early and Granddad got up early, and I can remember going for a walk with him in the early morning, it was cool and misty, I mean, we're looking over, I guess there must have been a river there if I remember correctly, and we were standing on a bridge, I can just remember that and of course part of it was the fact that I was with my father, you know, that was always an excitement. It was like, for instance, like Christmas, Granny went out and bought all these presents but he came home on Christmas Eve with Christmas Eve toys, originally, and those were like, vendors on the street would be selling little wind-up toys, things like that, and he would get something like that, and then as we got older, why, you know, he got, go somewhere and get something that was a real little present. And those we always remembered more vividly than all these things that poor Granny had spent so much time getting, you know? But

Q: ...

Mom: Right, right, actually. The one that I'm rally thinking of particularly, I think was probably, I'm probably in the wrong era, because I think I was 14 at the time,

so it was probably early 40s, but he'd gotten a little makeup thing that was like one of those little black paint boxes that have the little squares of color in them, you know, only it had little colors of eye shadow, which I never used in my life, and all that, but it also had a bunch of little teeny tiny tubes of different colored lipsticks. And I just thought that was absolutely the living end. SO anyhow, so we're back to, oh, well, you had 8th grade graduation was a big thing. All the girls wore white dresses, and had a flower, and I remember we had an 8th grade party beforehand, you know not the same day, but probably the weekend before, with a couple of other of my friends, I remember we were singing a couple of popular songs for the entertainment of our friends. And frankly, I doubt if it was that entertaining, but anyhow, I can remember that, and actually, you know, grade school years were a lot of fun, and I went back to my grade school reunions. Those were really more fun than high school reunion, because these were the kids that you were a child with.

Q: ...

Mom: That's right, you're still, by 7th and 8th grade there was probably some of that going on, but basically, we had a club when I was a little girl. It was like, ... still at North School, and there were maybe 6 girls, something like that, and we met every week, and I don't know what we did, but we had a good time, and I remember one thing we did, Granny helped us make a dollhouse, and we drew a name from the Chicago Tribune Charities, or something like that, and we made a dollhouse and furnished it, and got all sorts of things for this one family, and then we delivered it. Now that was, in those days, that was considered perfectly proper. Now I'm sure most of the people wouldn't want to do that face to face because it might, people might be embarrassed or something, but you know, but I remember we were really happy that we were doing something for this family, and that was nice. But anyhow, we had dancing school. That was something. Ballroom dancing. I also took ballet and tap. Actually Uncle Bud and I took it together.

Not the ballet, the tap, you know, the last couple years we did it together. We had this cute little dance where there was another brother and sister that did it too, and we were golfers in little costumes, black and white sort of tuxedo type things and we had toy golf clubs that were partially sawed, at the end we broke over our legs. It was very cute. But the ballet things, you know, we had darling little tutu type costumes, that sort of thing. But I enjoyed it all. Not that I was particularly graceful, but I enjoyed it. In fact, I really hurt myself one time, coming home from ballet lesson and showing Granny how high I could kick, and she held her hand up and I kicked it. And so she held it a little higher and I kicked, and a little little higher and I went over my back and I injured my coccyx. My back, really, I think that was the beginning of the end for my back (laugh). Oh and we had across the street, then the next year, across the street, the Seidells' yard, they had this big tree behind their house, and they had, it was sort of like a swing on rope,



ropes, but it went way up over a bridge, way on the second story level, and there was a rope down at the bottom, and the deal was, you pull on the rope yourself and see how high you could get, and then there was one point when I beat the neighborhood record, and somebody on the ground got excited and yanked on the rope, and I went out, back on my coccyx again. So, between those 2 childhood injuries, I think that was when I did myself. I think that really is probably enough, don't you? Any final words? No, but in the 40s you get into high school and college for me, and that's a completely different era.

## **The 1940's As Told to Casey**

Casey: Mom is going to start. On to you, Mom.

Mom: OK....well, 1940, I was just graduating from 8th grade. So, ah, basically the 40's were my years of high school and college. 1941 when I was a freshman I can remember sitting in the living room on Sunday evening on Dec. 7th. Well, maybe it had been announced but I didn't hear it....at 6:00 or something...we were listening to Jack Benney I think and the program was interrupted to inform us that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. I remember it was the first time I saw my father cry. He could remember the first World War too well. But the war years really didn't have as much effect on a high school kid as they would on an older one. I did things like I sold war stamps...first they were defense stamps and they were the war stamps in the theater....in the movie theater. We went to the USO and served coffee a few times, but other than that, in high school I was just going through regular high school life. Then of course when I got to college, I went to Wellsley College, and when I got there, they still had the supply corps using one of our dormitories but they were leaving right when I got there and everybody was very unhappy. The whole college went and serenaded them the night before they left. There was a big drought of available men at that point...hahahaha.....tee hee...so it was not really not until Uncle Bud came to Harvard in the middle of my freshman year he had finished high school in 3 \_ years, he got there in January and his friends were equally young, he had just turned 17, but they were the ones we had available to date.....to start with.

We had a good time like they had...there was a nightclub that we used to go to that was strictly non-alcoholic called the Totem Pole and it was a great place....they had a main floor down below near the band and then they had tiered couches with low lamps in-between them going up to the back and in the very back there was a small dance floor for jitterbugging. Because the jitterbug could be pretty wild on the dance floor. So ah...but you know that was one of our favorite places to go, we didn't drink in our first year at college....and then of course I started out I was going to be a....my plan was to major in French and I was going to take French and Spanish my freshman year, which I did. And then my sophomore year I was going to add Russian, and then I intended to go over and help reconstruct Russia after I got out of college. This is when Russia was our friend and they were having a hard time fighting against Germany at that point.

But I came across a great English teacher my freshman year and so I changed my major to English. Actually it was a comp lit drama major and I gave up the idea of taking Russian. But you know we had an all girls school you have a different kind of a life....basically we could after our freshman year you could go out during the week if you wanted to, but most of the time you didn't go out except on the weekends. There were all these men's colleges in the Boston area so we had available dates.....this is when....what's the guy who came back from the service?? It was uh...it was an idyllic period actually, when you could really

concentrate on what you were trying to learn during the week and still have a boy-girl friendship outside. But anyhow I graduated in 1948 and that summer why my roommate Nicki and two of my high school friends Emily Cleary and Pat Way, the four of us drove out to the West Coast in Nicki's 1944 convertible. She drove it all the way from New Jersey to Chicago and then the three of us joined up at that point and we had this great trip out West, where you know we did all these things that I would have been absolutely scared to death if our kids had done. We went for a month and we went first the Northern route and came back the Southern..if I remember correctly. But we had you know, a friend of Pat's that was up in San Francisco so we did have a contact there and then we got down to Los Angeles, the movie actor Robert Ryan, had been Emily's uncle's roommate at Dartmouth and so we got to get on the set of the movie that he was doing at that time and we had a lot of fun ...you know we were wandering around, at one point the car broke down in the middle of the desert and we got to a gas station....they had like three gas stations about 40 miles apart across the Salt Desert. The guy started taking the car apart and took it completely apart and then said he couldn't fix it 'cause by that time he was drunk. Ha...ha... We'd have to come back the next day and we were supposed to stay in a little cabin that night, they were little cabins about the size of a chicken coop. We decided against that so we hitchhiked into town you know and you get these truck drivers "We'll take one of you" "We'll take two of you" (suggestively) ...but we finally ended up getting a bus and then we again though somebody on the bus told us these guys were notorious for highway robbery and two of the girls went back with him to get the car and have it towed into town.....in pieces...heh..heh..

that was the kind of thing we did, we were...things were not the same as they are now, but even then, we could have been in trouble. But anyhow, so then, I could have I was I didn't even start looking for a job until we got back, it was the end of the summer, nobody worried about whether they were going to be able to get a job or not....because of course we were. So I thought well, having been an English major basically why I was looking for a job in advertising, something like that. I tried in Boston to get a job in whatever I could get actually, I started looking for publishing and ended up even looking for the telephone company but the best job I could get there in Boston was for \$35 a week and there were 5 of us that were going to rent an apartment in Back Bay and \$35 a week was not going to make it, so I went home and lived with my parents. But anyhow so I was looking for a job and Granddad was the lawyer for The Leo Burnett Advertising Company, so he called them and they let me come in and talk to the copy chief, who, the first thing he asked me was could I type, and I said no, and they didn't have anything for me. However, he gave me letters of introduction to all the other copy chiefs of all the other advertising agencies in town, and one of them I got so far as to have me bring in some things I had written, but apparently it didn't impress them enough. Finally, I got a job at Grant Advertising in the research department and so you'd have to go out and take your little survey sheet and you had to approach people

cold and we were testing for Mars candy at that time, we'd take two candy bars and you would go up to somebody, and ask them what their age bracket was and what their income bracket was and say "Would you please taste these two candy bars and tell me which one you like better and why?" (singsong voice) Even then there was one time I was really upset because we went to the zoo for a good spot to try and get people, but it was not really a good zoo day, it was in the fall, and it was kind of chilly, but there were some people there, and but when we tried to do that there, and there was a child, boy, the mother just yanked the kid away from us, because she thought we were up to something. And so that, I was really upset by that, how could anyone possibly think that I was not on the up-and-up. But that was early days. Anyhow, later on I, after I'd had a year and a half with Grant, I got a phone call from Leo Burnett, by that time I'd had sufficient work experience and they'd been obviously checking up on what I was doing from Granddad so they offered me a job in their research department. So I went over there, thinking "Oh good, now I'm getting away from Mars", and what happened, but the Mars candy account followed me over from Grant to Burnett. Heh...heh...and I had to go do the same thing all over again. But, ah, right after that though I went out doing a survey for the Tea Institute and those were supposed to be depth interviews, where you talked to them for a half an hour, and I went to the very Northwest edge of Chicago and I had not come down dressed for being out in the cold weather, I had on a fur coat and a warm stole but I did not have on any slacks and it was bitter cold. The area that I was in had several steps up to the front of the house, like 10 steps to get up to the front door, and I would climb up the steps and nobody would let me in. You could see somebody peeking out a curtain and they still wouldn't let me in. I would cry, I was so upset, and said "Oh, the heck with this." So I went over to Park Ridge, which was right next to it, where there was a nice restaurant with a tea room and had lunch ha ha ha. Finally they gave me a job in the copy department and I was writing copy for Pillsbury, that was fun. But it was not like the major stuff, like TV shows, it was for a radio show in Iowa and a farm show. I did the recipe inserts, I designed them for the flour sacks.

Casey: Huh? A farm show in Iowa??

Mom: Yeah.

Casey: Why? Because of your experience in farming?? (laughter abounds!)

Mom: No, I was advertising Pillsbury.

Casey: Oh, OK.

Mom: But the station was a station in Iowa. And anyhow I worked there and I loved my job and I thought it was great. I was dating, but I had sort of come to the point where I thought well, here I was an old lady of 23 or something at this point, and I thought well if I don't get married, I'm going to be happy anyhow. I was enjoying my work, and on January 27th of 1951, I went to a party at the Sheridan Shore Club, I was dating a guy that lived in the Sheridan Shore Club and it was .....oh, I'm going into the 50's....forget it, skip it.

The last thing I can remember was in 1949 was we took a trip out West to a dude ranch in Wyoming. That was with Granny and Granddad and my sisters, but not Aunt Patty, 'cause she was already married. But I think that's enough for the 40's.

Casey: Wasn't there anything from Pearl Harbor day to the end of high school?

Mom: I graduated from grade school in 1940. The rest was high school and college. I really enjoyed high school. I was in the verse speaking choir, and they had a show at New Trier, the high school that I went to, every year, it was called Lagniappe, and it was a variety show basically, you had to try out usually, but this year they let the verse speaking choir do an act in it. So this was a big deal. When it was over, the following Monday, I was feeling so let down, and one of my friends and I were talking, she was also in the verse speaking choir, she said she was going to go and try out for the school play, why didn't I come along? I was bored, and I said OK, the play was called "Letters to You Sir" and it was about a girl's boarding school in Switzerland and it had girls of every different nationality, in other words, there was a French girl, and a German girl, and a Austrian girl, and an American girl. So I went and decided to try out, I tried out for the American girl, and one of the lines that you had to say, particularly in the tryout, was "Oh shut-up!" and because I was never allowed to say that at home, I put a lot of feeling into it and I got the part!! And that was my great dramatic career in high school. But, anyhow, you know I was in after-school sports, and I was always on the second team of everything except for the first team in lacrosse, since not too many people went out for it. I had a good time. That's all. I was in the V group, so we actually had less homework than the kids that were in the regular classes did.

Casey: Why, because you didn't go to class??

Mom: No, it was because it was considered a higher level of work that we were doing. But we missed some of the great classics that the kids in the other classes read, things like Arrowsmith, which frankly I don't think I missed anything, but at that time, it was considered a 'must' for high school, I forget whether it was freshman or sophomore. I read Silas Marner, I remember we did read that. That's really basically it for the 40's. I did date.

Casey: Habib the Younger??

Mom: Oh, oh, Habib the Younger!! That's right. Habib the Younger. I had a blind date that was set up with a guy from Harvard. His name was Habib the Younger. They called him George (laughing). And I remember he was really odd, he had a glass eye that had a white center to it instead of having a black pupil. We went to this party, and we walked out by the Charles River, and it was raining, a misty type rain you know, and he said I looked so beautiful with the wind and the rain in my hair, and I thought, I'm scared to death of him (laughter). I thought he was going to push me in or something. But there were some more guys that were a little bit more interesting, not necessarily more interesting, but more appealing. I realize I kind of gave short shrift to my years at Wellesley, because it was such a major era of my life, and I got there...I loved it from the moment I got there. Of course, I had chosen it when I was in 8th grade, we had gone there on a school

visit for Aunt Patty. I was never homesick, I was just delighted. The first week you're there why you're doing things like getting books and that kind of thing, and where you get the books was in the village, was one book store. I remember going in to get my books one day and running into my friend Karin from high school whom I had persuaded to go to Wellesley, and she burst into tears, and she said "Oh, Bobby Gay". She was so homesick she just couldn't stand it. Later on she ended up OK, but that first week she was just terribly homesick. But I was never homesick, I had a wonderful time. And you know I had written to my roommate during the summer and had a picture of her ahead of time, and we had at the house I was in was called Homestead, it had 35 girls, it was a real house. Our room was this great double room on the second floor in the front, and there was a bay window there with a window seat, and Nicki's mother made us a cushion for the window seat. We had cute curtains and bedspreads that I'd brought from home, it was just a great room. Of course everybody congregated there since it was a great big room. That was when I met Jeannie, and her roommate at that time, I forget her name, later her roommate was Mimi. Mimi had a room on the first floor and her roommate was Pat Gilbert. Pat was engaged when she got there and was married before the end of the year, so Jeannie and Mimi were roommates after that. We stayed together, the 4 of us, right through school, and our senior year, again we had great rooms because Jeannie was either an officer or maybe she just drew a real low number, but anyhow, we got first choice of the rooms in our dormitory and this time it was later and it was a different dormitory, that was on the quadrangle, and they had bay windows that were like turrets on each corner of the building and we had the two rooms on the end that had those turrets you could for instance put a pair of chairs in there and not have them interfere with the rest of the room and we had a bathroom, there was one other room in that corridor, Joey, and the 5 of us had a private bathroom basically, compared to the bathrooms that were available to the people on the main corridors. Wellesley was such a gorgeous campus, it was planted specifically so that at different times different things would be in bloom, so everything would look beautiful all the time. It was breathtaking. I can remember coming out of the main building one day in October and it was so gorgeous that tears came to my eyes. You can't describe it. Then of course there was Lake Waubon, that was such a pretty lake, and there was a place at the end of Lake Waubon where you could take a guy, and if he didn't propose to you, then you could throw him in the lake. At the chapel, they had step singing once a week, and each dormitory had their own step singing leader. My freshman year I was our step singing leader, and each class was at a different part of the steps, and you know, we sang all these corny college songs that we loved so well, "I want Dean so-and-so, we want Dean so-and-so on our steps" and then Dean so-and-so would come over and stand with us, and they had different colored beanies for each class, and the only times you wore them were for step singing, but our class was red, so then you had cheers that were to do with your red color, or yellow was one color, or purple was one, and green was one. They didn't have

blue because that was Wellesley blue, at least I don't think they did, and in freshman year my English teacher was so great, and he would have you, he started out having you describe a building, an imaginary building, and you'd write this paper about this imaginary building. Now you would build a town, and you had to start writing about an individual person, so you would people your town, and it made a really interesting class, and that was when I decided to switch over to an English major, but, so I was a comp. lit. drama, so I ended up reading, writing, and directing plays. For instance, my senior year, where regular English majors would write a play first semester and a novel second semester, I wrote a play first semester and two plays second semester, and there were only three of us that had that major. Mimi was one of the other ones, and it was kind of funny, because Nicki and I were roommates, and Nicki was a chemistry major, and Jeannie and Mimi were roommates, and Jeannie was a chemistry major, and yet our, this is the way we were set up, but senior year you'd have seminars instead of classes, and we would go to Miss D---'s apartment, and she was this short, very stout, little lady with wild hair and she always came rushing into the class, and she'd say, "sorry, ladies," but when we would go to her apartment, why, she would always give us hot chocolate and cookies, and we would discuss the plays we were writing, and it was a very personal kind of a training. And then I joined the Zeta Alpha society. They didn't have sororities at Wellesley, because they were considered undemocratic, so we had societies instead, which were really just as bad, but every society had its own house, but you didn't live in it. You could go and like, and it was only for juniors and seniors, but we'd go and have Sunday evening suppers and everybody would pitch in and cook suppers for their dates and stuff like that, or else you might go over there when you wanted to get real peace and quiet and go over and study, but they had teas so people who wanted to join the society could go to the teas, and I always remember the one time there was a gal whose name, there was a gal in our class whose name was Fairly Maxwell, which is only the reason that made the whole thing funny, because this one gal came up and said to the one that was pouring the tea, she said, "Fairly weak." And the one who was pouring the tea said "How do you do? I'm Pat Solace." (laugh) But anyhow, Nicki didn't get in our junior year, and the other 3 of us did, so of course our senior year we made sure she did, but it was always kind of a sore point, you know-

Q: hold a grudge?

Mom: Not against us, I don't think, but I think her feelings were hurt. It's not really any more democratic than sororities, and the way they get chosen.

Q: Popularity.

Mom: Yeah. Right. But anyhow, we'd have our Sunday evening suppers all the time, and our society, the point of it theoretically, was modern drama, so I was the director of the play, and somewhere I have a part of a letter that I had written to Granny about how the play was going, but unfortunately I don't have the whole letter.

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, you had dues, and then you wrote to alumnae. They solicited from the alumnae. The alumnae maybe sent \$10 a year or something, but there's a lot of alumnae.

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, she lives in Fort Welton Beach.

Q: ...

Mom: Wilson meat packing.

Dad: Wilson now, one of their divisions was the sporting goods, Wilson Sporting Goods, but they had the meat packing, and then they evolved into the sporting goods, and this girl was the great granddaughter of the founders. And the combination of the Williams and the Wilsons. Williams married Wilson's daughter ... and she graduated with ...

Mom: I can remember when we were in high school that she had, they had a burglar, and this burglar was one of those typical burglars that you see with a sack full of silver, and he came into her bedroom, and she was very mild girl, and she sat up in bed, and she said, "What are you doing here?!" and he dropped the sack of silverware and ran out.

Dad: ... (laugh)

Mom: We spent our summer vacations at Dairyman's Country Club, from the time I was 11 until I was married, and then Dad and I went on our honeymoon there, but in fact, Dairyman's Country Club, one of the families that was there all the time when we were there was the Gallagher family, so I knew Bob Gallagher before I knew Dad, but actually he was a little older and we didn't see much of him. It was his younger brother John that we saw the most of, and he was Uncle Bud's age, but I remember the year that I was a senior in high school, there was like a gang of kids there, and all the kids from 12 year olds on up to 17 year olds, 18, we all hung around together. We bought these big red and black plaid wool



shirts, you know, lumberjack type shirts, so we were kind of like gang shirts. One time we decided we'd take a picnic out to the point, and John Gallagher was very good at telling ghost stories. His brother Bob had been the original ghost story teller, but he had grown too old for us, and so now John had taken over, and we were listening to these ghost stories, and the last one he was telling was about old Sloo Foot, the bear, then we got up and started going back to the camp, and one of the boys had slipped away earlier and had found an old bearskin ... and these kids, he was a big kid, 6'2", he loomed up in the path as we were leaving, and of course, all the girls screamed and dropped to the ground, as if we were going to somehow avoid the bear by hiding ourselves, hiding our faces, so that was their joke on us, and so then we figured we would get back at them, so 2 of the boys were left back at Dairyman's, while the families, John Gallagher and his cousin Dick ... and their parents left them at Dairyman's, I can't remember whether one of the families stayed, but all I know is those two boys had a room that was directly opposite Carol's and my room in the next cottage, and so we all figured this deal out, and we bought some asfetata (?) ... and I don't know if you know about this, but it smells really bad, It was supposed to ward off evil spirits and kind of thing, and we bought this asfetata, and during the day we put it in one of their pajama pockets, and then that night when they went to bed we watched, the shade was down, but their shadows were against the shade and we could see what was going on, they were flinging the beds apart trying to find out where this terrible smell was coming from. Of course we'd gotten past, though already short-sheeting and bottle caps under the sheet and things like that, so this was our final trick. Dairyman's was a great place. That was where Granddad, he used to go fishing, we did a lot of fishing up there, and sometimes he would take one of us fishing alone, and 2 times that I remember, one time was when we went fishing out on the raft at nighttime, in the evening, it didn't get dark until about 9 at that point, and there was supposed to be this big old musky old ... that lived under the raft, and when we were fishing out there, I got this pull on my line, and just pulled and pulled and pulled, and finally broke the line, and all these years, I had considered that I had Old Musky (?) on the line, and a lot of people pooh poohed it, however, some years later, the lake was saned, and they did sane out a 6 foot musky out of that lake, so it might have been. The other time I remember going fishing with him, we went over to Little Bear Lake, and he was just rowing the boat. We didn't have a motor. We didn't even have a landing deck with us, and I got something on my line, and again it was just, I thought I had a log, because it was so heavy, and I was pulling it up but just barely coming up, and all of a sudden, this huge fish broke water, and was smashing around, but we had nothing to get it in with, so what Granddad did was he rowed as fast as he could to the opposite shore and we drowned it, but it was a 29 and a half inch walleye. It was a big one.

Q: ...

Mom: I don't know if we cooked him or not. We probably did, cause they did always cook the fish. You'd bring them to the dining hall and they would cook it for you. There was another time when Granddad was down at the dock, and he stepped into the boat, not as carefully as he might have, and the boat tipped and he went into the water, all the way under, and he came up with his pipe coming up like a periscope first. He was at that time known, never have the pipe out of his mouth.

Dad: ... still lit.

Mom: Let's see, anything else I should say about Wellesley. In the producing part of plays, in the theater class that you take, you produce these one act plays, that somebody else in an English class had written, in most cases, they weren't always, but in most cases they were, I was in one another year that wasn't written, I was also in a regular play, a ... play, which was the college theater, however, my part consisted of, I was the voice of the cricket, and the play is called *The Cricket on the Harp*, and periodically the voice of the cricket would come up with these profundities, but there's only supposed to be one cricket, but the theater director decided he would make this more dramatic, and he had 3 of us, and we were all draped in gray gauze, and we had gray makeup on our faces, and then the light would go out and we wouldn't be able to be seen, and then the light would come on and you could see the 3 of us, so that was my big part, however, I was understudy for the maid (laugh). And then I was in this other one act play one time, a play called *No Count Boy*, and that was a regular printed play, and it wasn't one that the other students had written, but anyhow, we wrote plays like our one act plays our junior year, and then the theater majors would put them on. So it was fun. I enjoyed everything. I was also the drama critic for the college paper, and so they gave me money for a very good seat to go to all the plays that came and all the plays they would come and try out in Boston before they went to New York. So instead of buying a really good seat, I bought 2 balcony seats, and Mimi and I went together, which was more fun. And we used to go into the city and we ate at Huddle House, it was called. We'd get great chili and also great donuts.

Dad: breakfast place...

Mom: Chili. They had wonderful chili. We did things like, a group of us would go out, guys and girls, 'cause we dated, different years like we would date guys from the Harvard business school or the Harvard law school, or MIT, and

Q: never taxicab drivers or ...?

Mom: No, no, never that. One time we went to Marblehead and rented a sailboat and went out on the sailboat there, and there were a lot of things you could do around Boston that were a lot of fun. And of course you weren't supposed to drink in Boston if you weren't over 21, however, in Illinois a girl could at that age, not the boys, but just the girls, so it was hard to adjust to it in Boston, so I didn't really do too much, but there was a gal whose name was Ginny Booze, and she was one of the original quiz kids on the radio, really smart, but she was a little tiny thing, pretty, with long black hair, and she went, she got herself dolled up in a snowsuit, put her hair in pigtails, and got into the movies for under 12, and then that night she came home and she put on a slinky black dress and put her hair up on top of her head, and got into the bar for over 21 (laugh) and we thought that was absolutely the living end.

Dad: .... fancy coat...

Mom: Oh and I was so hot, yeah I went to a Harvard Yale game, and I had this beautiful suit that had a Persian lamb collar, and naturally it was a day in the fall when the temperatures were way over the normal temperatures, 75 degrees or something like that and I remember I was perspiring dreadfully. It was really not very good for that suit.

Dad: dressed up for the ...

Mom: I had another dress that I used to wear in that period, when I started college you had short skirts and shoulder pads, and then suddenly in '47, the new look came in, and then all of a sudden you had these long skirts

Dad: ... ankles, ... mid-calf

Mom: But I had one outfit was red velveteen, a little jacket to it, but it was slim skirt, instead of a full skirt, and I wore it to a football game, which was a big mistake, 'cause I couldn't climb up and down the bleachers, it was too narrow. There was a picture on the cover of Life magazine in the period when I was there, and it showed 2 girls from the back, and they were wearing blue jeans rolled up just below the knees, and men's shirts that were hanging down practically to the knees. These were Wellesley girls, and the picture had originally been in a Boston paper, and they had come out and taken this picture, and then they'd come out and taken pictures of the girls going into Boston, and how dressed up they were that night, and it was like, we were really slobs around Wellesley, and of course it was true, but it was the style just the way some of these horrible styles are now. I'm gonna quit while my voice lasts... all I can do is clear my throat (laugh)

(end of Mom side)

## DAD

Dad: All right, well the 1940s began when I was second semester senior in York Community High School in Elmhurst, Illinois. And I was taking English, chemistry, and my fourth year of Latin, and I can't remember whether I was taking mathematics at that point in time, or some 4th course. However, my Latin teacher was Miss Hatten, who was a woman at that time, probably in her early to mid 60s with henna-ed red hair, and she and Miss Ashton made up the Latin Department of York Community High School, and they were excellent, excellent teachers. My activity in 1940 in high school was not outstanding as far as my being a student was concerned. However, I had a lot of activities that I was interested in. My good friend Billy Conley, who was killed during World War II, was a year ahead of me in school, and he was in college by that time, going to Elmhurst College, but I used to see him quite frequently, and then there were others that I palled around with. Jim Sigler, my neighbor, my close neighbor who lived just around the corner, and Dick Thornicroff, Jack Davis, Danny Andrews, and so forth. So one of the outside activities we had was that I was the editor of the Campus Eye, which was a newspaper that we published and distributed to around the high school, and of course whenever we put an edition out, everyone was interested in it because it had all the dirt about anyone that we could, anyone that we knew, who had a story that was worthwhile. Well, who's dating who, and stuff you talk about in high school, and of course the administration in the high school was not too happy about this, and I was called in and talked to about it, but we had several editions during that semester, and as the semester went on, actually I was a senior in high school, and although I wasn't a particularly good student, my parents were very much interested, of course, in my going to college if that were possible, although they certainly needed to have financial aid for this, because my brother was at the University of Chicago at that time. He started in 1939, and so he was a sophomore at University of Chicago, and that was, I don't recall he had any financial assistance there, so my parents really had to scrape the bottom in order to keep him in school, and so Miss Hatten had an uncle who was a lumber baron and had endowed, well who had contributed in some way to Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin. And one of the things that she had available to her was to appoint students to go to school on a full tuition basis, and since she didn't have many boys who were Latin students, and even though I was a poor student, having taken 4 years of Latin, boy Cicero, I tell you, was really tough, she decided she was gonna send me, or help send me to Lawrence University, and that happened of course in the fall, but during that summer, the summer of 1940, my brother and I, well at that time, lend-lease and preparations for the war, preparations for defense, were building up, and my brother and I got a job through my father's connections at a rubber plant down in Chicago, and what was being done at that time was to

store old tires and other rubber products, which would then be remelted and reused, because by this time the far east had been taken over by the Japanese, and the Netherlands East Indies I believe it was, was the principal rubber source, and since that was no longer available, there were a lot of efforts on the part of the government to preserve any rubber products, whether they were worn out or what have you. So we worked there, and that was in the summer of '40. Then, in the fall I went to Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, where I had a full tuition scholarship, but because of the fact that Miss Hatten's uncle had been promised these full tuition scholarships, but had never come up with much money for the university, what they had had to do, was to change the tuition into a very nominal amount, and raise the fees so you might say that 20% of the cost was in the form of the scholarship, and 80% was in the form of the fees, which of course my people, my parents had to pay. Now in order to try to offset some of that cost, I was able to get a job under Miss Welsh, who was the dietitian, and I was a waiter, and I used to wait on 2 tables, 16 boys in Brokaw Hall, and I'm telling you by the meal at nighttime at 6:00, those guys were so hungry, that you didn't have time to put all the food on the first table, or on the second table, but the first table had already cleaned everything up and were ready for seconds. So I did that, and then went through that year, I wasn't again, of course I never was a very serious student, which of course was unfortunate, but that was the way it was, and in my sophomore, between my freshman and sophomore years, well, yeah, I finished my freshman year in June of 1941, and then in the fall there my brother was of an age where he either would have to go in the service or volunteer for a year's active duty, and this was in the fall, probably in September or October of 1941, which he did, and which he went into the service, and then of course the war began on December 7, 1941, which was in my sophomore year at Lawrence University, so he went in the service, and then I finished my sophomore year, and in my sophomore year I became a fraternity man, I joined Beta Theta Pi, which I have many many fond remembrances of, and which was certainly a good influence, and made my college term a lot more fun for me, and the second semester I think I moved into the house as a pledge, and subsequently was initiated into the fraternity, and I was on the wrestling team at that point in time, and that was about the only sport I really had any success in, although I tried out for football and basketball in high school, I wasn't that good. So that was in my sophomore year, and I played a lot of cards at that point in time. There was a German game there called Shapskof or sheeps head that was played by all the Germans up in that area, and we played that at the fraternity, and I probably spent too much time playing shapskof, and then we also had a tavern close by, which was about 4 blocks away, called Len Kellets, and we frequently we'd go up there and have a few beers, and I can remember, you know I had no money at that point in time at all because although I was working to offset part of my fees as a waiter for the college, my parents really had no disposable money that they could send me. As a matter of fact, we even had, I even sent my laundry back and forth in a mail container, and

my mother would wash my clothes and send it back to me and sometimes she'd send some fruit or cake or something like that, maybe an envelope with a couple dollars in it, and I was always calling home asking them to send money, which made it particularly difficult for them, so my parents had a difficult time when my brother and I were in school. But then after the sophomore year, I signed up for the Naval Aviation Unit program, which is called V-7, and I was, well that was probably during the early part of 1941, the latter part of 1942, and then I was, I finished 2 years of college then, and during that period of time we used to date occasionally and there was 2 girls, one girl Marilyn Kline who was from River Forest, Illinois, who went to Lawrence, that I went out with, and then there was another girl, Elizabeth Mansfield, she was from Park Ridge, Illinois, and I went out with those girls during this period, and then I went into the service in the summer of 1943, and my friend Billy Connely by that time had finished all his training as a naval aviation cadet, and had received his commission in the navy, and that was in the summer of '43, and I got together with him a couple of times during that summer, but then that was the last time I saw him, because he was subsequently killed in the Pacific. So I went through, I first went to Greencastle, Indiana as a first stage of my naval training, and that was more or less just an indoctrination type place, where you learned military rules and you did some marching, and just general education as far as military operations were concerned. Then, from there I went to Purdue University airport, where I took flying lessons in a Waco. A Waco is a biplane, and that was the first plane that I soloed in, a Waco, and I soloed after about 10 or 11 hours, and my instructor wanted to get out of the plane, I guess (laughing) he said it's all yours, so I didn't have any problem there. And then from there I went to Iowa preflight, and that was probably around the first of the year of '44, and at Iowa preflight, because I had wrestled, I was on the wrestling team at Lawrence, and had done a pretty good job because I was small and light, and so I wrestled either 121 or 128, and there weren't too many people who were that small, so I was fairly successful during that period. So when I got to Iowa preflight, wrestling was a big part of our training, and again because I was light, of course I had to weigh at least 128 to get into the program to begin with, and I'll have to go back to tell you about that, but I was then on the intramural wrestling team, and I won at that, and I became cadet of the week, and I don't know how many cadets we had out there in training at that time, maybe 1500, and it was a big splash in the newspaper and so forth-

Mom: a picture...

Dad: Yeah. I don't even have a copy of that anymore, but in any event, my parents came out, you know, there was a little award that was made, and then I was on-

Mom: giant blown up picture in the window of the store as they were passing by

Dad: Oh yeah, I guess that was it. And then I was on the Iowa preflight wrestling team, and we used to go to other naval bases and have joint meets and that type of thing, so as a result I was at Iowa longer than I normally would have been. I would have there probably about 6-8 weeks, but actually I was there for about 4 or 4 and a half months, because it was right in the wrestling season. They kept me, kept on pushing me back, so then, well to go back to when I originally joined the naval aviation cadet program, I only weighed 121, but for my height, 5'8" and a half, the minimum weight was 128, so when I took the exam, everything else was OK, but they said "you're underweight. go back and put some weight on and come back." And I thought he was talking about maybe 6 months or 9 months, something like that, but he says be back here next Monday, which is about 10 days, so my mother had to feed me mashed potatoes and bananas and ice cream, milkshakes, everything that was supposed to put any weight on you, so the night before I was supposed to go back, I drank a lot of water, and in the morning of course, I didn't go to the toilet, and so I drank more water and ate more bananas and all the rest of the stuff in order to bring myself up to 128. By this time I weighed about 127, and so when I got down to take the examination, the ... had me step on the scale, and I came up to about 127, and he said, "well, just go into the head," that's what they called the toilet of course in the navy, "just go into the head and drink a pint of water," he says, "a pint's a pound the world round." So I went in and drank a pint of water, and came back out and tipped the scale at 128, and that's how I got into the naval aviation cadet program. But to go back to my history in the navy, then from Iowa preflight, I went to Olathe, Kansas to a primary flight station, and there there were 4 different stages to the program - beginning, well I don't remember all the different sections, what they're called, but in any event we had a check flight at the end of each section, and by this time I had made a friend of Tom Dillon who was from Martinsville, Indiana, and he and I went through most of the program from that time on together, and he was a former enlisted man in the navy who had transferred to the naval aviation cadet program. So I went through the program fine, and that stage we flew what they called an N2S, which was again a biplane similar to the Waco which I had flown at Purdue University airport, and I did satisfactory. At that time, though, they were backing up navy and marine corps pilots, because they had quite a number in the, that were lined up for use, and so they were more restrictive, and they were washing more of the students out who might have been marginal pilots. But I was fortunate. I got through, and some of my friends, a fellow by the name of Miller, who was also from Chicago, he washed out and he went to Great Lakes, but Tom Dillon and I passed, and although I don't think Tom Dillon should have passed, I think mainly he was given extra consideration because he was a former enlisted man, but subsequently he was killed on a carrier because he really wasn't that good of a pilot, so what happened was, we got finished, and I went home for I think about 10 days at that point in time, because the next place I went was down to Corpus Christi, and down at Corpus Christi there were 3 different sections to the training. There was basic,

where you learned to fly what they called the vulti vibrator, which was not a biplane but a single lower winged plane, more similar to aircraft, military aircraft, and then the second stage was instruments, and then the third stage was like gunnery and formation flying, military equipment and formation flying and that type of thing, so I didn't have any problem with any of those stages, but the first stage was at mainside, and the next stage was at Beaville, and the next stage was at Kingsville, which of course is on the Kings Ranch, which is about a 30,000 acre ranch down in south Texas. And I was there for quite some time, because again, the weather was bad there. It seemed like, it was close to the Gulf of Mexico, and in the wintertime, which was when I was there, later '44 and the early part of '45, the weather would be clear when we reported for duty in the morning, and then about 8:30 or 9:00 these clouds would come in from the Gulf, and completely cover over the sky, we couldn't fly, so it took us a long time to get through there, but finally, by this time, April of 1945 was when I finished the program and got my commission in the Marine Corps, and got my wings as a naval aviator. And one interesting aspect of that is, in November of '44, Bob Gallagher, who again was one of my buddies who I met way back at Greencastle, but I got separated from him along the way, and then we got together at Corpus again, and he and I, he was a rabid Republican, and his family had some property in Illinois, and I guess it was right next to ... wasn't it? And ... was a republican, who had joined Roosevelt as Secretary of the Interior, and of course the Gallaghers were very Republican. Mr. Art Gallagher, his father, was a big insurance man in Chicago, and Bob Gallagher had been an all-American basketball player at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, before he came into the service. And he and I were pretty fast friends. We spent the election night together in Corpus in November, and of course I was for Roosevelt. That was when Roosevelt was running for the fourth term, and Gallagher was for the Republican candidate who was from Indiana, what was his name? Well in any event, we had quite a spirited time that night, but I always got along good with Bob, and although I haven't seen him too frequently in recent years, we had some good times together. As a matter of fact, the next station that I had was, I went to Greencoast Springs, which was the first stage of training after you got your wings, and there we formed up, we had 6 men and an instructor in our section, and we did all sorts of things together, high flying, gunnery, formation flying, all this was done over the Atlantic, just primary, just east of St. Augustine, Florida. And then the last stage of that training was what they called field carrier landings, where we simulated approaches to a field with a landing signal officer there, and he would guide you in with his flags, and tell you whether you were too high or too low, and then we would land, and then take off and keep on doing this until your, well, 'til you kind of perfected your approach. And then, when that was completed, that was the last stage of that phase of training, and the final thing was that we went out to, I went out by boat out to the USS Guada Canal, which is out in the Atlantic, and the USS Guada Canal was the naval ship that had captured the U-boat, which is now at the



Museum of Science and Industry on the south side of Chicago. And the captain of the ship was Admiral Gallery, and Admiral Gallery, believe it or not, had lived right next door to my mother on ... Street in Chicago when they were children. I got my bounces in, as we call them, this was a small carrier, so we took off on a catapult. They put you on a catapult and they shoot you off and by the time you hit the end of the deck, you had enough flying speed in order to maintain flight, and we were flying FMs at that time, which was F4F fighter, and we'd just circle around and land on the carrier. Well the F4F had been designed originally in the 1930s, and by this time it was 1945, so it didn't have all the latest things on it. It didn't even have automatic retractable landing gear. The automatic retractable landing gear was a crank. We had to crank our wheels up in order to get the wheels up. And we had to crank 'em down in order to get them down. However, it was a good carrier plane because it landed pretty slow, it landed about 45 knots, and the ship was going into the wind usually at around 25 knots, so as you approached it, you subtract the 25 knots from the 45 knots, and actually you're only going about 20 knots, as far as ... is concerned. And then the landing signal officer would give you the signals, whether you were too high or too low, too fast, he had to be a real experienced guy with the particular planes that you were flying, because he could tell just by the attitude of the plane whether you were coming in too fast or too slow, so, well another thing, the FM didn't have a hydraulic hook. It had a mechanical hook on a spring, and so it was possible for you to come in properly, get down on the deck properly, but the hook might bounce right over the ... on the deck. In one case while I was there, the hook never engaged the steel wire, and the plane went right into the bridge of the ship. It didn't hurt the pilot any. All they did was take and push the ship overboard into the sea. By the time we got finished, we had 6 planes when we started, and we ended up with 5, and then lo and behold what happened was, I met Bob Gallagher on the ship again, because he came out. He had stayed in the navy, and he had gone to Cecil Field, where he was flying dive bombers, and while because we both graduated at the same time, naturally our progress through training was about the same, so he happened to come out on the ship, and he flew out. He flew one of the planes out, SB2C, and they had 6 planes there too, and 2 of them hit the bridge and they had to dump those overboard, and they ended up with just 4 planes as well that they used... So that was one of the experiences that we had, and I recognized, somehow or other, I recognized the name of Gallery, from something my mother had once told me, and I don't remember whether this was done or not, but I thought that I had somehow or other gained access to his presence, and reminded him of who my mother was.

Q: ...

Dad: Well she really didn't know about this until after I had been out there. So in any event, this is 1945, and then after that I went up to Floyd Bennet field, and we

were flying planes from around Floyd Bennet field to the west coast for a short period of time, and then I was sent to Cherry Point, North Carolina, where we formed a squadron, were in the process of forming a squadron to go overseas. And at that point in time in June of '45, the war was ending in Europe, and the whole military operation was slowing down and getting ready for a transfer from Europe to the Pacific, where it was estimated that when Japan was invaded, that our casualties would be 10 million because of the tremendous fortifications they had in Japan. And this was borne out by the fact that in Okinawa, which is the southernmost island of Japan, the casualties were very very high, and the Japanese kamikaze pilots, before they took off they were sworn to death, and their job was to hit a naval ship if they could, and so they were very fanatical, and then what happened then of course in, I believe it was August, was they dropped the atomic bomb, and of course when they did that, the Japanese had to capitulate overnight, and so the war ended. And I remember we had VJ day along Michigan Avenue, but before that time my brother had been wounded quite severely in the Philippine Islands, and he had come home with nothing more than, he had no clothes or anything else, except a bathrobe, and he went to Clinton, Iowa where they had to do extensive surgery on his arm. A mortar had landed quite close to his arm and pulled the muscle in the top of his arm off, and so he was there for a period of time, but then at the end of August, VJ Day took place, and he at that time was able to come back to Chicago and we were all together, and somehow or other we were able to get up into an office on Michigan Avenue which was on the third floor to view the VJ Day, and that was the first time that I saw jets, military jets. I was in the flying business, and the military jets flew right down Michigan Avenue, of course, and I was just amazed to see how fast they were and so forth, because the planes that we were flying at the last, in Cherry Point, were ..., and you got a picture of the ... in the room over there, and they were supposed to be one of the highly sophisticated planes that the navy operated, navy and marine corps operated, during World War II. So when I saw these jets, I realized that there was a new phase to aviation with those jets, because they could fly so high, whereas a propeller plane like I flew, if you went over, you could maybe get up to 20,000 feet, but it was a tremendous struggle to get up that high, whereas a jet can go up to 40 or 50 thousand feet if it has to. So that was kind of what happened to me in the military. Then when I got out of the military, see I didn't have sufficient points to get out right away, so I was in the service until April of '46, so when I got out, it was too late to go back to school, and so I worked as a real estate salesman for C.T. Moore Realty company, until I went back to school in September of '46, and during that period of time, one of the experiences I had was C.T. Moore trying to build up his business and so forth, and one of the buildings that I had sold, the buyers had put up escrow money for, was put into escrow account, that Moore had control of, and unfortunately in order to finance this business, he went into the escrow funds, and used the money up, so as a result, I didn't make any money on the deal. The money was gone. But at that point in time we were all financed by

the government, because they were offering scholarships and aid to any military people who were going to go back to school, or who were going to go to school, so I benefited from that, and I also benefited from the fact that I got one semester's credit for work that I did in the military, and so that meant that I was, well, I had one more year. Apparently I finished 2 and a half years, and I got a half year's credit, so I started in '46, September of '46, and then in June of '47 I graduated.

And I was a better student as a result of my military experience, than I had been prior, because I was just an average student in the first 2 or 2 and a half years before I went into the military, and after I finished there, then I went in the fall of '47, I went to Northwestern University with a thought in mind that I would get an advanced degree in accounting, was what I was working for, and business. As it turned out, I didn't finish, although I went for a semester, and then decided I was going to get a job, because at that time I was living with my parents, and again I was kind of a drain on them, and so I went and interviewed at the various companies, and because of the business background and the accounting and so forth, I was interested in business machines, so I interviewed like National Cash Register, Burroughs, IBM, and so forth, and finally ended up working for Burroughs beginning in 19, well I'm not certain exactly what month I started, but that was in 1948, '47 or '48. But the military experience had, several of my very close friends and my brothers' close friends had been killed during the war. Philip Welcher, who was a real close friend of my brother, was in the Marine Corps, and he was killed in Guada Canal, and then Bill Connely, my friend who was flying torpedo bombers, he was lost from unknown causes, at Iwo Jima, and then Tom Dillon, who, as I mentioned earlier, I didn't feel was all that good a pilot, but a very enthusiastic navy man, he was killed on a carrier, apparently because he lost air speed in making his approach to the carrier, and was killed, and the plane went in the water. So although I was in the military service myself, I didn't get into a position of great danger, such as my brother, and some of my very very close friends. Then as time went on, I worked for Burroughs, and that was at 308 West Washington initially, and then I believe in the latter part of 1949, we moved from 308 West Washington to 324 South Michigan, and then it was practically, that was practically up to 1950, so these are kind of the major experiences that I had during the 1940s, and then of course, the 1950s, as far as our family is concerned, was really the, kind of an epic period, because so many of our children were born during that period, and then other things which we've covered with, in the 1950 period. So I don't remember, well, I'm sure there were other parts of the story that I should have included, that I haven't remembered right off the top of my head, but maybe Mother has something that she would like to add at this point....

One other thing that might be of interest, of course, Mary Catherine went to Lawrence for a couple years, and Emily went to Lawrence and graduated there in 1983, and what brings this to my mind was, that she was engaged in some sort of

athletic program out at the gymnasium, and going through some of the rooms out there, she came across a picture of the 1947 wrestling team, and I had never discussed this with her, but I was the captain of the 1947 wrestling team, and there was a picture with myself, as well as all the other wrestlers, and of course, as Mother is pointing out to me over here, the wrestlers always looked thin, because they tried to keep their weight down so that they could wrestle in a lower weight class, than their normal weight would qualify them for, but that year, '47, other than for the wrestling, was fairly uneventful. I really didn't have any romantic inclinations, well, I might have had inclinations, but there weren't any women that I became acquainted with that I felt were going to be people that I would become interested in. So wrestling was a big thing at that time, and of course as I mentioned before, my grades were much better, so that was a better way to end my college experience, possibly than the way I began, but in any event, that's pretty much the story that I can recollect at this time, and I'll turn back over to Mother and she can polish off a few points that she forgot about to begin with.

## **The 1950s As Told to Beth**

Q: It's January first, 1950. Bobby\_\_\_\_, what are you doing?

Mom: Well, actually, I can't remember (laugh), but however, a little later in January, I got a call from Leo Burnett company to invite me to come over and work for them. I was working for Grant Advertising at the time. So I got over to Leo Burnett, which is where I really wanted to work. What I wanted to do, was I wanted to work in copyrighting, and they offered me the same kind of a job I already had, which was in research, but I was working in research at Grant, and one of our customers was the Mars candy company, and we would have to go out on the street and have blind wrapped candy bars, and look at the person we were gonna go up to and try to decide what income bracket they were, and what age they were, and then we'd go up and say, "Would you please taste these two candy bars and tell me which one you like better and why?" and I hated doing it. I just hated it. But, however, when I got over to Leo Burnett, I had to do the same thing, except one time, the very first time I had to go out, was for the tea institute, and those were what they call in-depth interviews where you were supposed to go talk to them for about half an hour, and I came in in the morning, and all of a sudden I'm supposed to go out, and it was zero temperature, and I did have a fur coat. But I didn't have slacks or anything like that, and so I was given a territory, I was supposed to go up to the northwest edge of Chicago, right near Park Ridge, and I'd have to go to these houses, they had about 20 steps to go up to their front porch, and then when I'd get up there, and I'd ring the bell and I'd see somebody hiding behind the curtain, they wouldn't answer the door, and I was very upset. So finally, I was so cold, and I went to, I knew a restaurant that was quite near there in Park Ridge, so I went to this restaurant, you know I go in with my nose all red, bundled up with my, I had a huge stole that I wore, that was around my head, and went in and asked for a table for one. They said it'll be just a little while, so then I went into the ladies' room and I took off the stole, and I took off the, I guess I hung up my fur coat, and I took off my glasses, and then when I went back up to the hostess and asked again, she said, "Oh there was another young lady here just a few minutes ago," and she was talking about myself. Anyhow, that was my early experiences at Leo Burnett, and then I did finally get an opportunity to work in copyrighting, and I was working on the Pillsbury account, and I ... yeah they did, the second Pillsbury bakeoff was that first year. I worked on that book, and I got to, for instance, name some of the desserts, and they sent me with the account executive on a train up to Minneapolis, where the test kitchens were, they had all these recipes they were trying out, and I got to try those out, and actually the account executive, incidentally, was Mary Cary's grandfather in-law, in other words, Greg Cary's grandfather. Anyhow, I thought everything was really great. I really loved my job, and then I met dad. (Laugh) And I met dad actually, in the Casbah, which was in an old mansion that a bunch of young men just out of

college had rented, and they had a couple that was taking care of them, and they would have parties, and I was dating a boy that was in that house, not seriously at all, and Granny had always said well, you know, you don't have to fall in love with him just to go out with him. Well, she said I might meet somebody, and I did. So anyhow ... that was January 27th, was the date I actually met him. In February, ... no 51, I'm a year behind. That was in 51. I started in 50 at Leo Burnett, but in 51 was when I met Dad, January '51. And then in February I was, I stayed over with a bunch of my friends over at Bev\_\_\_\_'s house, she was one of my bridesmaids, and it was a beautiful snowy day. It was, I believe, Washington's birthday. Might have been Lincoln's birthday, but I think it was Washington's birthday. Anyhow, when I got home I found out that Dad had called, and so that was, he was calling for our first date, and ... oh we did, in between there, actually meeting him, I had a date with this other guy, and I went to the house for dinner, which I always enjoyed because I was the only girl there, and there were about 10 guys, and (laugh) but dad had, one of the guys in the house was a good friend of dad's, Chick Anderson, and so he came over, they both came over, dad came over after dinner and he and Chick were going to do something after dinner, but they hadn't made any plans, and we hadn't made any plans, so we ended up playing hearts together. And we've played hearts together ever since.

Q: January 27, 1951, I thought that ...

Mom: No, that was a big party yeah, and we just spoke to each other a little, that was all.

Q: I remember Grandma telling me a story about how dad came home one night and said to her, "I met a really nice girl tonight." Now dad, was that after the party or was that after the game of hearts?

Dad: (laugh)

Mom: I never could figure it out myself, which one it was.

Q: Well what did you think then? You met mom at this party, where she had a date with this guy, then a week or so later ... OK, but then you show up and you're playing hearts, and she's with this same fellow, like were you a little bit, like thinking to yourself, maybe she's serious with him and maybe I should back off? Or did you think, tough beans,

Mom: ...

Dad: She gave me a come-on

Q: She did? What was it? I wanna know what a come-on was in the 1950s (laugh).

Mom: I think, the only thing was, I was really getting annoyed with my date because he was talking about, he was feeling sorry for himself because he had such a small salary. He was a trainee in a big company where when he got through with the training, he was gonna have a big salary.

Dad: ...

Q: He was a complainer.

Dad: ...

Mom: So I just yelled at him, not yelled at him, but I complained to him a little bit, and I guess Dad liked that (laugh) because I didn't think he should get everything handed to him on a silver platter.

Q: He had to earn it, huh?

Mom: Right.

Q: So now when you met Mom, Dad, there on January 27th, 1951, what were you doing at the time? Mom was working for Leo Burnett, and you were working where?

Dad: ... Beth asked the question of what I was doing at the time when I met Mother in January 1951. At that time I had been working for the Burroughs corporation since 1948, and I was a salesman in the downtown area of Chicago at the time, and I was, as I recall, I was going to law school several nights a week, and I met Mother and that was in January, and then we were married the following June. So it was only a short period of time that we went together before we decided to get married. Now she's gonna pick up the story from there.

Mom: Actually I'll go back a little bit, because we, Granny and Granddad went on a vacation somewhere, right at the time when Dad and I first started dating, and things got serious, and Dad proposed the night before they got home, and I always figured it was really lucky because I had a tendency to, Granny would kind of push people, and say how great they were, ... that would turn me off, so I always figured I was lucky that they weren't there to give their opinions, even though it turned out later on that Granddad had told Granny, "Now that's the kind of young man I'd like to see Bobby\_\_\_marry." So anyhow, that was in April, we became engaged in April-

Q: ...

Mom: Two months. February to March to April.

Q: How do you throw a wedding together in two months?

Mom: Granny was very organized.

Q: Granny really wanted ...

Mom: (laugh) Granny had, actually, in 1950, I should go back, in 1950 Granny and Granddad took me and Aunt Carol and Aunt Richie on a trip to Europe, and it was one of these, you know, this is Tuesday it must be Madrid or something, and a whirlwind trip, but we did go to Belgium, and Granny bought a wedding veil. And I said, "Mother," you know, "what are you getting a wedding veil for? There's not even anybody I'm even interested in right now." And she said, "Well, it doesn't have to be for you." However, that was my wedding veil, and several of our daughters' wedding veils. So, but anyhow, that was in 1950. Going back to 1951. So we had, we got engaged in April, and we had a big engagement party, and we worked like crazy, and of course in those days, there were a lot of showers, but you didn't have to, at least in my group of people, we had a 2 dollar limit on shower gifts. So even though you might be invited to 4 or 5 showers, you didn't get broke, and of course, on the other hand, Granny's friends were a little bit more lavish, but they didn't have to go to as many showers either. So, then we, like, one of Granny's friends, two of them had a luncheon for us, I can't remember was the luncheon a girls luncheon or was it a couples luncheon.

Dad: ... girls...

Mom: And then of course on our wedding day, Aunt Ellie and Uncle Beefy ... had a brunch for us, and I can remember going out in the, it was raining in the morning, and I was really a little concerned about that, and then the sun came out and I quick ran outside in my bare feet because, happy the bride, the sunshine's on, (laugh)

Q: ...

Mom: Right, right.

Q: What about, you weren't supposed to see your bride on your wedding day ....

Mom: Well, I think not to see them in the wedding gown. So anyhow,.....our honeymoon



Q: ...

Mom: Well, we had a bridal dinner at Skokie County Club, and that was very nice-

Q: ... name all your bridesmaids ...

Mom: (laughing) I hope I can do that. Aunt Patsy was a bridesmaid, Aunt Carol was my maid of honor, Aunt Richie was a junior bridesmaid, and Laura Lynch was a flower girl, um, Bev Ladd was a bridesmaid, Barbara Berk was a bridesmaid, Emily Cleary was a bridesmaid. Did I cover everybody? I think there were like 6 bridesmaids plus maid of honor, I think. So anyhow,

Q: ...

Mom: The groomsmen, now, Uncle Walt, Chick Anderson, ... Waller, and who was the fourth one?

Dad: ...

Mom: No, because we, the wedding was in the garden at Granny and Granddad's house, and there was an altar made up right in front of the wildflower garden, which is where the beehive was, but however they had had a beekeeper come and take the bees away, and so there was an arbor there with flowers all over it, and also underneath it, and Father Donald Sappel was the priest, and we had, there was a young man that sang, I think it was somebody that Aunt Carol knew, sang the Ave Maria before the wedding, in other words, before it started. At that time, the Ave Maria was considered verboten (?) Because it was originally written for a theatrical performance, so it wasn't considered a religious song. So anyhow, and the other one he sang before the wedding was the Lord's Prayer, and then we had, it would be hard for me to say if it was a standard garden wedding or not, but anyhow it was lovely, and then afterwards-

Q: How many guests did you have?

Mom: About 250 or something like that. Somewhere, I showed Dad this the other day, I had the bill from ... and I tell you he was a lot cheaper then than they are now. Gapers was the caterer in the Chicago area at that time.

Q: ...

Mom: I went to, god I had forgotten the name of the dress shop, it was in no man's land, and the woman that owned it, Inay Hanna, Mrs. Hanna, also would go to the wedding and get everybody started down right, we started from the eating porch, came down about 3 little steps from the eating porch and walked back to the altar there at the back of the garden, and, but she got everything sort of organized and the wedding, the pictures, the bridal pictures, were taken a few days before the wedding, but they were only of me. They weren't of me and Dad. I was always sorry afterwards we didn't have couple pictures. But that was not done as often then. It was more, they would have the picture of the bride, and then the picture would be in the paper and all that. But anyhow, the wedding reception was in the garden, and it was really nice, and we have lots of nice pictures from it, and then we went to the Edgewater Beach Hotel for our wedding night-

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah, yeah. It no longer exists. But, they tore it down, but it was a wonderful place to go, and then the next day we drove up to Dairyman's. And in those days, Granddad would remember, and it was something, I can't even remember, something really cheap like \$26 a week or something like that. But you know, you had all your food, and we had our nice little cabin, and we pushed the twin beds together (laugh)

Q: ...

Mom: Right. So anyhow, we went out on the lake. We were out fishing, right? When the storm came up?

Dad: We thought we were in the wilds.

Mom: We thought we had to go into shore, because we couldn't manage the boat. And we thought we were in the wilds, because nothing but woods right there. But then as we walked along the shore we heard voices and we looked up and there we were right next to the golf course (laugh).

Dad: ... third hole.

Mom: Right. Another time we were fishing, we were sitting, you know, I didn't know where the sand bar was, where they caught the walleye, and but however, you still have to catch exactly the right spot. And Dad and I were sitting there over that sand bar pulling in fish after fish after fish, and there were a lot of boats out near us, not real near us, but they saw what was happening and they kept coming closer and closer and closer, but they never got the fish. In other words, you had to

be exactly in the right spot. Anyhow, so then on the honeymoon I became pregnant.

Q: ...

Mom: Well, I know that I went to the doctor when I was theoretically 6 weeks pregnant, and then right after that I started having some problems, and I ended up having to leave my job and not only stay home, but I had to stay in bed for one week out of every four weeks for the first four months.

Q: That is such an odd practice ...

Mom: No, I know they don't do those things now, but at that time, why of course this was even, for that time, this was considered a very conservative doctor.

Q: ...

Mom: I wasn't too crazy about Dr. Blackwell ... and then when I, see with Robbie he had me on a diet of 390 calories a day, only for a week, but even so, I mean, nobody would do that now, you know, and ... she, because I put on weight fast, but when, I didn't have that problem with John or Cathy, and actually with Robbie I ended up only gaining 13 and a half pounds, and had to eat a lot to gain some weight afterwards. And with John I only gained 18 and a half pounds-

Dad: ...

Mom: That's all right, she said to go ahead. And so then, but when I was expecting Beth, I put on a lot of weight in the beginning again. He was all set to put me on that same stupid diet, and I sort of complained about it, it really annoyed him, that was when I realized I really didn't like him. And but then after she was born, well after John was born I had had a breast abscess but after Beth was born I had one, and I called up the doctor and see, the pediatrician was out of town, and he was the one that got me through the first time, and so I called up the pediatrician, he was out of town, I called up my OB, and he said, "Well, better stop nursing," and you know, well, like, take a couple of aspirin. And I said well couldn't I take an antibiotic like I did last time? And he said well, all right, and he gave me a prescription, and the abscess disappeared but then immediately one came up on the other side, and so I went through the same routine again and he said, "Better stop nursing," and I said well can I take an antibiotic again? And he said well, all right, so I did, but it didn't work. So then it started getting really bad, and I started running a fever, had a red streak, and all those horrible things, and Dad called up the doctor and the doctor said, "Well, if she had done what I told her to in the first place," and Dad was really mad. And we ended up, so he

thought, "We're not gonna go to him." He said well I could come in the next day, you know, and we wouldn't go to him, so we called up a friend, the Franzes, who had just had a new baby, and she was a nurse, to ask her who her doctor was, and her doctor was Dr. McMahon. So we called Dr. McMahon, and he said we could come on over. He was right in Des Plaines. And, which is where we were living from the time, well, no we weren't in Des Plaines yet. Yes we were. We moved to Des Plaines when I was expecting John. So anyhow, that was the end of Dr. Blackwell and the beginning backwards, so 1952, March of 1952 Robbie was born. July of 1953, John was born. The summer of 1954 Cathy was born. Then we had a little gap, and in July of 1957 Beth was born. And October of 1958 Casey was born. April of 1960 Meg was born. And April of 1961 Emily was born. Emily was supposed to be an Irish twin, but she was a little late, so. Basically in the 50s, that was children time. And I scarcely remember anything about the 50s other than the fact that we were very bound up with the family, and if we had any social life, it was with our brothers and sisters and parents, so, I think I'll let Dad talk for a while.

Dad: Well when the 50s started, I was working for Burroughs Corporation as a salesman in the downtown area. In 1950, Burroughs was on the 6th floor at 308 West Washington, and I believe we moved over to 324 South Michigan about that time in 1950. And as Mother said, we met in the early part of 51, while I was working as a salesman in the downtown area, and I was going to law school at night time, because several of the people that were working for Burroughs were aspiring and they had gone to law school, and we had at least a couple of fellows who had graduated from law school, got their legal degrees, unfortunately for those of us who were going to law school at that time, the management, having lost one or two promising employees who had finished law school and left Burroughs, the management at Burroughs kind of put the cold water on going to law school at night time by insisting on various sales programs, and sales training programs at night time, which made it difficult to go to law school, so that I went for about two years, but I didn't complete the legal course, but the law ... was very beneficial to me, you know, in my work, especially after I went into business myself. But I worked for Burroughs all during the 50s, and I was promoted to Manager of the downtown area, sales manager of the downtown area, I believe in around 1955. But my, the people were Chick Anderson, and Wayne Waller were two of them, and I think we had about 8 men working at that time, but that was in the early part of the 50s, say in 1950 itself, I used to play golf quite frequently.

Chick Anderson and I would go out, at least a couple nights a week, out to Glenview Naval Air Station, where we both could gain admittance, because he was a former naval officer, and I was a former marine officer, and we could get on a golf course out there quite easily. We would play, as I say, a couple nights a week, and then on Saturday or Sunday we'd play 36 holes on Saturday and 36 holes on Sunday. So we were pretty avid golfers, but neither of us were par golfers

by any means, so that kind of paired down after I met my future wife, and then of course, as time went on, we began having, got married and started having children and so forth, and that golf activity became less frequent.

Mom: (laughing) you might say that.

Dad: Other activities became more important (laughing), so we began with, after we were married, my father-in-law was able to get us a place to live at 1245 West Chase, which is just east of Sheridan Road in Chicago, where we lived for a couple years, and then as we started to have children, Robbie was born there I believe, and as we started to have children we decided that we were going to need more space, and we started looking around, and at that time there weren't all that many, you know, developments that we felt were available, but we became interested, I don't remember exactly why we became interested in this Hoffman Estates, which was, that's it Des Plaines Villas, in Des Plaines, and this was a subdivision that had been promoted in the 20s and all the streets were put in, and the curbs and the sewers and the street lights and so forth, and the trees, and apparently that was done, but then the Depression came, and nothing further was done in the way of improvements, and so there was a firm by the name of Manilow construction, who operated quite widely in the metropolitan area and were very successful and very fine builders. They started to develop this subdivision, and we bought a house at 633 Hoffman Parkway, which was on the corner of Hoffman Parkway and West Grant Drive, and there of course, we had many friends, including the Wexlers and the Mokes, and ... Shaffers were our next door neighbor and he became our insurance agent. He worked for State Farm Mutual, and then the people who lived down the street from us, Gwen and Jack Dickinson and so forth. So we had as Mother said before, we had a lot of our social life within our own family. We used to go out to Park Forest quite frequently because my sister and brother were living out there at the time, and we'd go to Glencoe and up on the North Shore, because Bobby Gay's sisters and brothers were living up there at that time. So however, we liked the neighbors very much, and Bobby Gay, you know, socialized with the women quite a bit during the daytime, because they had small children as we did, and so it was a very nice time that we had. In 1952 my father-in-law, Austin L. Wyman ran for the Republican nomination to the United States Senate, and he ran against a fellow by the name of, Joe Meek, who was the president of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, and had the backing of the Chicago Tribune. My father-in-law had the backing of all the other papers, including at that time I think the Chicago American and the Herald Examiner and the Daily News, that was before the Sun Times actually began I believe, well no, the Sun Times as well.

Mom: The Sun Times, the Daily News, and the Herald Examiner.

Dad: The Herald Examiner, yeah. So he had the backing of those three, and the tacit backing of General Eisenhower, who was president at the time, but that wasn't enough to defeat Meek, because in the primary, the Chicago Tribune is pre-eminent in Illinois, and because they were backing Joe Meek, he won the primary, although we tried hard, you know, our personal efforts, to help my father-in-law by, we traveled all over the state, along with other family members and held rallies and such as that, to try to create as much news as we possibly could. Nonetheless he did lose, and Joe Meek then, in the general election, lost to Paul Douglas by 250,000 votes, but Paul Douglas, of course, was very popular, as was Adlai Stevenson, who had run against Eisenhower for the presidency but had been defeated.

Q: ...

Dad: Oh yes, mother and Beth just corrected me. The campaign for, that my father-in-law was involved in was in 1954, because Eisenhower had defeated Stevenson in 52, and I was very disappointed at that, although I thought that Eisenhower was a very fine man, and is certainly a great man in history, having led the expeditionary force that defeated the Nazis. Nonetheless, I was for Stevenson, as were other members of my immediate family, and I was quite disappointed when Stevenson lost, but it was almost a foregone conclusion that Eisenhower was gonna become president. In any event, 2 years later was when my father-in-law ran for the Senate, and as I say, even if he had beaten Meek, he would have been up against a formidable opponent, because Paul Douglas was very highly thought of, not only in Illinois, but all over the country. He had been a former college professor at the University of Chicago, and as I say, was quite a popular fellow. In any event, we moved, we were living out in Des Plaines at that time, and it had always been our hope that we would, you know, have a good size family, and that we did, and the children were born, as Bobby Gay has suggested here, and they all were born in Des Plaines, except for Emily, well Robbie was born in Chicago, when we were at 1245 West Chase, so we worked, you know we worked at various things around the house. We put in a brick patio, and we did other things to try to make the premises as livable as possible. We had a marvelous woman who helped us during that time, Elizabeth Reed, who would give my wife immediate relief. When she would arrive, my wife walked out the door, and she got some time to herself, maybe once every 2 weeks when Elizabeth Reed came to help us with the housework, and also take care of the children. She was just marvelous. And she continued with us for I don't know how many years, maybe as many as 20 years working, you know, part time for us in Des Plaines, and then when we moved to Cary, she came out to Cary as well, and she worked in Cary. She worked both at the business as well as in our home. So in any event, those are the important things that happened in those years, and then toward the end of, well I think it was in 58-

Mom: 56.

Dad: Yeah, 56 we went out to Cary, because, just to look around, because we had friends who had gone out there and had purchased a lot, and they thought, you know, it was really great and so just because we were kind of rubbernecking we went out there ourselves. And of course the first time we went through we just couldn't believe the terrain and the beauty of this place in Cary, in Trout Valley, and it wasn't more than probably a month or so, but we bought a lot out there. And that was in 56, wasn't it? And then we negotiated with the developer, Maxen, Maxen Brothers, to put up a shoals home, but we weren't satisfied either with the design or the price that they wanted, and they were kind of arbitrary people, and we had been given a deal where we could save I think a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars if we signed a contract to build within a certain period of time, 6 months after we bought the lot, or I guess it was a year. But this was really a come on, and of course, that was obviously, they're attaching that to get us in a corner where they could charge maybe a little bit more for the house that they were going to build for us, so as it turned out, we just decided that we weren't going to do anything, and we waited and waited and waited, and the activity in Trout Valley seemed to slow down, because I think that they were kind of arbitrary with other potential people who wanted to build, and so, as it finally turned out, they agreed to let us use another builder, and so we had Roy Colby and ... Roy Colby was the contractor, and they were dealers in modular homes. A modular home was a pre-manufactured, or partially pre-manufactured home, home builder. That assembled them down near St. Louis, and they had a plan that we felt was ideally suited for our family and the lot, and we went ahead then in 1960 and signed a contract and began to build the house, which we moved into in January 1961. Is that right? But -

Q: ...

Mom: That's right (laugh)

Dad: But that gets into the next decade, and I think these are the, what we've said so far are the important things that happened to us as a family in the 1950s. Now I still was working for Burroughs at that time, and I continued to work for Burroughs until the end of 1961, but that goes into the next ten years, and we have told that story, I think, when we talked to Cathy.

Q: Those were some of your basic things, but I think we'd like a little color in terms of some of the family life, back in the 1950s. We wanna know what was going on in that house on Chase Road and then Hoffman Parkway. We wanna know some of the fun little stories about our childhood that happened. For

example, like that story about Mom, one of my favorite stories is when you were across the street having a cup of coffee with your friend, and you came back, tell the story about Robbie, the one who claims he never gave you a moment's worry. However, talk about the time she almost burned the house down.

Mom: (laughing) That's right, I forgot. I think I already told this in, I think I already told the story about Robbie, how I was across the street at Cynthia Wexler's having a cup of coffee in the afternoon. Those were the days when I drank coffee, and Robbie and John were taking a nap, and the windows were open, and I could hear everything fine, I thought, so I enjoyed my coffee, and I went back, and there was Robbie standing on a little stool in front of the stove. She had a pan on the stove, that had her, I forget what the brand was, Playschool blocks, that were, they were shaped like oblongs, and she said, "Look Mommy, I'm cooking hot dogs," and she had the stove on too. That was one of the slightly difficult times.

Q: ... about John.

Mom: And then there's the story about John. John was a very lovey dovey child, and so one night we had some neighbors across the street, I forget, they were an older couple, and they came over to ask Dad's advice ... what it was, and right at that time was when the children were going to sleep, and Johnny came along in his little PJs and gave us a kiss, each of us, and then he went around and he kissed everybody, including this other couple, and he had very juicy kisses (laugh), but they had, he did slobber, and they did have look of, ... could wipe it off, not knowing what to do (laugh)-

Dad: They had a look of apprehension ...

Q: Let's dwell on John for a minute ... (laugh) what about the story when you were in ...

Mom: Oh that was in ... Valley.

Q: ...

Mom: When we brought Cathy home from the hospital, John would not speak to me, for I forget how many days it was. He was just furious at me for having left him, so finally, finally I sang, I think it was "put your arms around me honey, hold me tight," and he finally smiled, and then he broke down, and then it was alright, but he really, really was annoyed with me, and of course then later, when Beth was born, why she was born, of course-



Q: Happiest day of your life?

Mom: (laughing) that's what Beth says. July 14th. She was born the day before Johnny's fourth birthday, and this spoiled the birthday party he was going to have.

Dad: ...

Mom: Yeah, cause I wasn't there to have the birthday party. However, we had a very kind neighbor who put on a party for him, of some sort, Mary, I can't remember her name, they lived over in the corner, begins with an F

Dad: Falsnielli

Mom: Falsinelli, that's right. Mary Falsinelli. She was really nice. She wasn't a close friend but she did some very very kind things. So anyhow, she had the party, but John was annoyed about that one too.

Dad: Tell about how ... Cathy when we brought her home.

Mom: Oh yeah, when Cathy came home, she was coughing all the time, and we were so worried about her. We'd listen to her cough at night, and I'd call the doctor the next day, and I'd tell him, and he'd say, "Would you like me to come out and take a look at her?" And I'd say, "Well do you think it's just a cold?" and he'd say, "Well yes I think so, but I'd be happy to come out and take a look at her." And I'd say, "Well why don't we wait and see how she does." And the same thing would happen the next day. And she finally got through. We used a vaporizer, remember I had the, the walls were streaming from the vaporizer, but we finally decided from we had heard later on, that she probably had pneumonia (end of SIDE A)

Q: OK, where were we?

Dad: Talking about Cathy.

Mom: Cathy was sick, right. She was just such a little thing, and we really, really were worried about her, but at that stage, you act really stupidly, and you act like you can't bother the doctor, and of course, that's what he's there for (laugh) but we were not wise enough to really know what to do. Anyhow, let's see, anything else about John, she said. Well of course John, well all the kids you know, would like race around the circle around the so-called all purpose room that we used for a dining room was off to the right, and then to the right of that was the hallway with half bath on the left hand side of it, and then if you went around the corner, why you were back to the living room, and then the hallway went down to the three

bedrooms. We had our bedroom, and then the larger of the other two bedrooms had the 3 girls in it, and I'm sure I told this before, and the smaller one had the two boys, and then when Meg was born, maybe that's why, maybe I told that in the 60s, I think we already told that, Meg slept in our room in the daytime, and the hallway at nighttime, you know she had a six month size crib until she was 10 months old. Anyhow, let's see, so Johnny was of course the most mischievous one of everybody, and he was also funny, so he would do something that would make me mad, I finally, I had a jai alai paddle, well maybe that was when we were in Cary, the jai alai paddle that had his name on it, and I'd chase him around the house with it, and he'd always go running right in front of me so I couldn't quite reach him and get me laughing, and then I couldn't give him a slap. But anyhow, let's see, I can't think what else, what else he, oh I know, well one of the things we did, we had to utilize child labor, and the kids were the ones who had to fold the diapers, and this particular day I'm thinking of, probably happened more than once, Johnny was the one that was folding the diapers, and

Q: ...

Mom: Six. And the neighborhood boys who were a little bit older came around and they were desperate for somebody to play ball with, and so they wanted Johnny to come out and play and I said well he couldn't go until he finished the diapers, so they came in and helped fold the diapers.

Q: ...

Mom: Yeah.

Q: ...

Mom: Oh yeah, when Cathy was born she was stubborn. Very stubborn, and I thought, I'm never going to be able to get along with her, and yet the next year, we moved out to Cary, no, she was 5, her kindergarten teacher thought she was the most angelic child in the world, and she was at home too, I mean, she was just great, but when she was 7, when she hung on me so closely that you know, if I would turn around I would step on her, and she said, "I wish you were a kangaroo so I could jump in your pocket."

Dad: She was born ...

Mom: She was born in 54, December 54. OK, let's see, what else. And of course, Cathy was the one that Grandpa used to tell the story about, you know we ... the kids to the city swimming pool, and we were there for something one time, maybe it was like a, not a swimming meet, but where they showed off the children's skills

or something, and Cathy was running around, and the life guard said to her, "Sit down, peanut," and Dad always really liked that.

Dad: That was a park district ...

Mom: Oh yeah, it was a park district, it wasn't the city, it was the park district. Anyhow, so, and that was when Robbie learned to swim, was in the park district program.

Dad: ... that park district .. on ... road ... I remember that distinctly.

Mom: Well, but that wasn't where the swimming was.

Dad: No, but I remember that's where the expression, where the counselor ...

Mom: Oh, that could be. I thought it was at the pool. In any case, and she had, Cathy had curly hair, but not a lot of it, and when she was about three, she barely had, she just had this one little curl at the back of her head, and Dad used to call her Curly, and she'd say, "I'm not Curly, I'm Cathy." But anyhow, we went to church and Sunday school one day, and I don't know who was with Cathy, but Ginny Dickinson had come along and had cut Cathy's curl off, and I was really upset.

Q: ... and she never got another curl again, as long as she lived.

Mom: That's probably true.

Q: She has straight hair ...

Mom: But however she has nice thick hair. So anyhow, let's see. And of course ...

Dad: ... about it ...

Mom: Let's see, we've got three years of Beth if-

Q: Really, Dad, we haven't even gotten to ... yet ...

Mom: She was, Beth was such a cheerful child. You know, you'd wake her up, not wake her up, but she'd be awake in the morning, standing up in her crib and smiling, and

Q: ...

Mom: (laugh) So anyhow, that's-

Q: What about when Granny and Granddad took everybody ...

Mom: Oh, I already told that story, that was in 1960. I told that.

Q: ...

Mom: Right. Um, let's see.

Q: ... what about ...

Mom: I didn't think it was unusually large.

Q: ...

Mom: I don't know, I remember Grandma saying that John a big head, and I was sort of insulted.

Q: ...

Mom: Well he wasn't a particularly big baby, I think he was 8, 6 I believe, at first, but he was chunky. And he was also, I remember, he was such a cute little boy, we've got pictures where he was, no, well anyhow, I can remember one time, when the kids went down the street, taking Casey along with them, and he was only 2 years old at the time, and you know, I wasn't worrying about them, they were all together and all that. A little while later they were all at home, and I said, "Where's Casey?" Nobody knew. And I got absolutely frantic, because Casey did walk around the block with his two little buddies often, so I thought, well maybe he had taken off by himself, and I knew that he didn't walk in the street, but I was afraid somebody had kidnapped him because he was so cute. In fact, I stopped a police car going by and asked, and said the reason I was worried was because he was so darling (laugh). I was afraid that that would be really an attraction to a kidnapper. But anyhow, finally, we finally found him, he was still down at the same house where all the other kids had been playing, and he had just stayed down there.

Q: ....

Mom: Yeah. And another time he wandered off when we were at the shopping center at Meadowdale, and, still, I'm still talking about 2 year old stage. Two to three at the most. Meadowdale was the only place to go. Yeah, I mean, where you gonna go shopping?

Q: ...

Mom: No, no, there wasn't. So anyhow, he did wander off once in a while. But the time at the mall, I got really nervous because he was in the store with me, and all of a sudden he wasn't there. That was in the fabric store. I went, I started searching on the sidewalk, and started running down the sidewalk, and all of a sudden I see a policeman coming along with Casey, holding his hand.

I think I've said enough. I'm really losing my voice.

Q: ...

Mom: They just knew they weren't allowed to. If somebody went in the street, that was the one time that I would give them a swat. Cause I thought it was, they were in danger. But it was like, this is what you said, you can't go in the street, they didn't go in the street. Now however, when we got out to Cary, at that time, the older kids were old enough to get in the street, and then it was harder with the younger ones, to keep them out.

Q: ...

Mom: You held them in your arms.

Q: ...

Mom: Oh well, they did have, like a, sort of like a booster seat, we had a couple of booster seats in the back seat, and you know, there was no law about having to have special restraints for the children.

Q: ..

Mom: Well that was when you were a little older. That was when you used to play the dating game (laugh). That was on our trip out west, I think. Can I hang up now?

Q: Well at this point, I guess, Mom and Dad would like to take a rest, and stop talking. I mean if they have any other exciting things to say about the 1950s, that thrilling time, and booming time in America, and in their family life, they'll come back to it. Bye.

Mom: OK, we forgot something in the 50s. We forgot our trips up north to Granny and Granddad's cabin, and the first year we went up, was when Robbie was a baby, and at that time, they had no indoor plumbing. They had the bathroom in

there, but they didn't have any running water in there, so we used to have to wash the diapers by hand, and we'd have to, for instance, bring a bucket of water up from the lake and put it in the back of the toilet in order to flush the toilet in order to clean the diapers off, and then the next year we came up when Johnny was a baby, and Grandma and Grandpa came up with us, thank goodness, but it was a ... period, and Johnny was the wettest baby that ever existed, and you know he'd have these wet, wet clothes, little nightgowns and things, hanging primitive up there, but things, you know, got improved gradually, and they built a little house in the back that had a, it was a guest cabin combined with a laundry, so it made things a little easier to handle when you had a lot of dirty clothes. And we'd go up there every year, and we'd drive up and go fishing, and it was a very nice place to vacation. It finally got to the point though, that we wanted to do something else other than that, but in the 50s, that was really our vacation spot.

Q: ...

Mom: Oh yes, because the kids could use the rowboat, and it made them feel really grown up.

Q: ...

Mom: Well I don't think you went all the way around it. You rode in front of the cabin, basically.

Q: ...

Mom: I can remember one time when Robbie was a baby in the playpen, and we had the playpen out on their little terrace-like porch, and I went outside and there curled up right next to her was this huge king snake. King snakes look like rattlesnakes. They're not dangerous like rattlesnakes, but they're scary, and that was, she wasn't scared. She was in the playpen. She was fine. There was another time we saw a king snake up there, and that was when one time when we had gone fishing over at the, on the river, and it was like, you had to go through this old logging camp, and there was a railroad track, that was no longer used, but it ran through the property and went right out to the edge of a cliff that overlooked the river. Beautiful view. And we thought we'd walk out there to take a look at the view, and right out there sunning himself at the end of the railroad track was another huge king snake, so there weren't too many king snakes up there.

Dad: ...

Mom: Oh yeah, well that was what I said. I was so glad when Casey was a baby and Grandma and Grandpa were up there. But we also went up another time, when

Grandma and Grandpa, and it was about the same era, cause Casey was just a baby, and I went up on the train with Robbie. Casey wasn't a baby, John was baby. I went up on the train with Robbie because I was expecting Cathy, and the doctor didn't think I should drive that far, and Grandma and Grandpa and Dad went up with Johnny and Sarah Lynch, who was Robbie's age. She was a two year old. What we were doing, bringing another two year-old, I can't remember, but it worked out fine.

Q: ...

Mom: Right. We had lots of hands, right. So. We've got pictures of us all completely bundled up.

(Pause in tape)

Mom: One thing I have to go back to, when I was talking about Casey walking around the block. I'm getting my children mixed up. Johnny was the one that used to walk around the block when he was two. And David Wexler and Paul Nelson were both two, and the three of these little boys would walk around the block, without going into the street, and Johnny was wearing his Nancy didey-pants, that were like a plastic diaper cover, that you folded the diaper into, and the diaper would fall out all the time, so Johnny went up, they all went up to the front door and rang the door bell, and when the lady of the house came, Johnny did all the talking, cause he was the only one who could talk, but sometimes he'd wander around into the back yard and lose his diaper, and then I would have to wandering all over the neighborhood looking for Johnny's diaper (laugh). They were just wet.

Q: ...

Mom: I think I would remember (laugh). OK, that's enough now.

## **The 1960's As Told to Cathy**

(We taped Mom first and then discovered that she couldn't be heard well enough on the tape, so we had to re-do it.)

Mom: OK, I'll start with 1960 again... Meggie was born in 1960, and right before she was due, Granny and Granddad took everybody that was able to go to Wymas, Mexico. So Robbie, John and Cathy went with them, and the rest of the aunts and uncles and all, and Dad and Beth and Casey and I stayed home. And I thought I'd give Beth a big treat, and take her to the circus, so I took..we went down to Grandma and Grandpa Lynch's and had lunch, and then...I left Casey to take a nap while I took Beth to the circus. And we got outside the door right there, and Beth turned to me and said "Aren't we ever going to see Casey again, either?" Which practically broke my heart!

And then, let's see, after Meggie was born, like two weeks later, why Cathy - no, not Cathy - Robbie and John got the measles. So everybody had to go get gammoglobulin shots, including little tiny Meggie. And... Dad had already had the measles, and I hadn't been I'd been exposed to them MANY times... and unfortunately, I got the measles, when Meg was about 5 weeks old, I believe. So, I was sick as a dog, I had a fever of 105... It's nothing to joke about for an adult to have measles... but anyhow, I got through it. But, all these things - somebody came up, maybe Aunt Carol, I can't remember... somebody came out to help me or take care of me, or take care of the baby, or something while I was so sick, but I don't remember who was there...it could have been Grandma Lynch, right.

But anyhow, then Emily was born in 1960, a year and 10 days later, no '61. She was a big baby! 9 lbs and 8 ozs.

Cathy: Don't you remember that she never smiled, though?

Mom: That's true, when she was a baby, a small baby, she always looked very serious. I mean, she didn't have an unpleasant disposition or anything like that, she just didn't smile... until she was about 8 months old, and all the sudden, she just livened up, and she became a real smiler! I always figured maybe it had something to do with the fact that - you know - Meg was still a baby herself, and maybe Emily wasn't getting as much attention as a newborn needs, that's all. Fortunately, she came through it very well! So anyhow, she and Meg were just like twins, as far as the way they behaved. They played together, and they were always together. I've got pictures of them up in Bethie's tree fort, that Dad had made for Bethie, and Meg and Emily would be sitting up there, those little girls, having a little picnic, while I was looking out the kitchen window at them.



In '67 - oh, Jamaica, that's right! We went to Jamaica. Granny and Granddad took everybody to Jamaica. That was in '62, no, '63, because Meg had her third birthday down there, and Emily had her second birthday the day after we got back. That was great, we had a hotel - what was the name of it? It had been the Marakeesh Beach Hotel, and then it was the Surf... Surf something Surf...anyhow... And then right after we were there, it became the Playboy Club! But when we were there, there were 29 of us, and we would... every day at lunch time, we'd go out and we'd buy some cheese and crackers and things like that, and we had lots of rum and bitter lemon for lunch! You know, it was like one giant party the whole time. And then at nighttime, why, we'd go out there on the terrace and eat our dinner, and then they had dancing, and they had a band, and there was nobody there but us! And so the children would be dancing with us, and it was really LOADS of fun! And then - what's that? Oh, poor Cathy - no, it was fireants! Cathy sat apparently on a fireant hill, and she had these HUGE blisters on her behind... She couldn't sit down at all! But, anyhow, but then, at the end of the time we were there, why, people started coming, other people started coming, and then, apparently somebody... either somebody started to complain, or it was the management themselves, but they didn't want the children out there on the dance floor anymore. Which we were very offended by!

What's that? Oh, they DID learn how to swim... you know, they had a family class. And "Uncle Artie" was the one that was giving the lessons. But he wanted to give private lessons, and so he decided he'd show us how great he was, by taking Meg and Emily, these little babies practically! And he'd have them jump off the side of the pool, and they'd go all the way down to the bottom, and then they'd come back up, and their eyes would be rolling in the back of their heads, you know! And then they'd put out their arms immediately and go for more! They just loved it! But the result was, they were the only two that never minded having their hair washed when they were little... (giggles in the background)

And Emily - I mean here she was that summer, she was just two, and she would swim across the Trout Valley pool...her face in the water, and her hands would be behind her like little flippers, and she would kick, and take - on one breath she'd go the width of the pool! And the only problem was, in spite of the fact she could do that, she still wasn't really safe to go in the water, and she had no fear of the water, and at least one time she walked right over the edge... and I forget whether it was either Casey or John that pulled her out. But, it was .... she was fearless!

Now back to. ...Let's see, in '64 was when Beth started in Brownies. And, Robbie and Cathy were already in Girl Scouts, or had been in Brownies ...but, that was the first that I was able to do anything myself, because then I could take Meg and Emily along, they were old enough to take along to the Brownie meetings. And, I had 2 years as a Brownie leader, and I had 4 years as a Junior leader, and I had 8

years, I think it was, as an adult...you know, I was a board member of the Sybaquay Girl Scout Council... and then I was Vice President, and then I was Membership Development Chairman. So I had, either, I think it was 8 years, and I loved it! Because... you know, I didn't like camping! But I felt that the girls deserved camping, so we went camping every year. And, but I, I really enjoyed it... I started out doing it for the girls, and I ended up doing it for myself. And, I got a lot more.. a lot more self esteem I think, while I was doing that. And I got to the point where, for instance, I could get up and speak in front of the parents, which I started off, I was absolutely frantic, I'd have to get up and talk about what we were going to do to these other adults. I finally got beyond that one, where I could stand up and make myself foolish ANY place! (chuckles)

Then, let's see. Well that was the period when Dad started to ride, and I would go on the...the car line, I'd go in the car line and we'd follow the hunt, when the lady in the front of the car line knew where the hunt was going to go, you know, it was a drag hunt. And so they knew exactly where it was going to go, and you could go from one jump that was visible from the road to another jump. And..but sometimes we got lost. One time I followed somebody into their driveway, because I was following the wrong car!

But... then we had all these wonderful trips in the '60's. Besides Jamaica, we went to... Dad and Grandma and I went to England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, on what they called a "British Isles" trip. That was with the Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Industry. That was a trip... that the whole plane was full of people that were taking the tours, but they were all going different places, and this was our own private tour that we had. And, we had such a good time, so then three years later, we took all the kids as well as Grandma. To Ireland, and we had a three week trip to Ireland, which was really great. And, then, in... oh yeah, that was 1969.

And in 1967 we took a trip out west, to California. And in 1968, was that when we went to...? We went to New York, but we went to Boston, and ... (to Dad) Did we go to the Wyman House when you were there? Oh, and then you got on the train. Yeah. Because the meeting was in New York. So we went to Boston, and we went to the Wyman farmhouse, which is in Woburn, Massachusetts, which is the first time we were ever there...and it was built in... I think it was 1642, either that, or that was when they arrived...and then we put Dad on the train to New York for his meeting, while we went on up...we went to Salem, Massachusetts. We went to the House of Seven Gables, which was build just almost exactly the same time as the Wyman house, but it was a very elegant colonial house - or, pre-colonial house. And then we drove back to New York, and we stayed at the Waldorf Astoria, and we had a suite that had been previously - the people before us had been a welfare family. The city of New York had put them up there

because they had no place else to put them. And it was not in the best of shape, but it was still - you know - a pretty good deal... And it had a couple of bedrooms, and plenty of beds and baths and stuff. And that was - that was '68, and we already said '69. So that's about covered - that's what I was going to talk about, so I'll turn it over to Dad.

Oh, I just forgot one thing, I forgot about the girls' baseball. It started out actually, that the girls were playing baseball, and the baseball manager had a temper tantrum, and simply threw the bats and everything, and - left! (Cathy: *What??!!*) And, there was nobody to be the manager, so I took over. And that was how I started as a baseball manager. And we had loads of fun. I did it for several years, and Cathy was my manager. Coach - Cathy was the coach, and I was the manager. In other words, the coach is the one that has to DO everything. The manager is the one that has the title! But anyhow, we had a really good time, and usually.... Beth was kind of a... a butterfly out on the field...she didn't pay too much attention to the game. Meg and Emily were more interested. And of course Cathy had been - Robbie and Cathy both played early because John started the Girls' Baseball in Cary. They had three teams, and he had one of them, and there were two other guys. But he was the one who started it, because at that time, there was nothing for the girls! But anyhow, though, when I had the team was when Meg and Emily were playing. And it was a lot of fun, and we'd go from... (Cathy: The Versgrove girls, the Coffey girls..) Right! and the McGlickas, and the Schroeders... I mean, Jean Schroeder was on one of the teams - I don't know if she was on our team. But we had Patty McGlicka.. and oh, the Heidi girls! Do you remember the Heidi's? (Cathy: I remember the name...) Really large girls? (Cathy: Yeah? I remember the Versgrove twins were so good...) Oh yeah, the Versgrove girls. (Dad: Pat and Peg..) Yeah, Pat and Peg. But they weren't all on our team. But we did have some good - one year we had the best team of all. But then the next year they mixed everyone up, and they didn't give us all those stars! But anyhow, we all enjoyed the baseball, and we had - since the boys were playing baseball too, we frequently had games that were conflicting... or one following the other, or whatever... but... the sixties were VERY active, and we had a good time! And now it really is Dad's turn.

Dad: Well, I'll take up in the early sixties... This is a period I was working for Burrough's Corporation. I worked for them for thirteen years, and this period ended at the end of 1961. But during that period, we were living at 633 Hoffman Parkway in Des Plaines, and we had the... six children at that time. And at the end, we determined that we didn't have enough room, and that we would have to get some larger quarters. And we had become interested in this property out in Trout Valley in Cary, Illinois. And in the fall of 1960, when it was particularly beautiful out there, we had purchased this lot, and - well, I guess we actually had contracted to buy the lot in '67, no '57, but it was in the early sixties, I believe in

'60 or '61, when we signed a contract to have a house built on this property. And, while we were still living in Des Plaines, in 1960, in April of 1960, Meg was born, and we really didn't have enough room, or didn't have enough bedroom space, for all these people. And we had two boys in one bedroom, and three girls in another bedroom, and of course, our bedroom was the third. So, at nighttime, we'd keep Meg in her crib in the hallway! (chuckle) And then during the daytime we'd put her crib in our bedroom, where she would spend here time during the day. But during this time, the house was being constructed in Cary. And in January 1961, we moved into the house in Cary. And during that year, of course, we had a lot of work that had to be done on the interior and the exterior, and I was still working for Burroughs at that time, but they had talked about moving me to other responsibilities in other areas, and we had already made up our mind that we weren't going to leave the Chicago area, because we liked it, and our children were happy there, and our families were there, and we just were reluctant to move. So, in addition to that, with the number of children we had, and wanting to make certain that they had an opportunity for schooling, we decided that we would never - that we probably wouldn't be able to make enough money with Burroughs, in the Burrough's job, to - you know, to educate them. And so, at the end of 1962 the decision - this was after we had moved in to Trout Valley, and after Emily was born, in April of 1962. (Cathy: Emily was born in 1961.) Oh, that's right, we moved into Trout Valley in January of '61, and as I say, during that year we made the decision, with the children and so forth, that we would have to get into something that at least had the possibility of more income, and the computer generation really started about that time, and I decided that what we would due was to try to pursue a career in this field.

So, beginning in January of 1964... Well, first of all my father died just when I left Burroughs, which I did for two years. I left Burroughs in January of 1962, and went with Robert F. White for two years, for '62 and '63. And right after I tranferred from Burroughs to Robert F. White, my father died in January 1962, so that of course was a period that was a blow to our family, but we survived that, and the next two years were in planning to what was going to happen in the future. So, in the beginning of 1964, in January, we left Robert F. White, or I left Robert F. White's employment, on good terms with them, and started the John G. Lynch Data Processing Company. And at that time, I was able to get a number of different contracts because this was so new, but there was quite a demand for it, and so we got a pretty good start, although initially I put my wife on a \$500 a month budget, including payment of our mortgage of about \$100 a month. (Laughs from Mom.) And so for the first year, year and a half, things were pretty tight, but as I say, we got pretty lucky, and we got quite a number of people interested in doing business with us. And I would hire outside contractors to do my work for me, or part-timers, and we had a delivery service, that delivered the material to our customers, mainly in Chicago. But prior to delivery, we would

have to separate all the forms, and I would bring all the completed forms that had been processed by the computer home, and on the dining room table, and then my wife and the children would help us separate all the forms (chuckles from Mom and Dad), so that we could deliver a finished product to the customers. So, we worked pretty hard. I was the salesman, of course, and I also supervised the processing, and the processing at that time was done at Chicago Aerial Industries on the second and third shifts, at nighttime. So during the daytime, I'd spend my time calling on customers, establishing new accounts, and at nighttime then, I would go over to Chicago Aerial Industries and assist with the processing, and pick up the completed forms and such as that, and then the following morning, we would separate them and ship them down to the customers. And possibly I would have sales meetings, trying to pick up new accounts that day, so I really didn't get very much sleep, and I worked pretty hard. But I had told my wife that we were going to be on this budget for maybe a year, year and a half, and that there would be no social life - that it was going to be all work and no play at that time. And that turned out to be the case!

Mom: (laughing) Makes Jack a dull boy!

Dad: Yeah, make Jack a dull boy. I was a dull boy, that's for sure! (Laughter in the background.) So in 1964 and '65, we worked pretty hard, and we established quite a number of accounts, and we started to put full time people on during that period, and then there was a contact that we had with an accounting firm, that decided to go into the business themselves, and so they were going to compete with us, and we lost a couple of accounts. But we decided that we were going to take a vacation. We had worked pretty hard, so we went on a vacation to Europe via the - with the Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and I think it was in March of 1966. In the meantime, we were trying to sell our house, our house in Des Plaines, but were unsuccessful at doing so.

Mom: That was where we got the money for the trip.

Dad: Oh that was it, yeah. We sold the house apparently, in '66 - that is, the house in Des Plaines, and with part of the money that we got from that, we decided to take this trip to Europe with the Chicago Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which, I had become a member of. So we did go on that trip, and we went to England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and then we took the boat across to France, and then the train (of course) to Paris, and we had a very good time there, and the trip was a - a tonic for us. And when we got back, we went on to... you know, we recovered from the slight setback that we'd had of losing a couple of accounts at that point in time. And demand by that period had increased, so that we continued to put on new accounts, we had a couple salesmen that we put on the street, and that helped us. And we put on more production people, and we worked - we

finally worked into a situation in the early seventies - well, by the late sixties - where we had put in our own 1401 computer, and we were working on it on three shifts, and then we were also working on one shift over at Chicago Aerial Industries. So business was pretty good during that period. And that was beginning at the time that our children were starting to go to college. Robbie started, I think, in 1970, and so the latter part of the sixties was something that was very important for our family, to make certain that we did have the, you know, the financial means to send them to college. And of course, during that time, I was a member of the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. I was also a member of the Cary-Grove Chamber of Commerce, and became president of that organization, I think, in 1968 - I was in there for two years - and 1969. And during that time, the Cary-Grove Chamber of Commerce decided to start a United Way, and they asked me to head that drive to get it started up, which I did, and subsequently I was successful in getting a number of prominent people in Cary and Fox River Grove interested in this, and we did get it started, and we operated the United Way, which covered Cary, Fox River Grove, and Algonquin. That was during the late sixties.

And I also became interested in horsing, which was kind of like an aftermath of what I had done when I was a child... because when I was a child, I had a pony, and was quite interested in riding at that time. And since we had some property that was right next to our business, that we rented, we were able to put a couple of horses out there. So that began a period of about 18 years that I continued to ride and have an active part in riding.

So these are the important things that happened during that time. My wife mentioned the trips that we took. And we had good times there.

Cathy: Dad, you've got to tell some of the stories - some of the famous stories from that...(fades out)

Dad: Well, Cathy reminded me that we had some humorous incidents on some of the trips that we took. One that we took in '67. We bought a new car, specifically to take that trip. It was a Pontiac 9-passenger station wagon, and we had racks on the top of it to carry all the luggage, because with 9 people inside the car, we had to carry everything exteriorally. And one of the people that was in school with the children, was a girl by the name of Edna.

Mom: (laughing) No, that had nothing to do with it.

Dad: Well, they kept on talking. (Then a bunch of back and forth, Mom trying to correct Dad, but hard to hear - then finally to Mom) Say that again?

Mom: We stopped at a restaurant - I think it was in Iowa - and a waitress called across the room to another waitress "Hey, Edna!" And the kids thought that was *terribly* funny! And they kept...

(Cathy: And we kept, like, snapping our fingers) saying it all the time, and like we got to Muir Woods outside of San Francisco, and here is this lovely, quiet woods, and all the sudden you're hearing "Hey, Edna!" (Laugh, laugh - we all LOVE this story!)

Cathy: Now, I *know* you're not going to forget the one about Casey, the "Irrigation Engineer"!

Mom: Right!

Dad: Well, on that trip, of course, with so many people in the car, and having various times that they needed to relieve themselves, we got... we got to name Casey the "Irrigation Engineer", because he couldn't really hold himself in many cases until we got to where public facilities were available, so we'd stop along the side of the road, and he would relieve himself along the side of the road, so he then became the "Irrigation Engineer".

Cathy: That one time - I mean, remember that one time, where - we actually got it on tape! You let him out and you... (then can't hear - dead space)... I guarantee it.

Dad: Cathy says that there was an incident one time where Casey apparently went outside the car and was going to relieve himself on the tire, and I became exorcised, and was hollering at him and telling him not to pee on the tire.

Mom: Well, you didn't say that, you just said "not there!"

Dad: "Not there - not there, not there!" But this established a name for Casey at the time, which the children kept on calling him, I think, for several years after that time. Which, to begin with, was kind of a joke, but I think long term, he wasn't too much in favor of it! (Dead space, then laughter.)

Mom: Well, the kids were car sick quite a lot on this trip, and... (Cathy: Only Casey, right? It was Casey!) It wasn't just Casey, all - (Cathy: Yeah, it was Casey!) And we used to stop for - at fast food places for lunch, and sometimes for instance we would stop at Kentucky Fried Chicken, and then we'd take it out to a wayside park and eat lunch at the wayside park. And we'd have these containers, and they were big buckets! And they had things written on them like "So tender, so tasty, so finger-lickin' good!" (Laughter!) There was something else on it too that I can't remember. But anyhow, this was a joke, because they were using them

for... throwing up in! (Laughs). And then they would talk about “so tender, so tasty!”

Cathy: And, oh the other thing... I can't remember if this was specifically on the trip or not, but remember about how everybody had their place in the car? (Mom: Oh, yes) Robbie had her place in the car.

Mom: I don't know if she had it at that point.

Cathy: Well, I don't remember if it was that point or not, but remember how John and I used to make spitballs and throw them in Robbie's mouth when she was sleeping? (Mom laughs.) Because she slept with her mouth open...

Dad: Yeah, she did have her spot on the right hand side. (Cathy: yeah, on the right hand, right!)

Mom: If Grandma wasn't there. (Cathy: if Grandma wasn't there, yeah, yeah.) If Grandma was on the trip, that was her spot.

Cathy: And then, yeah, and then Robbie was insulted! (Chuckles and then incoherent mumbles.)

Dad (recapping above discussion): Another amusing incident was that Robbie had a specific place in the car that she wanted to sit, which was in back of the passenger's seat, in the front. And frequently she'd take up her position there, and she wouldn't let anybody else sit there. And many times she'd fall asleep and sleep with her mouth open. And John and Cathy used to make up spit balls, and they would throw 'em in her mouth, because her mouth was open when she was snoring! And this was kind of a family joke that we all got a kick out of, over a period of time.



### **The 1970's As Told to John Jr.**

Dad: One of the most interesting things we did was when you were with us. We went to England in 72. We started in London, then went over to the southeastern-most town in England and traveled along the southern coast of England. On the way over there we went to the principal church of the Church of England in Canterbury. We went to Canterbury, the seat of the Episcopalian Church. Remember we were so tired when we went there? Then we went to Deal (sp?) and stayed overnight.

I don't remember all the towns we hit as we traveled west, but one I do remember was Winchester. We went to Winchester Cathedral. They were digging there. I understand from our next-door-neighbor in Inverness, Mr. Wilcox (who lives in Winchester), that they are still digging in the front of the Cathedral of Winchester.

John Jr. Tell about the people on the trip.

Dad. On this part of the trip we had about 9 people I guess, 6 children, and three adults including my Mother. Pat and John joined us in Scotland. One of the interesting things in Scotland was that we saw the Coats Thread Factory where Jane MacMillan (who married Harry Wilson in this country) worked in the Coats factory in Ayre. This is before John & Pat met us in Edinburgh.

John: Tell us what we ate.

Dad: You mean up in Inverness? I don't think anyone had this except John and myself.

John: What's haggas and what is drisheen?

Dad: Haggas is the lining of the sheep's stomach.

John: And drisheen is dried sheep's blood?

Dad: (ignoring) We had haggas up in Inverness. We went through Glasgow, but we didn't spend any time there. Then we went diagonally up to Inverness past the Firth of Forth. Glencoe was on the way back from Inverness, between Inverness & Edinburgh. We went through Edinburgh, then went back through the Midlands and went back to London. By this time John and Pat were with us. We spent several days in London and had a real good time there.

John: What did we do in London?

Dad: We visited various places.

John: I remember eating bangers and mash.

Dad: Right off Trafalgar Square. And we went to the Tower of London, and at the Tower of London, somebody picked my pocket. I don't remember what we did to regroup after that, but we did. We also went to Westminster Cathedral.

Mom: We went to Stratford on Avon.

John: Yeah, what did we see there, was it Julius Caesar?

Dad: We went through Stratford-on-Avon, and while we were there, we went to Julius Caesar...a matinee as I recall. Those were some of the high points of the trip.

And I remember when I was parking in front of the hotel and loading up all of the luggage and getting everybody ready to go back to Heathrow Airport to catch the plane back, I got a ticket for parking there. And I had to settle the ticket before I could leave. Otherwise, the automobile agency we rented the car from would have been after me. That was one of the few mishaps we had on the trip. Other than that, we had a very good time. Mother had spent quite a number of days and hours beforehand arranging our accommodations. We stayed at some guest houses and stayed at some hotels. What else?

Mom: We stayed at two real hotels. One was in London. That was a giant hotel right off of Picadilly. The other one was at Troon.

John: In Scotland?

Mom: Right, in Scotland. And John and Dad and Casey played golf at Troon. That was one of the places you played. You also played in Wales. I saw the picture on the cover of the Welsh Tourist brochure of this place and that's where we went. It was originally a house that was built because they thought that Queen Victoria would visit. So they built this gorgeous house ... and then, of course, she didn't come. Anyhow, it had been previously an orphanage after the original owners.

... He took them pony trekking. They rented horses. That was in Wales, in Bangor, near Carnarban castle, where the Prince of Wales is installed.

John: Okay, now I want to move off this trip. Tell me a story about Casey in his teenage years.

Mom: Casey as a teenager?

Casey had a little difficulty as a teenager. Well, he was one that would get a very good grade in one subject and an F in another subject and that kind of thing. He wasn't doing well in school. We sent him to Campion.

John: Campion?

Mom: Campion is a boarding school.

John: Really?!

Mom: Jesuits.

John: Really? He went to Campion?

Mom: Yeah, he went there for one semester.

John: Oh! I didn't realize that.

Mom: But he was really unhappy there. He was really homesick.

John: Really? What year was that?

Mom: That was his sophomore year.

John: What year was that? Casey, what year did you go to Campion?

Casey: Fall of 74.

Mom: Anyhow, he drove the priests crazy. (Chuckle.) But the thing he really did well in was religion. That was the interesting thing. But he was very homesick and he came back. He did much better in school after that, though he didn't do what we would *like* to see, but he did much better.

John: So tell us another story. Were there any girlfriends during this period?

Mom: I can't remember when he had these various girlfriends (chuckle), but he had a number of girlfriends.

John: No specifics you want to tell us about?

Mom: (Laughing) No, no.

Dad: What was the hotel in London...?

John: We're off that, Dad, now. We're off London. Now we are trying to get some dirt on what Casey did.

Casey:(entering) Hey, hey, hey! (lots of yuks)

John: Okay, tell us a story about Meg in those years, in the 70s.

Mom: Let's see, she was born in 60, so she was anything from 10 on up.

John: I want to hear about all of my brothers and sisters in the high school years:

Mom: I can tell you more about Girl Scouting...

John: Wait a minute, Dad has a story he wants to tell. (Dad takes microphone.)

Dad: One of the interesting things about Meg's high school experience was when she went to the prom with a fellow from Barrington. I don't remember his name. And after I tell you the story, you'll understand why we never saw him again.

Of course, Meg was a very beautiful girl and I wanted to make certain that I got a picture of my daughter before she went to the prom with her date. And when I took the picture, this fellow was quite tall. And because I didn't position the camera correctly, I got him up to the neck. We never saw him again after that...

Meg was a very good student, she was president of the junior class.

John: I didn't know that.

Dad: You didn't know that?

Dick: I didn't know that either!

Dad: Yeah! She was very much of a good politician and very well-liked in school. But she wasn't too happy about my picture-taking ability, I'll tell you.

Dick: Tell us something embarrassing about Meg.

Dad: I don't *know* of anything.

John: (incredulous) I can't believe that. Meg will be insulted if you say you can't come up with something. (laugh) *I* can probably come up with a pretty embarrassing story.

Dick: Okay, John, you tell us an embarrassing story about Meg.

John: (discreetly) No, I don't think so. What my parents don't know, they don't need to know.

Dick: *I* need to know. I know stories about *you*.

Mom: Probably all the kids know stories that we don't know.

Dad: Of course, the parties at our house were quite fabulous. It seemed like every time my wife and I went out for an evening, that, as we were driving out of the driveway, the partygoers were coming in the other way. (laughs from the peanut gallery)

One of the organizers of these parties was John, although we didn't know it at the time.

John: No, that was the 60's. We're talking about the 70's.

Dad: But I'd have to think about some of the other things...

Mom: Let me tell about Casey's parties. This was a party that we didn't know about at the time. And...there were a few of those actually...

John: No!

Mom: ...that we would hear about later. You know, the cars had been stacked up to the barn and things like that. But the one I had been thinking about was one where we heard about it from Casey himself about a month later, when he came to us and confessed that two of his friends had been arm-wrestling on the dining room table.

John: Oh no.

Mom: ...and had broken the leg of the table. And so very carefully, had nailed it together again. (laughing)

John: Ohhh, no!

Mom: We still have the table. We still have it.

John: Don't give Brian any ideas here.

Mom: (laugh) Anyhow, in the 70s was the period when I was in the adult level girl-scouting more, I think. I started with Brownies when Beth was 7, so that would have been 64. I was a leader in Brownies and then Girl Scouts for Brownies for 2 years and then Juniors for 6 years. So that would put me into the 70s. That was when I went into the adult level when I was on the board of directors...I was the district chairman for McHenry County basically.

John: Why did you want to keep on doing that?

Mom: I discovered that I really enjoyed it. I actually had discovered that I enjoyed Girl Scouting generally. You start out thinking that you are doing something for your kids. And then you find out that you are getting more out of it than anybody else.

Dad: Another interesting thing as far as Meg is concerned, Meg and Emily, that kind of put Beth's nose out of joint. Beth was, I think, a freshman or a sophomore out at Drake when this happened, but Bobby Gay and I were going to California to an ADAPSO meeting, and we decided to take our two younger daughters with us.

Either Meg or Emily had a friend who had moved out there previously, and they were able to visit with the friend while we were there. And we took them around to different places, and we visited our friends the Rupenthals and took them out to dinner and that type of thing. So they had a fabulous time of it, and Beth heard about it, and was really put out that we didn't take her too. The younger girls were in school at the time and Beth was in school out at Drake, and I don't think she ever got over that. She thought we slighted her.

John: You guys got very loose as these later kids came along.

Mom: One thing that was going on in the 70s was that Dad was fox hunting. He used to take particularly the two younger girls with him, one at a time. Emily was more interested in it than Meg was, but Meg enjoyed it too. But I remember one time. ... I used to go with him, and I would be in the car line.

In this particular case, I was in the car line, you'd follow the head car, and you'd go to a spot where she know there would be a jump. And you'd wait for the horses to come along. And here we are at this one place, and somebody said that somebody had fallen off, and they needed a station wagon to go back and get a

child who had fallen off. Well, that turned out to be Meg. I was quite alarmed about that.

That was a rental horse, actually, that time. Usually, they would go with Whiskey and Caesar, and Meg had fallen and that really alarmed me.

And then of course, there was the time that *John* fell...

John: Was that the 70's, or was that the 60's.? Okay, you can tell it.

Mom::That was around then. It was probably around 1970. They had gone on a hunt that was a joint hunt with another hunt club, and John was riding with his father this time. And all of a sudden, here we were waiting for the horses to come... and at that particular hunt, they had a stirrup cup at every jump, so we were really enjoying waiting for the horses to come along. (chuckle.) And all of the sudden, here came John, and he was really...his freckles stood out on his face like you couldn't believe because he had knocked himself on the head. The horse had gone right through and the branch had knocked him, so he was somewhat the worse for wear on that hunt.

You wonder why I could have stood all of these things. And then there was the time that Dad came home from a trip and wanted to go and jump Caesar, and apparently while we were gone there had been a storm and a tree had been knocked down right behind the jump. So when he jumped, Caesar had this habit of nicking it with his foot as he went over. And he fell because the jump is supposed to tip as he hits it. It didn't tip. He fell and Dad was under him, and that was when he broke his arm. I was watching that one. That was not fun.

John: I can't remember what years these things were. What year was the Racine hunt?

Mom: You were in high school, I think.

John: Ah, I remember it was in cross-country, because my thighs hurt really bad. And I was getting ready to have a conference meet.

Mom: You must have been miserable. So what year would that have been then?

John: I didn't run cross country until at least my junior and senior year. So that would have been fall in either 69 or 70.

Mom: Okay, what else can I think about?

John: Let's see, have you told any embarrassing Beth stories?

Mom: Embarrassing Beth? Oh, poor Beth was always being embarrassed by her brothers and sisters.

John: That was when she was about 8, but what about high school?

Mom: When she was in high school? Oh yes! There is a wonderful Beth story. I always enjoy this one.

Beth really didn't do anything terribly out of the ordinary. She obviously did things probably that I didn't know about, but she wasn't real wild or anything.

But I got a call from the school nurse one morning and she said that Beth wasn't at school, and was she sick? I said, "I thought she had *gone* to school." The nurse said, well, Joan Cross was not there, and Joan Cross sometimes skipped school and she wondered if Beth was with Joan. So I said, I'll find out.

So I called up at the Cross's house. And it just happened that Joan was washing her hair, so Beth answered the phone.

John: (evil laugh)

Mom: And I said, "Beth?" and she said, "Mother?" and I said, "GET HOME RIGHT THIS MINUTE!" (more laughs) She came home, and she was back in school very fast.

Dad: This is a story about when Emily was in Taiwan. I kept as many as four horses during some period when my children were growing up, but my pet was Caesar, who was my 1500 lb. dog, so to speak.

When he was 19 years old, a little girl was riding him, because I hadn't been riding him much at that time. He had developed emphysema and a bad heart. She was riding him in the ring, and he had a heart attack, and he went through the fence onto a macadam surface. It was in the spring, so the ground was soft. The horse fell and threw the rider onto some soft ground, so she wasn't hurt. But he was dead as soon as he hit the ground. And he died fortunately very quickly. But in that whole maneuver, he broke his right hind leg, presumably trying to prevent that little girl from being hurt. He died immediately.

I was telling Dick about the episode up at the Racine hunt when you (John) got wiped off the horse.



Dick: That's probably why his hair is so thin right now.

John: Yes, it hit me right here, I believe (motioning to the temples).

Dad: There's a funny story about that horse. The horse's name was Whiskey. I bought the horse from a fellow who worked for the Moore Forms company. He had this horse up in Crystal Lake, and he wasn't using the horse. I went up and bought the horse and took him out of the stable there and brought him home. He was very weak when I brought him home, because he hadn't been fed properly and taken care of. Well, I started feeding him corn and oats, and he got to be strong and strong and strong.

John: A fast horse.

Dad: Yeah. He was a great horse. He was a thoroughbred.

John: He *was* a thoroughbred?

Dad: Yes. He was a pretty good jumper. But he had a tendency to run out. In other words, to try to avoid taking the jump by running around the jump. And on this one occasion when John was wiped off the horse up at the Racine hunt when John took a different path than I did. He was following me. I was on Caesar and John was on Whiskey, and John took a different path than I did and he had to go under a low branch, and that low branch just took him off, and....

John: No, no, noooo! Give me that microphone, *I'll* tell you the story.

Dad: I thought he was killed. Okay, John's going to tell you.

Dick: He didn't want to muss his hair.

John: (grabbing microphone) Okay, what really happened was that we came around a bend, and suddenly there was a big tree across the trail. You were supposed to take the (jump over the) tree on the left side where the tree was low. But if you took it on the right side, there was a branch that was going up and up and up. So we took it on the wide side, and so Whiskey tried to jump this thing. I want to say it was 7 feet up. And it hit him right in the middle of the chest.

Mom: I thought it hit you in the head.

John: No, it hit *him* right in the middle of the chest, and the branch broke. So were okay, but as soon as that happened, suddenly there was a (vertical) tree right in the middle of the trail, and you had to either pull to the left or pull to the right

and take it either way. So I pulled to the left, but Whiskey seemed like he was going to the right. So I decided to lean to the right. But at the last second he went left like I was pulling. And we were at a full gallop, or a full canter at least, and I was leaning this way, and I hit my head against the tree. So when was that?

Dad: The late 60's probably.

John: I'm starting to worry that I have the 80's. (lots of mocking laughter)

Gary: So wait a minute, Meg is the 30's.

Casey: I'm the 40's

Gary: Rob's 80s

John: Beth's 50's. ... We don't have 90's. Okay, I think I'm okay.

Dad: I finally sold Whiskey to a girl, she was a big girl, probably weighed about 160 or 170 lbs. This was a big horse, about 16 hands. She had just graduated, and her father was going to buy the horse for her for her graduation present. She wanted to be a veterinarian. They came over and looked at the horse and really liked it. I didn't want to tell the girl what the horse's name was because I didn't think Whiskey was a good name for a girl's horse. (peanut gallery laughter) So I told her that the name of the horse was Sweet William. (hooting) Sweet William. So she bought the horse.

Casey: Of course, the horse never came when she called. (more hooting)

Dad: I took the horse out to a farm out on the Southwest side. And subsequently she took the horse out to Virginia and she went to veterinary school out in Virginia. And a year later after finishing vet school and riding the horse every day. She just loved the horse, and she wrote me a beautiful letter saying how much she really loved the horse, and she was so happy that his name was Sweet William.

John: And then you felt like a heel.

Dad: No I didn't! Why would I?

John: Because it was all a lie, it was all a lie, it was Whiskey!

Dick: His name was anything you want to name it.

Dad: For her, the horse was Sweet William. There you are. That's the story about John and his horsing. That was the most successful riding he had!

Casey: The last time I went riding, I was on Whiskey. We were racing across, me, Dan Lynch, and Dad. Dan was on Queenie, way behind Dad and me. Dad was on Caesar. And I'm racing way ahead of everyone out on Whiskey out in what is now Greenfield, it used to be just a big field, the Greenfield subdivision...

John: I loved riding out there.

Casey: And that was the last time I ever rode, because we forgot to tighten the bottom girth on the thing, and as I'm galloping, I'm laughing at those guys about how slow they are going, ha-ha-ha, I start to slide slowly off, boom! Oh, I fell on my butt though, at full speed. I thought my butt was broken.

John: So as long as we are telling these stories, I'll tell you this story that I told a friend as we were running today. This is a related story. So Mom had some friend from Wellesley who came to visit. And the friend had a daughter who was about my age. And I thought that she was a little snooty. I can't remember what her name was, but some friend from Wellesley. And you (Mom) had me take her out riding. She was really starting to irritate me. We were currying the horse, and I decided.... you know how when you saddle a horse, you have to slap that thing (on the stomach) to cinch it up? Well, I decided not to slap.

So we got her down in that area where they used to have the horse shows down by the river, and got her going at a full canter. And I just sat there and watched while the horse ran away with her. It was just like a Laurel and Hardy thing, it was like ....yeeeeeeeewwww, crash....I'm not sure I told you Mom.

Mom: But I don't remember she fell off.

John: Yes she did, she fell off.

Mom: I didn't even remember someone from Wellesley...Who could it be?

John: It might have been someone from New Trier.

Dad: Well Robbie was never much of a rider. She didn't really care for the horse too much, although I tried to get her interested. We bought a horse for her as I recall.

Casey: Chipper.

Dad: No, I don't think it was Chipper, I think it was Whiskey, if I recall. And the kids from Trout Valley who had horses rode their horses on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. I was pretty apprehensive about putting Robbie into this, because first of all, the horse was very strong, and she wasn't accustomed to riding at that point. It didn't turn out very well, she didn't really participate in the ride.

John: That must have been in the 60's. You're giving material you should be giving to Cathy...

Dad: And Cathy had a bad experience right from the beginning. Right when we got Queenie and Caesar, all of the kids wanted to go out and see the horses, and Queenie was kind of bitchy, if you will. She was new, and she didn't want anyone to come near her. Cathy went out there with a group of friends and walked up in back of her. Queenie kicked up and kicked her in the eye. We had to take her over to the doctor to have her eyelid sewed up, and that was the last of the riding for Cathy. That was it.

John: Okay, let's see, in our 70s stories, so our best Robbie story is the horse thing? Don't we have other stories about Robbie? Robbie is now in college.

Dad: Robbie was in the 4-H.

Dad: No, that was in the 60's. Tell us about Robbie and Gary.

Casey: Tell the story about Gary coming over for dinner.

John: Let's hear that story. Mom can tell that story.

Dad: I do remember when Gary first came over to the house. At that time he was in college over at Purdue. The people at Purdue were wearing long hair at that time, and Gary had hair about down to his waist. I don't remember if he had long hair after the first time. Bobby Gay, you can tell the story about...

John: Tell the chicken guts story.

Mom: When Robbie and Gary were engaged, and Cathy and Joach were engaged

John: What year was that?

Mom: This was 76 or 77, because they were both married in 77. Well anyway, one of our favorite meals was always creamed chicken giblets on rice. Our whole family just loved it. And I couldn't really believe that anybody who tasted it wouldn't love it too.

So when both Gary and Joach were visiting, and I was planning to have chicken giblets and rice, and Robbie didn't think that Gary would like that very much. So I said, well, I'll tell you what. If he asks, we'll tell him that it is creamed chicken is what it is.

This was all set, and we told everybody that this is what we were going to say....

John: Poor Gary, totally deceived! We got all of these people to lie in our family...

Mom: So we sat up at the table and put the food down. And Joach took a look at it, and said, "Mmmmmm, chicken guts!" We'd forgotten to tell Joach.

And Gary looked at it, and... he ate it. But he didn't say anything, and I really wasn't sure that marriage was going to happen at that point. He wasn't very happy about those chicken guts...and I don't think he has had them since then either.

John: Okay, that's a good Robbie story.

Casey: That's a Gary story.

Dad: Robbie was in the Gary ...

Mom: No, you're going way back.

John: You gotta give that to Cathy. She's gotta do you. We're on *my* dime here. We're in the 80's right now... . Cathy's got to do the 60's.

Mom: I thought we were doing the 70s.

John: Did we just drift into the 80s? 70's, I mean the 70's.

John: Yeah, it will be up to me to attempt to bring some coherence to...

Dick: Are you going to have to do a lot of editing?

Mom: Anyhow, Robbie, in the 70s went to Allegheny College. Then after she graduated she worked in Pittsburgh for a couple of years. And then she decided she would go to the Purdue Business School...Krannert. She chose this specifically because by the time she decided she wanted to do this, she wanted to start at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, and there weren't too many schools where she could start the course at that point. That's how she chose it. But

anyhow, *that's* how she met Gary. He was there at the Engineering school. So the next thing we knew, romance had blossomed.

And then Cathy started off at Lawrence. Her junior year they have this deal where you can go to all sorts of different places. Like Emily had her junior year one term in London. Cathy chose the urban studies program that was in a Puerto Rican neighborhood in Chicago – which actually was a very fine program. It wasn't glamorous, but it was really a great program. The program was run by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest and all of the other colleges were on a semester basis, where Lawrence was on a trimester. Cathy didn't want to lose a part of a term by not going back until the 3<sup>rd</sup> term at Lawrence. So she decided to go to Southern Illinois University where Judy Comstock, her best friend was.

When she got down there, the next thing we heard, why she was talking about going out with this guy. They were having suarees, someone was playing the violin, etc, etc. It was very intellectual sounding. But who she was going out with was Joach. So she met Joach there, and therefore she never went back to Lawrence. She finished both her bachelor's degree and her masters degree at Southern.

John: One other thing we ought to get in here was about what went on with your business during the 70s. That was a pretty key part of your life.

Dad: In the 70s, our business was very good, of course. We had as many as about 32 employees at one time. That was in the period of about 71 to 75. With the advent of the minicomputer, some of the larger customers began to get their own equipment. With the advent of the microcomputer in the mid-80s, it was possible for even some of the medium-sized customers we had to do their own computing. So we were definitely on a plateau in that business after that. And that was why, in 1975, I decided to develop a telephone bill-paying plan.

The type of business that I had up until that time was deteriorating. So I decided to develop a business that would combine fairly complicated software with mainframe hardware and make it more difficult for other people to compete against me. And this turned out to be telephone bill-paying. The name of the product was Safe-Pay.

We actually began to develop that beginning in 75 and started to sell it in the late 70s and early 80s. That endeavor was never as successful as I thought it would be because the acceptance of the marketplace wasn't there. Plus the fact that we were too small and didn't have enough marketing strength to really put it across. Even today it hasn't had wide acceptance. But I think that with the introduction of bill-paying through the microcomputer, that, in time, the market will develop more

fully. Some of the predictions that have been made that 60% of household will pay their bills that way will eventually take place. But it's going to take a lot longer than what we originally anticipated.

John: Okay, that's good.

## **The Exciting 1980's in the Lynch Family**

Prepared by Robbie Terpstra from the tape of Thanksgiving 1997

(Mom is speaking.) Well, let's see. Meg graduated from college in 1982, and Emily graduated in 1983. Casey was going to Illinois State, MCC and Harper during the 1980's – I can't exactly remember when he went to which one.

Maureen was born in 1980. That was – do you remember the big sheet we had when everybody was betting on when she would be born? What did we call it? The baby pool. Everybody was betting \$1 and putting in the date and time when they thought she would be born. That was for Maureen. We tried to do it later on, but it really didn't work very well. But the first time....but you don't remember who won the pool. Whoever won it, they got half of the money, and Maureen got the other half. That was a lot of fun. Up until that time, we thought nobody was ever going to produce any grandchildren for us. Everybody got busy after that.

(Dad is speaking.) Remember that they had the wives' tales of how you tell whether it was a boy or it was a girl? Don't you remember that? I think my mother was in on that, so it must have been before she died. She died in 1982.

(Mom) I started to work at Lynch Data Processing in the summer of 1981. That was when Emily was in college, but she was working there during the summer. I took over her job. I was working part time. (Editor's note: Meg and Pat Heck were married in June 1981.) And then we moved the business from the Curtis barn over to the new building over on Industrial Drive in 1982. Patrick was born on St. Patrick's Day in 1983. Kristen was born in April of 1983 (April Fool's Day). Oh – I didn't get Brian in 1981 or Michael in 1982 either. That was on the same line, but I missed that. Yeah, Brian was born early when Robbie and Gary were at our house for Christmas. Then Michael was born the following June. OK, let's get back to ... Then Mark was born in 1984, though he actually didn't come to us until 1990. But he was born in '84. We knew all about him in 1989 and we had a picture – that picture is still on the refrigerator. He looked so woeful. I found out later on that the reason he was looking woeful was because they made him come in out of playing to get his picture taken. Let's see. We started promoting Safe Pay in 1986, when the agreement with Illinois Bell was made. Oh, this one was a story. Dad and I went to church and left Casey at home. When we were coming back I said, "Gee, we don't have the key. I hope Casey is still there." Well, he wasn't, and we were locked out. So Dad decided that he would climb in our bedroom window to get inside, and since we couldn't get into the garage to get our good ladder, we went next door to Mrs. Wolters. Her good ladder was on loan to her grandson, but she did have an old rickety old wooden ladder. So we got that wooden ladder, and Dad set it up underneath the window,



on top of our log pile, which was not terribly secure. (It wouldn't have reached otherwise.) So he climbed up there, and as he was using the shutter to pull himself up into the window, the shutter fell off, and Dad fell, and went down backwards. I thought he was going to fall on his back, but he actually ended up landing on his feet, and shattered his heel in three places. That was an unusual way to have it break – breaking into your own house. Then in the summer of 1984, Dad and I went to the quincentennial celebration of the city of Galway – it was established in 1484. It was basically the fourteen families, so-called “Fourteen Tribes of Galway”, of which Lynch was one of the tribes. So we met a whole lot of Lynches, as well as a whole lot of other people with similar names. We stayed in a guesthouse, and we went out to see the Lynch Castle. There was one small but really pretty white painted castle on the edge of the lake, and that was the one we really liked. (At least, I thought that was really neat, anyhow.) The first mayor of Galway, incidentally, was Perce Lynch. OK, let's see. Kevin was born in 1984. (That was in March.) Amy was born in 1987, and Emily was born in 1988. My father, Austin Wyman, died in April 1982. Dad's mother, Mary Lynch, died in August of 1982. That was kind of an end of an era for us, and for you kids too, really.

Casey began working at John G. Lynch and Company full time in the mid-'80s. The company moved to Chicago. I was working all the time, but part time, while we were still there. But in 1987, the company moved to Chicago and Safe Pay was incorporated as separate corporation in 1987. In '87 we also moved from our house in Trout Valley to the condo in Crystal Lake. Emily and Joel were married in August of 1988, Casey and Kris in October of 1988, and Beth and Tim in December of 1988. Ivon became our grandchild. She was 11 at the time Emily and Joel were married.

In the 1980's I was still doing some Girl Scout work, but I lessened up. Let's see, I had worked from 1964 to...

(Dad) I was the founding president of the United Way of Cary, and I subsequently became the president of the United Way of McHenry County in 1982, the same year that my grandson Brian was the poster child of the United Way. (Robbie then stated that Brian was poster child in Chattanooga in 1985.) (Dad) Well, it was the same year, so I'm mistaken about the year that I was president. It was the same year that Brian was the poster child.

(Mom) What year was it that you won the Jaycees Distinguished Citizen Award?

(Dad) Well, you and I and Mother were going away on some kind of a trip, I remember. It must have been the early '80's. In the early 80's I was also very active in the Catholic Charities, and I was the president of the Catholic Charities

for two terms, probably in 1982 and 1983. The one who nominated me and wrote the write-up and gathered all the facts together to present to the Jaycees was Rev. Hess, who at that time was the pastor of the Lutheran Church. He worked with me very closely on my United Way work. These are things that happened early to mid '80's. Then in the latter part of the '80's we were pretty much consumed with moving the business and with business affairs. During that period, of course, Casey and Bobby Gay and I were all working together in the business at that time. So those were some other facts that we forgot to write down here. But during that time, Bobby Gay was working with the Girl Scouts fairly actively.

(Mom) Yeah, that was sort of toward the end of it, when I was the Membership Development Chairman.

(Dad) She had been the vice president of the Girl Scouts during that period of time.

(After some hard to understand back and forth stuff) (Mom) I know what I was thinking of. That was the year I had my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, which was a surprise birthday party. Dad and Casey and Beth, who was still living at home at that particular time (I think), in 1986, organized the whole thing. They had telephone calls going back and forth. I was in the office next to them, and I never had an inkling. On the big day, they had a hard time getting rid of me out of the house so they could go and get whatever they needed for the party that they were having down at the Trout Valley picnic grounds. It was ... we were going to go on the boat. They kept trying to hurry us off and hurry us off. We finally got off. We kept the boat at that point in Barrington at Port Barrington. We came up the river to pick up Casey and Beth, supposedly, because they couldn't make it sooner. They were going to go on the ride on the boat with us. We came up there to the Trout Valley marina. The first thing I saw looked like Aunt Patty and Jannie, her daughter. I said, "That looks like --". I couldn't believe this. Pretty soon I saw that all these people there were all family members -- the whole crowd. We had a wonderful birthday party, and of course we had plenty to drink at that party. So, on the way home, taking the boat home, Meg was so worried about us that she insisted on coming along with us, she and Patrick, somehow or other to keep us from ourselves. Well, I shouldn't say I was so bad, but ...anyhow, Dad was going along, and unfortunately he missed the entrance into the little bay where the marina was. We got hung up in there, and it was quite an experience. It was a wonderful birthday party.

(Dad) We ran up in there and we discovered that we were not in the mouth of the marina and all we had to do was turn around.

(Mom) Anyhow, that was a good time.

(Dad) Rob, have you been out in the boat? (Mom) Oh sure, she's been on the boat lots of times. We have pictures of the kids steering the boat. Well, that's all that I can think of.

(Mom) In 1984 we went to Ireland. We did say that.

(Dad) One thing we didn't mention that might be of interest is the fact that we bought the property in Inverness, Florida in March of 1989. We closed the deal in 1989. We actually made a commitment to buy it in 1988.

(Mom) Actually, we were looking all over Florida trying to find a place where we could put our boat for retirement. We started on the St. John's River because Dad had been in the service and had been near the St. John's River at one point, in Green Cove Springs, and he had always liked that river. So we started there and worked down it, but we couldn't find a place that was both a good place to put the boat and also a good place for the house. If it was a good place for the house, there was no place for the boat, and if it was a good place for the boat, it was like a fishing camp, and there was nothing near in the way of amenities. So anyhow, we spent about 2 years looking along the St. John's River before we finally started looking along other rivers in north central Florida. We finally got to the Withlacoochee River over in Dunellon, and we decided that we would go down to look at Homosassa Springs, which we had not seen at that point. So on the way down there, we were on Route 44 and there was a beautiful lake at our side. We got really excited about that, so we went right into Inverness and went to the Chamber of Commerce and inquired about it and got a brochure for The Landings, which is where we went. We went and looked at that one and we bought the lot the following week. That was probably in 1987 or 1986 when we did that. So that's about it.

(Completed 12/15/98 at 8:00 p.m. YEAH!!!)