

Charlie Cowling 0:01

This is Charlie Cowling and I am interviewing Betty Bolger is it Castaline?

Betty Bolger 0:05

Castaline

Charlie Cowling 0:06

Castaline

Betty Bolger 0:07

like fishing.

Charlie Cowling 0:08

like fishing and she is the class of 1942 Brockport State Normal School and we're meeting at her home in Greece, New York. And I was saying, Betty, when I wanted to come and meet you, and I was thinking about that, I went and grabbed a saga off the shelf and we have multiple copies for each year. And it just so happened. The one I grabbed has, it's Marian Schlitz,

Betty Bolger 0:30

Mary Schlade. She's the one that I mentioned to you.

Charlie Cowling 0:33

She was classmate of yours. And actually, there's something in there, she wrote, or that you wrote to her, I think,

Betty Bolger 0:40

yeah, I wrote to her. Yeah, my gracious. She was one of my good buddies.

Charlie Cowling 0:47

So this was her yearbook. And it came to us in the archives, at some point a few years ago.

Betty Bolger 0:52

Oh, she was very athletic you know. Oh, she was a like, make you think of a farm girl you know, but with a lot going on up here but we started out here what a boon to civilization and I've got it in parenthesis or in quotes. You've been to me, slugger. Oh dear Oh, I, my yearbook. My picture in my yearbook here?

Charlie Cowling 1:27

Uh huh.

Betty Bolger 1:29

Is not there I am? Yeah, um, yeah, for sure. The only time in my life I ever wore my hair parted in the middle was for three, two or three months of this year that they took the pictures. So I'm not my friends all said, Gee, I hope I recognize you know. But anyway. Yeah.

Charlie Cowling 1:58

Well, maybe we could kind of start at the Beginning and you could just say a little something, Betty about where you grew up where you're from.

Betty Bolger 2:06

Well, I grew up in seabreeze, a wonderful place for kids to grow up. We lived up on a terrace Hill. And I think of that because I used to have to mow the lawn. If you think about how you're going to mow a terrace Hill, you don't go this way. You have to sideways,

Charlie Cowling 2:31

With a push mower?

Betty Bolger 2:32

sideways, you know. See, because it levels off. And if you went this way, you'd go bazoom and all the way down. But I grew up in seabreeze, with three three sisters. And we had was a three minute walk from the lake and I think I owe my good health besides to genes you know you've got figure you don't know how much you have to thanks for that, but to the situations in my life

that deprived me of certain things and also gave me now the swimming. My father was determined that we would learn how to swim. He was a pretty good swimmer. And so I was about five years old when he took the two older ones down to three minute walk from where we lived,

Charlie Cowling 3:39

boy that's nice.

Betty Bolger 3:40

In the summertime, my sisters and I were down there twice a day. As soon as we can in the early part of the season. We didn't mind a little frigid water for a while. And sometimes my father when he came home from Work he was a worker for the Rochester transit. streetcars. That came from the city down Culver road into seabreeze Park, the amusement park and had a loop there and back again. Anyway. When he would come home from work at a certain time, we'd go swimming again with him. So sometimes three times a day. So it was great and I was deathly afraid of the water. I was afraid of everything. My challenge in my lifetime has been to overcome fear that I have realized was born in me. I was my first memory is a fearsome moment. sitting on the floor, maybe about two years old. In our apartment, we lived in corner of Hudson and Alphonse St. Right here Holy redeemers in an apartment above a drugstore. Anyway, I was my this first memory was suddenly there was a crash of thunder. And there had been a flash of lightning My mother was ironing. And she said, Oh my God, God bless us and she blessed herself. That said fear to me. And that was that's my first memory. Anyway, All my life I've had to fight fear and I have I feel pretty good about that. There's been some things that were fearsome to me that I was a challenge and I made it. But my father believed in education he preached it to us. He wasn't able to go beyond sixth grade as a farm Boy and and those six grades were not full time because he was the only boy in the family. And he had to couldn't go to school when they were planting the seeds and in the other end of the harvesting, you know, he couldn't start the thing. But he loved to read and read a lot. And his favorite novel was Ben Hur. And he used to read to us things that he was interested in. And when I was in sixth grade, I read Ben Hur myself, all of it. And I tried to read it to my sisters. Didn't want it they had other things to do. But anyway, I grew up having a lot of excercise walking everywhere, walked to school took and came home for lunch. That was four times a day. We walked 15 minutes. It was a good bringing up Durand Eastman Park was right there on the other side of us, and we used to nowadays a girl, a couple of little girls couldn't take a walk in the park no, but at that time we could my father used to take us over on his day off because of the zoo, they had a open air natural zoo. With buffalo. And I went I got to Brockport I thought everybody had seen buffalo. And I found out these girls said, Buffalo Where did you live out west? No, I said no right in our backyard. And anyway, it was a good place to live up for to live because you had all you could enjoy nature and you walked a lot. So my all the exercise I've had generally all my life was walking and swimming

Charlie Cowling 3:40

Boy those are two great exercises

Betty Bolger 8:18

free as a bird, you don't have pay and it covers everything, all the muscles and the strengths and so anyway, it was a good start. And I needed it because my father and mother didn't have money and when I see them again in the next life I've never told told them how much I appreciated the fact that they never said Well, I hope we can afford this. You know they never mentioned money they didn't want to discourage Me and that they had no money my father just said get an education. So we did the best we could. I commuted and all I had to pay was the transportation and knew exactly how much it costs

Charlie Cowling 9:20

from seabreeze to

Betty Bolger 9:21

from seabreeze downtown to the Greyhound station, take a Greyhound bus out to Brockport and back again traveled four hours a day. And I thought, well, I can do some studying, you know? And then I found out I had I had ridden the streetcars and then the buses, what came in during my high school years. But I never read on the bus or on the streetcar. It was just going from here to there. But I first time I tried to read on the greyhound bus when I had, you know 45 minutes I found I couldn't do it. I got sick

Charlie Cowling 10:07

That'd make some people motion sick

Betty Bolger 10:08

it was motion sickness and I never knew that I had it but you have to do the do some reading in a motion atmosphere before you'll find out. But, so then I thought well, at least I can rest. But you know I was so lacking of sleep. I got up at quarter after five every morning and got the bus out of seabreeze around 6:30 as I recall somewhere in there. Greyhound bus about 7:15 to something or other and get to school walk up College Avenue to

Charlie Cowling 10:51

So you did that for four years

Betty Bolger 10:53

for four years

Charlie Cowling 10:54

my goodness.

Betty Bolger 10:56

My my mother was concerned about my health. In my second year, I never I never weighed over 100 pounds until my first year of marriage. After I married I gained and went up to 100 than 105 but before that I was small boned you know. I never looks. No one ever called me skinny. But I didn't have any fat on me at all. Just muscle. So thank goodness, because we didn't have bookcases suitcases or you know, book bags, and you're riding buses that were crowded in those days, you'd have to hang on to a strap and you got an armful of big books, you know, so you needed a little muscle. And I had a lot of interesting experiences on the Greyhound bus one morning. Of course, you got to be friends with the commuters, people that worked Maybe Between Brockport and buffalo somewhere or buffalo. And But anyway, I sat with this gentleman was tall and rangy and had a had a beard. A very handsome looking guy as I recall. And we started talking. He had a French accent he was from. He was French Canadian. and he was from the worked in the north woods as a lumber man. And he wanted to know what my name was? And I said, Betty Bolger. And he says Oh Boljay, Boljay. Francais you know, and I said no Irish but I think it was if there had been an Oh, it was dropped off. O'Bolger. There are O'Bolgers. But anyway, it was county Wexford. in Ireland down in southeastern corner, they had suffered the Norman, Normandy invasion, you know, Norman invasion and other invasions, but down in that area, it was French and so I think there was French influence. I'd love to know, you know, but anyway, it was fascinating talking with him.

Charlie Cowling 13:28

All the drivers must have known you.

Betty Bolger 13:29

Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. And my friend Elsie. You remind me of that because the drivers fell in love with her.

Charlie Cowling 13:38

Who was that?

Betty Bolger 13:39

Elsie Elsie Kamal

Charlie Cowling 13:41

Another girl in your class?

Betty Bolger 13:42

Oh, yeah. She was. Now where's the Ks? Cs. H I J Here she is. A Little Dutch Girl she had blonde and naturally curly hair and the sweetest disposition

Charlie Cowling 13:57

She's a lively looking thing.

Betty Bolger 13:59

Yes. She Was she was my pal we got acquainted the first term and she was as poor as I was. and

Charlie Cowling 14:09

was she from the city too

Betty Bolger 14:10

yeah humboldt street she lived on. So anyway she we agreed that we would not be in the same section. We would buy second hand books, which you could get then nowadays I think they they put out new books so you have to buy the new books. I really suspect

Charlie Cowling 14:35

well actually the kids even know if they can they try to buy the used books,

Betty Bolger 14:39

do they?

Charlie Cowling 14:40

Oh, yes, the books are terribly expensive. Yeah.

Betty Bolger 14:43

Well, they were and we for even for our range of money. Anyway, that we'd buy one set and share the books. We had to organize our days. So we wouldn't be in the same section to begin with we had different teachers, assignments would be different. It was a terrific organization. And we traveled if we lived out there, we could easily make use of the books together. But she went one way I went another.

Charlie Cowling 15:23

That would have been tricky I think

Betty Bolger 15:24

It was tricky

Charlie Cowling 15:24

My impression is that the school at that time had a fairly fixed schedule of classes?

Betty Bolger 15:30

Yes, they did

Charlie Cowling 15:30

They didn't have a lot of the electives that came later. So you must have had to work pretty hard to follow that

Betty Bolger 15:35

we did. And we never had a free period. We spent our free periods in the library. You know, other girls would say, Well, I'm going to go home. I've got some wash to do. I'll be back for my next class.

Charlie Cowling 15:49

So that would have been Mrs. McCrory at that time. I think

Betty Bolger 15:51

Mrs. mccory. Miss Engels was in the grammar school. The teaching training school. She was the eighth grade teacher, Miss Ralston was 17th. And the reason I remember is that I had a my, in my term of practice teaching, you had three you had a country school, there were country schools left at that time, country school, suburban type city and the training school at Brockport. And but that's another story the training. I I always thought with my taste of teaching and my enjoyment of little ones. I thought, I'll just wonderful in the kindergarden, you know, those little kids that'll be great, you know, so my first assignment was a kindergarden in East Rochester, and I had to travel from seabreeze out to East Rochester too for that I did a lot of traveling. And I had this lovely kindergarden teacher who was very, very helpful to me because she, she was very understanding and I was fine teaching a song. I played the piano, and I love singing. I love reading reading stories all anything like that. I love the little kids, but organized confusion was not my cup of tea. I found out where they just are settling down to doing some drawing or something. I began having actual nightmares about three weeks in,

Charlie Cowling 16:28

It just wasn't your cup of tea was it?

Betty Bolger 18:06

Wasn't my cup of tea. The kids in my dream are going out windows and I'm trying to pull them back and trying anyway, but I'm I got through it and I passed that particular What was her name? The the teacher who would come and check on all of us practice teachers.

Unknown Speaker 18:30

was this somebody from Brockport from training school

Unknown Speaker 18:32

Oh, yeah, there was a Dr. Stratermeyer. And at the same time, there was this other lady was sort of a counterbalance to Stratermeyer,

Charlie Cowling 18:42

They have some of the faculty on the front here,

Betty Bolger 18:44

yeah, right. Anyway, she came out and she,

Charlie Cowling 18:50

oh, you might, if you might, if you look through you might see there's Pauline Haynes there but I'm trying to think they don't have them sorted out that way by

Betty Bolger 18:58

By where they are

Charlie Cowling 18:58

Miss Sutter, maybe

Betty Bolger 19:00

Ole Miss Sutter that's who it is education

Charlie Cowling 19:05

so she was actually sort of a circuit rider she'd go around and check on the students if their

Betty Bolger 19:08

Yeah, she probably had certain days that where she had free time she taught us too, Stratermeyer

Charlie Cowling 19:09

So She would come out to East Rochester or wherever the student has, just to review

Betty Bolger 19:18

She'd come out she came out to check on me so I I made it alright she was a kindly lady. And then my next assignment was a country school at Garland.

Charlie Cowling 19:30

OhI know Garland, yes I know Garland.

Betty Bolger 19:33

Okay, well now the little country school isn't there. It's I think it's a home now.

Charlie Cowling 19:39

You know, I used to attend the garland Methodist Church, and I knew a man named Bob Mikeg and a woman named Mary Jane. Her married name was Boise. I can't remember her maiden name and they had gone to school in that school probably around the time you were there

Betty Bolger 19:55

Oh I betcha. I'm gonna let that

Charlie Cowling 19:58

Oh Okay. Sure.

Betty Bolger 20:01

I receive an awful lot of these asking for money. Now the political scene is starting. So I've told my friends and relatives, when you call on the machine it says, Please leave a message and I'll

get back to you. So do it, please. I might be looking right at the phone. No, see. So that was one of those they don't want to put a message.

Charlie Cowling 20:32

No. I understand

Betty Bolger 20:33

Right. Thank you for your call. Anyway, my country school in Garland, we had kids first to eighth. And that was a unique experience that I cherish because this is why our class where did I put that book? Oh, what's

Charlie Cowling 20:59

what book is that

Betty Bolger 21:02

Let me see, well anyway, maybe it's, you know, our class was unique. And what the book I'm talking about is, it's put out by some publishing company.

Charlie Cowling 21:23

I know you were the first ones to do the whole four year teacher's college

Betty Bolger 21:26

That's right. We were

Charlie Cowling 21:27

you were the first to get the bachelor's.

Betty Bolger 21:29

And we were on the edge of the centralizations And the end of country schools

Charlie Cowling 21:35

Country schools were starting to die at that point.

Betty Bolger 21:37

We had our feet in two centuries, right? Almost, you know, let's see. Oh, here it is. I took it out.

I'm curious what you thought about that. Because speaking of Garland, I knew a woman. I did an interview with a woman a long time ago who graduated from the normal school in the 20s. And she went over and she got her teaching assignment after school was to be at Garland. And she had a very hard time with it. She said she was just a young woman. She was there all by herself. She was the only person the only adult. she had a group of students.

Where was her teacher?

Charlie Cowling 22:11

No, this was after she graduated.

Betty Bolger 22:13

Oh, she got the job

Charlie Cowling 22:14

she was she got the job. And she was the teacher there. And she said she had a hard time partly because there was some boys there who were foster kids or something on one of the farms and they caused her a lot of discipline. And she said she was all by herself. There was nobody else there to back her up or help her. And she did it for one year. And she just said, No, I'm not gonna keep doing

Betty Bolger 22:33

Not Her cup of tea.

Charlie Cowling 22:35

Yeah. And it's kind of interesting because, I think people often have a romantic notion of the one room schools but and maybe they could have been that way sometimes, but

Betty Bolger 22:45

I'm sure they were because you've got I found from my own experience. You get to know families. And because the families take a personal interest in their kids. I Got. You've seen these have you

Charlie Cowling 23:03

Oh, yes, yes. This whole series. Yeah, because that's the one of Brockport, right.

Betty Bolger 23:07

And I, because here I have outlined, put when it gets to the history that we entered.

Charlie Cowling 23:18

Right. You were the first ones.

Betty Bolger 23:20

Yeah. And I know why did I have this over here? must have been something about our class.

Unknown Speaker 23:31

That was a big transition time. I know for the school, Dr. Hartwell being there and getting, the new building and the teachers college status and going from normal school to teacher's college,

Betty Bolger 23:41

it was a lovely experience. Our team, our class, only experienced what what you call now Hartwell Hall, the main opening

Charlie Cowling 23:58

now you were in the old building initially

Betty Bolger 24:00

First grade, first year. And this is why I say it's like having your foot in one century. Because I loved the vined cover walls of the old 1800

Charlie Cowling 24:15

It was all covered with wysteria, right?

Betty Bolger 24:17

Oh, yeah. And I loved it when we built our house I said to my husband, I said, I want vine covered. And he said, Uh uh, it's destructive to the, to the bricks and everything. So okay, so we compromised he built when he built the garage, he had bricks leftover that he put on the front of the garage, and the rest of it was the cinder block. He said, we'll put vines on the cinderblock. Wasn't that nice? Yeah, I could at least look at that. But that was a romantic kind of introduction to To the halls of college

Charlie Cowling 25:01

now they must have been that first year you were there. They were already starting to build the new building was it

Betty Bolger 25:07

the first summer after we went home,

Charlie Cowling 25:11

okay, they started then,

Betty Bolger 25:12

they started when we came back. They were destructing, destructing the whole thing.

Charlie Cowling 25:19

What do you remember about that old building in terms of what was it like inside was all cut stone Medina sandstone I know. And

Betty Bolger 25:27

I don't recall too. There wasn't too much to see although it was bigger. See, I went to Ben Franklin High School, which was when it was built. And when I went it was only 25 years old. And it was the largest High School east of the Mississippi. My class had 860 some. The day that we were practicing for the graduation where I was standing in line and the girl ahead of me, we'd never even seen each other before. We'd been there for years. We thought that was unique. You know, here we are just meeting. We're graduating. But anyway, so I went to a big High School. And so Brockport was not big, but it was college. It was, and, all I now I've mentioned this before to different ones that came after but they never heard of the green room. There was up on the third floor, you had to go up the stairs. As you left the main floor would get more rickety, creaky and rickety, but I think I went up to the green room by myself one day and took a chance that nobody was up there just to see what the heck that's all about, you know, but it was the room that was painted green. And kids went up there to study or to get into trouble. No, you never know.

Charlie Cowling 27:09

So it was just A sort of lounge. Yeah.

Betty Bolger 27:11

But nobody considered it. Especially the faculty. But anyway, but that I used to here, see if I didn't live there. So I would only pick up on I heard in the locker room or a lunch, or whatever. But anyway, um,

Charlie Cowling 27:31

and then you came back, and they were starting to tear all that down and

Betty Bolger 27:35

tearing it down

Charlie Cowling 27:36

and build the new one. And that must have been quite interesting

Betty Bolger 27:38

They did the That was, if I would lived there, it would have been very interesting.

Charlie Cowling 27:45

I've heard stories from people that were in the training school back then, about how at one point they had to carry all their little chairs and things from the old building over to the new one because they were tearing that part of the old one down

Betty Bolger 27:59

probably had Help for that. I don't recall and it was probably after school hours. You know, they could do it But see I, I did miss a lot. But I gained a lot too

Charlie Cowling 28:13

But you were in that new building which it must have been absolutely lovely when they first built that.

Betty Bolger 28:18

It was lovely, lovely, it was lovely.

Charlie Cowling 28:19

I've seen the Pictures. It's amazing. the fireplaces

Betty Bolger 28:22

It was amazing Yeah. Anyway, I'm so glad that my memories of school included two centuries. You know, it was and I've I've asked the class one. One year when we had to write memories or something. I forget now what it was. But I said I wonder how many of our class this was when we were seniors. Probably Remember the first day they walked in the building. I have a vivid memory coming from home. To register at Brockport, I had been accepted at RBI too I took the entrance thing just for the heck of it knowing that more than likely, I would choose Brockport because from the time I was in second grade, I wanted to be a teacher. But I wanted to be the

kind of teacher that a little child like me, who was fearful of everything, could feel comfortable. And that's what I did, too. I really felt because I know from the reaction of some of my little fearful little kids, you know, that I've kept in touch with a lot of my the kids that I taught Fourth grade in Lyndonville for three years. And then the war, I got married. And he came back from Iceland, where he had been for three years. And I went with him until he was discharged a year later. But then I did a lot of substituting in schools for the first year after we got back home. Then I got a job at Hoover Drive in Greece, at a time when there were two Greece schools.

Charlie Cowling 28:34

Greece was a lot more rural then wasn't it?

Betty Bolger 30:41

Yeah. And boy did it mushroom. In the 10 years after we got back, the schools were being built. Every little while you'd hear of a new school. And but at that time, there were just two schools in the area. And I've kept in touch with that sixth grade. One gal there has to be a fireplug in, in each grade to keep the class together, if there's nobody that really cares to do that kind of thing. The class just disappears and memory goes, You don't

Charlie Cowling 31:26

I think you're right

Betty Bolger 31:26

you don't remember them. They fade away. And that's a pity. It is. So anyway, but no, I don't know I started two different trends.

Charlie Cowling 31:41

Well you certainly got a good start there at Brockport towards becoming a teacher like you're talking about. Maybe speaking of teachers, you can talk a little about some of the teachers that you had at Brockport, is there or are there any that really stand

Betty Bolger 31:52

Prof Edmonds Prof Edmonds this goes back to what I was saying about the first day

Charlie Cowling 31:57

His picture's right in the front here. I think

Betty Bolger 31:58

he was our what do you call it when class class Yeah, yeah. Dear man, dear man. He helped me a lot. I had him for English. four years. I wouldn't have anybody else. Delancey was there. And let's see, I all I remember about Delancey that everybody loved him. But I remember that his kids used to say, Don't sit in the front row he spits when he gets excited.

Charlie Cowling 31:58

Okay. Never heard that

Betty Bolger 32:37

Oh, dear. But as I as I said, I, for the first time I traveled, when you've got sisters, you've got somebody with you all the time going to the store, getting groceries out, whatever, you've got somebody with you. But after I made the decision on a weekend I took one week at RBI just to make sure my folks didn't have to spend much but the 10 bucks that we had to invest in something there. I it bothered me But anyway, on a weekend I prayed to the Good Lord to direct my my steps make help me be sure because I even thought about RBI only because I wanted to help my parents. And I knew I could get out of RBI in two years and get a job where Brockport I at that time was three, going in. And I didn't know how easy it would be to get a job. It wasn't easy at that time. But anyway, I prayed and the good Lord will help you. I just suddenly suddenly knew Brockport I went back to the kitchen and my mother and father were both very relieved, they really my father really wanted me to go to be a teacher, that would be such a joy in his life, you know? Anyway, so, but Monday when I had to register that following Monday, and I had to go by myself, you know, we always went with somebody.

Charlie Cowling 34:25

I have brothers and sisters, so I know what you mean, as a kid you're running around with your brothers

Betty Bolger 34:30

Always always had somebody. In fact, it was hard to find a time by yourself if you just wanted to do some thinking you know, but so I went but I didn't take the right Greyhound. I didn't know that I should have been taking that 731

Charlie Cowling 34:48

Where did you end up?

Betty Bolger 34:50

Well, I went the next one out was around 10:00 9:30 or 10:00. So it was a beautiful now I can work Remember the sunshine that day? Beautiful September day, September morn you know. and walking up College Street,

Charlie Cowling 35:10

Where'd the bus let you out,

Betty Bolger 35:11

right at the end of college street. When we got on the bus, we had to go down to the drugstore and get that was a regular step but he for the college kids, there were others, a few others but not that particular day. The others were there registering when they should. So I went in the building, somebody directed me up to the second floor. And right at the head of the stairs was the door that Mr. Edmonds and I can see his welcom he was a big man, you know, and, and big smile and so come on in, come on in. And so they were all sitting in there. Still registering. So, anyway, but leaving having registered, I'm a college student. I came out that front door of the old building stood on the steps. I get weepy, And looked around and I thought, here I am, this is the first day of my future. You know, right here. The sun was shining and it was beautiful and Miss Wrench who was the art teacher, she and

Charlie Cowling 36:43

Alice Yale.

Betty Bolger 36:45

Alice. I thank God never had her. I heard terrible stories. Miss wrench. She came out of the training school and saw me standing up there and she so We met to go down the sidewalk. And

she welcomed me so lovely. You know she was had her home was right on College Avenue near the end of this. So I had a nice little walk with her. But she made me feel right at home that this. This is great. You know?

Charlie Cowling 37:22

That's a wonderful story.

Betty Bolger 37:24

Yeah. And so nobody, when I brought it up with sometime later, nobody remembered when they registered. But that's a vivid, vivid memory because I'd made and I knew I'd made the right move, you know? So, anyway, let's see what else can I my experience in with my first job Oh, That's another thing. I was one of those students that kinds of disappears in the woodwork you know, this is why I never could really believe that Dr. Hartwell was a strict disciplinarian. Because anytime I saw him I saw him in the hall. And he seemed, I had a feeling he knew me and maybe he did. Maybe he kept track. You know? And because he was always really glad to see me just passing in the hall. How are you doing? And he was a beautiful looking man. He was a gracious fellow, you know, but then I later on after we had graduated, I heard that he was strict that he could be very blunt. You know very I didn't see that. But anyway, see I lost my train of thought thinking about Dr. Hartwell. Something now what was I?

Charlie Cowling 39:21

We were talking about mister, We were talking about Mr. Edmonds and some of your other teachers

Betty Bolger 39:27

Mr. Edmonds. He became, he really cared about our class of 42. We became special to him. He'd been teaching I don't know how long he'd been teaching

I think he'd been there a number of years I think, that must have been exciting for the teachers too to have the school go from a normal school to a Teacher's college, a big change

must have been must have been of course they knew before we knew that it was in the works We didn't know anything about the politics of

Charlie Cowling 39:59

when you went there. Initially, as far as you know, you were going to

Betty Bolger 40:02

A normal school what they called

Charlie Cowling 40:04

You'd do three years and get a license.

Betty Bolger 40:05

Three years, right. And it was, I guess, at the end of the first year, or the beginning of the second of course the war was looming, overhead. You know, this is how our class and all kids that grew up our age growing up, it was the depression. we all knew the value of a dollar. And we all know we had to work for whatever we wanted to I didn't know anybody there and I'm sure there could be a few that didn't have to worry about money. But everyone I knew had a job. Worked summers. My friend Lillian she worked for Mr. Edmonds. Dr. Edmonds. He became While we were there taking care, she had a boarded in his home and took care of his younger child that was retarded. And did housework and so forth. That's how my friend Lillian came got through

Charlie Cowling 41:19

And you worked as well?

Betty Bolger 41:21

Pardon

Charlie Cowling 41:21

and you worked

Betty Bolger 41:22

no my father. I wanted to go with my older sister looking for a job in in a dime store or something. We had a couple of dime stores downtown or babysitting or whatever. I forgot what

Elsie did. Well, she worked summers anyway. But my father wise man that he was, would not let me even think about it. He says you've got to take this summer to get your your rest and your health back and get ready for an Another year

Charlie Cowling 42:00

That was very supportive of him

Betty Bolger 42:01

Very Oh, he was supportive because it meant he told me one day, years later, that the happiest day of his life was when I walked across the stage.

Charlie Cowling 42:18

That's wonderful.

Betty Bolger 42:21

So here's here's Lillian. She's now in the Fairport Baptist home. She's totally blind. And anyway, see what was? Oh, Mr. Edmonds. He helped me a lot. Because I was, like I said, I was a kid that when I was in fourth grade, and we had a part of another have a fifth grade in with us. I raised my hand Once the teacher was dealing with the other with the fifth, and we were doing something else, they were having a problem and she couldn't see why they couldn't know that answer. And she said, I'll bet somebody in the fourth grade knows that. So never have raised my hand before I raised it. And I gave the answer. And I made up my mind, I would never raise my hand again. I didn't like the feeling. I thought, everybody's going to think I think I'm smart. And I never did. I never raised my hand in high school. Never raised my hand at Brockport. And I just didn't like

Charlie Cowling 43:44

It was just your personality.

Betty Bolger 43:45

Yeah. So, anyway, but Mr. Edmonds, our first year, had each one of us stand up in front and tell, I think tell where we lived. You know, and what it was like growing up where we lived. So he called me but he was such a friendly down to earth humorous, kind of man that I got up there.

Oh, that's another thing. I blushed. I always had I had my father's high color rosy cheeks. And on top of that I blushed it was the bane of my life as a kid, somebody would just look at me and Ooh, you know, somebody of interest you know, that kind of thing. And in fact at my 50th alumni gathering the some dear classmates, because I had been getting the class together for at that time for quite a while. petitioned that I would be get an award. And I think that was the first year they had an appreciation award. It wasn't something we always had. And so and I knew when I got that that I was going to have to make a speech. It killed me for months. But I, I did it. And

Charlie Cowling 45:30

I bet you did really well

Betty Bolger 45:31

John Groom. Yeah, john groom, this handsome man here, who went through Garland, the same Grammar School I did

Charlie Cowling 45:39

Oh he's from seabreeze too

Betty Bolger 45:41

yeah. He was two years ahead of me. And the girls I used to walk to school with happened to be in his grade. And I used to hear about johnny, this girl, Catherine she said, Oh, she said to the other girl Mary? I had a dream Johnny last night. Oh, and so with that morning that I walked in to register. It was enough to come into the room and have everybody thank god they were all busy. But I looked and there was John Groom. He had worked for two years as a model in one of the men's clothing stores he was a the handsome guy. Oh, did I get red for No, You know, I didn't. He didn't even look up, you know. But anyway, I, I had that problem of blushing, which, which opens up another door, but that was my personal development. My older sister had problems with school, and she was in she had to stay back in the third grade. So we were together all through school. When she would be called on, I'd get red. When the teacher was going down the little aisle calling one after another. I would get red in the face because I lived her feelings. I knew how she felt when she was going to have to. And I would react the way I would react for myself.

Charlie Cowling 47:29

You had a lot of sympathy.

Betty Bolger 47:31

Well, that had one teacher who eventually became the principal. Always misjudged. I figured this out later. Misjudged my appearance, thought I was ashamed of her.

Charlie Cowling 47:49

Oh, well that's too bad

Betty Bolger 47:51

So for the first year of high, the neighboring public school, Durand Eastman. The principal was a very forward thinking man, and he was initiating a ninth grade to his grammar school. So we then would normally would be going either to Irondequoit high, which I couldn't reach because no transportation went over that way. And or Ben Franklin, where our tuition would be taken care of, you know, but while that ninth grade existed, we had to go there if it was provided. So we spent our first year of high school at Durand Eastman And so within the first week of school, I the homeroom teacher said Mr. Schwartz The principal would like to see you elizabeth and I thought the whole room had got red, you know, and I went down and I never said and the talk that he gave me. I never said a word but I was thinking he, his general gist of conversation was reminding me to be helpful to my sister. And I thought about that for years, and I never had a chance to talk to that nun, that teacher, that misjudged me

She said something to him

she was. She, of course, gave the name to him. She had a conference with him about this kid's coming over and mentioned Margaret, my sister, and about her problem and she blamed most of her problem on me, I think. And I often she was a dear woman, a good woman, but she I could tell she, she had a thing about me because one day when I was in the sixth grade, The our sixth grade teacher had heard me just singing with everybody singing. And she took me down to the door of, of the Sister Pierre's room. And she says, I've got another singer for you. I've got another one for you. So obviously they've been talking about the choir, you know? And she saw me, she said, What did she do now? I mean, that all I put it all together. She misjudged me totally. And I didn't I did very well in school. Because not that I got it easy, but I worked and with what the Lord equipped me with, I had good marks. And I often wanted to just talk with her and let her know how my growing up was. Margaret had a short fuse. anybody stepping on my toes or her

toes, she would be ready to and I'd say nevermind nevermind. Let it go Let it go, you know. I was protective of Margaret all my life

Charlie Cowling 49:42

You were a good sister,

Betty Bolger 51:15

My older sister. Yeah. And anyway, those things influenced me to the point where I, my friends, when they found out that I'm going to be a teacher couldn't believe it, you know, because I was very shy very to myself and the piano. From the time I was four years old, and we'd go to grandma's house and grandma had and I, my mother knew how to play and her sisters, My aunts knew how, teach me how to play show me how to play. I wanted to play a piano. When I think of the people I know who were forced by their parents to take piano lessons and never really cared about it. I feel sorry for them. You should never push a child find another instrument there's or another joy that they have further it, but don't push them once you know they, because I knew what it was to have a vivid interest. I wanted to learn to play the piano. In the end, I taught myself I never had a lesson. But my mother knew how much I wanted to and she took advantage of some Levus music store, push for advertising, that if you you know send something in, you get a chance at a real discount on a piano that was when I was in seventh grade.

Charlie Cowling 53:02

And so she bought a piano

Betty Bolger 53:03

she did obviously with my father was obviously with it because he was the king of the roost. You know she she didn't do anything that Henry didn't approve of

Charlie Cowling 53:14

That was a big purchase

Betty Bolger 53:16

And she got the piano she got me a beginner's book showed me where middle C was and where it was on the graph and you know this and a and a community songbook with all way down upon

the Swanee River and old black joe and all those familiar things, you know, so here was a nobody ever told me to practice I wanted to. I spent that summer between seventh and eighth grade working on that and I never got further than the second page in the in the book the beginners book. I went right To the community songbook using the graph of the piano right there and figured this and then I could hear the tone. And, you know, by the end of that year that summer, I even found out that I could pick up the sound by ear

Charlie Cowling 54:22

Well you had a talent.

Betty Bolger 54:24

I had a talent for that, but I think it was all for me. I have short fingers that you never a concert pianist with short fingers. I had a hard time reaching the octave and if you put a few notes in between that you gotta do. I really had to work on it. But my father loved Danny Boy. And he had a record player, you know, so he had these old big records that he'd play and so I just saw sat down one day and I got Danny boy by ear. And I still play it the same way. I've seen other renditions of it, and other pieces of music, but I like the way I dit it. And my father used to sit there and listen to that.

Charlie Cowling 55:17

Oh that's a nice story.

Betty Bolger 55:18

Yeah, but anyway, when we went over to the ninth grade, they had a grand, wonderful music section there. Miss Britain was Mrs. Britain was the teacher and, and then they had a regular piano teacher that came in to teach kids by different degrees of development, you know, first, so my mother said, Why don't you try that, you know, see what she what they can help you with because I never got The rudiments, I never got the beginnings, the scales what they are. Fingering I'd do my own I'd trip over my own fingers

Charlie Cowling 56:09

It's tricky teaching yourself something like that it's easy to miss the important bits.

Betty Bolger 56:12

Oh you miss out you miss out a lot. Anyway, so after the first month, probably the first week in October she I went to see her. So she had me try out that week with her first with the little ones, the little ones you know. And so she told me next come again, you know, the next time for the middle intermediate group. And I was too beyond them. So she had two girls who were seventh graders. And of course here I am ninth grade. They were two big fat girls and I was foo, Anyway, so I stuck with them and my she would my mother and she had conversation at different times and she says your daughter must practice a lot. She says she does very well. Of course, we'd get one piece of music and we'd work on it, you know. And I'd practice the night before. So that I, the my biggest practice was trying to finger. That was one thing that really kind of baffled me. And we had a concert at the end. And so there were just about maybe four or five months that I had lessons, but I didn't learn anything. I didn't learn what I missed. I just enjoyed, but the concert I didn't enjoy. And it was kind of complicated. I've got the piece of music I can't do it anymore. I can Hear dum dum, dum dum dum dum dum dum, dum dum. It was a Polish something or other. And it was a book that had German music polish and something else. Anyway, I was so embarrassed that I ran all the way home. I didn't wait for Margaret. I ran all the way home. But out of that when I was in high school, there were some boys in my neighborhood that were getting a group together and they remembered that I played the piano at that concert. So the fellow that asked me said would you join we've got I forget what he played and the fellow that my sister Rita my younger sister married he was a was a oh, gosh, I can think of it but anyway no use struggling but they had the main

Charlie Cowling 56:29

Trombone,

Betty Bolger 57:18

No, not the trombone the smaller instrument but mix of

Charlie Cowling 59:14

Trumpet?

Betty Bolger 59:15

trumpet. And so I did but when I got up the nerve to these are things that that I hit, I struggled with fear and then

Charlie Cowling 59:28

victories

Betty Bolger 59:28

Took it, took a chance and my father even let me go but he would have my this is how my younger sister met the, the trumpet player was he thought that my younger sister six years younger than me, went with me. There'd be no monkey business, you know, and h's very protective. We had to

Charlie Cowling 59:50

A good father

Betty Bolger 59:51

he was a good father. Anyway, he when we would have practice the son of the music teacher at Durand Eastman would come in and drop in on his buddies you know that were playing the other instruments. And I remember him coming over to the piano. And his only criticism was can you play a little louder? Because I had a light lighter touch. And I realized there are different ones that I had played the piano they pound

Charlie Cowling 1:00:27

I guess that's right, isn't it.

Betty Bolger 1:00:28

they pound and I'd like to get a little emotion in it. You know? Anyways, we had a couple of gigs

Charlie Cowling 1:00:41

What kind of music did you play?

Betty Bolger 1:00:43

Oh, the regular popular music of the day and I had the piano version. They they all had their own, but when it you know how they always they bands orchestras has always let each individual player have a moment to tootle his horn, you know. And so there was a space for the

there you go, your solo

And I said, mhm I didn't solo. I said, No, don't expect me I wouldn't want to ruin by making a mistake. That was my feeling. If I was playing and making mistake, it would ruin it. So I said, just fill in whatever you want, but I'm, I'm not taking that. So I backed off on a lot of stuff, but I went forward on a lot of other stuff. So, anyway, but that was kind of an interesting thing to have happen.

Charlie Cowling 1:01:38

How did you speaking of music Did you play at all at Brockport? I know Pauline Haynes was there

Betty Bolger 1:01:43

No I didn't Pauline Haynes was wonderful. Yeah, no, I didn't. I we had to sing. Sing by ourselves solo a lot, you know, and that was difficult you know to do. That was the enough to do but the kids used to when we have our reunion. There was a group that came in from Brockport. Oh gee, Lois McMaster Bob Ellis. Do you know anything about Bob Ellis?

Charlie Cowling 1:02:19

The name is familiar

Betty Bolger 1:02:19

Have you ever heard anything. That camp that Brockport has or do they still have it?

Charlie Cowling 1:02:25

Oh, the Camp Cotem up in the Adirondacks?

Betty Bolger 1:02:28

He had something to do with that. He with his folks were wealthy farmers. And Bob never taught school that I know of. He took care of the farm, but he inherited money. But there's an area too of Brockport this was the last thing I heard over the years. Where Wegmans,

Charlie Cowling 1:02:28

right?

Betty Bolger 1:02:38

There's a whole area that was his family's property and he gave he sold it. Anyway but he had he's had a very he's still alive. But the poor guy. We used to have our reunions that I organized at Cartwright Inn.

Charlie Cowling 1:03:17

You mentioned that.

Betty Bolger 1:03:18

And the last time he came when he was leaving, he almost lost his balance and I happened to be near him. And he said, I don't know what's going on. But he says I'm having a problem with my balance. And had to be when we were in our, oh gee, 70s. You know, and the before the next year, he had had MRI, and he had a tumor on the brain. A Non malignant, but he's dealt with it. From then to this day, he's still alive. And he's in the Brockport nursing home now, but he's lived a long many years up until within the last 10 years. He went to the nursing home, he lived in his own home. What uh, you know, when I think about it, he's lived all that time. Not being gradually being limited. He had a buddy that still visits himm, bless his heart. I'd love to know who that is and just tell him how much I appreciate his caring about Bob all these years. They used to when he was still active, go down to one of the local restaurants or something and watch the girls go by as he said, but how I brought him up. He was he could tell one one liner after another. He was funny.

Charlie Cowling 1:05:13

This is him right here, Bob Ellis, right?

Betty Bolger 1:05:14

That's him. And he said his mother was a great jokester. And he got all those jokes from her. I used to love to sit near him when we had our alumni 'cause he wasn't raucous or anything. He was quiet and gentle. But he'd come out with these funny things, you know, and he knew all of what was the music teacher's name

Charlie Cowling 1:05:39

Pauline Haynes.

Betty Bolger 1:05:40

Pauline's. Yeah, all of her. We had we had a songbook that was children's. sailor man sailor man. Take me sailing if you can. He knew them all by heart. So this group of them that traveled back and forth to the Cartwright's just loved that trip back and forth because Bob Ellis had them all singing it on and laughing about things that Miss Wrench said and so forth. I always kind of envied them their trip back and forth

Charlie Cowling 1:06:21

That sounds like a lot of fun.

Betty Bolger 1:06:23

Yeah, so I still you know, write to him, I still have sent him the our collection of letters that that I put together every year. I'm gonna do it again this year, I've decided this

Charlie Cowling 1:06:39

Good for you.

Betty Bolger 1:06:40

Yeah, I'm going to and because there is no luncheon to be concerned about. So there's no deadline. And tell them just as long as they try and get a letter either written themselves or have someone do it I always ask for that some kind person to, to write and let us know what's going on with the person. Now I've never heard from him at all. Nobody's ever done that. But I've heard through people that are one of my best friends, is friends of a person that was involved with his family. And so he just appreciates so much those letters that he gets.

Charlie Cowling 1:07:35

Do you think he would be up for a visit like we're having. Do you have any idea

Betty Bolger 1:07:40

He before he had went to the nursing home? I would have said yes. I wish I'd known that. When he was still at home, but now he is mostly bedridden. I don't know how much he gets up, even. But he's conscious. There's it hasn't affected. It's slow growing, which is a tragedy in a way. But they couldn't operate because it was in a bad, dangerous area. Isn't that strange how people's lives are so different? And you're influenced by the circumstances

Charlie Cowling 1:08:23

Things you could have never predicted.

Betty Bolger 1:08:25

No, no. He was such a gentle man. You know? I mean that gentle man. Yeah. So, no this there's a girl that nobody every time I bring her up to different classmates. They don't remember her.

Charlie Cowling 1:08:46

It sounds like you all stay pretty connected. And you were a key figure for that

Betty Bolger 1:08:49

But that's because you if you don't do that, this is what I always say within the first 10 years after graduation, your busy you've got a new job you're, you're living in a new area, maybe you're getting married, your first children come on, but after that you begin thinking about school. And that's when you should do it. Get a group together like I had. Lillian and Arlene, now what was her name?

Charlie Cowling 1:09:24

Well it takes somebody like you to too take the initiative to get somebody has to kind of coordinate

Betty Bolger 1:09:27

That's what I always say they always need somebody.

Charlie Cowling 1:09:29

Yeah, sure you do

Betty Bolger 1:09:30

And Lillian was a good partner with Gladys Boldmore. She helped too so we had a bunch, you know

Charlie Cowling 1:09:37

So all these years you organized a reunion every year and some sort of a chain letter that went around?

Betty Bolger 1:09:43

Yeah,

Charlie Cowling 1:09:44

That's really neat, good for you

Betty Bolger 1:09:46

it started, It started in my backyard. I got the locals, different ones that I keep I kept in touch with and then local ones. Finally got to be too big for our backyard. But I didn't do anything. All I did was get on the phone for that because they were local. So that went on for, you know, 10 to 20 years, whatever. And then I think it was one of our, we used to come back together for the big banner years, you know, fives and 10s. But otherwise, we just did our own thing in August, second Thursday of every August, so they wouldn't forget. If you change the date they're gonna forget. But second Thursday of every August we I had some pictures. And Arlene Bardot, Arlene Wilde her maiden name was, had died. And she used to help us with she always came too and somebody said Where'd you get these pictures? The girls were showing snapshots they took. And I said my backyard. And well hey, you know, why not get in touch with me? So then we decided to broaden it. And we, so all of this took a few years of starting it

Charlie Cowling 1:11:23

Took time to evolve,

Betty Bolger 1:11:24

right, it did. And we I picked Cartwright, I had to pick a restaurant. Cartright Inn because the thruway ones runs right not far from there.

Charlie Cowling 1:11:41

Sure, that's a good location.

Betty Bolger 1:11:42

Right. And so I figured they coming from the east and coming from the west. Okay, so and Cartwright's, were wonderful to us. It's an old restaurant my aunt always talked about going to Cartright and their specialty was New England clam chowder. And she always took a quart of it home. So I started doing that. And anyway, but they took really good care of us. Every year look forward to us. And how we got in touch with Mike was one year. Cartwright's called me and this gal I knew she felt really bad. Called me about seven o'clock in the morning. She says we're going to have to cancel your reunion the very day.

Charlie Cowling 1:12:39

Oh my goodness.

Betty Bolger 1:12:43

She says we're having to close. And I think but see they were an old restaurant. They probably weren't up to date, with standards. And they had to change their kitchen. And so forth and make it disabled.

Charlie Cowling 1:13:07

Handicapped, yeah that makes sense.

Betty Bolger 1:13:09

Handicapped accessible. So, anyway, but there I am. So I, my son who lived with us at the time, when he went out in the morning to work he knew I was what the pickled that I was in, you know. So well I began calling all the people at a distance to make sure they got the message. I didn't want them to arrive. We were getting old, you know. And coming from oh, Oh gosh. Syracuse. Sure.

Charlie Cowling 1:13:46

Such short notice for something like thatm yeah.

Betty Bolger 1:13:47

Yeah, and Canandaigua and oh, and Niagara Falls and buffalo. And so I'm thank God it worked. The good Lord, help me there, too. I got every one of 'em. then it was easy to get the ones that would be leaving later. I got ready I got busy with them got that all taken care of. And so but so we had to cancel that we had no reunion that year. So the next year, I don't know what caused me to call the alumni office. And I got Mike. And I told him He's so friendly and everything. Oh, he's a wonderful fellow. Yeah, I told him my predicament. And he said, Well, why don't you make arrangements this year to come out to the Hartwell house? Because we used to come for the Hartwell dinner. When we felt like in in between the banner years and because on the banner year We'd want to have our picture taken and. And that happens Saturday morning. But he said we'll, we'll treat you so that was the beginning of the wonderful ending.

Charlie Cowling 1:15:13

Oh, that's nice.

Betty Bolger 1:15:14

Yeah.

Charlie Cowling 1:15:15

Good for Mike.

Betty Bolger 1:15:16

good for Mike. He was great. And we appreciated it. I appreciated it so much because it really brought to a close. Our getting together all those years in our old age. We were back at school on the campus with the building there. And in the Hartwell house. So

Charlie Cowling 1:15:44

Now how did it work with the letters though?

Betty Bolger 1:15:47

Oh, okay.

Charlie Cowling 1:15:48

Did people all mail you something and then you put together one big letter to send back to everyone, is that kinda what

Betty Bolger 1:15:54

Right, I'll show you one. I'll show you the last ones. Yeah, I I wrote the letters. And when we had 30 some people that would get together. And don't forget our class was only in this yearbook. There's only 94 faces,

Charlie Cowling 1:16:15

Right. It was a very small school then.

Betty Bolger 1:16:17

A small school. When it started our freshman year, there were over 200 kids like 210. But they weeded out. Especially after the first year there, I don't know. That gets them to begin with. I would imagine it would anytime

Charlie Cowling 1:16:34

even now the freshman year is sort of a winnowing out process. a lot of kids, that they're just not ready. Maybe all sorts of things

Betty Bolger 1:16:41

right, Anyway. So when you think about it, 94 people, and we still now this year, when I send out the letters of the addresses that nobody sends them back. We don't get them back. Somebody gets them. And anyway, there are 18. However, this year, there could be more of a loss, you know, every year. There's more. And so but I don't know, and I never will know, because so many people just receive the letters and don't do anything about it.

Charlie Cowling 1:17:26

But you've kept the thread going here all these years and that's wonderful. I admire that very much.

Betty Bolger 1:17:31

Yeah. And anyway, I had about five girls that helped out and I divided the class and gave them 10 to 12 names, you know, and then I set my own to and in the letter, I tell them about when the date and what time I repeat it the same every year. And at first, we had choice of menu and after the oh some years, we change that to them choosing when they get there. So it's less work for me. So, and I didn't have to let the restaurant it was the details to get rid of. And and you learn as you go, but anyway, then gradually the girls that helped me began to disappear from this life. Heart attack, Lillian lost was losing her vision. Another gal died of a stroke. Marian Quackenbush began to have heart trouble. But she, she lived right up until around maybe seven years ago. Five to seven years ago. Anyway, so it narrowed down and Finally, I'm writing the letters, you know doing everything. But in the end every time I compiled the letters into and my son who worked at Xerox in printing okay helped me with you know, it was nothing fancy, you know, just a compilation of letters in their own handwriting. Not me taking over in their own handwriting and with the front piece you know on the

Charlie Cowling 1:19:39

Yeah, I'd be curious to see those before I go today that that sounds like a fascinating project to do all these years that's

Betty Bolger 1:19:45

Yeah, I'll I'll get the box if you want me to get it now.

Charlie Cowling 1:19:49

No, actually, you know, before I forget, I'd like to see it but i just i haven't I've been sitting here with my arm on top of this book. I mentioned this to you when

Betty Bolger 1:19:56

the pictures from the Cuple All (?) ?

Charlie Cowling 1:19:59

This well this is the building of Hartwell

Betty Bolger 1:20:04

Hartwell the Hartwell

Charlie Cowling 1:20:05

And I don't know if this could be your husband or not.

Betty Bolger 1:20:07

Oh that's what I gotta.

Charlie Cowling 1:20:09

This is Aura van Slakes third grade sidewalk Superintendent book about the building of Hartwell, and there isn't I don't know if

Betty Bolger 1:20:18

Well if the pictures were taken from the ground I doubt if I'd be able to

Charlie Cowling 1:20:24

No this a, This is a close up of a young man with a welder's mask. I don't know if this that's

Betty Bolger 1:20:33

now let me get a better look here. No, that really doesn't look like him.

Charlie Cowling 1:20:42

Okay, well,

Betty Bolger 1:20:43

But it's try. It was a good try.

Charlie Cowling 1:20:47

Well, he's a welder.

Betty Bolger 1:20:48

Yeah, he's a welder. Right.

Charlie Cowling 1:20:50

But yeah, that's the book you can look at it for a moment if you like.

Betty Bolger 1:20:53

I betcha if my husband saw that he'd know just who that guy was

Charlie Cowling 1:20:57

That Aura van Slake must have been something she had All the kids watch the construction through the year and they put this book together and they each wrote a little story and drew a picture of the crane or the whatever

Betty Bolger 1:21:08

Electrical welding by James Edmonds father a doctor and

Charlie Cowling 1:21:12

Yeah right he must have been one of Edmond's children

Betty Bolger 1:21:14

Instead of using hot rivets to fasten the I beams. Yeah, there's a new process it's called electric welding. They weld with a rod of carbon steel just like the steel in the beam. An electric generator makes the intense heat that melts the steel welding rod. The welder begins at the

bottom and seals the opening between the beams that he fills the space between the beams. Isn't there fascinating, well kids must have loved that

Charlie Cowling 1:21:46

It's a wonder-, this you know, in every collection. There's always something that you like particularly this is one of my very favorite things in that whole archives is this book, it's just. And you can see if you turn as you turn the pages you see there's the hand drawn pictures that the children did of the different mechanical things the

Betty Bolger 1:22:03

Oh my gosh, isn't that amazing what grade, fifth?

Charlie Cowling 1:22:07

It says in the front,

Betty Bolger 1:22:10

Here's a drawing. yeah

Charlie Cowling 1:22:12

here's some of the drawings. It's

Betty Bolger 1:22:14

fifth grade maybe.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:17

Let's see here it says. Fourth grade.

Betty Bolger 1:22:20

Fourth grade.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:21

Yeah, the pupils are the fourth grade at the campus school. The Diary of the sidewalk. Super-, Isn't that the most neat thing?

Betty Bolger 1:22:27

This is amazing.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:29

1939

Betty Bolger 1:22:30

Oh my gosh, that was our that was our first full year there.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:34

Yeah, there's Aura van Slakes foreword.

Betty Bolger 1:22:37

Oh, my.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:38

And then

Betty Bolger 1:22:39

here's a picture of the class.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:40

Picture of the class

Betty Bolger 1:22:42

Oh God.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:42

I have got to scan this book and get it online because I think so many people would just enjoy it.

Betty Bolger 1:22:48

Oh, I'm sure.

Charlie Cowling 1:22:50

I've even thought a little about maybe we could scan it and reprint it or something so people could have copies of it it's the neatest thing.

Betty Bolger 1:22:58

Well, she's a darn good teacher I'll tell you to get to keep the boys interest by. And maybe girls did drawings too.

Charlie Cowling 1:23:08

I think there's a picture in there where one of the girls is talking to one of the engineers and she says, I hear girls can't be engineers.

Betty Bolger 1:23:18

Now here's the Hartwell building

Charlie Cowling 1:23:20

Isn't that great? This book is just tremendous.

Betty Bolger 1:23:24

This is a treasure. It really really is the draftsman's tools by Dolores Scopa.

Charlie Cowling 1:23:31

Some of the some of the

Betty Bolger 1:23:32

Hey that's a Brockport name scopa. I don't mean college, town name.

Charlie Cowling 1:23:37

Some of these folks are still around because they were fourth grade in 1939. So I suppose today they'd be eighty-something.

Betty Bolger 1:23:43

Dolores Scopa. My second oldest boy had a friend, Patti scopa. And they she came from Brockport. And I'll bet that's her brother or her sister, Dolores.

Charlie Cowling 1:23:58

I know that, I know that a few of these these students are still around

Betty Bolger 1:24:01

And Patty, I saw her name in the paper some time ago. She died. And my second oldest son was a physician. And he knew Patty and Patty knew all the musicians. And there was an article in the paper when she died. And if she were only alive now. Dolores Scopa. Her father, my son, Dan, the musician. Thought the world of her father. He was a musician, himself. And he gave Dan, one of his instruments. Dan, had a couple of his favorite instrument was saxophone. And he gave Dan. So he had two Saxophones. And that's how we met Patty. Now that that's worth knowing just to see that name.

Charlie Cowling 1:25:05

I'm glad you seeing it. Isn't that something though? That's, that's one of the big treasures of the archives right there.

Betty Bolger 1:25:11

Oh, gosh, yes. I'm glad you brought it.

Charlie Cowling 1:25:13

Yeah, I thought you might like to have a look at that, sure. Oh, take your time with it. It's

Betty Bolger 1:25:18

inspecting the work of the young apprentices. Now I wonder who that teacher is?

Charlie Cowling 1:25:24

I don't know.

Betty Bolger 1:25:25

It's a man teacher.

Charlie Cowling 1:25:28

I think that might be one of the Federal architects or engineers,

Betty Bolger 1:25:31

An inspector type person.

Charlie Cowling 1:25:33

I think it's one of the I think there was a crew. It was one of those, you know, Work Project Administration things back then. And I think

Betty Bolger 1:25:41

inspecting the work of the young apprentices isn't that nice the cornerstone by Patricia Terry,

Charlie Cowling 1:25:51

Right, the laying of the cornerstone.

Betty Bolger 1:25:52

Yeah, yeah. Here's the cornerstone is laid November 17 1938.

Charlie Cowling 1:26:03

What year did you started

Betty Bolger 1:26:04

Started let me see I graduated in 38.

Charlie Cowling 1:26:08

So you started that fall

Betty Bolger 1:26:09

I started in 38?

Charlie Cowling 1:26:10

So you would have been there. We have a picture in the archives of Jeffrey Morgan who was the president of the board of trustees then putting a cement on the cornerstone in 1938. Yeah.

Betty Bolger 1:26:28

That is something

Charlie Cowling 1:26:29

Isn't that something else

Betty Bolger 1:26:30

That is something

Charlie Cowling 1:26:31

Well, I'm sorry, that wasn't your husband, but I think it was still probably fun to look at for a minute

Betty Bolger 1:26:34

well, it was a welder, and he no doubt knew my husband. And every time I have a connection with somebody, like I met a guy here. When he first came, he sat at my table. They were always bringing new comers to my table. I don't know if it was on purpose or if it was sheer accident, but there was an empty, empty chair at my table I'd get maybe it's because I sat near to the end. The open the door, and they wouldn't have them wandering around, you know, and they just. But anyway, this fellow came and we got talking, we talked about the so we got back to where we lived. And I told him that I said, I didn't live too far from here. I said, I'm in my own area here. Because I lived a block from Dewey on Stone. going east,

Charlie Cowling 1:27:38

So you were not far at all from here

Betty Bolger 1:27:39

No

Charlie Cowling 1:27:39

Oh, well, that's nice

Betty Bolger 1:27:41

and, and I belonged to the same church. My kids went to the school there, you know, when they were young, and anyway, he said, Well, what street? What street Did you say you lived on I said, Cosmos drive And I was just one block from the corner of Dewey going east anyway, he says, Now that's interesting. He said I lived at the it's a little short street running from Stone to Hamlin Park and Dewey that was down here? There was a bank at the corner and the bank now has moved to another bank and I don't know what they're gonna do with that bank property on the corner of Havilland and dewey. Anyway. He said I lived in that house right at the corner there for a few years in my early teens. And the house faces its address would be Havilland. But it was right along Cosmos then I don't know how he brought it out but his father had a group of people you could never it's not politically, politically correct anymore. A minstrel show. You couldn't

have a minstrel show. I said, my husband when he was 18. I met him when he was 21. When he was 18, 19, in through there, he belonged to that minstrel show. And Dutch used to tell me what his nickname was, you know, the the interlocutor was this guy's father.

Charlie Cowling 1:29:29

What a small world

Betty Bolger 1:29:30

What a small world and I always I feel close to somebody who's been close to, to my husband. I feel that way, you know. And so every time I see that Norm,

Charlie Cowling 1:29:44

that's a nice connection to have

Betty Bolger 1:29:45

Yeah. And his father, my husband thought a lot of that man that man was definitely had to be an outgoing guy. And that was what he did. It's a past timeid, have this minstrel show and they put on a show and I wish I could remember what Dutch's name was like happy or smiley or something and then he would throw the joke and Dutch would say the joke you know and you know it's time's gone past are gone forever because that is something they couldn't do, but it was a great piece of enjoyment with no racial feeling behind it at all. Just enjoyment of like polka music, the culture of the people and the black people have contributed so much to to entertainment.

Charlie Cowling 1:30:55

I'm glad you have that connection with this man. That's that's neat to have somebody that knew your husband back.

Betty Bolger 1:31:01

Yeah. when he was a kid a long time ago, yeah. Right that had to be Oh, back after high school that was around the time that he'd be working because he my husband graduated from Edison Tech. And did very well with he enjoyed welding. You know,

Charlie Cowling 1:31:22

That's quite a trade.

Betty Bolger 1:31:23

And yeah, he could have earned very good money with that all his life, but he couldn't do it after the war. He had an injury to his head in Iceland, which was an interesting could have been tragic thing, but thank God, it so many negative and bad things that we think are bad things in life turn out to have a flip side they were meant for a reason. And what this did for him, he was welding he and a buddy were sent down to the seaport of Reykjavik to just get ready get a what you called buildings that are empty that were filled with materiel at one time

Charlie Cowling 1:32:19

Like those Quonset huts that kind of thing?

Betty Bolger 1:32:21

No, no, it was a big building

Charlie Cowling 1:32:22

Like a hangar?

Betty Bolger 1:32:24

I don't know, whether it was the hangar but it was like a storage place.

Charlie Cowling 1:32:29

Right, warehouse

Betty Bolger 1:32:31

Not a, not a, I don't know, you know that that's a word that has slipped out of my head. And everybody knows it the it's the typical thing where they where companies store stuff,

Charlie Cowling 1:32:47

Well, just a warehouse

Betty Bolger 1:32:48

Warehouse. Thank you. I never had anything to do with a warehouse, so I didn't I couldn't remember that. But anyway, a warehouse down at the seaport. They were going to dismantle it and get rid of it and do something else down there obviously belonged to the army or the Air Corps or something. And so these two fellows were sent down to do the welding necessary cutting it so that the next day it could all fall down. get ready for for destruction Yeah. And but while they were doing this a caravan of heavy heavy trucks, passed and the road just up from the seaport vibrated the ground and Down came the steel beam. And when he came to his body was bleeding profusely. And so he knew he had to get him out of there. So he got him out, got them in their vehicle and he drove through the streets of Reykjavik to the hospital waving a white handkerchief out the window. So he could keep right on going and got there and waited in the waiting room for the doctor to come back up to the examination of his buddy. And the doctor said you, you really saved his life. He said he lost an awful lot of blood.

Charlie Cowling 1:34:21

What happened to your husband?

Betty Bolger 1:34:23

So the doctor noticed a bit of blood running down his cheek, he said, Take your cap off. I cry when I think of this, he took his cap off and the blood ran down and he passed out. And so I never heard from him. 'Course mail came in a bunch anyway from in the war time. And everything was what do you call it? He looked through it and they cut out.

Charlie Cowling 1:34:55

They censored it, yeah.

Betty Bolger 1:34:56

And so I And I took his mail every weekend when I went home from Lyndonville, spend the weekend at home. Saturday nights I would go over to his home for dinner.

Charlie Cowling 1:35:13

Were you married already?

Betty Bolger 1:35:14

No, we got engaged before he went. I finally said yes. I heard him yell in the phone booth down in Maryland, where he was. Anyway, and all the guys in line knew he told me later that he had good news and he knew that this fellow was calling his his girlfriend, anyway. No. So I didn't hear from him. It was almost a month before. I got any mail at all. And when it did come, and his mother didn't either, so

Charlie Cowling 1:35:58

You must have been worried.

Betty Bolger 1:35:59

Oh, yeah. We did you he wasn't an action, but something's happened. And so anyway, I got this B-mail, they call 'em, and it was scribbly writing. He didn't, couldn't, didn't have the strength. And he said, I've had an accident. I'm okay. I but I've been unconscious for 10 days. He was out. And I'm but it's, it's, you know, I'm doing all right, but don't tell Ma, that was underlined and so I never did tell her I didn't let her see that. So he wrote to her without mentioning anything. And so she's To this day, she never knew anything. So, but when he came back From service and his last year in service, he was at Rightfield, Dayton, Ohio and he was had an interesting finish to his army career because he became a chauffeur-like he, he met some important people by going to the airport there at Rightfield to pick up. I think there was a famous name that had to do with the atom bomb.

Charlie Cowling 1:37:35

Oh really,

Betty Bolger 1:37:36

That he met him and took and had a chance to talk to these people back to the office. And anyway, he was discharged with 30% disability because of this injury, the top of his head back here and because it could cause a problem. So that way everybody'd be aware the medical world would be aware so he would had he got 48 \$49 and 50 cents or something it was almost 50 bucks every month disability. And anyway, when he came back he thought I'll get back he knows a guy

that on our on his home street actually who was a contractor and hired welders. And so he started with him for only about a week or two and discovered he couldn't climb. So that's why he could never do any cupela job again like he did at Hartwell

Charlie Cowling 1:38:50

He didn't have the balance anymore, or the height.

Betty Bolger 1:38:52

He got dizzy. So welding was out of the picture. And you know what, he got a job at a company called Haylloyd. And during

Charlie Cowling 1:39:08

That waht became Xerox, right?

Betty Bolger 1:39:10

He didn't know that nobody knew it. But something was going on in this up above them on the second floor. And but he was working there and I got the job at Greece central for the sixth grade. So he'd take me to work and go over to Halloyd and that. I'd have to wait for him to pick me up at night. And he said, You know, there's something going on up above. And he says they're trying to get people to invest money in it. And I never cashed a paycheck. He didn't. We were saving money to build our house.

Charlie Cowling 1:39:51

Of course,

Betty Bolger 1:39:52

and he it would only have been \$10 we could have invested and our kids had more fun with that over the years. Because every so often in the paper, you'd see that the about the the investments, you know, on what the the amount. So Hey Dad, how about you haven't figured up lately how much how much we'd be worth but they never felt that they wanted it, you know, but it was funny, and it was fun and cheap. We would have been very well off even with the \$10 a month

Charlie Cowling 1:40:30

But you when you're young and getting started in life

Betty Bolger 1:40:32

Oh, yeah. Right. And we weren't meant to be. And the Lord was wise. I mean, money doesn't make you a better person. It can do the opposite. And we struggled always because he got a job then in the post office, where people say oh, that's a permanent job. You're lucky you know, you say you know permanent poverty. Because every time you wanted a raise it had to go through Congress, and on top of that government, employees didn't get social security at that time. So he got no Social Security. But he spent his life the dear man working an extra job to work 12 hours every day, from the very beginning. And because it was, we agreed, I could have gone back to teaching. But we, when I substituted for a while, he found out that he said, To tell you the truth, I'd prefer to work the 12 hours every day than to come home and have charge of the kids and 'cause with a teaching job. I'd be busy at night. He'd have to babysit see the kids. So that's the way we did it. I was like the single mother because he was gone 12 hours. Came home. He got up early. I got up early again for the got up at 4:30 for the first 17 years, and then switched a little bit, gave myself another half an hour. He had to be on the job downtown at the post office at quarter to six every morning. And another thing Charlie, I never drove. Now my father taught me and my sister Bernadette, when I was 13, and she was 11. And those were the days you could have a little kid sitting in the car. Nobody'd arrest you. Or call the police, you'd sit on a pillow and I got really good at it. I could pull out of Titus Avenue onto Culver road and have to wait I used to always pray. No traffic when I get there and but I'd have to stop with the motor still running. And then have to start up again without, without that jerk you know And I got I got really good at it. But my father made me nervous. He would expected perfection. This was another thing that caused me to be a fearful child. wasn't afraid of him. I was afraid of disappointing him he, he expected us to be little grownups. he'd send me to the store for hardware something wrench or something. I'd come back with something he'd say, Well, this is the right tool. Why didn't Why didn't you ask him? It's the right tool. But why didn't you ask? I didn't know from anything. So you know but. Anyway, one day I told him, I said, you know, pop, I don't think I want to drive anymore. I said, I get too nervous. I guess I'll have to teach myself how to drive someday. Like I taught myself how to swim. And he laughed his head off. Thank God. Anyway, but I did. I'll tell you how I learned to swim. He knew I was terrified when I get to heaven. I gotta tell him, thank you. I benefited from swimming. I swam right up until I came here. When I was 86, I had to have no more summer swimming. I had we had a pool that someday if we meet again, Charlie, and I hope we do, I will tell you about how we got our swimming pool. And But anyway, I just he knew he wasn't going to. So he didn't force me and he could have he could have said you come right out. So he wanted, you know, so he so I came in the water after he took Margaret and Bernadette out. The two of them, and I only went you know you you've swum in the lake haven't?

Charlie Cowling 1:45:05

Oh, yes.

Betty Bolger 1:45:05

So you know the first sandbars. Yeah. And then second is like that. Third, you're getting, places. Fourth, forget it. It's there, but you can't stand in it. Anyway, so I went to the, as far as the first sandbar and I watched what and listened to what he told them. And he said, first thing you got to do is get used to having your face in the water. Having your head in the water.

Charlie Cowling 1:45:33

That can be scary for a little kid

Betty Bolger 1:45:35

It was scary for this little kid. My sisters weren't scared. No, they were brave, but not me. I mean, I I was a little sissy. Anyway, so I said, Okay, so I laid down on that sandbar where my belly was touching the sand and put my face in the water. And of course the lake was beautiful. In those days. It was clear Second, sandbar, you can see the bottom, you know, so I got used to having my head in the water. And then I inched my way out doing what to and doing what he was teaching and that day every day. He taught them something. And the first thing you know, I was swimming and he taught the, the side stroke. That was his specialty. He always said, If you want to learn the Australian crawl, go ahead. But he says to me, the Australian crawl, takes a lot of your head is in most the time you're trying to breathe. Whereas the side stroke, you can make distance and you can turn over on your back if you were in a dangerous situation where you're trying to reach shore. It's it's more practical.

Charlie Cowling 1:46:59

I agree, yeah.

Betty Bolger 1:46:59

Yeah, I do too. And so anyway, then I joined them. And as time went on, we always we would swim pop would come home from work and we'd swim out way out, you know, beyond. So he always waited for me. He knew I would sooner or later give the signal to turn back, you know. So we'd push a tube inner tube somebody would be pushing the inner tube. And I was always ahead. I really swam really well. Hey, I've got this place here is a junky place. I call it it's a

beautiful place. I love it here. But my dear Sister Bernadette died. She used to be here with me she had a stroke. She was here for three years and then she her health gave way. She had to go to the nursing home down here on Island cottage. And she died a year ago November.

Charlie Cowling 1:48:13

I'm sorry.

Betty Bolger 1:48:14

And I have all of her stuff over there. My other sister, my younger sister. My older sister died in 1989. But she doesn't want to come over and I don't want to go through. Now, you would be surprised what's beyond that Davenport there. There's a TV. There is a walker, you see the legs sticking up and there's on the chair. Over there. There are books that I've received over the years, and I can't get in that corner with my bookcase. Anyway, and these boxes are Bernadette's, but I found and it's hard for me now my daughter in law has agreed to come and help me go through that, because leaning over, I got a bad back. And anyway, I found an album that was in Bernadette's possession, but it was my older sister Margaret's album. So it had mostly pictures of my older sister visits here, there and everywhere. But in it was a picture from Ontario beach when I was 33.

Charlie Cowling 1:49:31

Oh, that's neat. It's a great shot.

Betty Bolger 1:49:34

And modest bathing suits in those days. I'll tell you, they call. They call it a boyleg now, that kind of suit that doesn't go up over the hilt. You know,

Charlie Cowling 1:49:47

You know, I have pictures of my mother in the same sort of bathing suits back then sure.

Betty Bolger 1:49:51

Sure, yeah. They were nice, you know, nice suits. But anyway, so I taught myself how to swim and I had the joy at Brockport of having the swimming instructor.

Charlie Cowling 1:50:09

That's right we had a pool.

Betty Bolger 1:50:10

Yeah. And that came in boy was I happy to see that pool. Anyway, she was a commuter. Got to know her I can't think of her name's she's pretty pretty lady

The instructor, gee I can't think of.

Yeah. swimming instructor. And she probably wasn't there too very long after I graduated. But anyway, she was there from the beginning of the of the school. Anyway. So Oh, another thing my father said, learn to dive if you want to, but don't keep it up. Bad for the ears, you know, he was right. The something about it. Anyway, so I wasn't a diver but I did what I have had to do to follow instructions. And not often I never dove off of the diving board, but off of the side of the pool, I'd do that. Thank you.

Charlie Cowling 1:51:14

Well, swimming is a great exercise. That's wonderful

Betty Bolger 1:51:17

It's perfect.

Charlie Cowling 1:51:18

It's safe. You won't hurt yourself

Betty Bolger 1:51:19

It covers every every muscle. So but with the side stroke, I was so good at it I have to say that I could go across the pool with three strokes. The scissors kick, pushes, yeah, you know, and then you lengthen and it's, it's smooth. Anyway, she said, Would you come into the next class? One of these times she says and demonstrate how the, how the side stroke works. So I said, Hey, put a badge. I did something in the sports world. My my sister Bernadette became a phys ed teacher. She did everything you know.

Charlie Cowling 1:52:06

Well Brockport was pretty big on phys ed back.

Betty Bolger 1:52:08

That's how she got in. She got out of high school. Two years after I did

Charlie Cowling 1:52:14

Then she went to Brockport went to Brockport, not right away. There was no Brockport complete at that time. And she got with the war. She got into river dental. She was the first woman to be working on the third floor. 18 years old with red hair and she had a, now I'm five foot two there, I'm not very big. And she was taller than me and had a lovely figure. But anyway, took a lot of ribbing from the men there, but she she was it didn't kill her, you know, was process o Growing up, we were all pretty sheltered my sisters and I, my father kept us that way. But anyway, she worked there for five years. And then she got into the phys ed program. And she enjoyed it. You know, she she did everything but she was a redhead I was a strawberry blonde. It was the kind of hair that they call it strawberry because in the shade you were blonde, definitely. Hey blondie, you know, but if you'd step out in the sun it turned red. And it was Hey Red! Anyway, but she was a real redhead. And fair complexion. Now, my ability not to tan did me Well, I thought it was a handicap all the other girls could be on. The beach And I couldn't just be in the sun I had to be out of the sun. So did Bernadette.

It saved me

Betty Bolger 1:53:05

But it saved me. Bernadette got in her older years because of being a gym teacher being out there with the baseball team in the spring. She had got skin cancer, but not until recently not the, I guess her last year the doctor was concerned that it might be the melanoma but she had had to have that now. Thank you, Lord. And my there's so like I said, so many negatives in life turned out to be a positive. Now if I hadn't been fair of complexion, I wouldn't be as healthy as I am. For one thing. And if I hadn't walked all my life. That's another thing. I never never drove. never needed to we lived a block from Dewey could get a bus if I wanted to go downtown Northgate Plaza was operating, you know, beautiful all the stores you'd need Sears McCurty's, a couple of shoe stores. I walked down there.

I walked all my life a church was right nearby walked to church

Charlie Cowling 1:55:28

It's a healthy way to go.

Betty Bolger 1:55:30

I did walking and swimming.

The two best

Charlie Cowling 1:55:34

that's what people are saying

Betty Bolger 1:55:35

cheapest exercises

Charlie Cowling 1:55:37

They're cheap and they're good

Betty Bolger 1:55:38

in the wintertime. With when I had a friend helping me. We went over to the high school for adult swimming during the winter so I swam, not just in the summer was the year around every chance I could. My youngest sister who was not into exercise, and I know in my 40s my friend and I, we went to a place called Eleanor Elaine Powers down at Stutson Street area. And for exercise, no swimming or anything like that there just exercise and Rita. My youngest sister's, she's lives here in Greece. Thank god we're near each other. She said, I don't understand you and her friend Shirely who used to do that, too. She says, Why can't you grow old gracefully? And I suppose I'm trying to grow old healthily.

Charlie Cowling 1:56:43

Good answer, good answer

Betty Bolger 1:56:45

But anyway, she never could see any value in it. And she never did learn to swim. And my father because she was the youngest. He was happy that the three oldest learned he didn't push the baby. You know?

Charlie Cowling 1:56:58

That's like it is. That's how it is sometimes in the family.

Betty Bolger 1:57:01

How many children do you have?

Charlie Cowling 1:57:03

I have two boys. I grew up in a family of five, but I just have two boys.

Betty Bolger 1:57:06

Oh great. Yeah.

Charlie Cowling 1:57:08

But one of them just graduated from Brockport the younger one,

Betty Bolger 1:57:11

really? Oh

Charlie Cowling 1:57:13

Got a geology degree. Got a job with Ward Scientific in Henrietta so he's working there.

Betty Bolger 1:57:17

Oh my gosh, Wonderful. Never heard of a geology degree when I was there,

Charlie Cowling 1:57:22

earth science or whatever,

Betty Bolger 1:57:24

right? Whatever, you know, science never heard of a science degree.

Charlie Cowling 1:57:29

It's a small program there. But it's good. He had a good experience with it.

Betty Bolger 1:57:33

It's, it's, it's a wonderful school, really. And my heart was in it, even if I wasn't there. And this is why I think I had the impetus to start keeping them together. Because there were girls there. And I never got acquainted with the boys you know. In fact, this one fella he calls me from Cleveland. He's 97 now, the men that are left there are four of them are all in their 98, 97. And anyway, we had the common thing his growing up on the same street in Albion that my mother grew up on. My grandmother, grandma's house was there. So he knew the O'Briens that was my mother's maiden name. Anyway, but we never talked, he knew that I was there. But we never talked with Hi in the hall, you know, and, and he claims to have commuted one term that one term that I lived with my grandmother to shorten the my day and give me more sleep. I didn't have to get up as early in the morning to come from Albion to Brockport as I did from Seabreeze

Charlie Cowling 1:59:02

How did you get from Albion to Brockport

Betty Bolger 1:59:04

Greyhound bus?

Charlie Cowling 1:59:05

You'd bus again, okay.

Betty Bolger 1:59:08

And, Anyway, but I don't he never traveled the Greyhound bus that I know of and he said he did. I don't know you but anyway he now well through our my reunion type activity. He got to know me at these reunions at Cartwright personally, and so he's he lives in Cleveland. He became a doctor of psychologies. Dr. Raymond Ballester. He's in that book somewhere. And anyway, he calls me and he has I haven't heard from him in a couple of weeks. He gets forgetful, who doesn't at this age anyway, but like one day he called me in the afternoon. He says, my short term memory. Did I call you this morning? But he calls me every few days.

Charlie Cowling 2:00:11

That's nice

Betty Bolger 2:00:12

but I haven't heard from him. And I, I don't I he doesn't talk about his wife. I have yet to tell him. Ray. I even wonder if your wife is there. He never says anything about her. But she's there because there was a space where he didn't call me for almost two weeks. So I said, Okay, time to get on the phone. I had his phone number. So I call and she answered Vivian, she had come to two of our reunions. And anyway, he was in the hospital. So that was fine. So now there's been a space again.

Well I hope he's okay.

So I'm going to have to call if he have if I haven't heard from him past the weekend if I ever. I'll call him Monday and see. Now one time since that happened, there was a space and I called and he answered he's sitting out. They have bought a home. Right? They lived in Cleveland, but they bought a home a few years ago right on the lake but it's still Cleveland but it's it's it's goes by like the suburban name. And it goes right out to the water.

Charlie Cowling 2:01:39

Oh, that sounds lovely.

Betty Bolger 2:01:40

He walks down and can go right in the water. He has a view of boats. It's you know, it's to me That's lovely. Having grown up on the water, so he was sitting on his enclosed porch watching a

boat go. And I said, How come you haven't called you know, he says, oh, haven't I? But he's still pretty shy, but he remembers. He'll say to me, he'll quote some poetry. And I'll see you forget, I had Dr. Edmonds I didn't have your, your English English instructor, who was this one that spit. But they each had their own course that they put together, you know, and he would he could quote Beowulf.

Charlie Cowling 2:02:34

Oh, that's great.

Betty Bolger 2:02:35

Ah, so his mind holds.

Charlie Cowling 2:02:40

The funniest things that stay with a person

Betty Bolger 2:02:42

Amazing things, amazing things from way back. But he doesn't remember if he called me in the morning. Yeah, you know, Charlie, I hope this hasn't been a total loss for you

Charlie Cowling 2:02:54

No. This has been a wonderful experience listening to you, and I'm glad I was able to Get this on the recorder. I'm going to just stop the recording next. I don't want to wear you out. We've been at it a couple hours and I was wondering if maybe you could show me those those letters. I'd like to take a look at that. So I'll just finish our (unintelligible) right here and

Betty Bolger 2:03:11

Short term memory I can.