

Dorothy

🕒 Mon, 02/26 15:51PM · 51mins

00:02

Jean Archibald for the Underhill Historical Society, and I'm sitting with Dorothy Blodgett in her home on Cilley Hill Road in Underhill. It is Monday, September 11th, 2023. And Dorothy very generously is joining me and we'll just talk a bit.

00:27

Dorothy, what year were you born?

00:30

I was born in 1934.

00:33

in 1934 and were you born in Vermont somewhere?

00:37

In Moretown.

00:39

In Moretown, Vermont. And did you spend your early years in Moretown? childhood.

00:45

years or did you know? Now my folks moved around some and I started first grade over to Jericho. And my father worked for a Fay. Fay. That's it.

01:01

At his farm.

01:04

Yeah, he worked for Don's father.

01:09

Was Hida also Don Fay? He was Fay anyway. Yeah, I know the farm. And what was your father's name? Clayton McLaughlin. Clayton McLaughlin. Okay. And so, and your mother was? Edith. Edith McLaughlin.

01:30

And we now have an Edith McLaughlin living in Underhill. Yeah. Same family. And wonderful. That's wonderful. So, you were born in Moretown and then you moved, as you, you don't have to tell me all the different places you went to, but you did go to school in Jericho starting in first grade.

01:54

How many years did you have there?

01:56

just that one, then my father built the house in Williston.

02:01

Okay.

02:01

and I spent the rest of my childhood down there. And Welliston.

02:06

Were you on a farm? No. He did carpenter work. He did carpenter work. And how many sisters and brothers did you have?

02:16

I have four brothers, but I don't have any sisters.

02:19

Okay.

02:20

Two of my brothers had passed away.

02:25

So you could just give me the names of your brothers.

02:28

Edwin and Raymond have passed away. Okay. And Rodgers in the hospital.

02:36

Roger is Eddie's husband.

02:39

Yeah. Right. Okay. And he's not doing well at all. Yeah, that's too bad. And Floyd lives in Jericho. Floyd, my boy.

02:49

often. So this is jumping ahead a bit, but it strikes me that the pattern of your family is very similar to the family you had in that you had four brothers and you were a sister and you had five sons and a daughter.

03:11

So having boys kind of runs in your family.

03:16

Yeah, my daughter has four boys and one girl.

03:20

That's amazing. So there are a lot of McLaughlin boys, males out there, men.

03:26

Ah

03:28

No, not so many. Yeah, but

03:34

Well, Edwin had one son. Okay.

03:40

Okay.

03:41

Roger had two sons. Yeah. Raymond had two sons. And no daughters in there? Roger had one daughter. Howard had one daughter. Raymond had three girls. And Edwin had two girls. No, Edwin had three girls.

04:03

Good for you, good memory for all that. That's hard. You don't need to tell me the names. So let's go back to school. In the Jericho Elementary School was small. That first grade, do you have any memories from that first grade year?

04:18

Not much. Not much. Do you remember who your teacher was? No. Okay. Well, why would you? That's a long time ago.

04:26

Yeah. I remember when we had recess we used to go up to the park and play the schools down. Which park? The one right down Jericho in front of the store. That little roundabout. Oh yeah. Where the road goes around.

04:47

Okay. We used to go up there and play.

04:51

you would walk up there.

04:52

Yeah.

04:53

Because there was no land in the back to play in.

04:57

I guess not. Yeah. So.

04:59

That's interesting that you didn't anywhere else to go. So then you moved, as far as schools were concerned, you went to the Williston schools. Elementary right up through eighth grade probably. Then did you go to high school after that?

05:16

Yeah, I went to Essex High.

05:18

Essex high and that was pretty big even then

05:21

Yeah. Well, it wasn't too awful big when I was a freshman. I think when I was a sophomore, the Essex Center kids came down. So then that made it a bigger school.

05:39

and they had to expand in space and so forth. Do you feel like you had a pretty good education?

05:46

Yeah, I think so.

05:49

Do you have any memories of the Williston School, anything that happened, do you second grade through eighth grade?

05:58

So we used to go to the school on I think it's a mountain field road now. There was a little school up there and IBM tore it down.

06:11

Mm.

06:12

We used to, there wasn't much traffic and they didn't sand the roads very well, so we used to take our sleds to school, walk up to the top of the hill and slide down. And out back of the school was a swamp and it would freeze over, so we'd take our ice skates and we'd skate out there.

06:33

That was fun.

06:34

Yeah.

06:36

one teacher, Bessie Spaulding, we had. She was a young teacher and we'd go out there with our ice skates and we'd skate. She didn't have a watch so she'd ask the older boys what time it was. They didn't tell her the real time.

06:54

because they wanted to keep skating and not go back in the building.

06:57

Yeah, we skate pretty quick and the bus can't take us home.

07:03

Was everybody in the class had skates? Yeah. Everyone had skates or sleds for the hill. Yeah. That's a good memory of school.

07:11

it was just a small school, you know, the whole eight grades were in that one school.

07:18

So do you remember like one grade would be in one class and that was it? Like there would be one class of second grade, one class of third grade. Were you combined grades at all?

07:32

I don't know. I know the whole eight grades were in that one room. There's just a one room.

07:40

It was a one -room school in Williston at that time. Oh, so did you have more than one teacher in front? No, just one teacher. with all of you. And no kindergarten, of course, I didn't start that. First grade through eighth grade.

08:01

Maybe twenty -some kids? Probably, yeah.

08:06

then I get

08:09

That must be quite a memory, sitting in a classroom at your desk in second grade. And there you are with people, the students, on up bigger and bigger to eighth grade. Did you, did, did the older kids help the younger kids?

08:26

Yeah, I guess so.

08:28

Did it.

08:29

The older kids used to, some of them come early, start the wood stove to heat the building up for the rest of us. And then in the wintertime, some of the older kids would make soups and things on the stove.

08:45

They would do that.

08:47

the cooking. We are alone. Did you have an outhouse for bathrooms?

08:52

You know, there was a little addition on the side of the building there, but the bathrooms were in there.

09:00

one girl's one boy's yeah yeah um did you walk to school or take a bus

09:08

Ah, I don't think we ever were.

09:11

You were too far.

09:14

Yeah, well, I don't know, maybe about a mile. I don't know if it was a mile or not. But one of the men, he had a pickup truck.

09:26

Mm -hmm.

09:27

and he fixed a box on the back of the truck and had a door in the back of it and that was our that was the bus school bus he'd come around picked us up

09:37

So you had to did you have a little ladder or some way to climb up into the yeah He had steps it steps and you get in there and get closed in Did it have a roof over your head? Yeah

09:50

And there were seats. He made seats all the way around. So, it's...

09:56

Do you remember about how many kids would be in there at once? Like five, 10, whatever, it had to go to school. All ages. And that was through the snow in the winter and whatever. One man with his homemade pickup truck.

10:14

Was that one -room school where the present elementary school is in Williston? Probably in that same area. No, but it was near the hill on Old Stage Road probably.

10:32

Because you know where Adams Farm is? Yes. Well, we didn't go up that far because... Partway up that road. From Adams you go towards Burlington. Yep. Right at the foot of the hill there is where the school used to be.

10:56

on that road that went towards Burlington. Yeah. Right. I can picture it. Yeah. Yeah.

11:01

And then when I got to seventh grade, they took the seventh and eighth grade kids over to the village. So they were over there in the school.

11:16

school by that time.

11:19

No, it was an older building, which was a two -story. The seventh grade was downstairs and the eighth grade was upstairs.

11:30

So they had more teachers then and you probably were just—oh, you were seventh when that happened. Then eighth. And then after eighth, you headed for Essex Junction High School.

11:44

Well, when I was in the eighth grade, it was in the spring, I think, because school was almost out. The schoolhouse burned down.

11:55

The original one that you'd gone to, the small one through six, that school? No, the seventh and eighth. Oh, that building.

12:05

that burn.

12:07

wood stove fire.

12:08

I don't know. I don't know. Okay. So we went to the town clerk's office. It was our school. So I graduated from the town

clerk's office. I didn't graduate from school.

12:22

Did you have a ceremony graduation, eighth grade graduation? Yeah. Yeah. And somebody spoke and you got diplomas. Yeah. Yeah. Do you have friends that you made during those years, anybody that's still in your life, anybody at all that was a friend in school?

12:43

They all gone in other directions.

12:53

at the ocean farm is. My grandson got married over there at the ocean farm.

13:02

Mm -hmm.

13:03

So then, a high school, what classes did you like, especially in high school? Homeac. Aha, homeac. There was, yeah, quite a lot of good homeac classes those days.

13:22

I got them very good in school.

13:26

Yeah, well, that's all right. That's all right. You, did you, did you feel like you didn't want to go to school or were you happy enough to go?

13:38

No, I like school. You did. It's just that it was hard for me. I just...

13:44

Well, regular classes like English and history and those classes were hard. Yeah. Yeah.

13:51

Well, I now, you know, trying to remember things. When I was in school, I could do my schoolwork. But then when you come to have a test, I couldn't remember stuff like that.

14:06

it together to do the test. Well, that's true. Sometimes testing just throws people off.

14:13

So I had a niece. She passed away. She tried to get into nurses training and that's the way she is. She could do everything but to come to the past, pass a grade.

14:29

Mm -hmm.

14:30

She didn't know what it was, and that's the way I was.

14:33

And teachers in those days were fairly strict and certain standards. You either did it or you didn't do it. They weren't really good at understanding what was going on with their students as much.

14:47

Well, back then, you know, they didn't know about all this stuff kids have nowadays.

14:56

And as far as behaviors concerned, you had to be good. You had to be good. And there was also quite a lot of respect for the teacher. If a student misbehaved and had to take a note home to mom or dad, that was not considered you know.

15:21

It was usually from what I know about it is that the parents would almost always side with the teacher and say, she or he has found something that you didn't do right. And let's go find out what that is.

15:38

Or else, do you remember students who got notes to take home or got in trouble in school, then did their parents punish them at home? Thank you.

15:50

I don't know. No.

15:51

because you never had to worry about that. Do you have memories of a crowded household with all those brothers?

16:04

No, the house was plenty big. It was a big house.

16:07

So you all had space being the only daughter you had your own room. Yeah, that was kind of special. Yeah So were you the youngest?

16:18

No, no. Edwin's the oldest, and I'm not. You were the second. Yeah.

16:23

Yeah, so that meant that sometimes growing up you had to take care of a younger brother

16:28

Yeah.

16:29

Yeah, you had that job as the daughter. It was assumed that you would do that, I'm sure. So then Dorothy, from high school, when was it you managed to move to Underhill?

16:45

after I got married.

16:47

Oh, okay. So you continued to live in Williston. Did you go to work after high school?

16:53

Yeah, I worked at the Howard Bank for a while.

16:56

in the town, or no, in Burlington.

17:00

Yeah.

17:02

So how did you get there to Burlington from Williston?

17:06

until I got my license to drive I used to ride with a neighbor.

17:11

Okay.

17:12

And did you, at that time, did the Howard Bank have, were you a teller in the window?

17:18

No, I was up in the supply room. I used to, when you get your chats, your name on the chat, that's what I done, printed those names on the chat.

17:32

Oh, okay. That's the main thing you were doing for the bank. Did you like the job?

17:39

Yeah, it was okay.

17:40

And it was money. Was it enough money for what you did? Do you think it was probably a pretty small amount compared to what people are in today? Yeah.

17:52

Yeah, I had plenty of money, I guess. Yeah, and you lived at home. Yeah.

17:58

So then when you got married, let's tell me about your husband and where you met him.

18:06

I met him at a burn day in Wilson. Well, they have one afterwards. I think it was up in Jonesville, was where I met him.

18:24

Okay. And tell me his name to be sure it's from the record.

18:27

Harley Blodgett.

18:30

Harley Blodgett. So your son's name Harland Blodgett. Did you change that on purpose or was your husband Harland also?

18:43

No, my husband is Harley. Yeah, he had a twin brother that was Harland.

18:50

Ah.

18:51

So he wanted our name.

18:53

in Harland, I see. That must have been a little bit confusing to have the name so similar.

19:00

Well, his brother only lived 19 days, I think.

19:09

He died when he was very, very, a new baby. Uh -huh. So that was where the name, Harlan, came, named after him. Yeah. Yeah. I see. That was sad. That was a sad thing. So you met your husband, and what do you remember about a wedding and getting married?

19:35

Did you have a church wedding? Yeah. Yeah.

19:38

We was married to Williston at the Federated Church.

19:42

the one right on the corner there with the big yeah okay and and did you have a big gathering of family yeah probably lots

of family yeah you have family everywhere around here keeping track of all of them and then did you do the conventional like go on a honeymoon and

20:05

Well, he got a camp from one of his friends, which was spending the week at the camp.

20:14

Well, that was a nice thing to do. Yeah, yeah. And you were how old when you got married? 21. 21. And so then did you stop working?

20:32

You know, I worked at a laughter Harlem once more.

20:36

And then I went back to work after he was born, but I had to get him ready. We lived over at the coach yesterday. And I had to get him ready and take him over to my mother to take care of during the day of all I were.

20:52

So you could keep the job. Was it important to keep the job in those days? Did you keep it after having a child because you wanted to work or because you needed the money? Or both, or neither?

21:10

Well, probably both, but I didn't work very long after that because it was too hard to get him ready and take stuff away. Then you're working all day and you come home and you're going to do housework.

21:25

So I told him that I was getting done. And they asked me why and I said because I'm going to stay home and take care of my baby. He says, is your baby more important than your job?

21:42

And said, what did you say?

21:44

I said yes, yes.

21:48

Nowadays so many women go ahead and have a job because they really need to to make ends meet Or they really want to they're both those reasons But in your time it was pretty usual to stay home with the children, yeah, yeah So Harlan Was born Do you remember about how old you were when he was born?

22:21

You had been in the early 20s probably

22:27

22, 22. And then for the record, could you just name your children? You don't need to say what year they were born unless you got that in your head. You don't have to know. No, don't worry about that.

22:42

But just tell me as they came along, who you had after Harlan came?

22:49

and then Paul and Roger and Kenneth and Milo.

23:08

Um, and then Bertha? And Bertha. Okay.

23:13

Okay. Milo was named after my grandfather. You know, Milo White Road? Yes. That was my grandfather. Oh. Had a farm up at the end of the road. But, well, you go up that road and then it circles like that. (note Milo White road is in Jericho, off

Browns Trace)

23:32

I've been up there. And the farm was right in that circle.

23:38

So that was a White farm. Yeah. That was your grandfather. The names of your other children were all after somebody? Or did you just pick a name?

23:53

You know, just while Bertha was named Bertha Anna after two grandmothers.

24:00

Anna, Bertha, Anna, we're your two grandmothers.

24:04

No.

24:06

And are all six of your children still living now? Yeah. Yep. And are all six of your children in the area, in Vermont, nearby? I mean, towns nearby? you

24:21

Five of them are, Milo is in Maine.

24:25

Okay, where in Maine is he.

24:27

In Bridgton

24:28

in Bridgton, okay. But the other five are all nearby.

24:35

two of them are in Underhill.

24:37

Harlan and

24:38

Roger.

24:39

Roger, okay.

24:40

and Kenneth is in Jericho, Bertha's in Bristol, and Paul is in Lyndonville.

24:50

Oh, that's really good for you. Now, when you contact, are in contact with your children, is it mostly via phone? Is that how you do it? Do you call them up or do they call you up?

25:05

Well, my lower I do. He comes over quite often. But the other kids, they call and they come over.

25:11

They call or they come by. Both. Yeah. Do you know when they're coming by? Did they call and say I'm coming or did they just turn up?

25:20

No, they usually call. Yeah. Well, Bertha comes Saturday, she didn't call.

25:27

But that's all right. You're glad to see everybody. So do you remember having... Do you think raising that many children was really quite a lot of work? I mean, do you remember when you were raising them that it was just like hard to get through the day because there was so much to do in terms of cooking and cleaning and getting them kids ready for school and so forth?

26:00

Or was it as your memory more enjoyable?

26:05

No, I just, I didn't think it was hard, I just, just do what you're gonna do.

26:13

did what you do, what you got to do. Did you insist on or did you have meals always at a certain time?

26:24

I don't think so, I'm just...

26:26

whenever you've got them together. Did you, did the whole family sit together and have, have a meal together? Yeah. Yeah. Did you have any special meals that you would cook for them?

26:39

just birthdays. I always made them birthday cakes.

26:42

birthday cake, okay. But in terms of Vermont food, like did you use maple syrup? Oh, almost all the time. Yeah, all the time. Did you ever have corned beef and cabbage? Yeah. That was a pretty traditional meal.

27:03

Yeah.

27:06

Yeah. Yeah. Thanks, Givin. You always have a good day.

27:10

I always had a turkey. At Christmas, did you have a turkey too?

27:14

I think we usually had ham. Okay. That's what I was telling you.

27:19

And I know you're a churchgoer now. Did you go to church in those days too? No, I didn't. You didn't so much then. You were too busy probably. Yeah. When did you start going to a church? Thank you.

27:34

I guess after the kinsen grew up and got married and I was here alone so then I'd

27:42

go down to church. And church became a good, not only helpful to you, but a good social thing, so you could see people. Yeah. And now you go pretty regularly? Well, no. Whenever you can.

28:00

Well, since I lost my eye, I can't read much with that eye. I got hearing aids and sometimes they work good and sometimes they don't.

28:13

How did you lose your eye Dorothy?

28:16

I had cancer and I had a port put in and the doctors think it started with that port. And it was all in my chest and in my arm and it went up in my eye. So it was cancer in your eye? No, because of the infection.

28:35

I don't have cancer.

28:38

It was an infection. Were you in the hospital quite a bit with that?

28:42

I was there 20 days and then I was in rehab for 25 days.

28:48

How long ago was that? Just last December. In 2022? Oh.

28:57

I went to the 6th of December and come home on the 18th of January.

29:04

Oh, I'm so sorry. That must have been tough. And are you feeling pretty good now?

29:11

Yeah.

29:12

Good. Do you need to go see a doctor regularly or you're all set now?

29:17

Well, I have to see the eye doctor every six months. Make sure this is going to...

29:23

Yeah.

29:25

And I have to see another eye doctor because I just see that doctor and he said my eye flashes are turning in so the doctors got to pull my eyelid over to the sewing so that they don't scratch my eyes.

29:48

So your glasses don't scratch the eye.

29:52

you know for some of my last years don't

29:54

Oh, your lashes. I see. I get you. Oh, lying. moment they're not doing that, but he doesn't want them to do that eventually. And can you see with your good eye, with your right eye, to read or to... I mean, can you do what you need to do?

30:18

Or...

30:19

Yeah, I can do it. But I have my handy.

30:24

Magnifying glass, yeah.

30:29

important you know because if the writing isn't big enough

30:35

Mm -hmm.

30:35

But my arm gets tired and it gets blurry and I can't see.

30:44

And your day living by yourself here is predictable. Do you stay awake all day long and just sleep well at night?

30:52

Yeah.

30:54

Go to bed. What time do you go to bed?

30:57

Lots of nights I fall asleep in my chair about seven or eight o'clock.

31:02

And then you go to bed when you wake up.

31:05

I go to bed 930, 10 o'clock.

31:08

and sleep through the night.

31:11

Well, I have to get up and roll the baton. Yeah, yeah. And I'm usually waiting by 4 o'clock.

31:18

And you're getting around the house okay. Yeah. Wonderful. Good for you. Um, I want to talk about three different things. One is anything you remember from under hill from living in under hill and living on Cilley Hill Road.

31:37

That's the first thing. And then I want to ask you about your yard and your gardens because it's just wonderful out there. And then finally we could talk about your collection of salt and pepper shakers, which is incredible.

31:50

So in terms of Underhill, have you, have you felt like, you know, do you feel isolated on Cilley Hill Road? Or do you feel part of the community up here?

32:04

You know, part of the community. Yes.

32:07

like, you know, the Russins and your neighbors down the road and...

32:13

Well, some of them, but...

32:15

Not everybody.

32:16

No, they aren't neighborly. Everybody works, you know. Right. They come home and they got their housework. Right. Ferrari, Steve and Karine Ferrari. They're both retired now, so I talk with her quite a lot.

32:36

That's nice. He usually has a nice garden, so they bring me vegetables.

32:45

They know you're here and they keep track. You could call them if you needed to. Yeah. You've got phone numbers. Yeah. Yeah.

32:51

Now, Rita and Jim Greenier, they're the next house right here. They're on my lifeline, so the lifeline calls in.

33:04

Does that lifeline work so if you fall down or just you can push it if you need help? Yeah. Have you had a chance to push it at all?

33:14

Yeah.

33:15

You have? Yeah, well, before I went to hospital there a couple days, I was pretty sick. So I laid down in bed, and then when I went to get up, I was right at the edge of the bed, so I fell on the floor and I couldn't get up.

33:34

So four o'clock. You pushed your button. Four o'clock in the morning, I got up and held it back.

33:40

And they came over. You know. Excellent. I'm glad that worked. That should work. They called Harlan.

33:45

They called Roger and they called Canada. Called everybody. Jim and Rita come over, but the doors were all locked and they didn't know where the key was outdoors, so they couldn't get in. They called Ireland.

34:05

I'm ready to come up.

34:08

He knew where the key was, or he had a key. He has a key. He has a key. Do you lock all the time? Yeah. Yeah.

34:14

not in the daytime. You feel so good.

34:16

safer to lock. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Have you had any adventures in underhill things that have happened in the town? Harvest Market or

34:30

Yeah, I used to work at the harvest market for a long time there.

34:34

What did you do when you were working there?

34:37

Gretchen Becker and Harlan's wife Rhonda and me were in charge of the Clutter Barn.

34:45

Oh, that's a big job. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, they're still going strong. Yeah. So that was in the past. You're not doing that too much anymore. No, I gave that up. Do you see a lot of changes in the town of Underhill?

35:01

Oh, yeah. What strikes you has mostly changed? A lot of new houses.

35:07

Yeah, a lot of house development.

35:10

a new grocery store.

35:14

Are you happy about the grocery store?

35:17

Yeah, it's alright, I guess. I don't shop there very much. Where do you shop? At Hannah Furns.

35:24

Oh, you go down there. Just somebody drives you down and you're...

35:27

Yeah, Roger usually takes me. Yeah places

35:32

Yeah.

35:32

Harlan's retired now, so he's been doing something for me.

35:38

And if you need groceries and you run out, you can ask your family, can bring you whatever you need. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Let's talk a little bit about your yard. Your yard is amazing. I walked in and I could just see that you've been in different parts of the yard.

36:03

You've got a little arbor in one place and then you have a garden way over. Do you grow both flowers and vegetables?

36:13

There's flowers in the garden. There's dried vegetables, but they don't grow for me.

36:18

Do you, right now, after having all your medical things in the winter, you probably didn't spend a lot of time digging, gardening, or gardening last year?

36:29

I have some of them, some of the gardens I weeded, most of them I didn't.

36:37

But it's charming. It's really, it looks like you've had fun doing it. You know, so and you have like little trolls and creatures that live around in the garden.

36:53

Well, I don't have many, most of my statues and things for the gardens are down somewhere. I didn't get a melt this.

37:02

All you've collected though, so you could have them all over the yard.

37:06

Yeah, well I put them in the garden so I don't have to move them when I move them on.

37:12

So over the years, those statues had to go down in the basement in the winter? Because they would break in the snow? I think so. They'd rather just put them away and then put them out again? Are there any particular flowers that you were pleased that did well?

37:36

No, the flowers seem to grow good, but I don't know why the vegetables don't.

37:43

the same problem. And vegetables you can get all over the place when it's summer anyway. So I think a lot of people are growing more flowers than they are vegetables these days, unless they have a really big vegetable garden and freeze things and can.

38:01

And in the older days, did you can things? Did you put things down for the winter?

38:09

Yeah, they always came a lot. You did? Yeah.

38:12

What did you can in the old days? What did you put, tomatoes or?

38:16

any vegetables I could have.

38:18

Did you make it through the whole year on what you had grown the summer before?

38:24

Sure.

38:26

You think everybody, I mean, most everybody did that.

38:29

Yeah.

38:30

So all summer, it wasn't just a question of having fun. It was a question of working with the vegetables. Preparing for winter. Did you have a root cellar where you kept potatoes and beets and things like that?

38:47

No. Not so much. No. So how would you can? Did you use a pressure cooker?

39:00

No, I just had a canner. A big canner. Water. Put water in it and boil it. Boil it.

39:07

and then seal it. You sealed it first and then put everything in there and how long did it cook?

39:17

Well, different. Whatever. Different going. Yeah.

39:20

But like say beans, how long would beans cook? About two hours. Two hours in the canner on the stove.

39:29

Yeah.

39:30

must have been a lot of steam in the kitchen. Yeah. Yeah. Were you ever in a position to tap maple trees for maple syrup?

39:39

You know, the boys used to tap the trees around here when they were home.

39:44

So you have a number of sugar maples on the land. How much land do you have here? Two acres. Yeah, that's nice. So this particular house you have lived in for a long time. This is where you raised your children.

39:58

Yeah, mostly. Okay. Right on. It's actually on Cilley Hill Road.

40:06

The front of the house is supposed to be here on Sam Ward Road.

40:10

Mm -hmm.

40:13

But the address is Cilley Hill, right? It's a good location. Okay, so you started to tell me that your first salt and pepper shaker came to you in the mail Yeah

40:33

In grade school. In grade school. They used to have boxes of Christmas cards that you sell. They put in other things besides Christmas cards.

40:45

And where would you get these? Would they come to you in the mail or would you get? You had to send for them. Okay. So as a grade school kid was it like third grade, fourth grade, eighth grade? You don't.

41:02

spin maybe seventh and eighth.

41:04

enough to be want to do that. Yeah. Yeah. So you got this box and you had cards and you had a salt and pepper. Do you still have that particular set, that number one set?

41:18

I don't remember what caused it, but I lost all my... Oh, that's right.

41:23

You lost 500 of them in a fire. It must have been sad. So starting in, let's say, seventh or eighth grade, you started a collection and you just kept going and going. And people knew about that, so they would give you some.

41:44

Oh, my relatives. Your relatives would find them and give them to you. And then would you particularly, did you have catalogs or you would see places where you could buy some of the unusual ones and you would say, aha, I want one of those?

42:05

Yeah, I sent her quite a few. You sent for some?

42:09

Do you feel like it has cost you much money or have they been more easily easy to pay for?

42:18

Well, the ones you send for, they're expensive, but the ones I pick up at yard sales are second hand stores. They started out just twenty -five cents a sack, but now they've got up to three, four dollars a sack.

42:34

At a yard sale.

42:37

And some of them, somewhere in there, are some probably rare ones, unusual ones. It could be. I wouldn't know. You really don't know if you've got something that's kind of specially valuable.

42:59

In another cupboard, there's a lot of antique ones. They were valuable, but antiques aren't valuable anymore now, so I don't know if they're worth a lot of money or not.

43:13

So that part of it was, it wasn't the important thing for you. The important thing was just to collect them and have them. Is it exciting when you get one that's really unusual?

43:25

Yeah.

43:25

Yeah, like once these are ones on your table here that you're cataloging. Yeah, I Think it's wonderful that you keep a record and What are you up to now? What's your current number?

43:43

12 ,200.

43:44

12 ,000 salt and pepper shaker sets. Wow. Do they have to be perfect to keep them? No. No.

43:57

No.

43:57

Do you have a favorite or any favorite?

44:00

I don't think so. I just like them all.

44:04

They are your special friends. Where did you get the cases for them?

44:11

to carpenters they built the cords.

44:15

They built the cupboards. And you have, as you say, some other antiques elsewhere not in these cupboards. These cupboards are your current ones, but there's no room left in the cupboards. Well. You're gonna have another cupboard.

44:31

My front room is full of cupboards and there's cupboards in the hallway and there's cupboards in the hall out there and that back room is full of cupboards.

44:40

And every cupboard has got salt and pepper shakers in it. I think it's fabulous. It's absolutely fabulous. And have people, do people know about this other than your family? Well, friends. Friends know about it.

45:03

But you haven't ever had anybody come and do a story about it. No. It's amazing. There's the Beatles over there. A lot of figures.

45:25

my daughter went to that book of

45:28

Guinness? Guinness Book of World Records.

45:33

And she wanted, they had, the one that had the most salt and peppers had 6 ,000 sacks. So she's, she come out, she found out what we had to do to get into the book. So I took the, had to take the salt and peppers all out and put them.

45:55

So three different people come out to kill them. From the Guinness book? No, I just had to. Oh, just people. Yeah.

46:04

had to have a had to prove that you had that many. Yeah. So that meant you had to take all these out and count them. Yeah. That must have been a busy job right there.

46:16

And so then she'd sent the papers and things from counting them. Well, they wanted a description of each set. She started it, but she says it's such an awful job and she works. Yeah, it's a terrible job.

46:35

And she's taking care of her granddaughter.

46:38

It's just not time enough to do it. So this person, whoever it is that has 6 ,000, has already done that, has described each, must be each set.

46:51

Yeah.

46:52

Do you have a picture of each set? Well, I would think in a way that would count without having, I mean, if all of them are pictured, that could be, the picture could be the description.

47:09

Well, that is the way they think.

47:12

Yeah, it isn't. Okay, so because to write a description is difficult because like, you know, there's a rooster and a hen over there. Well, you might have a bunch of them with roosters and hens. Got a lot of chickens.

47:32

A lot of people made them chickens, I think.

47:34

Yeah, that whole cupboard is hanging.

47:36

whole chicken that they're all birds over there. Yeah. Fowl of some sort. Yeah, I can see that.

47:43

just hens and rooster.

47:45

and roosters. So, yeah, in terms of cataloging all that, that's just almost like too much for somebody to have to write out every single one of them.

47:59

I said, you describe them, send that to them, then they're going to say they want a picture of each one. But you do have a lot of pictures. Yeah, so then that's when we started making the little cards.

48:14

After they counted them, when we put them back, we took a picture of each set.

48:20

So is that true that everything that's in the cupboards now has got a number and a sticker on it? No.

48:28

and there's no sticker on the line.

48:30

nothing on the set. No, just on the card, on the pictures you have. So then if I took this picture, I'd have to figure out how to find it in the cupboard, wouldn't I? Yeah, that's interesting. It's all a lot of work, but it's just so interesting.

48:52

Do you have any future plans for what to do with it at all?

49:01

Well, I asked the kids and none of them want them. I was thinking I'd like to go down to the Shelburne Museum and see if they would purchase them and have a building so everybody could see them.

49:17

Yeah, that's or somewhere where they would have them to look at for people to see. Right. So maybe the Shelburne Museum or some museum or some library, well, probably a library wouldn't be able to do it, but a museum might could come and talk to you and see.

49:40

Yeah. Anyway, congratulations on doing it. It's amazing. It's an amazing, amazing collection. Hobby. Dorothy, we're about at the end here. Is there anything else you want to, anything you can think of you'd like to throw onto the tape about Underhill or your family or living here?

50:01

I don't think so. And you don't think so? Are you just as happy that you've been in this community? Do you think Underhill's been good for you? Yeah. It's been good.

50:13

People are good. Yeah.

50:17

and you've got a lovely home and a good life. I'm glad you're feeling well now. So thanks very much to Dorothy Blodgett. We'll end the tape now.