

Sofia Tong

Rita Neal

Rita Neal 0:00

I've got scallops that I didn't really eat them I said if anyone wants to help themselves. And that was on a Monday. And I was so ill, but I didn't go to the hospital, because I have no insurance. And Sarah came and said, I think you should go to the hospital now. And I went in on a Friday, I came out on a Tuesday.

Larry Tye 0:22

You're the second person in a week to tell me about getting sick at fisherman's view.

Phil Odenca Odenca: 0:26

Really?

Larry Tye 0:27

This is really extraordinary. My sister and brother in law went there. And he came out very sick and was not. He didn't want to point the finger at the restaurant because he wasn't sure but hearing you say that.

Rita Neal 0:38

I phoned the restaurant, I wasn't looking for a free meal. I said, I just want you to know, I have the receipt here in my hand. I mean, the whole bill was like \$150. I said, Maybe somebody else got sick that day. And they said, Oh, we absolutely want to know, I thought somebody said Can't you call the restaurant?

Larry Tye 0:55

So my recommendation is that somebody ought to call the Board of Health, the restaurant has no incentive to tell anybody in the world when that kind of thing happens when they get a call. And the the Board of Health maybe I don't know that you did that. Because if they're getting, if they don't hear about it, there's no way they would ever go in and review it. And I think that the.

Rita Neal 1:16

That's interesting. my kidneys completely closed down. Completely.

Larry Tye 1:21

That is very scary. And the, I'm gonna have to make sure the that it was fishermen's view. But

Rita Neal 1:27

I've got the receipt.

Larry Tye 1:28

No, I'm saying not with you with my brother in law. But the and now that you're saying that, I think there may have been somebody else. So let me tell you really quickly what we're doing the, um from different places. Phil Odenca and I have come together in this. He knows a lot about Cotuit, and much more than I do. I've always been fascinated. Since we've been coming

here with Cotuit. And its history. And I dream someday about writing a magazine piece or something beyond that. But for the immediate moment, what we're doing is taping interviews with smart longtime residents of Cotuit to try to understand through oral storytelling, some of the history of this place, and we're going to give these to the Historical Society, and then figure out someday whether to do more with this. And we hear that you are smart. And as you said been coming here 80 years.

Rita Neal 2:32
80 Years.

Larry Tye 2:33
And the and. Phil Odence is going to start out since he's the smart one asking you questions, and we're going to just put this on tape and again, you're comfortable with our taping it

Rita Neal 2:44
absolutely Absolutely. I knew more about his uncle gates.

Phil Odence 2:49
Yeah, we don't we don't have any grand plan. But But I was but so one of my first questions was was the summer of 42 your first your first summer.

Rita Neal 3:00
I needed, I needed? I needed to have this because I needed to find out. I needed to go backwards. I think I worked at the pines for something like I was married in 52.

Phil Odence 3:11
Right.

Rita Neal 3:11
The Eisenhower thing. When we did the sales was 1952, which I was like, I was like 26 the year I got married and that's the I finished at the pines. So I went back from 26 about four years. I must have been something like 1940 or 42 that I went to that I came to 1940 I came to I was I was 14 when I came to the cape if you're good at math, so I was 14 that summer that I came with my mother for a weekend to your house.

Larry Tye 3:47
So you were 14 and you were born in what year

Rita Neal 3:49
I was born in 1926.

Phil Odence 3:51
1926 so that would put it at 40. That would say 1940.

Rita Neal 3:55
So I came in 1940.

Larry Tye 3:57

And could you just for the record here and give us your maiden name and your married name?

Rita Neal 4:04

My maiden name? I was not known. I'm now Rita. Neil. I was Pete Rita Dickman. D-I-C-K-M-A-N Yes.

Larry Tye 4:17

N-E-A-L.

Rita Neal 4:17

N-E-A-L It was di ck ma n and I came up here and I was known as Pete Dickman, because I played field hockey for the United States against England. And they killed us. That just killed him. In his house, I remember his house like you wouldn't believe I totally fell in love with Cotuit.

Phil Odenice 4:39

Now now, Jill, I think Jill was the one who told me she thought it was 42

Rita Neal 4:44

No,

Phil Odenice 4:44

but you can place it at 1940.

Okay. So we started off at a hotel in England called for nannies and children only. The war came.

Larry Tye 4:56

Which one are you here?

Rita Neal 4:57

I'm not that's that's Jill who told whose family. His his his. This is Jill's mother and this is my mother. That weekend. The weekend we came to your house. She only came that

Larry Tye 5:09

That weekend. She was here.

Rita Neal 5:11

Yes. His his Sophie.

Phil Odenice 5:14

Oh doesn't she look like Sally.

Rita Neal 5:15

Yes, yes. So we came, we came that weekend. And my mother never came again. Although she was living in New York. My father was an American. My mother was British. So I lived in England and we, this family came on sailed to England every year to spend summer for nannies and children only at Westgate on sea. The war broke out. Her husband was known as the father of badminton in the United States. He bought badminton, a general sports cross from New York and New Jersey. And somebody said, Go to the cape. it'll remind you of England, and Sophie came to the cape, and she went down cape, she didn't love it. And by accident, Walter Craft, the Minister lived across the street. He taught Sophie how to drive

Phil Odenice 6:04

across the street from where?

Rita Neal 6:05

here. so next to the Knights. There's a new house there Walter craft. It's in this book, Walter craft started the church here. He was the one that told showed Sophie Cotuit. And that family that weekend brought me here.

Phil Odenice 6:21

How did she meet him?

Rita Neal 6:23

She just came was looking around maybe the real estate, Helen Robinson that owned the front part of your house. The two Robinson sisters were the real estate people.

Phil Odenice 6:32

Right, right. Right.

Rita Neal 6:34

And your house was rented

Phil Odenice 6:36

So and Helen Robinson who became Helen Mclawless.

Rita Neal 6:39

Yes. Yeah, that's right.

Phil Odenice 6:41

Who Jim Gold was saying was the the the realtor and

Rita Neal 6:44

I thought a beach went with it. But it was the Ropeses is that lent Sophie, the beach by the yacht club beach. We used to walk across the ropeses to where the collinses are now. And that's where number 34 those boats were built for Jill and Margo.

Phil Odenice 7:01

Yeah. Now Jill, I think mentioned that. I guess it was was it Eddie rocks's mother who was sitting so some older woman on the beach, and they had to curtsy as well

Rita Neal 7:13

just about? Thank you. I mean, I was 14. I was the oldest. I was taking care of them before I went to the pines

Phil Odenice 7:20

would that have been Eddie? Eddie Roque's mother.

Rita Neal 7:22

Yes, yes.

Larry Tye 7:23

curtsy? Because they were older and you were just being deferential or curtsy? Because they would give you the right of way to get here?

Rita Neal 7:29

No Because I had curtsy to the to the king in England so. I was presented in England. So we really did curtsy then this was just politeness and and Keith rep was hired to teach them how to sail because 34 and 36 I think were the two boats. One was a wonderful boat.

Phil Odenice 7:48

35. 34 and 35.

Rita Neal 7:48

And one was the lemon. Because 35 was the one that Don law 00 and changed the numbers. Isn't Don Law now 36 or so?

Phil Odenice 7:58

He's 37. 35 Bob Boden, bought a took to took to Nashua

Rita Neal 8:05

And nicolini got one of them and is giving it to the Commodore now to fix up.

Phil Odenice 8:10

That's probably number two. But yeah,

Rita Neal 8:12

no, that was signals. But yes, you're right. Number two seagull.

Phil Odenice 8:15

Yeah. Yeah

Larry Tye 8:17

So you're staying in the house that he's in now. What was it about Cotuit that started this 80 year love affair with it?

Rita Neal 8:26

I don't know. It was, you know, I'd been at a I'd been going to a hotel with children's and nannies. This was a totally. And then I spent summers in Atlantic not Atlantic Beach. On Long Island. My son has a house down there now in the Hamptons. And I would spend half the summer there and half here. But I it was a different sort of thing. And I what I did is I work for this woman taking care of Jill and Margo Jill was seven years younger than me, Margo, who's in here now I'll show you here's Margo, and this is my mother on the beach in England. You can see how we live. So this is Jill. This is Margo. This is my mother. Look how she's dressed. And this is my brother. So we were all in clothes. This was a different, a totally different life.

Phil Oden 9:11

That's Bob.

Rita Neal 9:12

That's Bob.

Phil Oden 9:13

Okay.

Rita Neal 9:13

Yes. to Austin Temer. And this was the pines bea-. No, this is the loop beach. Here's Bobbin and Jill.

Larry Tye 9:21

So you're talking about two of the most desirable places

Rita Neal 9:25

so our whole social life was in the village twice a day, twice a day, we went and sat I'll show you in a minute, the steps of where the park is now just below the library. I was even proposed to what I'm wearing. So in the morning, there'd be mail delivery, we had no post office, and in the evening like five o'clock we would all go to our mailbox. And we were all waiting for people for look we're in the war.

Larry Tye 9:54

So you're spending part of the summer in the Hamptons and part here. Two very attractive places but two really different places. What was it that appealed to you about this versus there.

Rita Neal 10:07

I was always passionate about the water, passionate about sailing. My father was a barister, and he was a director of the phones willy line. So I would go back and forth. I hated going on the Queen's because I had to dress up even recently I had to dress up. But I used to go from Boston to Halifax, to St. John's to Southampton. It would take like 12 days with two days in Halifax and

as long as I was on the water, I was happy. So when I started going on sailboats, I was absolutely in love with the sailboats.

Larry Tye 10:41

But why not fall in love with the sail boats in the Hamptons?

Rita Neal 10:45

Nobody there was sailing nobody went anywhere near the water or

Phil Odenice 10:48

certainly sailing the only sailing option was here.

Rita Neal 10:50

Yes, yes. Yeah. It was it was it was Far Rockaway. It wasn't the Hamptons, then it became the we went up to the Hamptons after, but that was a different life. And not only that, even when I came here, we had staff. We had maids and things. So we had to have lunch at one. And we were out in the middle of the water. And it was a different beginning here. And I didn't really like it until I had children and we had our own thing and I was always on the water.

Phil Odenice 11:19

Well even I had to go to my grandmother's, you know, noon time on Sundays dress up for dinner,

Rita Neal 11:25

his grandmother, and my son in law's grandmother, my son in law's grandmother was a vegetarian. The two people that gave dinner parties. His grandfather only cared about one thing the corn. Marian, where did you get the corn and he'd have a cigar. Marion? Where'd you get the corn and he had a wonderful, wonderful woman. And someone came to me two years ago, I had a terrible accident. I fell somewhere. Anyhow, she said to me. My mother was the maid that worked for Mrs. Odenice and I would like to interview you about the pines. So they gave unbelievable dinner party and they mixed all kinds of people up.

Larry Tye 12:06

The dinner parties were not at the pines. They were at his grandmother's Oh,

Rita Neal 12:09

there was no I was a maid. I was a parlor maid at the pines and I was in charge of two things. The biggest house bought in in Cape Cod in Cotuit called evergreen. It was absolutely gorgeous. And a tea house. The tea house was I'll show you a picture in a minute the tea house had an ice cream thing. And it was locked. And Brownie Swartwoods's brother on his bicycle every day would come and say, Pete, Pete, please give me an ice cream. I had to clean it. And I couldn't be a waitress because I had terrible, terrible hay fever. And I couldn't hold the tray. I was a parlor maid. And so I lived at Sophie's and I lived at the top of the hotel with a girl called Jean Campbell who I've got here. And I had three or four of the best summers. And I spent a lot of time on the town wharf with these two fishing. And your uncle who's Gates was a big fisherman.

Larry Tye 13:07

So can you describe all we have left of the pines is pictures in a book here? What was the pines like?

Rita Neal 13:16

First of all, I got to tell you, the man that owned it was absolutely great. His name was Kelvin Crawford. And he had a very, very rich brother called Brett. And he had two daughters and Mary, and he had a son, but Marian ran the pines that one of the husbands ran the laundry. And it was very, very family. And I used to do extra babysitting. I was in love with two different people here madly in love. And with the man I married who was absolutely wonderful. I wouldn't even go out with him because I was madly in love with two people down here. So I had a wonderful social life. I'm sorry?

Phil Oence 13:56

I can only think of one of them.

Rita Neal 13:57

You're only thinking of Evie. Who roomed with you. I was madly in love with Ellery Burgess, and babysat for his brother.

Phil Oence 14:05

I think you had told me that. Okay.

Rita Neal 14:06

Okay. But so I knew how to play the game. And the other person that was there was a waitress she didn't last as long as I did was a woman called Jane Flanagan. Her husband ended up being the head of the stock exchange in New York. And Jane was a waitress there. But she didn't even last the whole summer. They had a house down in Oregon, but I was late to line up for meals. They ran out of staff food and I got guest food. So I had a lovely room in the hotel. Most of these people, most of the waitresses, one of them I bought up from university with me. She married one of the Goodwill's and fell in love with him. She was Asian and he was going to marry a Lowell or [] and they got married and she got pregnant. And just before her son was born, she died and my best friend Kay Bronway Smith also died at 21. She was the most beautiful person, but I lived in the hotel. Most of them lived in a dorm near evergreen in between the pines hotel and evergreen on the water right on the water, which is

Larry Tye 15:17

Evergreen you say was the nicest house in the town?

Phil Oence 15:19

It was the biggest and most beautiful. I had to turn the beds down and take ice. There was no

Larry Tye 15:24

so where would evergreen be?

Rita Neal 15:26

I'll tell you

Phil Oence 15:27

You know the enormous house that was built I don't know five years ago, just

Rita Neal 15:34

Yes where it's all the wall, all the wall here, it was all that was all

Phil Oence 15:38

horrible wall.

Rita Neal 15:39

Wait a minute. So anyhow, the thing is, they all

Larry Tye 15:45

So you lived in

Rita Neal 15:46

I lived, I lived in the hotel

Larry Tye 15:48

to live in the hotel and not in the dorm.

Rita Neal 15:50

Because first of all, I wasn't a waitress, the waitresses had to work until nine o'clock, I had it much better. I had to start supposedly at six, dusting, I used to get home half the time at five. I mean, I was really square. I wasn't a drinker or anything. But I had a huge social life across the street was a family called Bodens that had a party every night. Then I had to come up from the beach at 6:30 and turn the beds down and make sure there was ice in all the rooms. Then I was finished. I was finished.

Larry Tye 16:21

Can I interrupt for one second? I'm just confused here. So when you were going to the party across the street, the Boden's

Rita Neal 16:28

that was when I was off work,

Larry Tye 16:30

it was off work. But so this was in Britain, somebody who was working as a chambermaid would not be invited across the street to a party before this was a very democratic place, or was it a

Rita Neal 16:43

Mr. Crawford only had university students. I wasn't a maid maid. We all went to university, he wouldn't hire you otherwise. And I remember he taught me things I'm a really, really good housekeeper. And I remember him saying, Pete, always remember the light bulbs, you must clean the light bulbs, then you must clean the fingermarks round the lightswitches and every time

my son would come in and say goodnight mum I'd say, David, take your fingers off the. And I became a very good housekeeper and they were really, really great to work for. But the brother Fred bought the house evergreen, and it had something like 17 bedrooms and 10 bathrooms. It was beautiful with a big patio and everything. And I used to do the flowers and turn the water, turn the beds down and everything. And then they had a woman that ran activities for the guests in a ring. And then nearly every week, almost every week, specially the house in front of you and the grass goes down. We had square dances. It was written up in the paper region Pete Dickman was wearing a lavender skirt. And it became a big thing. Thanks to Leonard Peck. Leonard Peck did that. So Mr. Crawford asked me to introduce him to Leonard Peck, which I did. And Leonard Peck From then on, on Wednesday night, went over to the shuffleboard courts at pony road and had square dances for the guests.

Phil Oden 18:11

And when you say you talked about the house with the lawn,

Well that's the it was a Bradley Bradley. It was

just next door.

Rita Neal 18:19

Yes.

Phil Oden 18:19

Okay. The thompsons.

Rita Neal 18:21

It was the Thompson yeah. But it was Brett it was the United Nations bought that house. But he bought it from somebody called Bradley. I can't remember his first name. This was the guest house to that house.

Larry Tye 18:36

So all of this was great. Where were you? Where were you coming from in college? Where was

Rita Neal 18:41

I? I went to Wesley junior college and transferred to the University of Delaware, where Biden went.

Larry Tye 18:49

And so you're coming here?

Rita Neal 18:51

I would come from New York from the Welsh grape juice company. I would come up on the train from New York City. It was the best thing. And Mr. Scudder who owned the gas station would pick us all up.

Larry Tye 19:03

So Cotuit changed your life.

Rita Neal 19:06

Totally. Totally. It was absolutely. It still is. But I don't have insurance for you know, I'm spoiled in Canada. We get away We have wonderful, wonderful health system. I live in fear that I'm going to need a doctor here. Because at 94 nobody's going to insure you. The first question will be Have you been to a hospital in the last year? Like last week or something? There's no way I can get health insurance. That man that came just now Mike Copi has been trying to get me on some kind of health thing. I would like to move here. But I'm scared to

Larry Tye 19:43

Where are you back and forth from?

Rita Neal 19:44

Toronto.

Larry Tye 19:45

Toronto

Rita Neal 19:46

Yes so my husband worked for Massey Ferguson and farm machinery and we went all over the world. And my father in law had property literally all over the world all over the world farms in Kenya, everything. And when he came here, I remember him saying to me, you mean you come here every year? I mean, he owns so much. Then he said to me, and they all fell in love with him at the Cotuit and I had a big party and I invited everyone. When he left. He said, I know why you come here every year. He just, I mean, he just also fell in love with it. And he wasn't a sailor.

Phil Odenice 20:26

And you were so you were coming summers with Allstons.

Rita Neal 20:30

Yeah, that was not a happy time, because she was terrible to work for. Terrible. My daughter went through the same thing so badly. We almost took her to the hospital. She was very demanding Sophie, I have to thank her for introducing me to the cape. But it wasn't till I left working for her and went to the pines that I really,

Phil Odenice 20:50

and that was essentially when you went to college. You started that.

Rita Neal 20:53

Well, I was. I was already in college when I was with Sophie.

Phil Odenice 20:57

Okay,

Rita Neal 20:57

because Margot's 10 years. Yeah Margot's. 10 years younger than me. So she's 84. Now.

Phil Oden 21:02

Yeah. Okay. So it's but but that was your liberation. And then and then after, did you get married?

Rita Neal 21:10

I got married in 52. The year that we went to Anna Marie, who's a terrific sailor. And we did sales with what didn't matter what our politics were. And we did all the sales for I like Ike or whatever. And we sailed over in Sophie's Blue Water series in Hyannis. She started she Sophie Halston, Mrs. Cerbert. and Mrs. Rap used to go down to the beach where the yacht club beaches now with a car. And these they would go around the cove for the first skiff races of the juniors used to sail around there they started. And Sophie then started the blue water series, which meant the prams and things had to be taken over to Hyannis but it was Sophie.

Larry Tye 21:58

So I remember seeing in the book, the pictures of the I like Ike sailing, describe what for people who won't know what that was, what was the this was

Rita Neal 22:11

Well it was Anna must have been a Republican. I don't know. She must have been Republican. Well, I am now madly

Phil Oden 22:18

Well everybody was except the Jacksons. So yes.

Rita Neal 22:22

And this was interesting, because here I was in New York, with all the TVA information coming through here. And I was going out with a Jackson and everything up in Cape Cod. It was unbelievable, because the Tennessee Valley thing was major. May everyone was a communist, and you know, all the rest of it. But it it was a wonderful, wonderful place to summer and everything else. And I never forgot what they did for me.

Larry Tye 22:49

So everything that you're describing. Sounds to me wonderful, but it sounds also like a different sense of what the community was then that that with a place like the pines and with dances and that there was more going on in a communal kind of sense. Was it more of a community that got together as a community, then

Rita Neal 23:13

the pines was totally different. And the people, the people that were at the pines weren't like the people that came and summered here. And he

Larry Tye 23:22

Who were they what kinds of people coming?

Rita Neal 23:24

Oh, the people, a lot of people from Cleveland, a lot of people from Cleveland.

Larry Tye 23:28

Why? Just

Rita Neal 23:32

somebody, somebody must have said, you know, come, come come. We didn't used to want to tell people about Cotuit. We were very private about it. And camp Edwards was here. So my aunt who rented different houses before she had the big house, across from the grocery store, the servicemen and the offices. She would be a nurse's aide at Camp Edwards. And they would come over and she would entertain them for lunch or dinner. And it was very big at Otisfield and Camp Edwards that was going on. So there was a war. There was a lot of war things going on then it was different. And, and it was like very, two two sets of things. So the young men, at the pines, were encouraged to date, any guests that came up and had daughters and the daughters wanted the maids. Were not encouraged. I was invited, but I wasn't interested because I was already going out with people from would not encourage it was there and we weren't the women, females were not allowed to walk in certain areas. We had to keep on the path. It was very restricted. And I'll tell you something, it was

Larry Tye 24:46

Restricted for was it generally or just for women employees.

Rita Neal 24:50

For the pines, it was all women. But one of the things that happened, Jill was Jewish and now you know, half the people go to Jewish or whatever, but she never. I said last year to her, you know she died with the virus. She did have the virus she just her ashes were scattered a couple of weeks ago. She's been my friend forever.

Larry Tye 25:13

Jill's last name is

Rita Neal 25:14

Edelson. Holstein it was Holstein. And she was denied entrance to a dance over in Weyanit, because it was strictly restricted. And I remember Brownie saying he took somebody's cousin, one of the gales sisters or something, and he wouldn't go and Mrs. Sinclair wouldn't go because it was restricted, no Jewish people. So it was different in those days.

Larry Tye 25:42

I'm sorry, restricted in riano, and would have been restricted here too?

Rita Neal 25:47

I don't know, there was nothing here. It was nothing here. But Jill never got over it. Every single year, she brought this damn story up. And I used to say, Jill, do we have to hear that again, because but it had such a bad effect on her. And she's now her ashes are at a Jewish cemetery in New Jersey with her husband, my husband's buried up here. And the other ashes. they borrowed a skiff the other day here to put her ashes here. But she never her sister loves Cotuit Margo, more

than Jill Jill's here, because her youngest son she has four sons is Down syndrome and is my godson. So as long as Josh was here, Jill was going to stay here, but she didn't have the love of Cotuit that her sister did, because

Larry Tye 25:58

because of that incident in the, wow. And would there have been any blacks?

Rita Neal 26:38

No, no. And I'm going to tell you something. My aunt had black staff, really great people from New York, they had a day off, they're gonna do in Cotuit on their day off. the springs across the street, lived here. And they had a black staff. And I made a point of introducing her. This is the first year this year that she didn't come up, I guess she didn't want to be responsible, because she's really old now. But I made a point on their day off to introduce her to them. And I would take them to Hyannis. And I would drop them at the boat, and I would tell them to make their lunch and then whenever they wanted to come back. So on their day off, besides sitting doing nothing, they had something to do. But there was no no black staff.

Larry Tye 27:32

Any Native Americans any Wampanoag?

Phil Odence 27:38

Oh, Mr. Pels?

Rita Neal 27:40

That's right. You know, the Bailey's all had staff. Of course, I don't know what, what nationality or what, whatever I only knew. I knew Sophie always had staff and they were always black.

Larry Tye 27:53

You're talking about staff? would most people who came here from whether it was New York or Boston or Cleveland come with staff?

Rita Neal 28:02

Well, a lot of the big houses then had maids and things. Yes.

Larry Tye 28:06

And those were maids, and other staff that they brought with them, or that actually stayed here as caretakers for the year.

Rita Neal 28:14

No, nobody stayed. Sophie. Sophie also brought up nannies. For instance, she brought someone whose husband whose father taught French at Barnard. But she met the local Ken Turner, plumber, and never went back to New York. It was just a few doors away. So I don't know what went on. I wasn't interested in what was going on in people's lives.

Larry Tye 28:39

Did everybody who came here generally come here? and go back at the end of the season when school started.

Rita Neal 28:46

Yes. Now it's different. A lot of people have retired here. They don't necessarily stay here before this terrible disease. They would come here, but then they would go to Europe or somewhere else in the winter. In those days. Everybody left. It was like, and I wasn't here. Of course, I was in the big house.

Phil Odenice 29:02

It was very quiet in winter.

Rita Neal 29:03

Very quiet. It's still quiet.

Phil Odenice 29:05

Even, you know, 60s and 70s. It was very quiet.

Larry Tye 29:09

How long in this house?

Rita Neal 29:10

Oh, well, this. This when did I own it? very recently. I rented My daughter is 59. My son's 58 tomorrow. So she was 11 when we started renting this because we rented different houses. Because Yeah, because I lived in the big house up by the grocery store. I rented this when Sally was 11. Then the man that came over to see me just now, married somebody. The Botless which nearly broke my heart and she said to me, you can rent this as long as you live, you can rent this. They got married and a year later they were divorced. And then I bought it in 2012. So now I own this.

Larry Tye 29:55

So the came to this house from which one near the grocery?

Rita Neal 30:01

There's a picture

Phil Odenice 30:02

The Holsteins was the this number 10 putnam. So the big the big one, right on the corner.

Rita Neal 30:09

I'll show you a picture of it in a minute. You're, you're gonna be interested in some of these. So this is the man that bought. This is the man that bought badminton to the United States. This is the loop.

Phil Odenice 30:26

When did Walter die?

So this is Sophie sitting on the steps of the post office where the park is.

when did Walter die?

Rita Neal 30:33

Oh, I don't know. There's Anna Murray.

Phil Odence 30:37

and this is Chris?

Rita Neal 30:38

Yes. This is this is my roommate at the top of the floor. And this is me sitting on the same post office steps waiting for the mail.

Larry Tye 30:50

This is great. This is in the at the PINes?

Rita Neal 30:53

That's the roof of the pines hotel.

Phil Odence 30:56

So this is this is my memory. So this is Rue.

Rita Neal 31:01

Margos the head of the acting company with John Houseman in New York. Margo started the acting company.

Larry Tye 31:08

So this is you.

Rita Neal 31:10

Yes. Let me see. My brother was at Cambridge. And I was knitting argyle socks. He graduated before I finished the socks so I gave them to a boyfriend. It took

Larry Tye 31:23

is this you on these steps?

Rita Neal 31:26

Yes.

Larry Tye 31:26

This is a great picture.

Rita Neal 31:27

This is my father, who was captain of football at NYU. He was the American

Larry Tye 31:33
uso?

Rita Neal 31:34
he was the American.

Larry Tye 31:40
I'm sorry he was captain of football at where?

Rita Neal 31:42
NYU

Phil Odenice 31:44
Soccer.

Rita Neal 31:45
football.

Phil Odenice 31:46
Oh football. Football. Okay. So this is

Rita Neal 31:50
Hang on, I'm going to show you something

Phil Odenice 31:52
that's loop beach. And that crowd was there. You know, every day all day. That's my mother.
And we used to and that was where we'd go right and not just loop beach, but right in that spot
on loop beach. And when the ice cream guy came down, you know, whatever mother was handy,
you just go and get the 10 cents for the ice cream.

Larry Tye 32:12
And how crowded was loop compared to the way it is now?

Phil Odenice 32:15
Um well, you can see there's cars up here. Right.

Larry Tye 32:22
I can So that's great. The uh

Phil Odenice 32:24
I mean I don't think it was crowded.

Rita Neal 32:27
This is the house across from the keep. Done by a friend of mine who came who was an architect.

Larry Tye 32:37
Who owns this now?

Rita Neal 32:39
That's where I lived for years and years and years,

Phil Odenec 32:41
We don't know a woman there who was a doctor and then she relocated to North Carolina and sold it to somebody within the last few years.

Rita Neal 32:49
Now in that garden that you're looking at? Is this barbecue. They made this barbecue. Do you see this girl?

Larry Tye 32:56
I do.

Rita Neal 32:56
She was Asian. Her father was German. Her mother was Japanese. She came here and match the Cabot's and the laws and the duh duh. And she was not accepted. So she was a maid, a waitress at the pines. She was not accepted. So every night when we went Park when we went partying, Sam bidwill and marsa didn't come because she was not accepted.

Phil Odenec 33:22
I don't.

Rita Neal 33:22
Sorry. I don't know who she wasn't accepted by certainly not my friends. But by the family, the bidwell family, they grew to love her. Then she was pregnant just before he died. I remember at the funeral. She was very pregnant. Matthew became a I think a very, very your father knows much more about it than I do. He He knows much more about everything that I do. But Matthew was born and the family accepted her then.

Larry Tye 33:50
So can I ask you when you say not accepted, not accepted?

Rita Neal 33:53
Because she wasn't?

Larry Tye 33:54
Because she wasn't um

Rita Neal 33:56
Anglo Saxon.

Larry Tye 33:57

Anglo Saxon and not because of the war? Because the Japanese [] in the war.

Rita Neal 34:00

No, no, no, nothing to do with the war,

Larry Tye 34:02

okay,

Rita Neal 34:02

but I bought her up. And she was here a few years and they were madly in love. It was you know, Sam was great. And I want to tell you something, that I lied about it. This is a recording I better be careful. So I never let his father or the guy I was going with know that I was three years older than all of them. I mean, Larry must be 91. And I'm 94. So you're not allowed to vote after 21. So every year at the meeting, the meeting, just before the end of the meeting and the voting, I suddenly felt sick. You can't go you're gonna I just I just don't feel well. I didn't want them to know that I was 23. And they

Larry Tye 34:45

that's great.

Phil Odenice 34:46

You also could have just voted. That's funny.

Larry Tye 34:51

So when you think of, you after 80 years must know every inch of Cape Cod

Rita Neal 34:58

and everybody

Larry Tye 34:59

Yes. But the when you think of what makes it if you're telling somebody who didn't know Cotuit what makes Cotuit different from Barnstable, and from wherever, what is it about this particular village that makes it somebody something special or different?

Rita Neal 35:16

I don't know. I don't know. I'm doing getting books to sort of back up something.

Larry Tye 35:22

Okay. What a gem.

Phil Odenice 35:30

Oh, I told you she'd be entertaining. And Sue who we'll talk to is very, very outgoing as well.

Rita Neal 35:37

You don't have to read this. You can even borrow it one of you. So I have a wonderful eye doctor, all my doctors I've become friends with I don't know how my eye doctor. His wife is an

oncologist. And she was giving a talk in Boston. And his office phone wanted to know how near Woods Hole I was. I said, You mean in miles or what? Well, duh duhduh anyhow, they wanted to see me. But I really, you know, at that point. So the next thing I know, just quickly look through this. And maybe this will tell you about what I think about Cotuit. So he was only here for three hours because I was going out for dinner with my brother. My brother was more interested in the soccer game than this. But he this is what he did after three hours in Cotuit. You know, Phil Odenceip, these things that Laurie did?

Phil Odence 36:32

Wow

Rita Neal 36:33

She absolutely. Read what uh you know how he felt about Cotuit too.

Phil Odence 36:41

So I'm trying to connect the timeline. So you'd worked at the pines and

Rita Neal 36:47

for about four years.

Phil Odence 36:48

Yeah And then how close to your marriage was that? Was there was there.

Rita Neal 36:53

Well, I got married on November 1, and I and I was here that August.

Phil Odence 36:59

Okay. Okay, and that was still working at the pines or were you

Rita Neal 37:03

I was working at the pines but that was the end of the pines once I was married. So I came down and stayed at the Holsteins as a bride. And Alan and I hated it. hated it.

Phil Odence 37:14

And then did you continue to come every summer?

Rita Neal 37:16

Yes, every summer but one, because Alan would come

Phil Odence 37:19

Yeah.

Rita Neal 37:20

And bring me when I was saying was no children. Then he'd bring the children. Then he'd go to Europe because he he traveled all summer all year, for Massey Ferguson and then he'd come and spend three weeks here

Phil Oden 37:32
and so you would just rent every summer.

Rita Neal 37:34
Yes.

Phil Oden 37:34
Yeah. All the way through. Yeah, yeah. And the one summer you didn't What happened?

Rita Neal 37:39
I can't remember what happened. We went to Europe. And Alan and I came back and spent a week and the children didn't come. I can't remember how old they were. But

Phil Oden 37:50
But you still can.

Larry Tye 37:53
Gil and Mike write. Sorry to interrupt the what they write at the end speaks to the question that I was asking.

Rita Neal 37:59
Yes.

Larry Tye 38:00
It says you have often talked to this Oasis on Cape Cod. Yes, that you retreat to every summer, a paradise of young sailors running races on for young and old with scores of one designs, gifts delighted to meet your brother and friends. So clearly,

Rita Neal 38:15
he was a big, big sailor of big boats

Larry Tye 38:17
Sail, sailing is a big thing. But it's more than sailing because you could sail anywhere here. The it's this. were you not tempted by other places here by [] by nothing?

Rita Neal 38:29
never. I've been I've traveled a lot. Because I had a husband that was all over the world. I've been to so many countries, but nothing feels like this to me.

Phil Oden 38:39
So it seems to me that it's the yacht club because much you know much of your social life centers around the yacht club.

Rita Neal 38:45

Oh, actually completely around it. But just by accident. I don't. I don't know anyone that isn't, you know? Well, from my New York friends have brought me here.

Phil Oence 38:56

Yeah. you know, it's interesting, because it sort of continues to be the case that there's that crowd and then there's you know, others in Cotuit and you sort of feel like, you know, everybody in Cotuit. But really, you know, everybody who's associated in the yacht club I think.

Rita Neal 39:10

Yeah, he's right. I never thought of it that way.

Larry Tye 39:14

But as somebody who doesn't sail, Cotuit seems every bit as special as everything.

Rita Neal 39:21

Oh, yes. But you know, it's not for everybody. Some of our really, really good sailors, wonderful sailors, children. If you're not into sailing or something like that, they can come here and get into lots of trouble. Lots of trouble and they couldn't come back. The days they couldn't come back because it didn't work. Unless you've got something here. It can get you into trouble. And I can't tell you how many go to aaa aaa I know so many people that come and have a glass of water here or whatever. So obviously, when sailing and things like that weren't on their thing. My husband was a terrific tennis player. He was a all right golfer, and he was a no sailor. He was never into sailing.

Larry Tye 40:08

But did he love it as much as you did and could.

Rita Neal 40:10

Oh, completely, and so did his father, who literally had property all over the world. He just went, he came a couple of summers, and he loved it.

Larry Tye 40:21

When you think of people that you've known, who have been here, almost as long as you have, and you were to

Rita Neal 40:30

They're all dead.

Larry Tye 40:32

So who is who is around that you would say that we have to talk to?

Rita Neal 40:37

you know, something? This is why I'm going back to Toronto when I first went to Toronto Toronto's a wonderful city wonderful. The last one or two, there's nobody, my friends now, are the age of my children. And it just happens. You just click with somebody, whatever. There's nobody absolutely nobody. All the people they're all dead.

Larry Tye 41:00

Would you really want to be here all year round at the insurance were not the issue. You never stayed the whole year?

Rita Neal 41:07

I wouldn't stay. I wouldn't stay in this house all year. I would stay here in the summer, and I would build onto it. But yes, I'll tell you why. What's wonderful, what's wonderful. I live in a really, really nice apartment smack in the middle of Toronto. I worked till I was 89. And they pulled, they pulled the building down. I'm going to show you another picture in a minute. And here. Sometimes I don't have breakfast till 12 o'clock, because someone's at that door or someone's at this door or someone's on the phone. I'm constantly. And this is the only summer. I haven't been out every single weekend. Sometimes I'd say please. I said David, stop asking me I want to spend tonight at home. That does not happen anymore in Toronto. And I had a wonderful I work for five. I couldn't get another picture. Five left tenant governors, five left tenant governors representing the queen in England.

Larry Tye 42:06

Have you ever spent an entire year?

Rita Neal 42:08

No, No, I haven't.

Larry Tye 42:12

So my only recommendation is with COVID. This is probably a lot safer place. I think Canada is doing a wonderful job with it. But I think this is

Rita Neal 42:22

Well I want to tell you. When I came up. Everyone said you'll never get over the border. I said I'm an American citizen. I've an American passport. I have property. When my son went from New York to Toronto. I got to the border and a granddaughter came to the border and her father in case I couldn't get over. I said if I can't get over, I know how to get back to Toronto. I've done that trip 1000 times by myself. The man said to me, have a nice day, I phoned and said I'm over the border. David had been operated on in New York. He had to be operated on in Toronto. They said you are now in our country and you're in isolation for 14 days. I cannot tell you how many times they checked up on him. He was going to borrow my apartment and he was going to go to a lodge. They checked up on him. Then about nine days later they said you've been in our country. Nine days. We hope you're in quarantine. So when I go back, I've had to make my doctor's appointments. 14 days. After I get back one more thing are the pictures.

Phil Oden 43:35

She drove you know drives herself from Toronto. Crashing through the border.

Rita Neal 43:42

So this is where I live in Toronto, smack in the middle. I worked with 40 people and only one person got free parking, which took me five minutes to get to work. It was my job. I love. I'm a New Yorker. I hate subways. I got free parking.

Larry Tye 44:03

So can I tell you you talk about 14 day quarantine. You're lucky. We have reservations to go to Italy in December. And the flights we just got notification they were canceled because Europeans won't let Americans in at all. And they cancelled the, So at least Canada will let you in with a 14 day quarantine

Rita Neal 44:24

But my brother has children. My brother has a house in Switzerland. He has a place in the south of France and La Rochelle. I've been to France 1000 times. And only once have I been to la Rochelle on il duree. It's totally different Absolutely. You sit on the beach and your boats on the sand. You close your eyes and it's out in the water. The tide goes like this. It was unbelievable. They travel all the time. My brother they've taken his license away because he's got the Immaculate degeneration. He told me that he was with the same company in export as My husband, he's taken the batteries out of his car, so he's not tempted to drive, but he's not allowed to drive. I know you're gonna laugh now. I'm only going to show you one. Anyhow, the pines was wonderful, because it is a couple of these. So these are the things I sold and bought. And that's me Believe it or not. I'm not going to bore you with all this, but I bought sweaters all over the world for that store.

Phil Odenice 45:03

So the party that you talked about parties at the boat,

Rita Neal 45:49

Oh like melt punch,

Phil Odenice 45:51

yeah. And this is so this was Mars and Louise when

Rita Neal 45:55

no Mars and Louis used to swim with Sophie all the time. This was Ellery Uh tom. I was babysitting for Tom, Ellery and Robert Burgess

Phil Odenice 46:07

But which boat was it? you said at the Boden.

Rita Neal 46:10

Burgess.

Phil Odenice 46:11

Oh the Burgesses I get it.

Rita Neal 46:13

No, no, not boden. I'm sorry Burgess. no, you're right.

Phil Oden 46:17

Okay, so the house on Ocean View.

Rita Neal 46:19

Yes. Yes. Across, smack across from the

Phil Oden 46:23

And Tommy was an infant

Rita Neal 46:24

when I babysat for him.

Phil Oden 46:25

Yeah. Yeah. Okay, so they were the ones that threw the great parties.

Rita Neal 46:30

Oh, yeah. Milk punch.

Phil Oden 46:32

And where else did you socialize in those days?

Rita Neal 46:36

Well, remember, I was going with Evy.

Phil Oden 46:39

Yeah.

Rita Neal 46:39

And the Lloyds and all those people had parties all the time. We go to kunonesett to papanesett and we had dances every week square dances.

Phil Oden 46:48

Yeah.

Rita Neal 46:48

Joanie, mensal. Over in Wyano. there was a lot going on

Phil Oden 46:52

So just at somebody somebody's house.

Rita Neal 46:54

Yes we were always at somebody's house.

Phil Oden 46:56

Yeah.

Rita Neal 46:56

And the and the bird. The Jacksons and Sophie had square dances all the time.

Phil Odenice 47:01

Yeah.

Rita Neal 47:02

And your grandmother had a dinner party like every week. So did Mrs. Jackson. She had wonderful dinner parties your grandmother,

Phil Odenice 47:11

yeah. I you know, when I was little, I'd get up in that tree. The tree is still there. There was a little crotch in the tree. And I'd sit. And I wasn't I wasn't invisible or anything, but nobody ever looked up. So people would be parking in front and I'd watch people coming in.

Rita Neal 47:22

and you spent so much time with the Jacksons.

Phil Odenice 47:25

Yeah, yeah.

Rita Neal 47:26

I mean, all my children spent every summer of their life here except one.

Phil Odenice 47:31

Yeah.

Rita Neal 47:33

So when people would come here and when they come to the pines, were they driving here? Were they taking the train and then getting transportation, how were they getting here?

Remember I was the parlor maid. I didn't go I had one. Timmy mare Timmy Mare's family. He was really a strange boy. And he's really cute. I used to babysit for the family. Then they bought a house. The sink next to the Sinclair's is across from from the thing, but I never knew the guests. I was in the background. Remember, I was cleaning at six in the morning and turning the beds down.

Larry Tye 48:06

Did people have

Rita Neal 48:07

Oh, they had cars they had and they some of them. A lot must have come from Boston. But remember, I knew nothing about the guests. I mean, I went in. I did my job. And I left

Larry Tye 48:18
and you came here by car. You didn't come by train.

Rita Neal 48:21
I came by train from New York

Larry Tye 48:23
So you'd come by train from New York

Rita Neal 48:24
because I was working for the Walstrescus and I lived in New York City.

Larry Tye 48:28
But explain how that would work. You come to South Station in Boston and then

Rita Neal 48:32
I would come to what's the local station

Phil Odence 48:36
to Barnstable

Rita Neal 48:37
Barnstable. I came to Barnstable

Phil Odence 48:39
there was a train from New York direct that went to Barnstable and it stopped like

Rita Neal 48:43
And Scot would come up

Phil Odence 48:44
and Onset and those places. And you know that, you know that bridge, the train bridge. And so they come over that and then into Barnstable and that goes back a long time

Rita Neal 48:55
and Scott would come or somebody, he was the taxi and then he would drop he would go to Wyano he'd go to the Inn he'd go to the Pines he dropped people off. And the maids and everything everybody because we weren't

Phil Odence 49:08
There was a Stagecoach that would do the same thing. And that was you know,

Rita Neal 49:11
and the train was wonderful. They had a they had a dining car. And it was really really great.

Phil Odence 49:17

And from New York, even when this this would have been probably the late 50s, early 60s when my my dad was working there. Yeah, it was like

Rita Neal 49:27

he was in the pan am building

Phil Oence 49:28

he was that he would there was a train that would leave New York I think like two on Friday. And then and get them in for you know, get him here for a late dinner. And then it would it would depart West barstool, I think at 10 o'clock at night or something on Sunday. And it was the sleeper and it would pull into Manhattan at like four in the morning but but you were allowed to stay on for a few hours and sleep. You didn't have to get right off. You could stay and sleep.

Rita Neal 49:59

I didn't know about any

Larry Tye 50:01

criminal and the the now that the that they had a train and that they killed it.

Phil Oence 50:10

Yeah, it's hard to get here from New York. I had a daughter in New York for a number of years. It's a pain in the neck.

Rita Neal 50:16

So everything is this is there's never been a summer like this never. Unfortunately.

Larry Tye 50:23

The town itself aside from having the hotel, the town itself had a lot more going on in the center of it was it did it feel a lot more vibrant.

Rita Neal 50:32

Well remember they had Otis and camp Edwards, there was a lot of a lot of traffic from going on with that with the war and everything.

Larry Tye 50:40

So you say traffic, it was the people from the base lived here what was the what was the interchange between the base and here?

Rita Neal 50:49

no, it's they used to come as guests. I think people are very nice about entertaining

Larry Tye 50:53

soldiers

Rita Neal 50:54

soldiers. My aunt used to bring different soldiers every Sunday, we'd have soldiers for dinner

Phil Oence 50:59
the house to them because uh

Rita Neal 51:02
because they wanted to get off the base. Wow.

Phil Oence 51:04
Well and some of them were here those can't do it up in North Bay. So there were there were some

Rita Neal 51:10
And places like Hyannis had New York stores. All the New York's fancy new york stores now in and we had movie houses even in Austville, we had a movie house. We'd go to the movies. We'd go to papanessett we'd go to different places for dinner and everything. And you had jazz clubs here.

Larry Tye 51:28
Do you remember ever going to hear music or the

Rita Neal 51:30
we I used to go to kuna mess it was elery and places like that. And people did a lot of entertaining at home.

Larry Tye 51:38
But did the Cape seem like a more vibrant place Then?

Rita Neal 51:42
It was so different. But the world was so different?

Larry Tye 51:45
Different, better? Different?

Rita Neal 51:47
Oh, much better? Much better?

Larry Tye 51:50
Because of all the things you're saying?

Rita Neal 51:52
Well, because it was. Now it's I don't know. It was it was different. It was really different.

Larry Tye 52:00
But you're about to you are a wonderful observer. And I'm going to press you to say more on how with different better because what?

Rita Neal 52:12

I'm not going to say friendlier because it was always friendly. But I'll tell you the political situation, the political situation was not Are you a democrat? Are you a republican now? It's front and center, really. So when this unbelievable man called me the other day about what I owe, and he doesn't want to talk about it until I get back to Canada. I said, You know something? I we have to be able to talk about things. He said you can talk to me about anything. I said, Okay, I have a question to ask you. Go ahead. I said, Are you a republican or democrat? Ah, he said, I was hoping you wouldn't ask that. He said I used to be. I said. So now I have friends up the road. I have to be careful what I say. Because what I I'm really into American politics. I barely know who's the Prime Minister of Canada. I don't follow it at all. I've lived there since 52. But I am

Phil Oden 53:14

He's so handsome though I think you'd know him.

Rita Neal 53:18

But that is major major. Like this is a two party country. And that's affected everybody. It really has. I said to a friend of mine that's coming down today. She said I'm not feeling well. I said is it the political situation? She said yes. Years younger than me. I said its affect it is affecting me. It's really affecting me. So it didn't used to be like that it used to be every morning I would wake up and touch a piece of wood and think one more day. One more day. I love being here. I one more day. My children know I feel this way. And the man that bought this with his wife knew I felt this way. And one of my one of my sons found and said mum, it's on the market. I said, What are you drinking? What do you mean it's on the market? He'd only bought it a year before it was on the market. And you know something? It's a nothing house and I love it. I absolutely love this house.

Phil Oden 54:20

Well, I loved it. When we stayed here.

Rita Neal 54:22

And there you go.

Phil Oden 54:22

And it didn't have this built on yet. Yeah. It was great. It's a great house.

Larry Tye 54:26

So you say you stayed here.

Rita Neal 54:28

He lived it. They it was rented, because it was a guesthouse

Phil Oden 54:31

I rented for a number of years before we had the place so.

Larry Tye 54:35

So it's just ironic. You ended up switching houses

Rita Neal 54:38

Well No. That was years ago. And I've known his brother, his father and his father's brother. Since since I was 14.

Phil Odench 54:51

My father's first summer was right.

Rita Neal 54:54

That's where the minister lived. That's where the minister that didn't that met Sophie

Larry Tye 55:00

Your father's brother married your father?

Rita Neal 55:03

Gates.

Phil Odench 55:03

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Rita Neal 55:07

How much younger was gates than Larry.

Phil Odench 55:09

Two years. Yeah, just two years. worlds apart though. Different guys.

Rita Neal 55:16

but I want to tell you, his uncle could sell peanuts to he. He was the most unbelievable. We were having dinner one night. Gates comes in uninvited. Oh, thank you. Thank you. We had really, really formal dinners. He said, My uncle was really he wasn't a real uncle. But he was really tough to deal with. He said, Do you mind if I put a card table up? We're all sitting around the dining room table. And my uncle said No, go ahead. He puts a table up. He puts out a bunch of knives and does those are my uncle bought the whole lot in 10 minutes, gates made a really clean thing. He could sell anything.

So what haven't We asked you that we should have about Cotuit that would give people a feel for what

I mean. I've never heard I'm sure there are but I've never heard of a hotel like the pines. When it says it was a family hotel. It was a family hotel. Families came. And even though they serve the ice and everything, you didn't, you didn't have a ball. You didn't have that thing. What you did in your room, Fred Crawford had all these people from Chicago. The family came from Chicago. And there was a death in the family a very, they were rollingsons, I think the name was and very, very rich, but one son died. So they couldn't bear to live in evergreen, which was gorgeous. They bought another house. And it was just all family found the beach, the sailboats, everything was the families. And I've never seen anything like it. It was a lovely feel to it.

Larry Tye 57:02

Would people ever come for the entire summer?

Phil Odenice 57:05

Oh, yes.

Larry Tye 57:06

They come to the pines. Wow.

Rita Neal 57:07

Yes, yes. And not only that, not only the main house and evergreen. He started renting cottages all through the village. And then he would rent it to families that came with the family wanted to spend, August there or July. Yes, there were some people in the actual hotel, or evergreen came for a week or something. But a lot of all the cottages that are down there now all with I had to go and clean one point after season. All those houses

Phil Odenice 57:37

the ones on the west side of ocean view were all cottages.

Rita Neal 57:41

And then when you go and there's a fancy walls where the where the Kennedys are and all that down that end all that side was all owned by the pines and it was the shuffleboard court. It was the maids dormitories, so it was all sort of beach and Mrs. Mrs. Crawford See, Fred's work not to Calvin was a lovely, lovely woman. And she I think she left that property to the Audubon Society. And I've never forgotten. I was doing Fred's house, I was cleaning the toilet with my rubber glove. And I remember Fred Crawford saying and what's your politics, young lady? Do you know anything about Churchill? I said, Not right now. And then when he left, he said, pete. Everyone called me Pete. Everything in the room that's left here is yours. So there was candy, and it was

Phil Odenice 58:34

I think it was Woods Hole Oceanographic. She left.

Rita Neal 58:36

Yes, yes, yes. Yes, that's right.

Phil Odenice 58:38

So I have I'm not gonna put words in your mouth. But since you wouldn't answer couldn't answer, I. I do have conjecture. What was some of what's different anyway, is just the population. I think, you know, when there were so many, few fewer people here in the summer in those days, and yet, just as much going on. And yes, you know, no, you knew just as many people so in those days you knew a high percentage of the people in town. Yeah. And, and, you know, there was plenty going on. And now there's just sort of more and more people used to bring traffic and noise.

Rita Neal 59:10

Sophie used to ask Maxwell's Stookie, they all used to come the thing that used to annoy me, my children who all have friends in Toronto would ask their friends down, and then I'd get stuck with a friends because they go off and do the sailing thing. And I finally put a stop to it. I said, you have a friend. You entertain your friend. It was so much here. They didn't need to bring friends down. That had a life for them in Toronto, so that didn't work.

Phil Oence 59:37

I never brought friends for that reason. I just thought it would be complicated.

Rita Neal 59:41

Yeah, it was it was

Larry Tye 59:45

but your world centered around when you were coming. In your days after marriage, your worlds centered around, sailing life.

Rita Neal 59:58

Always.

Larry Tye 59:58

and your husband's around. golf and tennis?

Rita Neal 1:00:01

My husband played tennis every single morning. And he was so good. It was like

Larry Tye 1:00:06

over here. Where where did you play tennis?

Rita Neal 1:00:08

At people's courts. Once they saw him played? He could have been at Wimbledon. I mean, he was unbelievable. And he played golf. He was a golfer, but he wasn't a golfer golfer, he was a tennis player. And he was he was six foot three or four of the league. He wasn't good in skiffs, and he didn't enjoy it.

Larry Tye 1:00:29

So what I would love to do, I want to see whether Phil Oence has more questions.

Phil Oence 1:00:35

I'm good.

Larry Tye 1:00:36

For my part, what I'd love to do is say, this is part one. And if we had more questions we'd get back, you are exceedingly eloquent and delightful to talk to

Rita Neal 1:00:50

thank you

Larry Tye 1:00:50

and this has been a pleasure so.

Rita Neal 1:00:51

Thank you very much. It's a long time since anyone said that to me

Larry Tye 1:00:55

But it's true.

Rita Neal 1:00:56

That's very nice of you.

Larry Tye 1:00:57

And I the um one thing I'm confused about is why if you're an American citizen, you should be able to get insurance here.

Rita Neal 1:01:07

There's all kinds of there's all kinds of things. First of all, when Mike Kopi was trying for me, he said, Why do you keep saying 91? What happened in 91? What if I've been paying into anything? But why would I need to? I've lived in Canada since 52. I get everything I need. If I phone now, for an appointment, they say to me, morning or afternoon.

Larry Tye 1:01:33

That's incredible.

Rita Neal 1:01:33

here. I have friends once coming down. Michelle, whose husband buys the best insurance, this, she was cancer free for nine years. Now it's back. There's not a single week, including yesterday that she isn't in tears, because she's on her way to the hospital ward. But insurance won't pay for this, they won't pay for this. I can't at 94. She's 60, 1 or something. She can deal with it. And she's got a husband to talk to. I can't deal with that.

Larry Tye 1:02:04

So you're right and.

Rita Neal 1:02:07

I feel safe. You know, when I go home peoples. So then coming here, how are you going to get there? After I broke my hip here in that room? How are you going? is only one way I can come I have to drive myself. That's no the top of my list at 94. But once I cross the bridge, and I see two flags, I thought, now I could be sick. Now I could be sick. And I'm not someone that goes around wanting to be sick. I feel safe

Larry Tye 1:02:33

with your you.

Rita Neal 1:02:34

I have a son who's a detective,

Larry Tye 1:02:37

but you healed well from the hip. The hip is

Rita Neal 1:02:40

and guess what? It was \$49,000 \$49,000 physically I'm falling apart. Mentally, I'm sharper and sharper and sharper. So I get all these papers I'm home. And I'm too sick to read them. And I say, Oh my god, I don't remember that. Oh, I I don't remember that. I'm sitting in Toronto, scared to open 700 800. And then I see a word July. I thought, What are they talking about? July happened on the 10th of August. I go to the top of the page. And it's Rita F. O'Neill. I'm Rita. A. Neil. The 49,000 was wiped clean.

Phil Oden 1:03:27

That's incredible.

Larry Tye 1:03:28

That's a great story.

Rita Neal 1:03:29

And this man who's been so nice to me. I said I don't want to be rude because you're very nice. But you make mistake after mistake after mistake. I had a scratch on my leg. My granddaughter who got me into this trouble because it was her restaurant. I want you to find out about the restaurant. I said, Sarah, I got a bill for \$88 and 12 cents. They've got different ways I can pay it. Can you help me Sally sitting there? Sarah and the baby. Here's my card. Here's a number yes my grandmother's sitting here. Yes, she's 94. I said why wouldn't I take the number? Because the bill is paid in full. The bill isn't paid. I haven't paid the bill. I've been getting threatening letters from Israel from Israel, saying that they say tear it up. I don't tear it up. This is only one of the things that's happened.

Phil Oden 1:04:23

Just patient our president has a great plan. Telling us about soon

Larry Tye 1:04:29

from jail

Phil Oden 1:04:30

very powerfully. So why can't we do something about the supreme court? You don't think we can?

Larry Tye 1:04:39

So wait, the after it's gonna the world is gonna look better on November 4. And the.

Rita Neal 1:04:47

it's gonna look the same because we won't have any answers on the 4th.

Larry Tye 1:04:50

I think that it's going to be such a landslide.

Phil Odenec 1:04:53

I hope so. Only on the 3rd.

Rita Neal 1:04:55

So do I

Larry Tye 1:04:57

watch every day also I couldn't for three and a half years.