

Beth: So what I did, people...

Laurie Pegler: How do I pronounce your last name, your maiden name?

Marcia Gunderson: Scheunemann.

Laurie: Scheunemann.

Beth: Marcia, here's a copy for you so you know what you told me and what I typed up. This is very brief, you know.

John Murphy: That's fine.

Beth: So anyway.

Laurie: I live one block from Lincoln, Marcia.

Marcia: Oh really?

Laurie: Yeah I live at Touhey and Delphia. Well, Touhey and Lincoln.

Marcia: Uh huh. Now you mean?

Laurie: Yes.

Marcia: Oh for goodness sakes. Okay, I was on Seminary.

Laurie: Oh sure.

Marcia: North Seminary. We were there for sixty-eight years.

John: Wow.

Laurie: How nice.

John: This is a beautiful place here.

Laurie: Yes. John and Margaret, run home and get our things.

John: Right.

[LAUGHTER]

Beth: She said they like it here.

John: Yeah.

Beth: Arbor Village is so pretty. And it is.

JoAnn Seabury: We are very, very happy here.

Beth: Yeah.

John: I like it. Very pretty.

Beth: And Mom's close to me and Marcia's close to Mark and Gary, her two sons.

John: Oh, awesome.

Beth: And she has a daughter-in-law, Ms. Maryanne.

Laurie: Just between us, how is Beth doing? Is Beth a good daughter?

Marcia: Oh, she's just incredible.

JoAnn: Who is Beth?

[LAUGHTER]

Beth: Yeah, wow is Beth? Who is she? [LAUGHS]

JoAnn: She's wonderful.

Laurie: She is.

Beth: I don't know about that, but my mom's stuck with me so it is what it is, right?

[LAUGHTER]

Laurie: Eileen...

Beth: Haagenbath

Laurie: Eileen Haagenbath, she also said to say hello. I saw her yesterday.

Beth: Your next-door neighbor, Mom.

Laurie: Yes, Blair's mother.

JoAnn: Oh, for Pete's sake.

Laurie: Small world, isn't it?

Beth: And how long have you both been involved in the historical society?

John: Couple of years.

Laurie: And I'm new.

Beth: You are new?

Laurie: Yeah.

Beth: Yeah, Nancy mentioned that.

JoAnn: Now did you live in Park Ridge?

John: I've been here about a dozen years, but I grew up in Ohio. It had a beautiful movie theater, like the Pickwick, and they had the gaslights. So I figured this would be a good town, a home away from home.

Beth: That's right.

JoAnn: John, where do you live?

John: I live at South Park. South Park Ridge near the highway there. So very bottom parts of Park Ridge. I'm near Cumberland and Higgins.

Beth: Cumberland and Higgins.

John: Yeah, near the highway.

JoAnn: Cumberland and Higgins, okay.

Marcia: My office was right in there.

John: Oh, okay.

[INAUDIBLE 00:2:47.8]

John: Okay, the real estate company.

Beth: Yeah, down just near the police force.

Laurie: Okay.

Marcia: Yeah, yea.
Laurie: Okay, good. Well, John is going to lead us in our interview. So let me grab a pen so I can take some notes.

John: Sure.

Beth: Some of the questions, I hope, are helpful.

[INAUDIBLE_00:03:15.0]

Beth: Maybe not though, I don't know.

Laurie: Then we might just go on a few tangents.

Beth: That's right. So go on a few tangents. That's right.

John: So now, Marcia, are you from Des Plaines or Park Ridge?

Marcia: No, Park Ridge.

John: You are Park Ridge?

Marcia: You know Seminary and [xx]?

John: Okay, okay.

Marcia: It was a block off to the north

John: Got it. Okay. And how long, when did you just move up here recently then?

Marcia: Yeah, two, three years.

John: Wow. Wow. Wow.

Marcia: [INAUDIBLE 00:3:54.7] My son is

John: Okay.

Marcia: And Mark is [INAUDIBLE 00:04:00.3]

Laurie: Five, ten minutes, maybe. Yup.

John: And I heard this great story that you two kind of knew each other in high school, but you didn't really know each other.

Marcia: No.

John: Isn't that amazing?

Laurie: Marcia knew of Mom. Right, you said you knew of Mom? But Mom said she didn't know Marcia.

John: Isn't that great?

JoAnn: Well, I was a farm girl, you know.

John: You were? How were you a farm girl?

JoAnn: Des Plaines was farms. It was the country. Everything, the farms, farmers all around the area came on Saturdays. Stores stayed open. I think it even [INAUDIBLE 00:04:48.5]

Beth: Park Ridge.

JoAnn: Park Ridge, too. Barbers stayed open and [INAUDIBLE 00:04:49]. Des Plaines [INAUDIBLE].

John: Right.

JoAnn: Shops stayed open. Everybody got in to go to church.

John: Oh, that's right.

JoAnn: [INAUDIBLE 00:05:12]

John: I see.

JoAnn: [INAUDIBLE 00:05:16]

Laurie: How did you get to school?

JoAnn: How did I get to school? Well, in good weather I rode my bike.

Beth: Mom, not to Main. Grampy took you, right? Didn't Grampy?

JoAnn: I rode my bike.

Beth: Oh, you did?

JoAnn: Yes.

Beth: Oh, I didn't hear that.

JoAnn: But then, when I was a little older, my dad taught at Roosevelt High School in Chicago. And he had a, you know, they did then, they had...

Beth: Stamps.

JoAnn: ... stamps. And he didn't know what he was going to do with me. [LAUGHS] But he figured it out that he could come down, down past the high school. I mean right to the high school. You see he had originally taught in Des Plaines at the old junior high school. And he had the bands there. That was Main Township High School. And then of course they built the high school and Park Ridge got that. And then Des Plaines had the other, the...

John: Right.

JoAnn: You know. They have the lovely part. We had the community smelly part.

[LAUGHTER]

Laurie: So what street did you live on when you were in high school?

Beth: Sherwood Road.

Laurie: You lived on Sherwood?

Beth: Yeah, my grandparents built the house as you are going towards Nancy's house?

Laurie: Yeah.

Beth: My grandparents built the house that is a white colonial, New England colonial. It's kind of kitty-corner. Nancy's over in the corner. My grandparents built....

Laurie: Oh I love that house.

Beth: It used to have green shutters. It's just sold.

Laurie: Yes!

JoAnn: Does it still have green shutters?

Beth: I think the shutters are gone, Mom.

Laurie: I don't think it has shutters.

Beth: Yeah, the shutters are gone. I know.

Laurie: What were they thinking?

Beth: Yeah, what were they thinking.

JoAnn: I don't know.

Beth: But, yeah, my grandparents built that house in 1939. And my mom lived there.

John: Listen, in your house where you lived, was it rural around there? Were there farms nearby?

JoAnn: No, Des Plaines...

Beth: No, in your neighborhood, Mom.

JoAnn: Oh, in our neighborhood?

Beth: Yes.

JoAnn: No, it was mainly a few, not a lot.

Marcia: Residential.

Beth: Yeah, residential. There were those greenhouses behind you.

JoAnn: Yes. The greenhouses...

Marcia: They grew roses.

Beth: Yeah, yup.

JoAnn: And then at the end... when you come along Sherwood Road to get to Hawthorne Lane to get to the main drag, there is a big, beautiful white house.

Laurie: Whose house was that?

JoAnn: The Neve's. N-E-V-E, Neve's. And it was a... Mr. Neve had...

Beth: Greenhouses, too.

JoAnn: ... a greenhouse business. And he had...

Beth: That's a beautiful house.

John: Yes.

JoAnn: ... four girls. And Mrs. Neve passed away very suddenly when the youngest one was born. And that was my friend, Doris, Doris Neve.

Beth: Oh, here's that. Sorry, Mom. I see the name, Pfass. It's P-F-A-S-S. I spelled it wrong in here. I just saw here name. But Joanna Pfass. She was the one who said that she and Phyllis.

Marcia: This stood out to me.

Beth: The third one in? Okay.

Marcia: Is it?

Beth: Let's see. This is Ms. Allen, Johnson. Yeah, you are good, Marcia. That is Joanna. This one, Mom. This is Joanna Pfass.

JoAnn: Oh, yeah, sure it is.

Beth: See.

Laurie: If that's hard to read, I can blow it up at Kinkos and send to you.

Marcia: It's not the print so much as I take eye drops or have just started them.

JoAnn: Who is next to me? That looks like Philip Shaw. Sure enough.

Marcia: It is.

Laurie: [LAUGHING]. I cannot believe you remember that.

Beth: She remembers (I think I emailed you that.) that that Phyllis and Joanna were at the christening of the plane.

Laurie: Yes, yes, yes. There's Norm Olsen [LAUGHS]

JoAnn: Who?

Marcia: Norm Olson.

JoAnn: Oh, yes.

Beth: He was a good looking one, huh?

JoAnn: Whoa!

[LAUGHING]

Marcia: And he looks pretty much the same now.

Beth: Does he? Marcia's always gone to the reunions of Main. I don't think Mom ever... did you go to a reunion, Mom?

JoAnn: No.

Marcia: You should have.

JoAnn: I should have.

Beth: See and you would have met Marcia.

John: Well, we are going to have another one on May 18th. I was talking to Ralph Bishop. And we are going to have a '45, '46, and '47 at the high school. So we are having a little mini reunion. So Ralph and I are going to have an invitation out in the mail...

Beth: See.

John: ... pretty soon.

JoAnn: Had you known Ralph before?

John: I have known him about a year or two. Just a couple of years because he's a retired firefighter, so we got to talking. We found out about this, and you know, he's the class of '45. So that's how we got to know each other.

Beth: So you found the plane, then, through the end number on the plane?

John: Through the number. We tracked it down and it's sitting in Arizona. You can't fly it, but it's still there.

Beth: Is it in a museum?

Marcia: Where?

John: It's on an Indian reservation that's on an abandoned airstrip. It's just sitting there with some other abandoned planes.

Beth: It's not indoors?

John: No. No one knew. Just thought it was... For years it was used to put out fire fighting and all kinds of things.

Beth: Oh wow.

John: But it's still there.

Beth: Are they going to try to get it?

John: We are trying to figure out how we can rescue some of it or part of it. It's still there.

Marcia: I have friend that live in Scottsdale.

John: Oh really?

Marcia: I'm sure you can go over there and do whatever. Or she would.

John: Right, we'll check it out. So what grade schools did you guys go to? What schools did you...

JoAnn: Grade school teachers?

John: No, what school did you go to before high school?

Beth: Elementary school. Where did you...

JoAnn: Oh, elementary school. Central School.

John: Central School. And did you go there, too?

Marcia: That was Des Plaines. No, I went to Lincoln.

John: Okay, you went to Lincoln.

Marcia: You can spit and hit from your house.

Laurie: Yes. Many kids... I live in a condominium building and many kids in my building now go to Lincoln. Where I live in Park Ridge, the people in my building go to Lincoln Middle School, where Marcia went.

JoAnn: Oh, sure. It's still there?

Laurie: It's still there.

John: Oh yeah.

JoAnn: Oh surely. I used to see these, for many, many years I belonged to a group called PEO.

Laurie: What does it stand for?

JoAnn: Huh?

Laurie: What does it stand for?

JoAnn: PEO, it stands for... Isn't that terrible you ask me now?

Beth: Philanthropic Educational Organization.

JoAnn: Uh huh. It's been in existence over a hundred years.

John: Wow.

Beth: That was in Park Ridge.

JoAnn: Yes, Des Plaines at that time didn't have a chapter. And my mother had been a PEO out in western Kansas. And when they moved here, they wanted to send her name so she could go into the Park Ridge chapter.

Beth: And meet some new people.

JoAnn: Yes, and meet new people. Well, Mother being rather late mother, she couldn't quite see leaving a little girl and going off to PEO. So she didn't join when they made the...

Beth: When they made the move.

JoAnn: Yeah, when they made the move. But she kept in touch because she had so many friends from the PEO chapter in western Kansas. My parents taught in the University of Kansas at Hayes.

John: Right. Okay, Hayes, Kansas.

JoAnn: Hayes, Kansas.

John: So when did you guys move? How old were you when you came here to Illinois?

JoAnn: I was nine months. I was just a baby.

John: You were just a baby, right.

JoAnn: But my father had this opportunity. He's always wanted to... In those years... now, it's very different... In those years large cities were the ones who had the best schools. He had been into the New York and looked them over. He didn't like New York itself.

John: Sure.

JoAnn: So then, you know, he was a bachelor and so he went to put in music in the University of San Juan.

John: Okay.

JoAnn: Puerto Rico. They only stayed there a year. He said, "That's the dumbest thing I ever did. Put a state of Maine man down in the..."

Beth: It was too hot. And he liked Des Plaines. They lived there for a long time.

JoAnn: Fifty years.

Marcia: I was born in Park Ridge.

John: Oh you were?

Marcia: You are in spitting distance. The old blue house next to the old Kentucky Fried Chicken facing Greenwood (*Avenue*)?

John: Yeah.

Marcia: That house.

John: Really?

Laurie: My friend Julie lives there.

Marcia: Yeah, Julie...

Laurie: Her maiden name was Keller.

Marcia: Yes.

Laurie: What's her married name? Hmm, I don't know her married name. But they love that house.

Marcia: I do. I know her married name.

JoAnn: Where were you born?

Laurie: Greenwood and Touhey in Park Ridge.

JoAnn: Touhey? Yes.

Laurie: Yes. That's where.

Beth: That's where Marcia was born, Mom.

JoAnn: Ohh!

Laurie: And then I live one block from there.

JoAnn: I see. Where it comes together at...

Laurie: Yeah, so I am very close. Isn't that funny?

Marcia: Yeah.

Laurie: Small world.

Marcia: And Julie is a good friend of mine, also. So when you next talk to her...

Laurie: I talked to her two days ago in Walgreens. She picked up a chocolate marshmallow Easter bunny. This was necessary.

[LAUGHTER]

Marcia: But some of the girls, well a couple of them, that were born the same year and our mothers knew each other. But some of the girls went all through high school together. And we met...

Laurie: Have you kept in touch with any other high school classmates?

Marcia: Yeah.

Beth: Marcia has a lot. My mom hasn't. But Marcia has.

Laurie: But isn't it great how friends back you can remember exactly where you were when all this started.

John: How was it to go from Central or Lincoln to go Main for the high school? It was Main School.

Marcia: For me it was very scary. I was a young student. I mean a young student. My birthday is the last day of the year and I wish my folks had held me back.

John: I see.

Beth: Were you shy, Marcia?

Marcia: Uh huh.

Beth: Were you? Yeah.

Laurie: Were you petrified? [LAUGHS]

Marcia: Yes. Yes.

Laurie: I had that feeling. I came from a little Catholic school, Mary Seat of Wisdom, and then went to Main South.

Beth: Oh, that was huge.

Laurie: I am like do you get a map? What if they never see me again? [LAUGHTER]

Beth: Neither one of the girls loved high school. I found that out. Neither one of them loved that.

John: How was it going to high school for you from Central School?

JoAnn: Well, there were some disadvantages. And I made certain that our daughter...

Beth: Talk about you, Mom, with the school. You were kind of shy, too. Although Mom was involved; she got into music. She was a little involved.

JoAnn: But I...

Marcia: I wasn't so involved as much, as I worked.

Beth: Yeah, and you worked, I know, at Robinson's Ice Cream Shop.

John: So tell us about when you were, in your family how were you guys financially?

Marcia: Poor before the war started. My dad was a policeman and they were paid in scrip. They didn't have money.

John: That's right. So if they paid you in scrip, what did you do to get food, things like that?

Marcia: Well, I can remember him walking alongside... there was a coal yard at Greenwood and Busse Highway. And the coal that would fall outside of the fence my dad would pick up and use that. And I can remember having sugar bread and milk for supper and thinking, "Isn't this a treat?"...

Beth: Sugar bread?

Marcia: ... and not realizing that that was the only thing that was there to eat.

John: Wow.

Laurie: What do you do with scrip? I don't get that.

Marcia: I don't either.

John: Well, scrip is where.. it's an IOU. So what did your mom do? How did she try to make ends meet?

Marcia: She made our clothes. I can remember I had one dress for Sunday School, one pair of shoes. I'm sure that they must have sold some things in order to get money for food or of course ran up a bill. And then came the war.

Beth: And then your mom went to work for the defense department you said. Or the defense plant.

John: How did that come to happen that your mom went to work there?

Marcia: Well, they built or turned the Clapper building, which is now at the corner of Main and (not now; it always has been) Touhy into a defense plant.

John: Really?

Marcia: Uh huh. I think, you know, half the population of Park Ridge worked there at some time or another.

John: What was the name of that place? What was it called?

Marcia: Totalizer.

John: Totalizer, okay. Wow.

Marcia: They made for Bomb bay automatic mechanics of some kind. Open up Bombay doors.

John: Right. Did your mom work there a lot?

Marcia: Yes, and most of us kids did too after school or...

John: Where did you work at?

Marcia: I worked there part time and at a place down on Northwest Highway called (it stilled cement) Beher.

John: Oh okay.

Marcia: We made things for the Navy.

John: And did you have any brothers or sisters?

Marcia: Uh huh, a brother and a sister.

John: Were you the oldest?

Marcia: No, the middle one.

John: Okay.

Beth: I thought you had two brothers and two sisters.

Marcia: Yeah. The one died at the age of six.

Beth: Oh, okay.

Marcia: And the girl was a twin and she died at nine days.

John: Right. So JoAnn, in your household did you guys ever have not much food or how was it in your house?

JoAnn: I remember it well.

John: Yeah.

JoAnn: We came here because my dad wanted to get involved in the Chicago schools. The job wasn't available right then, so he taught in Park Ridge and Des Plaines. They were coming into townships.

John: Right.

JoAnn: So that was what he did for two years prior to going into the Chicago, where he stayed for twenty-six.

Beth: Money was short and food was short.

JoAnn: Oh, very much so. He no more than got the job that Chicago decided that they would not pay the firemen, the policemen, and the schoolteachers.

John: They wouldn't pay them?

JoAnn: Nothing for a year.

John: Wow.

Beth: So they got the stipend things too or whatever.

JoAnn: Yes.

John: The scrip.

Beth: The scrip, yeah.

JoAnn: And of course the bills just ran up like everything.

John: Okay.

Marcia: My folks lost their house.

Beth: Oh did they?

Marcia: Mhmm.

Beth: Ohhh.

JoAnn: Your parents did? Yeah. And people, there was a large store (it had everything- clothes) called Brown's. Mr. Brown lost his business, lost his house- beautiful house. My folks used to play bridge there a lot. It's still there; the house is still there.

John: Is it?

JoAnn: Oh, it's a pretty old place. And, let's see, I guess...

Beth: So then he would give, Mr. Brown would give people credit, right, for things?

JoAnn: Yes, he would give you know... Some paid credit knowing that eventually that they had to pay.

Beth: But that was all before credit cards and stuff.

Laurie: Did he give credit if you had scrip? Was that the idea?

Beth: Mr. Brown even gave credit if you didn't have scrip, right?

JoAnn: Folks didn't... or if my dad had, we'll say fifty dollars; he would pay the rent for two months because it was fifty dollars.

Beth: Mom and her parents lived in an apartment when they first moved to Des Plaines before they built the house.

John: So what did your mom and dad do for food? What kinds of things did they do to make ends meet?

JoAnn: Well my mother became a pretty good cook. They were older when they married. My mother had taught fifteen years before she ever married my father.

Beth: They were in their late thirties when they got married, which was really old for that time.

JoAnn: Yeah. And I think he hooked the purse and she married my father was because she was tired of being his maid in cards. He was a wonderful card player. I mean, just bridge, just bridge. So she up and left western Kansas and she moved to southern United States.

Beth: North Carolina.

JoAnn: To North Carolina and taught in North Carolina in the university where they still, the women were in one building and the men were in the other.

John: Right.

JoAnn: The only time they came together was in summer school so they could clean things up. That was the way it was. They were late bloomers, so to speak.

Beth: My grandma was a good baker so she probably got better during when the food was scarce. Marcia had said that butter, sugar, shoes, and gas were almost unheard of.

Marcia: It seems.

John: Right. So did you have any sisters or brothers?

JoAnn: No, I am an only child.

John: You are the only one.

JoAnn: But for point of interest, I don't know if this is true entirely during the Depression, but I have happen to be one of four single children in the family. And then I was next to the youngest. So there was one girl younger than I.

Beth: So you had lots of cousins at least.

JoAnn: Yeah, I had four cousins. Men and they had to work. My one just oldest, John - he's four years older than I- he had to work like a man at my grandfather's.

John: How old was he then? Was he just a teenager?

JoAnn: Yes, he was a teenager. He is still living. And then the other two are deceased. The youngest one is a girl and she is deceased. And the oldest is deceased. The oldest two I guess.

Marcia: We always had somebody spare living in our house, an aunt or a cousin that had lost homes or whatever. But I was reminded a circus came to town and my dad brought home tickets to go to the circus. It went on and I looked around and I decided after we were in the circus part, I'm with all the poor kids.

Beth: Ohh.

Marcia: I didn't realize into that.

Beth: But what a nice treat!

Marcia: Absolutely!

Beth: Yeah.

John: So when the war came, your mom went to work. What happened when the war came? Well, let me first ask you, when did you hear about when, when did you hear about... do you remember at all hearing about the beginning of the war? Like when we were attacked?

Marcia: Oh, yeah, that Sunday.

John: Yeah.

Marcia: Oh yeah. My brother and I had gone to the show. I can't remember what was playing. I never quite understood why Mother and dad found the dime to send us to the show.

Beth: But they did yeah.

[LAUGHTER].

Laurie: When you said you went to the show, where?

Beth: The Pickwick.

Laurie: Oh, to the Pickwick, okay.

Marcia: They had interrupted the movies to say that that was occurring. So...

John: They did?

Beth: And then Marcia said that when they came out and everybody was talking about it on the street.

John: And JoAnn, do you know anything about that? Do you remember when it happened or where you were?

JoAnn: Very much. And I wasn't very old. But it was just the three of us, you know, at the table. And it was an oblong table. And my mother sat at the end and I sat in the middle, and my father being a lefthander wanted to sit on the end. And so...

Beth: You were listening to the radio.

JoAnn: Yes.

Beth: And that was interrupted? The program?

JoAnn: Uh huh.

Beth: Yeah.

JoAnn: I always thought that you got your money from a bank. But I little did I know, it came... I remember distinctly. I must have been about... oh, I don't even know how old was. I can't even think that far back [LAUGHS]. But he came home one night from school. And he had money. And that was something.

Beth: It was money, not the stamps?

John: Not the scrips?.

JoAnn: Well, they gave him a check.

Beth: Okay.

JoAnn: They gave him a check for, lets say, I think...

Beth: Well, some of his pay.

JoAnn: Yeah, and the rest was in scrip. And I was ecstatic. I said, "Oh, play money, play money!" [LAUGHS] My dad says, "No!"

Beth: Not play money.

[LAUGHTER]

John: What did you do for money yourself during high school?

JoAnn: Americans- this is an example- but Americans, as Art always said, they know how to do things when they don't have...

Beth: When they have to.

JoAnn: And I, I'm a...

Beth: You worked. You worked at Lyon and Healy.

JoAnn: I worked. There was a law that you had to be sixteen, especially to go into the city. I wanted a job because my dad, they were so... they didn't get out of ...

Beth: Debt?

JoAnn: Yeah.

Beth: Debt? They didn't get out of debt.

JoAnn: Yeah, debts. They had debts until I entered Northwestern. And the only reason I entered Northwestern is that they sold my bike and they sold all these different things. And at that time those of us who lived eleven miles towards Northwestern had to live at home. Well that was a godsend because there was no way I could...

John: Sure.

JoAnn: You know. And I wanted to go to Northwestern. My parents had gone to Northwestern and all.

John: I see. Now when you were sixteen, were you able to get a job at sixteen?

JoAnn: Yes, I was fifteen.

John: You were actually fifteen.

Laurie: She lied.

JoAnn: [LAUGHS] I didn't say anything. I didn't say anything. I didn't even lie.

[LAUGHTER]

JoAnn: I went with my father a few times to Lyon and Healy, which was the big, big music house in Chicago. I don't know what that is. I can't believe it. Anyway, I...

John: So you were at the music...

JoAnn: I had been all around. So I went down on the train. And I got permission from my parents. And of course Chicago was not what, you know... And so they just wanted me to be careful. And where did I think I would like to go? I said, "Oh, some of the music stores on Wabash Avenue that my daddy goes to." And so that's fine, that's fine. I can do that. So anyway, I went to this gentleman who was older. I wasn't afraid of him, you know; he's kind of like a grandpa, Mr. Fitzsimons. And he... I don't know if they called him or not, but

he certainly, he welcomed me. And he said, "Oh, my, where's your dad?" And I said, "I'm here to apply for a job." And he said, "Oh you are?" I said yes. He said, "What can you do for me?" He said, "I know you play the piano. Would you like to show pianos?" Oh no! I didn't want to do that. I said, "I type." He said, "Oh, you do?" And I said, "Yes, sir." And he asked me a little more about that. He said, "Well, my, you've grown." And he said... And I was so afraid he was going to ask my age.

John: Age. Sure.

JoAnn: But he didn't. He was very sweet. He said, "JoAnn, I am going to send you down, down Cellar to the buyer, Mr. Berman, the buyer for all of the music in all of the Lyon & Healy stores all over the United States." I thought oh my. And he still hadn't asked me age. I thought, oh, if I could get that job! So he said, "You come with me." And he a few questions for me and he wanted to see me type. Nate took me to, he introduced me to Mr. Berman, who was a very wonderful Jewish gentleman that I just adored. And his son was in the service. So of course, he never asked my age. Now whether Mr. Fitzsimons had said, "Don't ask her age, she's Seabury's child." So anyway, I got the job.

John: Wow.

JoAnn: And Mr. Berman was so sweet and so wonderful to me. And when some of the... Doing music is a big, big job. It has lots of ins and outs and all kinds of things. So they told me I have to remember a lot of this because they couldn't put it off. And I though oh, gee. But they said they thought I could do it because my folks used so much music and they had the...

Marcia: Resource?

JoAnn: Resources, thank you. Resources. So they said they'd give me a chance.

John: How much did you get paid? Do you remember?

JoAnn: I got paid, I remember, I got seventy dollars a month. And that was something.

John: Wow. What about you, Marcia? How much do you remember making back then?

Marcia: I don't remember.

John: That was alright. So now what did you guys do? Once the war started, what did you do for fun after school and things like that? What were the kids doing? What were you guys doing for fun?

Marcia: Not much fun at all. Our assemblies used to be memorials it seems to me.

John: Memorials? And who were these memorials for?

Marcia: Students who had been killed in action.

JoAnn: And they were brought home and given a ...

Marcia: Remember the Schreiber boy? He was just a good-looking young man.

JoAnn: Oh, I've forgotten about Schreibers.

Marcia: And I can't really talk about...

JoAnn: Yeah, no, well it was not an easy time.

John: No.

JoAnn: So anyway, I managed to keep the job. And I ended up working there five years.

John: Did you? Now did that help out? What did you do with the seventy dollars a month? Did that help out?

JoAnn: Well, I got up to seventy-five and then at one point I made it up to eighty.

John: Did you have to share that with your family?

JoAnn: Well, I gave my folks because... But, you know, there again, as Art always said, Americans can figure out things. And of course he being in the service for so long and all, he was pretty good doing that. And I never really revealed how old I was until, oh I must have been there a couple of years.

John: Mhmm.

[SIDE CONVERSATION ABOUT COFFEE]

Marcia: When I see a box of pixies now, and you often seem them given for gifts and what have you, it reminds me of paydays. I'd bring my check home and I was so proud. Weren't you?

JoAnn: Oh my!

Marcia: To be able to contribute to the household. I'd bring the check home and a box of pixies for my mom. Pixies, you know the...

Beth: That was her favorite?

Marcia: Yeah.

Beth: Fannie May pixies?

Marcia: Mhmm.

Laurie: Isn't that a great memory?

John: Yeah.

Beth: This is what I typed up.

John: What kinds of now, when you were earning, what kinds of things were you buying? Or did you get to buy anything on your own or for...

Marcia: Oh yeah, sure.

John: What kinds of things were you guys buying?

Marcia: My time I was thirteen on my folks never bought me another piece of clothing.

Beth: Oh really? You had to buy your own clothes.

John: You bought it yourself?

Marcia: I didn't have to.

Beth: But you did, yeah.

John: How about you, JoAnn? What were you spending your money on?

JoAnn: Well, I was fortunate. I had an aunt and uncle that had no children. And they were very clothes conscious, very clothes conscious. Whenever I went there to be their child, why they take me...

Beth: Take you shopping.

JoAnn: ... take me shopping. So I got to have some nice things, which eased the load on my parents.

John: Right.

JoAnn: Sometime somebody ought to do a thing on people... how many children do people who were living in the Depressions days have, and you'll find out that many of them, it was one or two and that's it. I mean, otherwise I don't know what they did.

John: Sure.

JoAnn: But that was, you know... And in my situation, we were all single children.

Beth: You said that.

John: Yeah.

JoAnn: Where my mother came from a family of six and my father came from a family of five or six. So, you know, that was... and then to go down to one. Nobody much to play with when you went to visit.

John: That's it.

Beth: Does the man that Marcia knows (now I can't think of his name)...

John: Ralph.

Marcia: Ralph.

Beth: Yeah, Ralph. Does he remember you? You've probably been able to talk to him about a lot?

John: Mhmm.

Beth: Yeah.

Marcia: He's a bunch of...

John: Right, he does have a lot of information.

Beth: Does he... Because you know Ralph still from Reton I mean since high school you've seen him?

Marcia: Sure.

Beth: Ralph Bishop.

JoAnn: Oh, okay. I don't personally know who he is.

Beth: Was he surprised when you found Marcia?

John: No, he knows Marcia and he knows JoAnn and bunch of...

Laurie: Isn't that funny, I don't know him.

John: Yeah.

Beth: You don't know Ralph?

Laurie: No.

Beth: Oh okay.

Laurie: Now John did show me who he was. Two weeks ago we had a real fun historical event at the Park Ridge Library. They unveiled a mural that had been painted in 1940 when President Roosevelt instituted a program. And John was involved...

John: It was in the post office, in the Park Ridge post office. So we got that restored.

Beth: I actually remember that mural in that post office from when I was little. Because I looked on your website and I saw it. I remember that being in that post office because my dad and I would stop occasionally there and mail stuff coming back from work. And I just remember that mural.

Laurie: Isn't that funny?

JoAnn: Isn't that interesting?

John: So tell us at school during the war, did they have any clubs? Did you tell what kinds of things? You told us about those assemblies they had for people who were lost in the war. Did it change what kinds of clubs or activities? What else was being affected by the war at school?

JoAnn: I think just being... I don't know though. I can't seem to think of anything.

Marcia: There was one nurse's aide.

John: And then tell us about when you were working and were older, did you hear about the plant? Did you know anyone working in the plant making all these big airplanes? At the Douglas plant in Higgins?

JoAnn: Yes.

Marcia: I'm sure there was a big building boom...

John: Was there?

Marcia: ... around the area surrounding the Douglas.

Beth: Oh the plant?

John: Yeah.

Marcia: They built, it's a Georgian, that if you drive around the area you can see what they've done with them.

John: Right. They are beautiful.

Marcia: Took care of the influx of personnel...

John: Sure.

Laurie: As far as the plant itself, did you have any... did your fellow students' parents work at Douglas?

Marcia: Mhmm.

Laurie: Did you know anybody who worked at the plant?

JoAnn: Yes, yes I did. Like in my case, I took the place of a woman that had been working for Mr. Fitzsimons and also for Mr. Berman.

Beth: You mean at Lyon and Healy?

JoAnn: Lyon and Healy. And they, what I guess they left immediately because their salaries were like tripled you know.

John: Right.

Beth: Oh, you mean to go to the plant?

JoAnn: Uh huh.

John: Right.

JoAnn: And I never would have had my job. Never. I mean the type of job, you know, where you are meeting people.

Beth: So that was actually a benefit then that they went to work for the Douglas?

JoAnn: For me. And a benefit for them to get better wages.

John: Sure.

Beth: How many did that employ, that plant?

John: There was thousands, many thousands I would say.

Beth: Was it?

John: Almost probably four or five thousand.

Beth: And did it close down after the war?

John: Right at the end of the war. Well, you guys, I don't know do you know about that? But as soon as VJ-Day, they stopped. They put out the word. They halted everything immediately.

Beth: And all those people lost their jobs?

John: Mhmm.

Beth: So it wasn't open very long.

John: **Right. So tell us about do you remember about war bonds in general? We hear a lot about the war bonds in general were a big deal. Were they a big deal back then?**

JoAnn: They were where I lived.

Marcia: Yeah, they were. In our home, wherever we went.

Laurie: I don't know anything about them. What does it mean to get a war bond?

Marcia: You bought them in increments of twenty-five, I think.

JoAnn: Yes, twenty-five dollars, fifty, seventy-five, a hundred – that was the most popular. Then there were...

John: There were stamps. There were stamps for smaller, right?

JoAnn: Yes.

Beth: Then there was one for three fifty, because you said that was what that uncle or Webster bought.

JoAnn: Right.

Beth: It was a three hundred and fifty dollar bond. But those were really rare. Most people didn't buy those. That matured to five hundred dollars.

JoAnn: Yes. And so... And he had never married.

Beth: I wrote about that in here.

JoAnn: He had a lot of money. And that Saturday that I was at the bank the first time, he came over. He wanted to know what I was doing. And I said, "Well, we are selling bonds for the plane we would like to buy for the war." I knew him from church, you know. And he said, "So, what do I have to buy?" And I said, "Well, they are bonds."

Beth: All the different ones.

JoAnn: Yeah, all the different ones. He said, "Okay, I'll get a few." And so he did. He bought twenty-five dollar bonds for a bunch of kids that he liked in his neighborhood. Now those wouldn't mature at twenty-five. They would mature, I think, at fifty or...

Beth: Don't look at me; I wasn't around.

[LAUGHTER]

JoAnn: Was that right?

Marcia: Yeah.

JoAnn: At fifty. Then if you gave a check for fifty dollars that then entitled you to- if you keep it ten years, I think it was ten years- then you would get a hundred.

Beth: But he bought hundred dollar bonds for all of his nieces and nephews. That's one of the reasons Mom skyrocketed her sales.

John: I see.

Beth: Because he had a lot of nieces and nephews.

John: I see.

JoAnn: And he gave each one of them, you know. And then he said, "Gee, I've forgotten about myself." And so I said, "Would you like..." [LAUGHS] I couldn't believe this. He said, "You know, I'll tell you. I'm going to get a hundred dollars and see what comes up." So he bought a hundred dollars.

Beth: He bought the three fifty.

JoAnn: Yes.

Beth: He bought a three fifty dollar.

JoAnn: Yes, I'm sorry

Beth: He bought three fifty for himself. The hundred were for his nieces and nephews.

John: Right.

[INAUDIBLE 00:55:34]

JoAnn: Yes. And Ms. Parlino killed me.

[LAUGHTER]

John: So tell us who is she? [INAUDIBLE 00:55:46] Tell us [INAUDIBLE 00:55:47].

JoAnn: She taught Advanced English.

John: Advanced English.

JoAnn: And [INAUDIBLE 00:55:55]

John: She was mean. And why was she [INAUDIBLE 00:56:01]

Beth: You didn't even have her, Marcia, and you knew she was mean?

JoAnn: Didn't you have her?

[INAUDIBLE 00:56:06]

JoAnn: I died. I died!

[INAUDIBLE 00:56:10]

Beth: And you got Parlini.

JoAnn: And I got Parlini.

John: So now was she was running the bond drive?

JoAnn: Well, she thought she was. You'll see it some place in there. Yes, she did. And of course some of these jobs, the teachers were for it and all and they could do things. But this was her time to, you know...

Beth: To shine. There was something in your, in the scrapbook of Mom's. One of your teachers left to be a Red Cross...

Marcia: Ms. Brown.

Beth: Oh, she's the one? Beause there is an article in there.

JoAnn: Oh!

Beth: I know. I just saw it this morning.

JoAnn: Ms. Johnson?

Beth: No.

Marcia: Brown.

JoAnn: Oh, Ms. Brown.

Beth: Yeah, it said she left to go be a.. or she went to Washington to be a Red Cross nurse or something.

Marcia: No, a driver.

Beth: Oh a driver?

Marcia: A driver. Room 201.

[LAUGHTER]

John: Very good.

Marcia: Room 201.

JoAnn: What?

Marcia: She had room 201.

JoAnn: Oh my gosh.

Beth: You said yes there is still a historical thing at Main.

Laurie: I only saw the 1940... Oh, there is a Main Historical Society.

Beth: Within the high school?

Laurie: But I haven't delved into that yet because right now I am working with the Park Ridge Historical Society.

Beth: Yeah, right, I just wondered.

Marcia: Well, Ralph would be about...

John: Well, yes he certainly is. What started off the bond drive for the plane? Do you remember anything about... Did Ms. Parlini announce it? Or how did it get started?

Marcia: I don't know.

Beth: They had a school assembly.

JoAnn: Yeah, I think so. But I don't think, I the kids would have risen to the occasion and said, "We don't work her."

John: Sure.

JoAnn: I don't know. I would have to say that she didn't have a...

Marcia: But she looked like her name sounds.

[LAUGHTER]

JoAnn: Yeah, mean.

Marcia: What do you picture when you hear the word Parlini?

Laurie: Mussolini.

Beth: Yeah, yeah.

Marcia: There you go.

JoAnn: What?

Laurie: Mussolini. Somebody who stands very tall and erect and expects you to follow orders.

JoAnn: Yes, yes. She wasn't talk but she was all the rest.

Beth: You had daddy daughter dances at Main.

JoAnn: Huh?

Beth: You had daddy daughter dances at Main.

John: Did you guys go to those?

Marcia: No, I know I didn't.

Beth: Mom must have because she has got the thing here. Did you go with Grampy?

JoAnn: Yes.

Beth: Yeah, you must have.

JoAnn: Now that's an accomplishment. The only other person who got into dance was this one.

John: Oh, is that right?

JoAnn: Mhmm. And she...

Beth: Oh here. Here's more news of Main's C-54.

John: So did you guys, during the war... do you remember Victory Gardens? Did you and your families....

JoAnn: Oh gosh, yes.

John: Did your families do those at all?

JoAnn: Oh yes.

John: Tell us about those.

JoAnn: Well, my dad, he really went all out.

John: Really?

JoAnn: Uh huh. And he wasn't, I mean he was a farmer's son.

John: Oh okay.

JoAnn: He put in corn. He put in... He said, "It won't grow here." And my dad said, "Well, we'll see." And then he put in potatoes. We just had it all, you know.

Laurie: Where?

JoAnn: In the backyard. Turned the whole backyard over into a Victory Garden. That's what they were called, Victory Gardens. And the only amount he left my mother was a little area so that she could hang clothes.

[LAUGHTER]

JoAnn: But anyway. And peas, beans...

Marcia: Tomatoes.

JoAnn: Yes. What else? Oh he had cucumbers. You name it he had it.

John: And how about you, Marcia?

Marcia: Same thing, only I'm sure not as elaborate. My dad was not a farmer.

[LAUGHTER]

Marcia: So but...

John: And did you guys can the food? Or what did...

Marcia: Oh yeah.

John: You did canning and all that.

Marcia: And when fruit came into season, even though we didn't grow it, I remember there was canning of peaches and pears and [INAUDIBLE 00:01:03].

Laurie: The pioneer.

Beth: Your valedictorian was Arthur Anderson the year that you graduated.

Laurie: Whoop dido.

Beth: Apparently he wasn't as good as that other one.

Laurie: You know I was writing so I missed something. Can you tell me again how you learned about selling war bonds in high school?

Beth: The assembly.

Laurie: Did you read about them in a paper?

JoAnn: No, they had, I assume they had an assembly.

Beth: You said they did.

Marcia: And for some reason we had to all agree that this is what we wanted to do. So what the mechanics of that were I don't recall.

John: Uh huh.

Marcia: But I do remember we had to say "all agree."

Laurie: So what did you take with you to the bank to sell them? Did they give you a book, a little booklet? What did you give to people that wanted to buy a war bond?

JoAnn: Well, I had my...

Beth: Sales thing? One of those little sales thing.

JoAnn: Yeah, and paper, you know.

John: A little booklet.

Laurie: And then would you turn that in to Ms. Parlino? How would you then tell the school what you accomplished?

JoAnn: Well I would take it to her office.

Beth: Maybe like every week you'd turn those things in?

JoAnn: Yeah.

John: You sold a lot to your uncle. Do you remember how was the other people? Who else did you guys talk to? Who else was buying bonds there?

JoAnn: Well of course people were. I mean people were very patriotic.

Marcia: Neighbors, relatives.

JoAnn: Relatives, yes. And my aunt [LAUGHS], who had no children. She was my best...

Beth: She bought some, too?

JoAnn: She bought some. Not as many as Mr. ...

Beth: Webster.

JoAnn: Webster. She's going to know all these.

Beth: Mom, I've known these stories for so many years I could tell them with... I'm looking for Marcia's name in all your stuff here. She's got calling cards, but you aren't in here, Marcia.

JoAnn: Uh oh.

John: Now we don't have calling cards today. Tell us about calling cards back then.

Marcia: I think we could enclose those in the invitation to the graduation, wasn't it?

Beth: Probably, yeah.

John: So who would you give calling... you would give them with an invite to graduate. Would you use them for anything else?

Marcia: I don't think so.

JoAnn: We probably had to say we could use ten and they would dole out ten.

John: Okay.

Beth: They did used to have calling cards when my grandmother... like people used to hand those out, you know?

John: Right.

JoAnn: But I didn't have them

Beth: But you didn't have those.

JoAnn: No.

Marcia: When I went into business, I wouldn't go anywhere without them.

John: Right. So now did you, did anybody in your family – your parents or your mother or uncles or cousins- any of them serve, were in the war at all during the war?

JoAnn: During that war?

John: Mhmm.

Marcia: My father and brother.

John: Your father was in the service? Well tell us about, where did he... when did he go in the service?

Marcia: He was on Saipan most the time. He was a chief petty officer in the Navy.

John: Oh was he?

Marcia: And my brother was, I think, a sergeant in the Army.

John: What grade in school were you when they went to go and left?

Marcia: High school.

John: And you were in high school? What was that like then since they were gone?

Marcia: Terrible.

John: Terrible. How did it affect things in the family then since they weren't around?

Marcia: Well, you just had to do what you had to do.

John: Right.

Marcia: Take on the jobs...

Laurie: So did your mother get a job when your dad left?

Marcia: Oh, yeah, she had it before he left, at the defense plant.

John: And so when you got off from school, where you by yourself? You know, when you would come home from school since your mom was...

Marcia: Sure and then right to work.

John: And then you would go to work.

Marcia: Uh huh.

John: Did you know any friends who were drafted or anything like this?

JoAnn: A lot of people.

John: Yeah.

Marcia: Practically all the men.

JoAnn: Yes.

Laurie: Right after graduation, did they then go to the Army?

JoAnn: Right.

Laurie: How daring, right?

Marcia: Oh yeah. A lot during I thought drafted...

Laurie: Yeah.

Marcia: Fitzpatrick, Shun.

Beth: Yeah, Marcia said it was really hard when they had assemblies. She said that some school assemblies were really hard. They weren't fun like they were supposed to be because they were often memorials.

John: Right.

Beth: To those killed. That's still....

John: Yeah. I forgot a question there. Oh, yeah - rationing. Telling us about rationing during when you guys were, during the war.

Marcia: It's too bad. Did you save any of your stamps?

JoAnn: Yes.

Marcia: Did you?

JoAnn: Uh huh.

Marcia: You should have brought them to today.

Beth: Yeah, Mom, do you know where? They're not in here.

JoAnn: Oh I don't know.

Beth: Do you know where they would be?

John: It's okay, we are just here to talk about them. We don't know anything about... tell us about... what were the stamps? How did they...

Marcia: For sugar.

John: For sugar?

Marcia: Butter. Shoes.

JoAnn: Flour.

Marcia: Flour.

JoAnn: Coffee.

Marcia: Just about anything, you name it. Eggs.

JoAnn: Huh?

Marcia: Eggs.

JoAnn: Oh eggs, yes. Yes. You were entitled to so many, we'll say, for a month.

John: Okay.

JoAnn: And I supposed it's a lot like for the Europeans when people will come and they don't... I suppose, yeah.

Laurie: Do you remember where you shopped for food?

JoAnn: I do, yeah.

Marcia: I do.

John: Where did you guys go to cash in your... you pay with your stamps? Where was that? Where did you go do your shopping at?

Marcia: There was a small ma and pa grocery store.

Laurie: Was Thompsons there?

Marcia: Not Thompsons as we know it, but another Thompson. Anyhow, where that four-unit apartment is at Delphia.

Laurie: Oh, there was a store there?

Marcia: There was a store there.

Laurie: Oh, I live there now. [LAUGHS] At that store.

JoAnn: The A&P did you say?

Laurie: Oh, the A&P across from the tracks?

Marcia: Yeah.

JoAnn: Oh I love to go there.

Laurie: I love to go. You can smell the coffee.

[LAUGHTER]

JoAnn: I hadn't thought about A&P. A number of people that had their own business, like Lamandias. The Lamandias were in Des Plaines.

John: What is Lamandias? What is that?

JoAnn: It's a fruit and vegetables and some canned goods. It was a wonderful store. And if it hadn't been for Mr. Lamandia, why the Seaburys wouldn't have...

Marcia: Eaten?

JoAnn: No.

John: So what did... did he sell things... you didn't need all the stamps with them?

JoAnn: No, he knew that my dad would pay him as soon as he had money. But what they did during those years...

John: Are you talking about during the Depression or the war?

JoAnn: Oh.

Beth: We're talking about the war, not the Depression.

JoAnn: Oh, well that was sort of the way it was worked out, too. But that, you know, you'd got a little booklet and then they would take so many stamps for so much. And that went on for both, really both of them. We just went from one...

Beth: One thing to the other.

JoAnn: Yeah.

John: So now what happened if you ran out of stamps? What kinds of things did you deal with like if you still needed food and you already used up your stamps? What kinds of things were? What did you do?

Marcia: Well, you looked for the black market.

John: Did you?

Marcia: I think some people did, you know. Or an irreputable merchant who would let you buy the shoes without needing the stamps.

John: Oh. How common was that? Were you guys able to buy from the black market to get extra things?

Marcia: No.

John: No?

Marcia: My dad never would have done that.

Beth: Yeah.

Laurie: Can I ask you more questions of pictures from the yearbook? Can we start with this one up here? The caption says, "Here's the bond thermometer as it

appeared December 13th, two days before it burst. Students shown are National Honor Society officers, Matt Ferguson, Art Anderson, Kay Sanders, and Barbara Belkie." So there was a way to measure how much was raised selling bonds. Do you remember going to see this at school?

JoAnn: We would go in and say we sold x number of, you know.

Beth: Do you remember that, Mom?

JoAnn: Yeah.

Beth: Do you remember it?

JoAnn: Yeah. This is Belkie. Yeah, Barbara Belkie. Oh I know her. We were friends for a long time. I don't know what happened.

Marcia: I think she passed away.

JoAnn: Oh did she?

Marcia: Uh huh.

JoAnn: Yeah, I'm sure she did.

Laurie: So five hundred thousand dollars, that's an astonishing accomplishment.

JoAnn: Yeah.

Beth: I brought lunch.

John: Do you remember how much did you sell about?

JoAnn: No. That I sold about?

John: Yeah, that you sold.

JoAnn: Oh, I don't know. I mean he was my big...

John: Your uncle.

JoAnn: But I had a lot of luck, because I said my aunt and uncle with no children, they got into this too. They thought this was lots of fun. And so that they would, you know...

Beth: So this must have been like in the school, like in the hallways somewhere in the school?

Marcia: In the rotunda.

Beth: In the rotunda? Okay.

Laurie: Okay, well that brings me to my next question. The picture down below, where we see a row of students seated. And it looks like Arthur Anderson is talking to everyone apparently.

JoAnn: Is that Arthur Anderson?

Laurie: Yes, it is.

John: Do you guys remember going out to the plant that day or anything like that?

JoAnn: Well, I remember we did something, but I can't...

Beth: No, you didn't go to the plant. I thought you went... Or is that at the plant?

John: Yeah, that's at the plant.

Beth: Okay, then...

Marcia: It was outdoors though.

John: It was outdoors? It was outside, yeah, outside the plant.

Beth: Okay.

JoAnn: **Winadele** Allen, did you ever know her?

Marcia: She taught...

JoAnn: Speech.

Marcia: Yeah.

JoAnn: Speech and English. **Winidele** Allen.

Laurie: That's my first Will Adele.

[LAUGHTER]

Laurie: I can't think of another Will Adele. They wanted a William and they're like, "What can we do? "

Beth: Yeah [LAUGHS], Laurie.

Laurie: So tell me about this. Your sitting on this stage and they are announcing that you sold the most war bonds.

JoAnn: Yeah.

Maria: I think it was going to be a surprise.

JoAnn: Oh was it? I guess.

Maria: They wouldn't announce it, so...

John: Oh, okay.

JoAnn: I don't know. I mean, I knew that I had done a lot, but...

Beth: Were you surprised then when they called your name? Or when they said you had done the most? Do you remember? Were you shocked?

JoAnn: I guess so.

Beth: Yeah. [LAUGHS]

Laurie: Okay, now, how about this next picture? This shows the crowd of students that went out to the Douglas plant to actually see the plane.

JoAnn: Yes, I went out.

Laurie: Do you remember this?

JoAnn: I remember.

Marcia: I just remember there being a crowd of students.

JoAnn: Yeah, I remember being there.

Beth: So then it must have gone- because you thought it was at O'Hare- so the plane must have gone from...

John: Well, it's actually, O'Hare was... That is O'Hare.

Laurie: It's right next to O'Hare.

Beth: Oh!

John: That's where...

Beth: Okay, I see, I just remembered.

[LAUGHTER]

John: So do you remember seeing the plane that day?

JoAnn: Oh yes. And now when I see it, yes, I remember that very well.

Laurie: So how did you get from Maine over to Douglas?

JoAnn: Well, I either was taken by my dad or...

Beth: You said you went with your Social Studies class.

JoAnn: Yeah, I was going to say...

Beth: So maybe a bus? Did you take a bus?

JoAnn: Yeah, that would have been my only other...

John: Sure. They bussed you out there. Right. So what other kinds of things were going on? What kind of stories that were fun stories about school that probably?

Beth: From high school?

John: From high school.

JoAnn: Gosh. [LAUGHS]

John: You know, I know you guys kind of didn't know each other, but maybe you know some. What kinds of funny stories do you remember from the old days? Do you know back...

Marcia: I just remember Ralph Cragg jumping out of the second story window in elementary school.

[LAUGHTER]

JoAnn: Grace who?

Marcia: Ralph Cragg.

JoAnn: Oh Ralph Grace.

Marcia: Uh huh.

Beth: Cragg, Mom.

Marcia: C-R-A-G-G.

Laurie: Did he live to see high school?

Marcia: [LAUGHS] Apparently. He went to the service when he was fifteen.

John: He did?

Beth: Wow!

JoAnn: A whole lot of them did. A lot of them gave their ages as sixteen.

John: And they were fifteen?

JoAnn: They were fifteen.

John: Wow. Did anybody write to any of these soldiers when they went in?

Marcia: Oh sure.

JoAnn: Oh yes, you did. We had some relatives, too.

Marcia: V-Mail

Beth: You had what, Marcia?

John: Sent V-Mail.

Laurie: What's V-Mail?

John: V-Mail is just a certain, it's a kind of letter for sending to soldiers that's very light.

Marcia: Yeah.

Beth: Oh.

John: Right. Did you guys, did you write to any of the soldiers yourself?

Marcia: Oh sure.

John: Who did you write to back then?

Marcia: Oh my cousins and of course my brother, my father, and...

John: What kinds of letters would they write back? What kinds of things would they tell you about?

Marcia: Oh isn't it a shame that we didn't save some of those.

John: Now, when did your father and your brother get back from the war?

Marcia: My brother after the armistice was signed. He had been in Europe, so it would be shortly after that. And my dad, shortly before the armistice was signed.

John: Sure. And then what was it like? Do you remember when they came home and you saw them for the first time? What was that like?

Marcia: Oh, back to business as usual. There were no big parades. There would be on Memorial Day of course. You know we honored those that had served.

John: Right.

Marcia: But just putting our lives back together again.

Laurie: Did you feel patriotic? Did you feel a sense that you as students were helping our country?

JoAnn: Yes.

Marcia: Oh yes.

Laurie: That's what moves me so much so much about your story is that at such a young age you acted. You know, you said, we can help.

Marcia: Here again, I revert back to our assemblies. You know, you can't see friends of yours dying in the war and not feel, well not feel.

John: Right, and at such a young age.

Marcia: Yeah.

Beth: So young.

John: I don't think people today remember that.

[INAUDIBLE 01:19:06]

Marcia: You know, how can they?

John: My daughter is in high school. I don't know, she's just a freshman so I'm sure I can understand how she would feel.

Marcia: I remember one day in the office, Frank Yoden, he was the eye doctor.

Beth: Dr. Yoden.

Marcia: He came in and I said hello. He wanted to see Dot, so he walked to the back of the office. I said to the group of girls, I said, "Well, that was Mr. Yoden. He survived the Bataan."

Laurie: The Bataan Death March.

Beth: Oh wow.

Marcia: And they said, "Who?" They didn't have a clue.

Beth: Really? Wow.

Marcia: That's what disturbs me.

Laurie: It's amazing that Dr. Yoden survived that Bataan Death March.

Marcia: Yeah, yeah.

Laurie: Yes.

John: So JoAnn, do you remember who you wrote or who you knew wrote letters to or V letters to during the war?

JoAnn: Not too many, but I did write. I wrote to John, my cousin John. He was in the Navy.

John: Right.

JoAnn: Well, I had a cousin that [LAUGHS], sounds silly, was with the Follies.

Marcia: The Sweet Field Follies.

JoAnn: Yeah, the follies.

Beth: The Ice Capades.

JoAnn: It wasn't the Ice Capades, but it was one like that. He was a drummer. So with the war going on, they gave him some sort of, he could be on again, off again type of a thing. And he could go for six weeks, come home, go another six weeks, you know that sort of a thing.

John: Okay, six weeks on, six weeks off.

JoAnn: Uh huh.

John: Right.

JoAnn: Yeah, he did that. Bob Lyman was his name.

Marcia: You know I thought it was interesting too, though. You talk about letter writing. I have a cousin up in Alaska, Attu or some name.

Laurie: Zorp?

John: Fort Stewart?

Marcia: No. Way up.

John: Oh, Fairbanks or Nome?

Marcia: Attu.

John: Attu, okay.

Marcia: Okay. The south Pacific and in Europe, you know, all over the world.

John: All over the world. Wow. So what was like... Do you remembering hearing... what did you guys do on the end of the war in Europe, do you remember hearing about that?

Marcia: Somewhat. But I remember more clearly the one in the south Pacific.

John: Right.

Marcia: I was in San Francisco. The Army base that I worked for had shut down for it because they saw this coming. And the day that it came, the sky was azure blue; it was beautiful. All of the sudden I heard them playing taps.

John: Wow.

Marcia: So you take the color of the day and the music. It was very moving, one of those things that you don't forget.

John: Right. Because with all of the people that we lost.

Marcia: Yeah.

John: Yeah.

JoAnn: What's been accomplished?

John: Right, right.

Marcia: The war to end all wars.

JoAnn: Oh, I know it supposedly was.

Marcia: Yeah.

Laurie: What was your impression of President...

John: Roosevelt. Do you remember during the war, like Roosevelt? What...

[SIDE CONVERSATION ABOUT COOKIES]

Laurie: Okay, we are talking about your recollection of the president during the war.

John: Did you listen to... Was Roosevelt a big deal at the time?

Marcia: Oh yes. We hung on to every word, whether you liked him or not. He was, he was our leader. [LAUGHS]

John: Right. I was in the military a couple of years myself. But I was lucky; the most place I was sent was Puerto Rico, so that was all the action I saw. That was sunburn. I was very lucky. And then I met my wife in ROTC in college, and she

was in the Army. So we both have that going for us, so... Our daughter's definitely not going to go for that, so...

[LAUGHTER]

Laurie: When you see this picture of Main, is that the entrance that you would have used? Or would you guys have used one of the side entrances?

Marcia: Yes, it is.

Beth: Did you go in that front door, Marcia?

Marcia: Yup.

Beth: Yup. Okay.

Laurie: Did Main do a good job educating you?

Marcia: No.

Beth: No, Marcia? [LAUGHS]

Marcia: What am I to measure it, you know, with?

Beth: Did you go to college, Marcia, after high school?

Marcia: No.

Beth: Okay. Yeah. Do you think you got a good education, Mom, at Main?

JoAnn: Yes and no.

Beth: Yeah.

John: What were they good at and what were they not so good at?

Marcia: I think relating to the students they were pretty, the teachers were pretty good.

JoAnn: Yes, the teachers were good for the most part.

Marcia: Except Ms. Parlino.

[LAUGHTER]

Beth: Don't stir the pot with Mr. what's his name. I have to leave today. So don't go stir the pot. That band guy, that orchestra guy- Harley or whatever. Don't start it because I have to leave, Mom. Seriously.

Laurie: We don't have that much time.

JoAnn: I'd forgotten all about him.

Laurie: Could we get a picture of the yearbook with these two in it and having their coffee? Well open this up to someone other than...

Beth: Let me move Mom just little closer to Marcia. We are going to get a couple pictures. Oh wait.

Laurie: We are going to get these out of the way. And let me move these out of the way. We can have you having the benefit.

Beth: Do you want me to take a picture of you with the ladies?

John: That would be great.

Beth: So you can prove you were here.

John: Yeah.

[SIDE CONVERSATION AND LAUGHTER AND PICTURE TAKING]

John: I heard there was a little controversy. Was there much? Now you had people from Des Plaines and Park Ridge. Were there another towns going to Main High School?

Marcia: Glenview.

John: Glenview.

JoAnn: Parts of Glenview.

Marcia: Parts of Niles.

JoAnn: Niles. And...

Marcia: The Croatian home.

JoAnn: Oh, the Croatian.

John: What was the Croatian home?

JoAnn: It was across the street from this big building.

Marcia: They were Croatians.

JoAnn: Croatians that had no families. It was a well run...

John: So there were orphans there?

Marcia: Yes.

John: Oh, okay.

JoAnn: They had a grammar school.

Marcia: Remember this one Frank?

JoAnn: Huh?

Marcia: Remember Frank? I forget what his last name was. But he was a good basketball player.

JoAnn: I don't know.

Marcia: But I don't see him.

John: Did you guys have any boyfriends? We can talk about this.

Marcia: I didn't.

John: You didn't have anybody you were sweet on?

JoAnn: Well, I had a couple of boys but they were... The only reason I had them was I accompanied them.

John: You accompanied them?

Beth: [LAUGHS] Mother that sounds terrible. "The only reason I had them..."
[LAUGHS]

John: What does that mean, you accompanied them?

JoAnn: Well, they played xylophone and marimba.

John: Okay.

JoAnn: And they studied with a man in Chicago Symphony. And I was privileged to be the accompanist for the things they were learning and I also then got to, I learned so much from that gentleman, Mr. Pat Swingy. So that was, you know. It...

Marcia: I can't me.

Beth: You can't find yourself?

Marcia: No! [LAUGHS]

John: So did you guys have many dances? Did you have music, like Benny Goodman?

Marcia: Yeah.

JoAnn: Yeah.

Beth: I'm going to find you, Marcia.

Marcia: Yes, but especially during the lunch hour.

John: We had lunch hour? Tell us about.

Marcia: Right? Remember they used to dance.

Beth: Look at you.

Marcia: Oh.

Beth: Look at you.

Marcia: All the teeth and hair.

Beth: [LAUGHING]

Marcia: Geez.

John: So tell us, you had dancing during the lunch hour. How did they do that?

Marcia: Jukebox.

John: They had a jukebox? And where... was this in the school?

Marcia: In the gym.

John: Oh, in the gym.

JoAnn: Oh she is beautiful.

John: And what kind of dances would you guys do?

Marcia: Jitterbug.

John: Jitterbug?

Marcia: Uh huh.

John: Wow, I'll have to tell my daughter that.

[LAUGHTER]

Beth: During lunch, isn't that something?

John: That is great.

Beth: They should do that now. Look at my pretty mommy, too. Look at that.

John: They are real lookers.

Beth: Look at you girls.

John: You are very good looking.

JoAnn: Thank you. I didn't do much afterschool because I had this job.

John: Right.

JoAnn: I don't know how to explain this. I'm grateful for the education I got, I am.

Marcia: We was not popular.

JoAnn: No, that's right. I was not... I mean that did not interest me.

John: Right.

JoAnn: And when I had a job like I had, you know, I wasn't about to goof around, you know.

John: Sure.

JoAnn: And of course I wasn't going to hurt my father's name. They would say, "Oh this is JoAnn Seabury, Cap Seabury's child."

John: Right.

Beth: Okay girl, excuse me for interrupting, You are both going to hold the yearbook, because you are both on the same page. How weird is that?

John: Oh wow!

Laurie: Fantastic.

Beth: Okay, so Mom you hold this end of the yearbook and Marcia...

[LAUGHING]

Beth: And I'm taking a picture! Come on, hold the yearbook, Marcia. Mom, finish chewing. I won't take it until you are done chewing.

[LAUGHING]

Laurie: That is the funniest thing.

Beth: That is really bizarre.

John: Now JoAnn is...

Beth: Mom is here and there is Marcia. Isn't that weird?

John: Oh wow.

Beth: Now that's weird. That's karma.

Laurie: That means it is meant to be.

John: It is.

[LAUGHING]

Laurie: Take the picture. That's the picture right there.

Marcia: Can you imagine how we felt when we discovered that we were in the same class?

John: Isn't that amazing? Just like it was destiny.

[SIDE CONVERSATION DURING PICTURE TAKING]

Beth: That is amazing. That is weird that you are on the same page.

Laurie: Okay, now, can you take a picture of that page, too, because we might be able to use that.

Beth: Get the glasses back on and make sure I got it. Maybe just one more. We're good.

Laurie: Now I hope you guys don't have any more detentions to serve or anything. Because if I take this back to the teacher...

[LAUGHING]

Laurie: You paid all your tickets, didn't you?

Marcia: Oh yeah. Sure did.

John: You don't have any more overdue library books, do you?