

Transcript

This is Saturday, September 14th, 2024, and we are interviewing Kathleen Langlais, and she's very kindly come with her dog Ollie to be interviewed about her connection to the town of Underhill. So I'm just going to let you start us off, Kathleen, with what you'd like to tell us about.

Of course, well, I was born in Burlington, Vermont in 1948 and lived the first three years of my life at St. Joseph's. I was very fortunate, St. Joseph's orphanage, that is, and I was very fortunate to have been adopted by Martha Romfrey, Dane, and David Romfrey back in when I was three years old and brought to a beautiful village of Underhill Center where they owned a few houses and businesses and were very active in the community.

I enjoyed it very, very much here. I miss it. Every time I come back, I get a little teary-eyed.

Where are you living now?

I'm living now in Williston in senior housing. My husband and I, I was married to a gentleman for 57 years who passed away three years ago. And he and I lived in St. Albans for many, many, many years.

And then we moved to Burlington to get him away from the fire department. Because if I didn't, he would have been running behind the trucks all the time when he retired. He was a career fireman, EMT.

And we just had a very, very good life up there. But we moved down to get closer to our daughter, who lived in Shelburne. She has three beautiful girls. And I knew I'd never see him in St. Albans from Shelburne if I didn't get closer.

And moving forward, we bought some homes. We started flipping houses. I guess my Mom did that. She kind of put that into my blood because she used to flip houses in Underhill, I understand, from what I've heard.

Your Mom, Martha.

You were three when you came to Underhill.

Yes, I lived in Underhill Center until I was 18.

Ah.

Great place, you know, I went out of town for high school because Mount Mansfield Union was not built back in the day, as they say, so we were going either we went to Essex for a couple of years and then there was a tuition war where they raised the tuitions and Mom was the single mother by then my Dad had passed away and it was kind of you know she had kind of a hard time with you know keeping the bills together and everything and she was doing really well um and Luella Lamphere who also is from Underhill Center was the secretary at BHS Burlington High School at the time and her daughter was going there and she said well why don't you let me take her with me and you know we can ride back and forth and the tuition's much less.

So what years were you in high school?

um i was um boy you're making me stretch 61 to 65

in the 60s yeah okay early 60s so so where did you go to elementary school

Underhill Central School. Mm -hmm. Oh and I I skipped the seventh grade. I used to have a brain back in the day so

I bet you still have one.

So my test scores were, I guess, as they say, off the charts at the time, so I was allowed to skip the seventh grade. So I graduated ahead of all my friends. I was 17 when I graduated, not quite sure what I wanted to do.

I did go to Champlain one year. But then I got married and life moved on, you know, and no complaints, none at all.

Do you have some memories of Underhill Center starting when you were young? What do you remember from the early, early days?

The early, early days, I remember the marimba band the most. I love music, always have. Actually was in a little rock and roll band with some kids back in BHS. And there was a marimba band that St. Thomas Church used to have come every year.

Really? Yes. And I was mesmerized standing there watching them play the marimba, which is like a piano, for those of you who don't know, much bigger, but played with these very soft sticks. And it was like, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

And I always had a percussion thing in my, yeah, I always loved percussion of any kind. In fact, I did end up playing the drums for three years. And my mother was like, nuts, but we got through it. And then my own daughter took it up, and my Mom said, sweet revenge, lady, sweet revenge.

But anyways, I remember them coming every summer. I remember all the wonderful neighbors, my friends.

Where was the house you were in?

We were down by the 1922 bridge. Does that make sense? It's now been torn down. We were, Well's store was my parents' store. What presently is the Well's grocery?

Cedric's market. And you were, were you on what's now Range Road?

We didn't live on Range Road. We lived across the way in what is the gray house. Now it used to be a brown house. If you're standing in front of Cedric's Market where the barn is, the house directly across the road, right on the corner, that's where I grew up.

And there's a great big play yard out in the back. My father had carved it out and he had a playhouse. He took the old milk house and made it into a doll house, playhouse for me and my friends. Everybody came.

It was Jan Kennedy and David Angland and Billy Durbrow. I could go on. Loads of people came to the park to play and we had a goat.

called at the park because it was the back your backyard basically yep

And then we went down the bank to the river. We had a place where we could go swimming. That is a nice location there. We had memories there were wonderful. And my parents were great because they always provided me with animals.

You know, like I had a horribly mean cat. He disappeared. But he went out to the farm. You know how that is. He's going to the farm. And then I had a goat. And now Billy was probably the cutest thing you've ever seen.

And I might have been seven, eight years old. And he used to follow us around the backyard all the time. And this one particular night, it was always my job to put him in the barn. That was my job. Just make sure he got in the barn at night.

Didn't go out in the road at night. Didn't go out in the road. He was put away for the evening. He was pretty well behaved. He'd get in the middle of our teeter totter and teeter totter and go up and get apples off the tree.

He was adorable. I have pictures of him somewhere. God knows what I can see.

Other children in the area like to come to your yard.

And he was a character, and then one particular day, this memory stays with me forever. I had put him in. I couldn't get his chain off for some reason. So I thought, oh, no big deal. We'll let him go.

Well, when you went into the barn, the stairs went up to the loft. They went up a few steps, flattened out, and then turned and went up again, right? So they went at like 180 degrees, I guess. And so the next morning, I went out to get him.

And of course, the minute I opened that door down, he came and he got caught and hung, and he's swinging. And I'm screaming, and my poor Mom comes running out of the store, which at that time was across the road where the little house

is.

And she could hear me screaming and screaming, and she could see the goat going, and she, poor woman, and she came flying over and cut him down. And that was one of my happiest, not a happy memory, funny now, but one of the things that I definitely remember.

And then I had a couple of ducks, and they used to take care of each other. I was at school one day, and Mother told me this story that they, one of them came wallowing up, having a fit. And it turned out that the female was trapped in the middle of the river by a dog, and the other one wanted Mom to come and get him.

So down they went. So, you know, the memories are, I will tell you one memory that still freaks me out today is the Bolio boys who lived on the Range Road. They're Sandy and her brothers. And I remember the names.

Bobo, I think was their father. Yeah, Bobo. And the Mom was, oh gosh, I can't, I don't have it, I'm sorry. But it was Bobo's family. Anyways, and they, the boys had a pet crow that they had developed from a baby into a creature.

Anyways, another one of my little jobs was to be very careful walking up to the post office, which used to be right next door to where Rose Lindner lived, if you can, you remember it.

Oh, it is still there. It's a post office. Oh, it's still there. It's still there.

Yeah, I guess I remember that, although it used to be up on the corner at one time, and Mrs. Belval ran it. Mm -hmm. Remember? Way back.

before it was put into that building has been a number of things yeah so you had to well I would walk up and mother would make sure that I would walk very, very carefully on the side of the road and go up there. You know, it wasn't the traffic there is today. That's what I was going to ask, was it...

hardly anything. No. And it was paved, wasn't it? It was paved.

And if a town truck happened to come along or something, they knew all the kids. Everybody knew everybody. They got the heck out of the way and we just went, well, if that crow wasn't out having a fly around that day, one of those days, he landed right on his eyes.

He landed right on my shoulder. I just about died. There was quite a ditch there. And I remember jumping into the ditch, flogging around and flogging around and it's like, get rid of this crazy thing, scared me to death.

And to this day, I'm not particularly fond of birds. I am not, I just, this day, I can't. And I remember being in high school. This is just an addendum to this story. Being in high school and wanting very much to have a date with this young man.

And he took me to the drive -in to see The Birds.

That was horrible.

so you did that you did see it well I do

He didn't watch much of it. He didn't watch it. He must have thought, oh my God, I'm never taking this one out again, ever. And he didn't, which was fine.

How was school, at the Central School?

Central school was fabulous it was it was the teachers there everything I had miss Flynn you did have a swim one year and then miss Lindner took over that great area Roseland Rose and she was fabulous fabulous I started out with mrs.

Kingsbury first and second and then I'm gonna have to beg off on that third and fourth one well

It's amazing you remember.

I I do I can see her I just can't get the name in my head so you were in

combined classes, first and second and then third, yeah.

And it was a big deal when you went to the 5th and 6th because the auditorium, it was just a small, it was just a little piece of school then. It wasn't all these add-ons and everything, which is lovely, but we were just a small little eight room school with a lunch room across the, you know, in one auditorium, couple of bathrooms, big deal, you know.

It was very nice, but the third and fourth, first, second, third, fourth was separated by the upper grades, by the auditorium, so it was a big deal when you got to go to the 5th grade. You know. So you were...

fifth and sixth one year yes two years yeah and skipped seventh and went to the eighth and and passed over the friends you had in that raid you were sadly yeah yeah and then you went to high school Burlington

I've run into some of these folks. It's really funny how you come in contact with people. The Russins, for instance, married two of the girls, Kathy and Alice, married into my very dearest male friend's family.

And I've seen, in fact, a couple of Sundays back we had kind of a little cookout with Alice and Mark and Moulthrop. It's your name now, Moulthrop. They live out in Hinesburg. But it's amazing how you come across these folks and your thrills that you get to see them again.

You really are. So my cousins always treated me a little weird. Cousins by adoption, that is. Because, you know, they were...

like as an adoptee, you were very beloved.

I will.

Very you had a good my family. Yeah, my Mom and Dad were having started when

When I lost my Dad, I was 11. I know you don't want us to get gloomy, but you talk about desertion syndrome, okay? I had been deserted by my original family, right? And then I was again deserted by this man, who I adored.

And you were still young, and also that had a big effect on you.

poor Mom and then of course I became that inevitable teenage yanks that you can get to be

Did you get involved with the store at all? Did you work at the store?

She had me do that a couple of summers, pump gas, and taught me how to make change, which they can't do today, you know, things like that. We had a little kitchen there, mother used to make our meals there.

She'd make all our meals right there, unless it was a holiday when we were home. I think it's still there.

I wouldn't be at all.

surprise. I've been in that store once. I went in to see if I could buy one of the Coca-Cola machines but he wasn't giving them up. So I really loved this idea.

Yeah, some old things there.

I wanted one of those old Coke machines. I remember, I used to have to fill that. That was another one of my little jobs, was to fill the Coke machines. You know, I just had little.

Thanks. I can remember biking up there for a loaf of bread and going into the store and I only smelled of yummy baked stuff.

She was a cook

Yeah.

so she sold the store to Cedric no Cedric take over from there no no

mother sold the store to two ladies who lived on this road somewhere uh no not this road pardon me

Irish Settlement Road. Yes.

Irish Settlement Road. There were two ladies. I know, I know very little about that other than I put my name on some paper. That's all I know. And then they sold it. And they're the ones. Yeah. I don't think they had it five, six years maybe.

And they sold it to Cedric. And that's great, right? They kept it in the community.

It's very much the Underhill Center.

store without the Bolio store it's the store which is wonderful you know do it I I have a question in regards to that I mean I

Yeah, well, we may we may not know the answer

He had added an apartment on the upstairs there and he had heard through the grapevine that he was unable to rent it because it was a gas station. Did that get resolved?

I don't know anything about that. You could ask him though, I'm sure I will stop one of these days. I'm sure he must live.

upstairs oh he does yeah well then that answers that he did get it resolved with the state but pardon me apparently there was a reason that because it was a gas station they were not able to live upstairs there didn't make any sense to me because there's hundreds of them like that but who knows but and then you know another one of my hope I'm able to say this another one of my childhood memories about Underhill was all of the soldiers that came through to go to the range would often stop at the store

They were right next to the Range Road. Right. They would.

swing in and they'd come in and buy oodles and oodles of things and go up there for their camp out. And I might have been five, maybe four and a half or five the first time I saw a black man. And I remember that vividly.

It was one of the soldiers, very polite, lovely guy. Well, I hadn't been prepped. I had no idea the Vegas is

And Vermont has always been such a white state. Oh, very white. Very white. Yeah.

And so that was one of my experiences and then you girls must remember our dial phones that if it rang three times it was yours, if it rang four it belonged to Edith, or am I kidding? Party lines!

And you were on with several other households? We had four.

We had four. Remember who they were?

to just try to remember. I'm trying.

but I'm not doing well now. I believe one of them definitely was Mrs. Luck. You talk about the Luck's. The older, she was 90 when I was a kid, you know, and she lived up near where Roy Kennedy's place was.

He went across that little teeny bridge. The old academy. The old academy. And she lived in that little house just up where the road came down. Jesse Luck. Jesse.

Yes. Thank you. And do you remember other neighbors and Underhill Center. Well.

Priors and

The Dwyer's?

No, Pior. Gert Prior

Priors, of course, she was she was our cook at school right what a cook I mean and that woman was wonderful so she would cook it

home and bring the food to the school. Oh did she? A lot of parents? I think so. I don't think she

That was when the number five schoolhouse was opened.

She would do it then, but then once it burned and they built a center school, maybe there was a kitchen there that she could cook.

kitchen because we'd smell the food cooking all morning so she'd cook there yeah right yeah and she always had help lovely people and you know they would be there to help or I don't know if they were paid or you know whatever so when you

I entered elementary school, the District 5 schoolhouse had already burned and they had to close it down. Obviously. Yeah. I don't remember that at all. No. Because you were after that. Where was that school?

That's where you just were. Having your picture taken. Historical Society. Oh! Historical Society.

That's where the fire was. That's why the Central School was built. But there was a little period of time when students went to the church and other places. You went right to the school. Right into the school is brand new.

What do you remember about Emily Flynn?

hahaha

Do you really want me to say this?

She was scared.

She was a very serious woman, no joking, no fooling around, nothing fun, very scary, yeah.

That's a good teacher.

Undeniably, look what she did for me. I mean, she was a good woman. I you know, I told the mark with her, she was smart. But no, she was frightening, more like it.

You're not the first one to say that.

I mean, here's the little kids, you know, and they're like, this woman is like, and the teachers always stood at the door and welcomed us into their classroom in the morning, which was a wonderful, I wish they'd do that today.

Maybe they do. They didn't at my kids, my grandkids' school, or my daughter's school. But they would always be standing there, and they would welcome us. Hello, good morning. Hi, how are you? You know, it was always something, not her.

She would be standing there with her arms folded. Get your seat, get your seat. And she still, she used a ruler at that time. She was still using a ruler to let people have it. So, you know, on their fingers, not on their butts, but on their fingers.

So, yeah, I remember, I'm trying to, you've kind of caught me a little bit off here. Father Maloney was, was it Maloney or Mahoney? Maloney.

I think yeah

Father Maloney. He was at St. Thomas for years and years and years and years. Great man. And he used to come down and visit us all the time. I think he liked Mom's goodies. He liked her cakes and pies and donuts.

And everybody, my remembrance of people talking about him was that everybody knew him whether they were members of the Catholic Church. That's correct, you didn't know him out.

to be part of his parish. You were part of his circle, whether you were part of his masses or not.

When your parents go over to the flats much?

we went down to Tippie's for groceries. I mean we had to get our groceries somewhere too you know so

It was quite a distance, otherwise, if you didn't go to Tippie's.

Yeah, you had to go to Country Store. The Country Store had just come into business when I was teenager. The guy with the 11 cent bread, remember?

Merle

Merle Wood. Oh you're good. I would have got it eventually. I remember him he was something else but as far as people in the center goes I mean there was a Russins and who? Russons. Oh Russins. Yeah they lived a little ways up from Bobo.

What do I mean right now?

Limey.

No, they didn't.

live there. It was a relative. Limey lived on Krug. That's correct. And I eventually saw them later in life. They bought a camp right next door to my cousin Pauline and her husband down at Hathaway Point.

So they ran into them. Thelma and Limey. So and a lot of their family, which was great. I remember they they had a chance. They were lovely bunch, loads of children. And they had a perchance of losing them out of the cars though.

Losing the children? They would drive around the corner. Limey drove very fast. He was incredible. You remember that about him at all? He was a speedster. And he'd come down there from the house with six or seven kids in the car coming up.

I've never had any serious accidents.

I think he was, I don't know, the same kid, at least three times, you know, it was... And the kids survived. They survived. I mean look at us today, God, they're gonna be, they're in there like, you've nailed them to the seat.

I made it.

Back in the day, we were standing up and jumping around and playing in the back.

of the car, yes, always, yeah.

Yeah, mother and we almost went for rides. We used to go for rides all the time we go out through the English Settlement and ride all around Thelma.

Ooh.

God, I know this last name Kathleen. What is wrong with you today? No, no, no, they'll a Thelma and Francis and Wally Stone We'd go out there and visit them a little bit, you know, we never went in the house so we sat out in the yard and talked, which is good, Then we'd go and then as I got older when I became a teenager Mother would put me on the tractor when he'd come down in the morning Wally come down And he would load up the tractor with gas and all this stuff and head back He'd say will you take her along get keep her out of trouble for the day and away I'd go

up there with Wally Stone yep and they would have would he bring you back on the tractor

get me later when she closed the store and I would spend day after day there just paying I learned to drive when I was 12 right out on that farm I went flying by the camp we had a little camp there a ton at the time a little school house and mother was there on sitting out enjoying you're turning our settlement yes yeah right by the near Doone Road Doone Road yeah right on the corner that was his grant Wally's grandmother's

I don't know, maybe it is still.

Yeah.

But anyways, he, we had a heck of a good time and he would hire young men to come down from St. Albans that were kind of like borderline trouble, not really big trouble, but they could get into trouble if they didn't keep them busy and he would hire three or four of them to come down and in fact that's how I met my husband, I'm getting off the Underhill here but he came down to go deer hunting with one of the fellas one year and I met him.

And

Would he hire for farming is why he would hire these guys. Yeah. Yeah

Yeah, they'd come in and they'd do the hay season. They'd hay field after field after field. It wasn't just theirs. They did oodles of others, you know. All the way up and down Irish Settlement. Sure.

Yeah. Sure.

Yeah, yeah, and you ever get involved with the haying, did you have all that? Yeah, I drove the truck

I can remember one girlfriend of mine her name is Susan she used to come up and spend Few days with me and she was a tall lanky drink of water, you know kind of attractive young lady and The boys would be tried like act to pick up a bail.

We had bales then right and it'd be like Oh god, it's as heavy. I don't she come along with one hand grab that boom put it right up on the truck. Oh She she's gone now. I miss her terribly, but Unfortunately, I've lost several of my dearest dearest They've gone ahead of me, but they'll be waiting.

They'll be there when I get there So anyways, yeah, I was trying to think of Some of the girls that I went to school with I should have brought more pictures Um What was the girl who was it Dottie Dorothy Dorothy Tobin the Tobins they were they were out north Underhill But they came in to go to school I hung out with Dottie.

They call her Dottie Deanna lamp here Jan Kennedy I think she's still around Jan.

She's out in Arizona. Oh, she is?

Oh I didn't know that. There weren't a lot of girls really. A lot of boys around. A ton of boys, but they have a lot of girls. Janet Machia. They had horses. Janet and I were riding the morning of my wedding.

My mother had a fit. She was like, you're gonna smell like a horse all day. Yeah, I'm not gonna take a shower or nothing Mom. I'm coming just like this.

So where were the horses you could ride?

up in their paddock right behind their paddock came out far enough that it came almost over to the range road because their house they moved in where the bully that were the next door to where the Bolios they were next door to the Bolios okay yeah so

Yeah, weird. Yeah, that was, Underhill Center was fun. It was fun in the day. A lot of people, families, children, and... We lived on...

on our bicycles. We lived on our bicycles. Yeah. Yeah. Each other's homes. Yeah. Head up to the center of town. Everybody met everybody. You know, there was always a little bit of a I found out later from one of the Burgess girls whom I also knew quite well.

Judy and there was another Judy was in my grade. So I can't remember what her sister's name was. Sharon. Sharon. Thank you. And you married LaPointe or LaPorte. Yeah. They they were really nice people.

Lovely. And one of the things I found out my husband and I stopped at their maple sugar shack one year. Not too many years ago, maybe 20. And Judy happened to be there with her kids and grandkids. And we were gossiping and talking and I said, we really had a good life out here.

And she said, you know something? We were extremely jealous of you as kids.

And they were more constrained than you were.

And I said, what? Why would you be jealous of me? You know what? And she said, well, she said, for instance, she said, we'd work all summer selling produce. We'd grown in the garden to get enough money to go to the fair and we'd stop and pick you up and your mother would give you a \$20 bill and away we'd go.

That made them jealous, yeah.

And she said, we were, and I said, you know, I said, I apologize for that. I said, but I had no control over it. And we all turned out exactly the same. We're all the same. We've all got families, grandchildren.

We're all happy. At least we appeared to be. And yeah, we we eventually were when we were flipping homes, my husband and I, it was back in the, let me see the early, very, very early 2000s. We moved to Burlington 2000.

We'd buy homes and we'd live in them for two years and we'd move out two years and one day, you have no capital gains. We looked up the law. Oh, so you'd look for two, two years and one day and we fixed it up.

We were buying 1970 ranches and just bringing them up to code a little, you know, fixing the kitchens up a little bit. The

bathrooms always needed a little something, you know, not a whole lot. Roofs, we never ran into one.

We ran into one that was a money pit. We had to put a garage in to cost us \$15 ,000 to put a garage in. Sounds like it was a business between you and your husband.

did it together.

and we did it together. I had the ideas, he did the work. You know, it worked out great. And the period of time that we chose was good. The economy was fabulous. Trump wasn't president, but it was really good.

I think it was Reagan. Reaganomics was good.

up until COVID.

No, no, no, we did that only about 10 years. Okay about 20 earlier. Yeah Yeah, okay And then we started settling down and we bought a house in South Burlington and on this street that we bought the dead end street right near the rotisserie Was one of the Burgess girls she lived there.

Hmm. That funny. No, yeah, her man. Yeah, which I assume she married So never quite brings you back to Underhill Nothing really brings me back to Underhill. I'm not here to live. I'd love to But but you're moving I'm moving from Williston to Essex.

I see. Okay. Yeah, my husband passed away three years ago after 57 years together

That's, I'm sorry about that. We were really. That's hard, yeah. Really glued at the hip, believe me.

And our best man kind of stepped up and he's like, you know, I'm going to be here for you, whatever you need, we're going to take care of you. And he has. That's nice. And then he offered me a place to stay.

in Williston. In Essex. In Essex. So that's where you're moving to.

moving to his house in Essex, yep.

I'll have to be sure to spend time up here with us in Underhill, because that's your, yeah. I do.

I come back every once in a while you know we're starting to they're starting to come well he was with me the day we were at the you know Ray he's my buddy we've been friends since we were 15 we were BHS again this is the best man yeah

Ray Tomlinson. Oh, okay. Tomlinson everybody and your husband was lonely

Langlais. It's how it's pronounced. It's a French word for English without the accent egair.

Yep, yep. You see it? If I got it right there.

Yep, if you put in accent egair right there, L is santaguer on long legs. See?

I know that as egou. Well. A egair is what you know.

This is what I'm saying.

Aha.

And that makes Langlais, he was a Frenchman obviously.

English, Kathleen of England, I got it, I got it.

When you ordered pizza, we always said that because they could not get our name right. They always spell it. No, it's English, and then they do it.

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

So I had a friend who was named Bovair, which stands for Greenwood, and she did the same thing. She said, don't ever tell anybody your name on the phone because they'll never get it. Ollie, come here please.

Okay, lay in the sun. I'm sorry.

Well, he's behaving himself very clever. He's being very good. Well, I love your stories, Cassie. They're really great. Well, I have a lot more. Anything you think you'd like to tell us, just go for it.

My Mom, now you all know, I think you all knew a lot about Mother's paintings, and my Mother, I admired this woman so much. I couldn't draw a straight line with a ruler, and she could do, now Wally Stone and his wife Pat have that painting, she gave it to them, and shortly before the weekend that she passed away, the Saturday of that weekend, she died Sunday night.

She said to me, I want you to pick out whatever you want in the house, because we had moved in to take care of her, because she said, I'm going to give away a few things today. I said, great, they're yours to do with, right?

So you know, I did, I set aside a few little things, you know, crystals, glassware, whatever, it didn't matter. And she had paintings, she had my daughter, she had a list of people she wanted to see, which included my daughter and her niece, who was her favorite there, Jeannie Chamberlain, and her husband, she saw everybody like, she was, she was so funny, she was like, she was keeping court, they'd come in her room and she'd close the door,

close the door, I want to talk with you, my husband, and she'd give them things, you know, she gave my daughter one of her rings, one of her wedding bands, which had diamonds in it, she gave me her wedding band, her diamond, which I had just barely turned over to my daughter.

I decided it was time she had that. And Martha was...

Very big article by Ted. She grew up, her parent.

her parents, no no, her parents had a hotel which sat right next, right in the exact spot where that new modern house sits. Right next to the post office? Right across from the post office. The big one.

What was her maiden name?

Slater okay now they came to me was a

later. She was. She grew up in that house. That's correct. Yes. Across the bridge. I knew her. Right. She cooked at Browns River. Yeah. Oh, God, she cooked.

for years yeah yeah she's at Green Mountain nursing home you know so so all these things this this can I look take pictures of this. Yes, please do.

Yeah, this was her father. This was the house right here. This is the house across the bridge where they all grew up with her Dad and all of that

we used on the calendar one year. And this is Ms. Slater.

He had a sawmill down by the river. We're remnants of it when I was a kid, but it's all gone now. And she was just so talented. And she used to have the craziest ideas. I have a newspaper clipping. And if I wasn't in the moving business right now, I'd be able to put my hand right on it.

I just don't know which box it did. And I'd love to give it to you to put in this article. The couple, what was her name? That was, oh, this is killing me. She was a lovely lady. She ran the store. She was married to Mr.

Bolio. Zilda, Zilda, Zilda was marrying one of the town commissioners or something. She had Wendell Metcalf. They were getting married. And mother said, well, we can't just have a regular wedding for you two.

You both have been married before. We've got to do something fun. So she got her hands, with the help of Mr. Jackson down the road, her hands on a surrey and a horse. Do you remember that? Decorated that all up.

And there's pictures of them in this newspaper. She called the newspaper. They came. They did this big article. I've got that whole.

article where did the surrey go from where i went from

St. Thomas where they were married, and then just rode around the town and came back, yeah. Just rode around the town and showed themselves off to everybody. And then back to St. Thomas for the meal, you know.

And Mom was the one who came up with that bright idea. She also will tell you if she was sitting at this table that she was responsible, not That's interesting. Those two ladies always fought over that, you know, it was crazy.

I said, mama, it doesn't matter. They're streetlights and streetlights, you know. Oh my God, yeah.

The stop sign wasn't there when you were growing up. The stop sign got controversial if people didn't like it. Now we're all used to it. Yes, of course.

We all, nobody stops. I do. I stop there because I know that I have to. Now in this picture here you're not going to know them because it's so dark and everything's gotten so dark. Kind of wish you could read that.

We have Ronnie Belval.

OK.

OK, I'll pass it around to you girls. We have Jan over here. Kennedy. And we have, right here, we have Eric Walbridge. You remember Eric? Yeah. Of course you do. Eric, unfortunately, is the one who lost his poor daughter in that horrible incident in Essex.

But those kids and mother used to have a photographer come in and take pictures of me. This was me when they... When I went, I was six months old when I went to the, to the, this was at St. Joseph's, St.

Joseph's. That's not, but I was six months old. Now, at one point, they took me out of St. Joseph's and put me into a foster home. It turned out it was my Mom, Martha, her sister -in -law, Gillette. Do you remember Mrs.

Gillette? I remember Ralph Gillette. Well, it wasn't Ralph. Sorry to tell you. But I have pictures of them, too. I'll show you the picture. Maybe it'll, your memory will be better than mine. But we used to place, we have no fights.

And we'd go fishing and catch fish. Mother would take pictures of all of us with our fish. We passed around the same fish. One kid would catch a fish, and we'd pass it around. Now, that used to be my hair.

My hair was blonde, blonde, blonde, blonde, blonde. It kind of, she had hair kind of blonde. But she, it kind of died down quite a bit. And what else did I want to show you? There was another picture in here I wanted to show you.

Mother painted this. This is what the, you probably weren't sitting at the table with a lady who moved into my family home.

Carla. Yeah. Yeah.

She says that when they took down the plywood slats and, what do they call it, sheetrock, they found this picture. No kidding. But they painted over it.

It was a picture of a mother.

pictures. She painted it right on the wall.

Do you have some paintings of hers? Oh, yeah. You do. Oh, yeah. That's good.

My daughter does too. My daughter loved it. Good.

And you have some frames and oh, yeah. Oh, yeah

I guess they hang right in my house.

And this is you in the house? That's me.

Oh, yeah.

That was me.

Well, maybe you'd want me to leave these out. I don't know. We'll see afterwards. And this was when we went to camp. We

used to go to camp every year for the month of August and up in Maine. Daddy would take us up.

Mom and I. And she would hire someone to kind of watch over the store for a couple of weeks and then close it up for two weeks. Dad would take his vacation from GE and he'd come up. And we'd do our thing.

I do have another picture to show you. Just a minute. Here it is. You may help me. I know these people are supposedly related to me. I should know their names. Jeannie's in this. I can get it out. Yeah, there's Polly and Jeannie's sister.

Jeannie's over here. That's their mother and her name. She was a Slater. She was married to my she was married to Martha's brother who was killed in this war. So then she married Gillette. Oh, God, I can't remember his first name.

Isn't that sad?

If if you have any other stories to tell us do it now and then we'll wind down and then we'll start taking some pictures

We do know that about five minutes after we turn that off, I'm going to think of a hundred things. Well, you can come back. You can come back.

at all so so I guess I'll just have to say thank you very much Kathleen this has really been well the one thing I do

want to say is I do remember Casey's Hill. Casey's Hill was the entertainment center and Durbrow ski area when we were growing up and I you know I understand why Bill and and closed it up because parents used to bring us up there drop us off and leave us for the day and we'd spend all day there just play and play and play and play and play but you know Casey's Hill was sliding in the winter.

Oh yes and then Casey's Hill and our goal was always to get to the get to the fence and rip our noses.

Did you go down the backside and cross the road ever? That was very dangerous. Sometimes people did that. We always just came. Came down and into it. Yep, yep. And.

We would get to that fence occasionally and somebody's nose would get ripped. You know, on a toboggan with five or six people on it. But we never got into the road, no, we were good, we were good.

And Casey's Hill and the meadow that runs down from it is all preserved now, it's in Land Trust.

Good, I'm glad to hear that.

I wish most of the farms, you know, probably all the way to where Mrs. Lynn, Lindner, is that what her, what's that her name? Linde. Linde, and she lived, yeah.

Right, all the way down.

the first lady I ever saw other than my own home that had hardwood floors. I remember as a kid, this is so funny. Mom and I stopped there one day and she invited us in for tea and we went in and I was like wow look at those floors.

They're so beautiful. I'd never seen a hardwood. We had hardwood floors in our home but that was the first other house I'd seen. I was like oh.

overwhelmed you probably had tea in her kitchen yeah I suspect yeah we did

I remember that. Oh, God. Now I'm bringing back names. Ms. Hoag, I think it was her name, Ms. Hoag, she and her partner came from New York City every summer. They had a teeny -weeny little camp up on Stevensville, up past where you turned to go to Lamphere's, toward going to the new Lamphere's house.

Now, there was a little— Oh, up on Beartown Road. Yeah. Oh, Beartown. Yes, up on Beartown. Oh, yeah. Gracie Hoag. Gracie Hoag. Great. That was it. They were great people. And then, of course, there was several of the park rangers, one in particular was really Mr.

Washburn, who was up at the Underhill Park for a long time. And that now would walk down once a week to see us and buy groceries, and Mother would drive him back every time. He walked down from the—

the park plays. Yeah. You'd walk all the way down. Yeah.

He was a nice old fella and he was in his 70s, I think then, but that's probably what kept him going so well. He was a great guy, Washburn, I remember him very well. And then Mother got involved with the Maple Leaf Farm and she set up a croquet set out by the store, out by the store, and those guys would come down and play croquet for hours, say boys and girls, whoever happened to be up there at the time,

and they'd always come with one person to keep an eye on them, but they didn't go buy beer, but they had the time of their lives that she had more fun entertaining them. She was a cracker jack.

Martha was a real force in Underhill Center.

was a crackerjack. She was. I'm so happy that I was brought up by her because not that I didn't have a good family in Burlington because I found a lot of them. Oh you did? Yes. And my aunt Ruth married Bob Marola and they ran the M & M market for years right across from Bove's.

How many times did I eat at Bove's in my life and never knew I was related to them?

So you have a lot of people in your life, Kathy. I have a lot of people in my life.

lot of wonderful people. And, you know, it's, it's just what it is. So I was born Kathleen, Catherine, Catherine K A T H A R Y N B. The B was for my grandmother, Kelly. She was she was Betty. Catherine B Kelly, K E L L Y.

And when they adopted me, they changed my name to Kathleen to be Kathleen and it was Beulah. People would remember that I'm only telling you so the B was

It was just the letter B.

to Bula. Kathleen changed it to be. I changed it when I got out, when I got to high school I went out and had it done legally.

So, you were Bula from age 3 to high school. I got it, okay.

Now you know who I am.