

COTUIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INTERVIEW WITH FLORENCE HASKIN RYDER

MARCH 2, 1978

Q BETTY PECK

A FLORENCE RYDER

Q MARCH 2, 1978, FLORENCE HASKIN RYDER. YOU WERE BORN IN COTUIT - NOT IN COTUIT, BUT YOU WERE BORN IN 1890.

A JUNE 16, 1890. IN ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS. MY FATHER WAS DR. S.F. HASKINS. HE PRACTICED HERE IN COTUIT FOR ALMOST FORTY YEARS. HE WAS FIRST IN COLLEGE, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE, AND HE GRADUATED THERE ON THE MEDICAL SCHOOL. AND LATER, HE WENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, WHERE HE GRADUATED AS A PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. AFTER THAT, HE CAME TO CAPE COD. TO PRACTICE, WAY DOWN IN TRURO. HE STAYED THERE A LITTLE WHILE, AND THEN CAME UP TO YARMOUTHPORT, WHERE HE ATTENDED MANY FAMILIES. AND MY GRANDMOTHER, MRS. BAKER AND HER DAUGHTER GRACE. HE AND GRACE FELL IN LOVE AND WERE MARRIED IN THE LARGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN YARMOUTHPORT.

MY BROTHER HENRY WAS BORN IN YARMOUTHPORT. AND LATER MY FATHER TOOK HIS FAMILY TO HUDSON, WHERE HE HAD A DRUGSTORE.

Q HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS?

A MASSACHUSETTS. AND THE - I'LL TELL ABOUT - A MAN THAT USED TO WORK FROM THAT DRUGSTORE. HE WAS A BOY IN HIGH SCHOOL AND HE CAME TO SWEEP IT OUT IN THE MORNING. AND LATER ON, AFTER MY FATHER MOVED AWAY, HE WENT BACK TO ORANGE, MASS. AND WE HEARD THAT THIS BOY HAD BECOME A SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA.

WHEN MY DAUGHTER, VIRGINIA, WAS IN WASHINGTON AS A SECRETARY TO CONGRESSMAN GIFFORD, SHE OFTEN SAW SENATOR WHEELER IN THE CORRIDORS OF THE CAPITAL AND IN THE ELEVATORS AND SO FORTH. BUT SHE NEVER GOT UP COURAGE TO ASK HIM IF HE REMEMBERED SWEEPING OUT HER GRANDFATHER'S DRUGSTORE WHEN HE WAS A BOY.

WELL, COMING BACK TO ORANGE, WHERE MY FATHER WENT BACK TO HIS HOMETOWN, I WAS BORN IN ORANGE. WE HAD PRETTY HOT WEATHER THERE

IN THE SUMMER AND AWFULLY COLD IN THE WINTER AND MY MOTHER DIDN'T LIKE IT TOO MUCH AND SHE BECAME ILL AT TIMES, SO WE CAME TO COTUIT, ABOUT 1894, FOR A SUMMER.

WE LIVED AT THE HOUSE, CAPTAIN ALONZO PHINNEY HOUSE, NEXT TO MINE, HERE. AND MY FATHER BOUGHT THIS PIECE OF LAND, AND IN 1894, AND 95, HE BUILT THE HOUSE. OR HAD IT BUILT. AND SO, NEXT SUMMER, WE CAME HERE TO STAY. AND I HAVE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE.

Q WHAT BROUGHT YOUR FATHER TO COTUIT?

A WELL, IT WAS MY MOTHER'S - MY MOTHER DIDN'T LIKE THE CLIMATE OUT THERE IN ORANGE, IT WAS AWFULLY HOT, AS I SAID.

Q BUT WHY NOT YARMOUTHPORT, WHY COTUIT?

A WELL, MY GRANDMOTHER'S PEOPLE WERE BORN UP IN SANTUIT, YOU SEE. AND THIS CAPTAIN ALONZO PHINNEY HOUSE - HIS WIFE WAS MY GREAT AUNT, MY GRANDMOTHER'S SISTER. SO THAT'S WHY WE SETTLED HERE. I'M AWFULLY GLAD WE DID.

Q YES.

A SO THEN, WE LIVED IN THIS HOUSE EVER AFTER THAT. MY FATHER BUILT A WINDMILL RIGHT CLOSE TO THE HOUSE AND IT WAS ONE OF THOSE SHINGLED WINDMILLS WITH, EIGHT-SIDED WINDMILL - AND IT HAD THREE FLOORS AND ON THE TOP FLOOR THERE WAS A LARGE TANK AND THAT GAVE US OUR WATER SUPPLY FOR OUR HOUSE, HERE. AND THERE WAS A LITTLE WALKING SPACE AROUND THAT TANK AND THERE WERE EIGHT WINDOWS THAT WE COULD LOOK OUT.

Q THE WELL, THE WINDMILL PUMPED -

A PUMPED WATER, -

Q FROM A WELL - TO THIS TANK -

A YES.

Q THEN IT CAME IN BY, AH -

A YES. YOU SEE THE WINDMILL HAD FANS. YOU'VE SEEN THESE

WINDMILLS WITH FANS. LATER, THEY WERE TAKEN OFF MANY WINDMILLS, BUT THAT PUMPED BEAUTIFUL WATER. THE WELL WAS ABOUT FIFTY FEET DEEP. THE WATER WAS NICE AND CLEAR.

Q TASTED GOOD?

A YES. SO WE HAD THAT WINDMILL, AND OF COURSE, MY FATHER WAS, - LATER. -

Q AND FROM THE WINDOWS YOU COULD SEE -

A FROM THE WINDOWS WE COULD LOOK OUT, OH YES, ALL AROUND THE VILLAGE. WE COULD CROSS AND SEE HOTEL PINES, AND ALL THE COTTAGES AND CAPTAIN LUMBERT'S PLACE DOWN THIS WAY, AND MR. ROTHWELL'S PLACE OVER ACROSS. WHICH HE BUILT ABOUT THE SAME TIME WE BUILT THE HOUSE HERE. AND WE COULD LOOK WAY OUT ON THE WATER IN THOSE DAYS. THERE WEREN'T MANY TREES. LOOK THE OTHER WAY AND WE COULD SEE THE WHITE SPIRE OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL.

Q THE WHITE CHURCH?

A HMMM. AND THAT WAS A BEACON TO ALL THESE SHIPS COMING IN THE HARBOR. IN THOSE DAYS, THERE WERE TWO MASTED VESSELS THAT COULD GET IN THIS HARBOR, VERY NICELY. SOME OF THE LARGER VESSELS HAD TO ANCHOR OUT, FARTHER OUT.

ON THIS STREET WE HAD AN OYSTER SHELL ROAD, WHICH WAS VERY PRETTY, BUT VERY DUSTY. THIS WAS OCEAN VIEW AVENUE. MAIN STREET, PARALLEL WITH THIS, DIDN'T HAVE THE OYSTER SHELL ROAD. SO WHEN WE RODE OUR BICYCLES, - OUR FAMILY ALL HAD THEM - RODE BICYCLES, FIVE OF US. WE HAD TO GO OVER TO THAT OTHER STREET, USUALLY, BECAUSE IT WASN'T SO DUSTY. AND I LEARNED TO RIDE A BICYCLE THERE. IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR MY FATHER TO JUST SAY, WELL, GO AHEAD. AND I WENT!

Q SO MAIN STREET, WAS THAT A SAND ROAD, OR JUST ANOTHER -

A SAND, JUST A SAND ROAD. AND OF COURSE, THIS OYSTER SHELL ROAD HERE, FINALLY WAS CHANGED, BECAUSE IT WAS SO DUSTY, REALLY.

Q THE FIFTH MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY, APPARENTLY, IS YOUR GRANDMOTHER, WHO ALSO RODE A BICYCLE.

A YES. SHE USED TO RIDE HER BICYCLE TO VISIT HER SISTER IN SANTUIT, WHEN SHE WAS, WELL, A PRETTY GOOD AGE - SHE LOVED TO RIDE.

Q DID SHE LIVE A LONG LIFE?

A SHE WAS EIGHTY FIVE. SHE LIVED HERE, IN THIS HOUSE. SO WHEN WE SETTLED HERE, MY FATHER WAS A VERY BUSY MAN, OF COURSE. AND WE HAD, WE DIDN'T HAVE A TELEPHONE AT THAT TIME. BUT HE HAD A LITTLE SPEAKING TUBE THAT WAS PUT INTO THE WALL ON THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE, BESIDE THE FRONT DOOR. AND THAT SPEAKING TUBE HAD AN OUTLET RIGHT ON THE FRONT WALL OUTSIDE. THE TUBE WAS INSIDE. IT WENT RIGHT UP INTO HIS BEDROOM. AND WHEN PEOPLE WOULD COME IN THE NIGHT TO CALL HIM, THEY WOULD KNOCK AND THEN THEY WOULD SPEAK UP THROUGH THAT TUBE. AND IT WAS ALMOST LIKE TALKING THROUGH A TELEPHONE.

BUT IN THOSE DAYS, SOMETIMES WE WOULD HAVE DEEP SNOW IN THE WINTER, HERE. AND MY FATHER WOULD GO OUT, EVEN IF HE COULDN'T USE THE HORSES, IF THE SNOW WAS TOO DEEP, HE COULDN'T USE THE HORSES.

Q HE WOULD GO BY FOOT?

A HE WOULD WALK. AND THE MAN THAT CAME AFTER HIM WOULD SAY, WON'T YOU PLEASE COME, MY WIFE IS SO SICK, AND HE COULDN'T SAY NO. SO THAT WAS ONE WAY, OF TREATING THE FAMILIES. BUT OF COURSE, HE HAD TWO HORSES OUT HERE IN THE BARN, AND CARRIAGES, A MAN TO TAKE CARE OF THEM. AND HE HAD AN ENCLOSED BUGGY LATER AND IT WAS LIKE A, JUST LIKE A BUGGY ONLY IT HAD WINDOWS ALL AROUND IT, AN ENCLOSED, BUGGY! AND THE RAINS WENT RIGHT THROUGH THE DASHBOARD TO THE HORSE AND HE WAS PROTECTED, AND IT WAS PRETTY NICE. BUT THAT WAS IN A LATER TIME WHEN HE STILL HAD THE HORSE, OF COURSE.

Q JUST BEFORE HE GOT HIS FIRST AUTOMOBILE.

A YES. HE HAD VARIOUS AUTOMOBILES. THIS LITTLE OLDSMOBILE, I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT WITH A CURVED DASH AND WIRE WHEELS AND A TILLER TO STEER IT BY, JUST LIKE A SHIP. THAT WAS THE CAR THAT I LEARNED TO DRIVE ON.

Q ONE CYLINDER, DID YOU SAY?

A SAY WHAT?

Q WHAT KIND OF A MOTOR?

A JUST ONE, ONE. IT WAS ONE CYLINDER, AND YOU HAD TO STAND UP IN FRONT AND CRANK THE THING. AND SOMETIMES IT DIDN'T GO THE FIRST CRANK AND IT WOULD SPIN AROUND AND IT MIGHT GIVE YOU A GOOD JOLT ON THE HAND. BUT, I GOT SO I COULD START IT PRETTY WELL.

I REMEMBER ONE TIME I WAS UPSTREET AND I HAD TO GO ON AN ERRAND, AND I STOPPED AT MRS. CABOT'S HOUSE, SHE WAS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE CHADFIELD HOUSE. AND I HAD STOPPED THE CAR AND THE ROADS WERE CROWNED, MORE OR LESS, THEN - HIGHER IN THE MIDDLE. AND I STARTED, CAME OUT AND TRIED TO START THE CAR AND IT WOULDN'T GO. WELL, IT WASN'T A VERY BIG CAR. AND SO, AFTER TRYING A NUMBER OF TIMES I JUST GOT BACK OF IT AND GAVE IT A PUSH UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD. THEN I COULD START IT ALRIGHT. YOU SEE, THE GASOLINE MIXTURE HAD SORT OF GONE ON ONE SIDE AND IT DIDN'T MIX VERY WELL. AND IT WOULDN'T START. SO I GOT IT GOING, GOT HOME.

Q HAD TO BE A GENIUS. YOU TALKED ABOUT WALKING INTO PRAYER MEETING WITH YOUR GRANDMOTHER.

A YES, THAT WAS ON A THURSDAY EVENING MEETING. A MID WEEK MEETING, WE USED TO HAVE PRAYER MEETINGS. I WENT TO PRAYER MEETING WITH MY GRANDMA SOMETIMES. SHE LIKED COMPANY. WE HAD NO STREET LIGHTS, OF COURSE, SO I HAD A LITTLE CANDLE LANTERN. IT WAS MADE WITH A BRASS BOTTOM AND A PLACE FOR A CANDLE IN THE MIDDLE, AND THEN THIS BAIL WENT UP TO THE TOP OF THE CHIMNEY WHERE IT WAS HELD RIGHT, CLAPPED, RIGHT ONTO THE TOP OF THE CHIMNEY. THOSE CHIMNEYS HAD A LITTLE WRINKLED PART AT THE TOP, SO THAT WAS - AND A HANDLE, TO HOLD IT. WE CARRIED THAT AND IT WOULDN'T BLOW OUT, EVEN IN A HARD WIND.

Q DID THAT HAVE A SPECIAL NAME?

A I DON'T THINK SO, I DON'T KNOW. I STILL HAVE THE LANTERN, SOMEWHERE. COURSE WE WENT TO CHURCH REGULARLY. SUNDAYS, MY FATHER SANG IN THE CHOIR, AND MY GRANDMOTHER WAS A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER. THIS WAS ALL IN THE OLD WHITE CHURCH.

Q YOU TALKED ABOUT MRS. WESSON'S CLUB, WHERE WOMEN LEARNED TO SEW?

A YES. WELL THAT WAS - I DON'T KNOW THE DATE ON THAT. BUT IT WAS A HOUSE THAT WAS NEXT TO COTUIT GROCERY, ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE STREET, TOWARD THE NORTH. A NICE HOUSE, AND SHE HAD -

Q WHERE PUTNAM AVENUE COMES IN TO MAIN STREET?

A YES. RIGHT OPPOSITE. AND THEY HAD A CLUB SO THAT PEOPLE COULD GO THERE AND LEARN HOW TO DO VARIOUS FANCY STITCHES AND CROCHET AND KNITTING AND -

Q THEY'D HAVE TEA, IT WAS A SOCIAL CLUB.

A WELL, IT WAS A PUBLIC PLACE. PEOPLE COULD COME AND HAVE TEA AND THEY COULD BUY CAKES AND COOKIES AND THINGS THAT PEOPLE HAD BROUGHT IN TO SELL.

Q OH, SORT OF A WOMEN'S EXCHANGE, WAS IT?

A WELL, IT WAS SORT OF A HELP TO SOME OF THE PEOPLE, YOU KNOW. AND THEN THEY DID MAKE THEIR OWN ICE CREAM THERE, I THINK AND MRS. FLORA JONES WAS THE HOSTESS THERE. SHE WAS A LOT OF FUN AND I THINK SHE RAN THE PLACE AND, FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. I DON'T KNOW JUST HOW LONG.

PEOPLE WOULD BRAID RUGS AND TAKE THEM IN THERE TO SELL. OR THEY WOULD - THEY HAD A - WHERE THEY LEARNED HOW TO MAKE RUGS OUT OF PIECES OF, SCRAPS OF CLOTH, YOU KNOW. AND HAD THEM, A WEAVING MACHINE SO THAT THEY COULD MAKE RUGS OUT OF THOSE - COTTON RUGS. AND THEY MADE GOOD BEDROOM RUGS. THEY ALL HAD TO BE SORTED AND TWISTED AND ROLLED AND THEY'D, LIKE A WOVEN MAT, YOU KNOW. OF COURSE, EVERYBODY BRAIDED RUGS IN THOSE DAYS. THEY DIDN'T CHARGE AS MUCH AS THEY DO TODAY FOR THEM.

Q DID WOMEN GET TOGETHER, GATHER AT A HOUSE REGULARLY, AND BRAID RUGS OR WERE THEY TOO BIG TO CART AROUND, WAS IT JUST SOMETHING TO DO AT HOME?

A I THINK THEY DID THEM AT HOME, MOSTLY. BECAUSE, I KNOW THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE THAT MADE SOME BEAUTIFUL, LARGE RUGS FOR A LIVING ROOM RUG. HELEN SNOW, MADE BEAUTIFUL RUGS. YOU'D HAVE TO GET RIGHT DOWN ON THE FLOOR TO SEW THEM TOGETHER.

Q OH YES.

A THEN THEY - PUT IT OFF. (TAPE OFF FOR A BREAK)

THIS LITTLE VILLAGE WAS A WONDERFUL PLACE TO GROW UP IN. I WAS A ACTIVE YOUNGSTER, AND I LIKED TO DO EVERYTHING, YOU KNOW. WE WENT -

Q YOU HAD ANIMALS YOU TOOK CARE OF?

A WELL, WE ALWAYS HAD A DOG, YOU KNOW. ALWAYS HAD TWO HORSES AND WE HAD HENS, AND CHICKENS AND LATER DUCKS AND -

Q AND COWS!

A AND A COW! YES. WE HAD OUR OWN MILK, BEAUTIFUL MILK. AND THE MAN THAT TOOK CARE OF THE HORSES AND THE COW DIDN'T LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM MUCH BECAUSE HE SAID, "THAT THAT COW OF DR. HASKINS HAD TO BE WASHED AND IRONED THREE TIMES A DAY." THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

ANYWAY - WE USED TO HAVE A LITTLE BARN ARRANGEMENT, OUT BESIDE THE COW BARN THERE, AND WE'D HAVE SALT HAY BROUGHT FROM WEST BARNSTABLE TO USE AS BEDDING FOR THE COW, AND ALSO FOR THE HORSES, I GUESS. THE MAN WOULD COME WITH THIS BIG LOAD OF SALT HAY, SAVING FROM THE MARSHES, DOWN THERE. I THINK THAT WAS THE CUSTOM, THAT WAS USED, FOR MANY PLACES.

I KNOW, I USED TO GET UP ON THAT PILE OF SALT HAY, IT DID HAVE A TOP, COVER TO THE BUILDING, BUT I'D SLIDE DOWN ON IT AND MY - IT WAS KIND OF SHARP, WOULD STICK INTO ME! LAUGHS. BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS KIND OF FUN, FOR AWHILE. SO WE DID ALL SORTS OF THINGS WHEN WE WERE KIDS.

I WENT TO SCHOOL IN THE SCHOOLHOUSE UP IN THE AREA WHERE THE POST OFFICE IS NOW. IT WAS QUITE A LARGE, RECTANGULAR BUILDING, WITH TWO STORIES. THE FIRST FLOOR, YOU WENT FOR THE FIRST GRADES, TO MISS ADDIE BEARSE. SHE WAS A STRICT TEACHER, FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

AND THEN THE OTHER SIDE WE WENT TO FOR THE INTERMEDIATE GRADES. THE TEACHER THERE WAS MISS ARY. SHE WAS A LOVELY PERSON. AND THAT WAS THE FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH GRADE THERE. AND I CAN REMEMBER WHEN SHE USED TO BLUSH SO MUCH WHEN THE SUPERINTENDENT CAME IN TO VISIT. BUT WE COULDN'T KID HER ABOUT IT MUCH, AT ALL.

SHE WAS A NICE LADY.

THEN IN HIGH SCHOOL THEY HAD THE UPPER FLOOR. WE HAD THE FOUR GRADES OF HIGH SCHOOL. WE HAD TWO TEACHERS THERE, MR. PETERSON AND MISS TUTTLE. BUT THAT YEAR, THE ELIZABETH LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL WAS BUILT AND THAT WAS ABOUT SO THAT WE COULD GO THERE TO SCHOOL IN 1907 AND 8.

THAT SCHOOL LAND WAS GIVEN TO THE TOWN BY THE LOWELL FAMILY. AND OURS WAS THE FIRST CLASS TO GRADUATE FROM THAT BUILDING. WE HAD A REAL GOOD TIME. AT NOONTIME WE'D HAVE OUR - SOMEBODY PLAYING THE PIANO AND WE'D DO THE BARN DANCE OR SOMETHING ELSE AND - THAT WAS JUST A LITTLE SIDELIGHT BUT WE HAD A LOT OF FUN.

I USED TO RIDE MY BICYCLE UP TO THAT SCHOOL FROM HERE. AND OF COURSE, WHEN IT RAINED TOO HARD I'D HAVE TO WALK.

Q NO SCHOOL BUS.

A I DIDN'T MIND, WE DIDN'T MIND MUCH. SO I GRADUATED IN THE FIRST SCHOOL - FIRST CLASS THAT WENT TO THAT SCHOOL. ELIZABETH LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL. THAT WAS IN 1908. FROM THERE I - I THOUGHT I WANTED TO -

Q HOW MANY WERE IN YOUR GRADUATING CLASS?

A ABOUT, I THINK IT WAS NINE IN OUR GRADUATING CLASS. AND THERE WERE - THE BOYS. I THINK THERE WERE MORE BOYS THAN GIRLS. I THINK THERE WERE THREE GIRLS AND SIX BOYS. BUT AFTER THAT WE SORT OF SEPARATED. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY ALUMNI MEETINGS, OR ANYTHING, RELATIVE TO THAT.

Q YOU HAD A SPECIAL EVENT AT GRADUATION TIME.

A YES.

Q YOU WENT TO WASHINGTON?

A YES.

Q THE WHOLE CLASS?

A THAT SPRING, OUR CLASS WENT TO WASHINGTON ON OUR SPRING VACATION AND THE TEACHERS OF THAT YEAR WERE MR. HALL AND MISS



TUTTLE. THEY WERE OUR CHAPERONES AS WELL AS MR. HALL'S WIFE AND A FEW OTHER PEOPLE. WE WENT FRIDAY AFTERNOON, I THINK. OR FRIDAY. TO FALL RIVER, BY TRAIN AND THEN FROM FALL RIVER, ON THE NEW YORK BOAT, TO NEW YORK AND FROM NEW YORK ON THE TRAIN TO WASHINGTON. THAT WAS QUITE A TRIP FOR US.

Q HOW LONG - YOU LEFT ON FRIDAY, DID YOU GET THERE FRIDAY NIGHT?

A I THINK SO, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY. I THINK SO. AND THEY HAD THE ROOMS AT THE BANCROFT HOTEL ENGAGED FOR US, SO OUR CLASS COULD BE TOGETHER. AND, OF COURSE, THERE WERE A LOT OF OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE THERE AT THE SAME TIME FROM DIFFERENT PLACES. SO WE MET SOME FROM OTHER SCHOOLS, WHICH WAS FUN. ESPECIALLY ON THE BOAT, THAT WAS FUN. AND WE SAW ALL THE SIGHTS IN WASHINGTON AND

Q WHO WAS PRESIDENT THEN?

A WHEN WE, JUST BEFORE WE CAME HOME, PROBABLY THIS WAS THE BEST PART OF ALL - WE WENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, AND IN THE EAST ROOM, THERE WAS A LONG LINE OF STUDENTS THAT WERE GOING TO SHAKE HANDS WITH THE PRESIDENT. WHEN WE CAME IN LINE, THE PRESIDENT WAS TEDDY ROOSEVELT. WHEN WE CAME ALONG, HE SAID I AM GLAD TO MEET THE COTUIT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS, I AM VERY PLEASSED TO MEET YOU. SO THAT GAVE US A THRILL.

SEEMS HE HAD BEEN TO COTUIT AND VISITED THE LOWELL FAMILY SOME TIME BEFORE, SO-

Q PRESIDENT LAWRENCE LOWELL -

A YES, I THINK. SO HE PERHAPS HAD A LITTLE MORE INTEREST IN US AS WE WENT BY.

Q SMALL WORLD.

A YES. SO THEN WE GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT JUNE, THAT WAS 1908.

Q YOU WENT TO NORMAL SCHOOL, DIDN'T YOU?

A I DIDN'T GO THAT FIRST YEAR. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WANTED TO DO AND MY FATHER BEING A DOCTOR, I WAS INTERESTED I BEING A NURSE.

BUT HE DIDN'T ENCOURAGE ME TOO MUCH, AND HE DIDN'T DISCOURAGE ME. BUT HE KNEW THAT NURSES IN THOSE DAYS HAD TO SCRUB THE BEDS AND THEY HAD TO DO - SCRUB THE FLOORS AND THEY HAD TO DO SO MANY THINGS THAT NURSES NEVER THINK OF DOING TODAY.

Q SO YOU WENT TO NORMAL SCHOOL.

A YES, I WENT TO NORMAL SCHOOL AND AFTER THAT, WHEN I GRADUATED FROM THERE I TAUGHT SCHOOL IN WELLESLEY HILLS, FIFTH GRADE THERE, IN WELLESLEY HILLS. I HAD MET BERTRAM RYDER BEFORE THAT TIME. I WAS WONDERING WHETHER I BETTER TEACH SCHOOL OR WHETHER I BETTER GET MARRIED. I DECIDED TO GET MARRIED.

Q BECAUSE HE'D ASKED YOU?

A I HOPE SO. SO HE HAD -

Q AND YOU WERE MARRIED IN COTUIT?

A I WAS MARRIED IN THE OLD WHITE CHURCH, IN COTUIT. THAT'S ONE THAT MY GREAT GRANDFATHER, JAMES CHARLES, HAD BUILT, WAY BACK IN 1846. SO THAT WAS RATHER A NICE PLACE TO BE MARRIED.

THEN WE LIVED HERE IN COTUIT IN THE RAYMOND HOWELL HOUSE, AT FIRST. THAT LATER BELONGED TO MEG ASHLEY. THEN WE LIVED ON SCHOOL STREET, AND THEN WHEN MY FATHER DIED WE CAME DOWN HERE TO LIVE WITH MY MOTHER. BERTRAM WAS IN THE CRANBERRY BUSINESS AFTER 1908 BECAUSE HE CAME HOME FROM COLLEGE AND HE THOUGHT HE'D RATHER STAY HERE THAN GO BACK TO THE CITY.

THE CRANBERRY BUSINESS WAS A VERY BUSY BUSINESS AND GROWING ALL THE TIME, WAS VERY INTERESTING, BUT VERY FRUSTRATING. YOU COULD SPEND YOUR WHOLE LIFETIME JUST GROWING CRANBERRIES. PEOPLE USED TO SAY, WHAT DO YOU DO ON CAPE COD ALL THE TIME? I SAID, YOU FIND PLENTY TO DO. YOU LOVE IT, AND YOU WOULD MAKE A LIVING, MAYBE.

END OF TAPE