

## **East Brandywine Township Oral History Project**

Interviewer(s): Alexandria Kochinsky and Carol Sinex-Schmidt

Interviewee: Barbara Carter

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**Allie:** If you could, please cite your name for us.

**Barb:** My name is Barbara Carter.

**Allie:** Wonderful. What is your connection to East Brandywine?

**Barb:** Well, I went to school in Downingtown. I've known people here for a long time. My parents owned property in Uwchlan and Upper Uwchlan, but we were close enough to the Brandywine that anytime the fire department came to the paper mill at the bottom of the hill, it was Glenmoore, East Brandywine, and Lionville.

**Allie:** Oh, how about that. You went to Downingtown schools though?

**Barb:** Downingtown schools, yes.

**Carol:** Where did you go to elementary school?

**Barb:** I went to elementary school in a one-room schoolhouse, and it was in Upper Uwchlan. It's off of Milford Road, where the old bridge used to be.

**Carol:** I can see it in my mind.

**Barb:** My brother went to Font. I went to Prospect. It's still there, but it's now a home.

**Allie:** Is Font still there?

**Barb:** Font is still there, yes. It's also a home.

**Carol:** What grades was that? First?

**Barb:** No. I hadn't moved down here yet. We lived in Honey Brook until I was in fifth grade and then we moved here. I went to Prospect for fifth and sixth and then went on to Downingtown. It was a total culture shock.

**Carol:** I know, I've mentioned that. It was a major culture shock having not been to a cafeteria before or homeroom.

**Barb:** The first class that I ever visited was a gym class. There I was in that t-shirt.

*Laughter*

**Allie:** You said your brother went to Font. Is he older or younger?

**Barb:** Younger. I think that was third and fourth grade, there. Then ours, Prospect, was fifth and sixth.

**Allie:** Okay. Where would kids have gone for first and second?

**Barb:** They went to Eagle.

**Allie:** So it was split up quite a bit. It wasn't a general elementary school.

**Barb:** No, there wasn't one elementary school. The Eagle one is now part of the police department on route 100. If you come out Park Rd. and make a right, it's there. They added to it.

**Carol:** Where did you live in Honey Brook?

**Barb:** It was called Forrest Road, it was off of Suplee Road. I went to one-room schoolhouses, and I had school in a four-room schoolhouse and went to school in the American Legion.

**Allie:** What is that?

**Barb:** It's like a veteran's space.

**Allie:** The VFW?

**Barb:** It was like that, yes. We were in the basement, and there were two third grade classes down there. Every morning we would go out and have our Bible reading and Pledge of Allegiance in front of the bar.

*Laughter*

**Carol:** In front of the bar! When they were building Brandywine Wallace, I went to school down in the Hopewell (Church) basement and the basement of East Brandywine (Church). That's probably what they were doing for you, too.

**Barb:** Yes. They were getting ready to build an elementary school down there. My brother did eventually go to the elementary school, which is now a retirement home in Honey Brook. It's on 322. They have since built a brand-new school.

**Allie:** Now, did you go to Catholic school? You mentioned that you did a Bible reading.

**Barb:** No, we just did that.

**Allie [to Carol]:** Did you have bible readings?

**Carol/Barb:** Oh, yes!

**Allie:** We've never talked about that, wow!

**Carol:** We didn't, did we?

**Allie:** It's never come up.

**Carol:** The day always started with a Bible reading.

**Barb:** Bible reading and Lord of the Prayer, sometimes.

**Carol:** Probably, yes.

**Allie:** That's interesting. Now, were there Catholic schools?

**Barb:** Yes, that was an option.

**Allie:** Regardless though, everybody was saying prayer?

**Carol:** Yeah.

**Allie:** Did that happen in middle school?

**Barb:** We didn't have middle school. But we did it up through sixth grade. We did the Pledge of Allegiance, too. In high school we did the Pledge of Allegiance, but no Bible.

**Carol:** Right.

**Barb:** I think there was a quiet moment.

**Allie:** Now, despite that, were you religious?

**Barb:** Oh, yeah. The Presbyterian church in Honey Brook. We were there all day on Sunday.

**Allie:** You lived in Uwchlan, were you still going to that church?

**Barb:** I did for a while and then we went to Central Presbyterian in Downingtown. Then I went to Hopewell, and now I'm at Glenmoore.

**Carol:** The church was a big part of your social life.

**Barb:** It was. There were Strawberry Festivals and Bible school—catechism class. We had to learn verbatim the catechism. In order to join the church, you had to go through all these classes. It's kind of a joke now. But back then, we had to go through all these classes. It was especially important when your Sunday school teacher's name was Mrs. Lord.

*Laughter*

**Allie:** Oh my gosh!

**Carol:** Youth group was a big social thing, too.

**Barb:** Oh, yeah. It was. Youth group was definitely something. That's why I said you were in church all day on Sunday because you went to Sunday school and then you went to church. You had no choice; you went to church. Sometimes you came back either for youth group or church service. It was an all-day thing.

**Allie:** You would go to two services in one day?

**Barb:** Oh yeah.

**Carol:** Yeah. Youth group was fun, it was social and religious.

**Barb:** Right, it was fun. We used to do all kinds of things. We would go on ski trips and sledding parties and stuff like that.

**Allie:** Was it mostly with kids you already went to school with, so you knew them well already?

**Barb:** Yeah. There were kids that you went to school with. Now, when I went to Central, I met one of my girlfriends who has been my friend since the fifth grade. She went to Coatesville for school. We spent so much time together that people didn't know that we didn't go to school together. I'd go to her prom and she'd go to mine.

**Allie:** Fun! Can you tell us a little about what you can remember from your elementary days? We've talked before about favorite subjects or if you remember any of your teachers' names?

**Barb:** Mrs. Moore. Sadie Moore.

**Allie:** Do you remember recess at all?

**Barb:** Oh, yeah. We always liked kickball. If you happened to kick the boys the wrong way they'd get a little upset.

*Laughter*

**Barb:** We were bad.

**Carol:** You know what's funny? I was telling Allie how I used to go down to the Luncheonette. Allie was so surprised at that.

**Barb:** Oh, yeah! You could go home for lunch if you wanted to.

**Allie:** When I was in school, it was on such lockdown. You were there and if you left early you had to be signed out by someone showing an ID. It was such a process. So, to hear that you could come and go as you pleased with that freedom at that age and leave a building and walk down a street unsupervised is kind of mind-blowing.

**Carol:** Right.

**Allie:** Especially now. You wouldn't see that.

**Barb:** My kids would go out in the morning and my parents had 21-acres, and there were farms all around us. The kids would be gone. I had a big farm bell and when I rang it, that is how they knew to come home for dinner.

**Allie:** I was similar at home. At home, there was flexibility. We lived in a safe neighborhood, and we'd go out and come home for lunch and then go back out until dinner. I don't see that much anymore. There are always parents supervising now from the sidewalk or in a public place.

**Carol:** Yeah, setting playdates and taking the kids out.

**Allie:** You mentioned how foreign that was to you.

**Carol:** That never happened for us.

**Barb:** We had a half-mile driveway and friends would tell us it was a shame that our kids had so few friends. I used to tell them that they did have friends and I was fortunate to be able to help pick the friends because they come to me down the driveway. That was better. My kids were into solo activities, they didn't need a lot of outside entertainment. Not that they didn't have friends, they did.

**Carol:** I think our kids played outside. It sounds like you did, too.

**Allie:** We were always outside.

**Carol:** It's much more structured now, that sort of entertainment.

**Barb:** It was fun.

**Carol:** Now, the Shyrocks Paper Company was active when you lived there.

**Barb:** It was. Shyrocks Paper Company made a press board. It stunk, it just stunk. They used to have a big pit on the side of Dorlan Mill Road and it's where they threw all their scrap. If the wind blew, it would come up. My husband was active with the Boy Scouts because our kids were in it and he had them out in Carter County, camping. They (SRPC) would take old paper and chop it up and make something else.

**Allie:** Like a compost?

**Barb:** Yes. They must have gotten a supply of perfumed boxes or something. The whole neighborhood smelled of perfume. It was too funny! But we used to call and complain about the smell. We were up on the hill and still got it.

**Carol:** Downingtown was that way when the paper mills were operational. I always thought it smelled like rotten eggs.

**Allie:** It smelled like sewage.

**Barb:** Yeah, that's what it was.

**Carol:** It's hard to think that it was a fancy restaurant.

**Barb:** I know! The mill was there, and they owned the house that's now falling into disrepair going up the hill.

**Carol:** It's so sad.

**Barb:** That house, the one on the corner of Hopewell and 282 (Creek Rd.) and the next house up on the right—which was my parents—were all built by the Dorlan brothers back in the 1860s. Mom and dad's was the last one to be built, and it's the only one in some kind of repair. The paper mill property went all the way up the hill and when you went over toward the dam there's a road that went down there and that was the road that went to Milford Mills. When you went down there, there were mill houses. People lived in those properties. The Smiths and the Browns and the Stones. Someone was down at the end—I'm forgetting the name. They didn't own the houses, they leased them.

**Allie:** Yeah.

**Barb:** They used to all live back there. Turner. Turner was the last one.

**Allie:** Carol grew up in Lyndell, so she never knew a whole lot about what was going on in Guthriesville or Bondsville. I grew up in a different time, but still didn't know much about Lyndell besides being the area we drove through to get to Marsh Creek.

**Barb:** Marsh Creek, right.

**Allie:** I knew nothing else about it. That was it. It was just this area that we drove through. I knew Guthriesville, because it's much closer and we shopped here and stuff. Would you say that you had the same experience?

**Barb:** I think that I knew more about Bondsville's side because my father worked in Coatesville. Therefore, we traveled back and forth through there and my one girlfriend lived off of Kings Highway. I mean, I was back and forth that way. Eagle was interesting, I thought it was so cool. Simpson's store was the neatest place in the world to me. Dexter. It always amazed me how that man could have a full pot belly stove going full blast and a case of ice cream sitting beside it.

*Laughter*

**Barb:** At Christmastime I would go in there and he'd get these lumberman's flannel shirts. They were the nicest shirts. You'd ask him, "Mr. Simpson, how many shirts this year?" and he'd climb up the ladder.

**Carol:** Up that ladder, yes!

**Allie:** Was this someone who took over at Lyndell, or a different store?

**Carol:** No, this wasn't Lyndell.

**Barb:** Not the Lyndell store, this was in Eagle. He would climb the ladder and put his hand on anything. You could get lead for your pencils, anything.

**Allie:** Is that where the tea room is? It's called the Simpson House Tea Room.

**Barb:** It's across the street.

**Allie:** Okay, I never knew that was there.

**Carol:** If you picture where the Eagle Tavern is and there's sort of a 'Y' and the tavern sits in there, the store sat across.

**Allie:** So it's not still there?

**Carol:** No.

**Barb:** There is a building there, but I don't think that it's the same place. It's a tuxedo rental place. The store had the glass fronts and mailboxes.

**Carol:** It was such a small place and just amazing how much was inside.

**Barb:** In the wintertime around the stove were men who'd be having a conversation and you sort of had to climb over all of them to get to where you wanted. If you needed a half pound of cheese, you bet he had American cheese. He had everything.

**Allie:** That's cool. I've been into that attire rental shop and it is a tinier building. It could be the same.

**Barb:** I'd have to go in and look.

**Carol:** Now, the Eagle Tavern was always there.

**Barb:** The guy behind that who has the fishing supply place was always there. The rest of it was new.

**Carol:** There wasn't much else in Eagle.

**Barb:** No. The schoolhouse, which is now part of the township police station there.

**Carol:** West Nantmeal Church, was that on Font Road?

**Barb:** No. But it's really grown up there now. Almost upsetting.

**Carol:** Sort of like Exton. Exton was nothing.

**Barb:** Oh, Exton was just a crossroads. It was two lanes going each way. That was it. You'd stop at a stop sign.

**Carol:** Yeah, it was Dick Thomas' and the drive-in.

**Barb:** Dick Thomas'! There was no place like McDonald's or anything. We used to go down to Wilmington because one of the first Burger King's was down there and we'd get french fries.

**Carol:** Do you remember Gino's in West Chester?

**Barb:** Yes!

**Allie:** What was Gino's?

**Carol:** Burger joint, like a McDonalds. That was a big thing. That was the first of that kind of food around here. On West Chester Pike, I think. It's where you'd meet everybody.

**Barb:** Right, it's where you met up with everybody. Or you'd meet at Dick Thomas' in Exton.

**Allie:** Was that the movie drive-in?

**Barb:** No.

**Carol:** No, across the street from the drive-in. It's where everybody went after a game.

**Allie:** So, it was a restaurant?

**Barb:** It was a restaurant. They had really good burgers and french fries.

**Carol:** Didn't they have the foot-long hot dog?

**Barb:** They did, yes. They had really good milkshakes, too.

**Carol:** Yeah, yeah. They always treated the kids well, too.

**Barb:** They did. It was almost like watching Happy Days, it was. It had that feeling. You had the ones come in who were the rival schools but there, everyone melted together.

**Allie:** Okay!

**Barb:** That was the only time that I got detention. I left school to go and have lunch.

**Carol:** Who did you go with?

**Barb:** Mike Dawson, Connie, and another guy.

**Carol:** Nice people.

**Allie:** One thing we forgot to ask, is when and where were you born?

**Barb:** I was born in 1947, in Philadelphia.

**Allie:** Where in Philly?

**Barb:** It was a Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia. My parents were from west Philadelphia, but before they got married my dad came out of the service and they came out to Honey Brook and purchased fifteen acres.

**Carol:** What brought them to Honey Brook?

**Barb:** They just loved it. They would come out here to Downingtown for some tea room or something from Philadelphia. Remember the one that was on the historical thing for that hotel? My mom said that they used to come out to that hotel for lunch.

**Carol:** I didn't know growing up that some people had summer homes out here.

**Barb:** Oh, yes. As a matter of fact, in Glenmoore there was a family off of Fairview Road. They built houses there, but there was one there and one of my great grandmother's best friends used to own it as their summer house.

**Carol:** So your great grandmother...

**Barb:** They all used to come out here for the summer, to visit. So my parents bought this place up in Honey Brook before they got married. I guess there were peonies along the edge somewhere and the morning of the wedding he drove all the way out here and he picked her flowers for her bouquet.

**Carol:** How sweet!

**Barb:** That house had running water but no indoor plumbing.

**Carol:** Even when you lived there?

**Barb:** Right, no bathroom. We had an outhouse until my dad finally put a bathroom in.

**Carol:** It's hard to believe.

**Barb:** Yeah.

**Carol:** Where did they live in Philadelphia?

**Barb:** My grandmother and aunt finally ended up living on City Line Avenue, in Overbrook. They lived in apartments there.

**Carol:** There is a Presbyterian church there. My aunt lived in the Presbyterian home there on City Line Avenue.

**Barb:** Oh, okay. There is an Episcopal church across and a Presbyterian behind it. My aunt was a single woman, she'd never married, but she loved weddings. So she would call my mom and ask if she'd be bringing me up for a visit on the weekend and if I was, she'd tell my mother to remember to

pack my shoes and gloves. We would go. Since there's less people on the groom's side, she'd bring me, and we'd say we were friends of the groom and sit there and watch.

**Carol:** You didn't know these people?

**Barb:** No!

**Carol:** Oh my gosh!

**Barb:** So, we would go to these weddings. It was hysterical. By the time that I was eight years old, I'd probably gone to fifteen or twenty weddings. We would go in and then go home and sit and discuss it all. "Did you see that she didn't have heels because she was about the same height that he was?"

**Carol:** Oh, that's funny! You'd just show up.

**Barb:** Yes, and then leave and walk home. It was right around the corner. Then, the next weekend, we might go to the other church. On any given weekend, one was bound to host one.

*Allie returns to the room and the story is explained.*

**Allie:** She would crash weddings and bring you!?

**Barb:** Oh, yes. Her little six-year-old great-niece.

**Allie:** No!

**Barb:** We'd go in and sit with the groom's side. Down the aisle we'd go and sit and watch.

**Allie:** She even went to the ceremony?

**Barb:** We didn't go to the reception.

**Allie:** That's even better. She went to the ceremony! I feel like it's so opposite. So, she'd watch the ceremony and not the party. Why was that?

**Barb:** She just loved weddings.

**Allie:** What a riot.

**Carol:** She'd talk about the details afterwards.

**Barb:** Yes, the details like the flowers and what they'd wear.

**Allie:** That is so funny. Was that often?

**Barb:** I was telling Carol that I probably went to fifteen weddings by the time I was eight years old.

**Allie:** Nobody ever said anything?

**Barb:** No. There was an Episcopal church and a Presbyterian. She would find out when these weddings were and then go.

*Laughter*

**Allie:** She sounds like a riot.

**Barb:** Oh, she was.

**Carol:** That is too funny. I had never heard of that before.

**Allie:** Nobody would talk to her about it? Was it normal from her?

**Barb:** It was normal for us that she went. She'd tell my mother to make sure that I had my good shoes and my gloves when I visited. That meant we were going to a wedding.

**Allie:** How would she know?

**Barb:** She went to the Episcopal church, so she knew people there. She knew people at the Presbyterian church, too. She just went.

**Carol:** That is a great story.

**Allie:** I'm sad that I didn't meet her. So, you said that your parents were living in Philly?

**Barb:** Yes. My parents went to school in Philadelphia, and my father went into the Navy. When he got out, they got married and moved to Honey Brook.

**Allie:** You talked about what brought them out here?

**Barb:** Sort of. People from Philly would come out here and have lunch or visit friends who were staying out here. They kind of knew the area a bit.

**Allie:** Interesting. How old were you when they moved out here?

**Barb:** I wasn't born at that time.

**Allie:** So then why did your mom give birth in Philly?

**Barb:** She was from Philly and felt more comfortable there.

**Allie:** When she went into labor, she went all the way down to Philly?

**Barb:** Yep!

**Allie:** Wow! Bold move!

**Barb:** I'm sure she went down there a couple of days early so that she was nearby.

**Allie:** Your brother was born there, too?

**Barb:** No, he was born in Coatesville.

**Allie:** Okay. You mentioned your dad worked in Coatesville. Was that at Lukens?

**Barb:** No. He worked for Bob Gay as a TV repairman.

**Allie:** Oh, okay! So, you were familiar with Coatesville.

**Barb:** It was the place to go. It's where you went to get your shoes, your Easter dress, everything.

**Allie:** Your wedding crashing gloves.

*Laughter*

**Carol:** You had to wear gloves.

**Barb:** Those probably came from the Sears catalogue. We were talking about those the other day. You used to call it the wish book, and you'd go through it.

**Allie:** They were big, right?

**Carol:** Oh yeah.

**Barb:** You would order something by sending it in and then you'd wait. It would take two to three weeks. It wasn't like Amazon where the next morning you would have it. That's ridiculous.

**Allie:** Was the Sears catalogue seasonal or annual?

**Barb:** There was an annual and then there was a Christmas one.

**Allie:** Oh!

**Barb:** The Christmas one was well sought after. As soon as that came in the door, it was a screaming match between brothers and sisters over who could see it first.

**Allie:** When would that arrive? In the Fall?

**Barb:** Oh, no. It was before Christmas. Maybe November. We didn't do things before the way it is now. You'd order right away.

**Carol:** You could sometimes order and pick up at the store. There was a Penney's (JCPenney's) that you could do that.

**Barb:** There was a Sears, a Penney's, an Army/Navy store, and Chertok's, and a shoe store. At the shoe store, there was a machine that you could put your feet in and it would tell you the size. It was actually an x-ray machine.

**Allie:** Oh my gosh!

**Carol:** Now, where would you go for groceries? Would you go into Coatesville? A&P opened in Downingtown.

**Barb:** When did that open?

**Carol:** I can't remember. Prior to that, my dad's store was where people got their groceries. Then, when the A&P opened in Downingtown that's when he decided to make a campground. He knew that the days of a general store were imminent and that he had to go the route of a deli.

**Barb:** Yeah, right. I think we'd go to Cropper's. The old one, on the corner.

**Carol:** Where the memorial place is now, right?

**Barb:** Yeah, the very old one. I think we went there.

**Carol:** Right, because there wasn't anything in Eagle other than Simpson's. Barb: No. It was Simpson's. You had to go so far. I remember when I lived in beautiful, downtown Glenmoore. You had to go so far to get food. There was nothing in Eagle, anywhere. I think I always came to Cropper's.

**Carol:** Did you ever go to Upper Darby for shopping? That was the place to go.

**Barb:** 69th Street! You'd go down there at Easter and there was this great big shoe slide that you could go down. It was a sliding board and it looked like the old woman and the shoe-type thing.

**Allie:** Like Mother Hubbard?

**Barb:** Yes!

**Carol:** That I don't remember.

**Barb:** Don't you remember that?

**Carol:** I remember going and shopping. That's where you went.

**Allie:** What was the allure of going there?

**Barb:** It was a big shopping area.

**Carol:** It would be like Exton Mall. It would have a lot of different shops.

**Allie:** So, more variety.

**Barb:** Variety, right.

**Carol:** It was along the street, as opposed to in a mall. My big memory of that was that my cousin came and lived with us for the holidays and my mom gave us money to get Easter shoes. We got heels, which we did not have permission to get. Of course, we did not tell her until we were on the way home. She was so mad at us.

**Barb:** My aunt knew that I loved shoes, too. When I was little, because my mom always had a dentist in Philadelphia, we'd go to the dentist in Philadelphia. Twice a year, we'd take the train out of Coatesville to go to the dentist off of Chestnut Street. We'd go to the dentist and then we'd have lunch. My grandmother and aunt used to give me money and I'd go down to the bottom of

Wannamaker's they'd have shoes. I would go down there and pick out a pair of shoes. Then we would go have lunch at the Automat.

**Carol:** Yeah. It was an all-day thing back then. I kind of laugh at that now, because I work in Bryn Mawr. We would have considered that an all-day thing.

**Barb:** A big project, yeah.

**Carol:** My mom's family thought that we were in the wilderness.

**Barb:** Oh, yeah. "What do you do out there? Aren't you bored?"

**Carol:** My mom would tell them that she did more than when she lived in the city. There were a lot of church groups that would have sewing circles or those kinds of things.

**Barb:** Oh, yeah. All kinds of social things like that. They would do quilting, knitting...

**Carol:** Bridge. Everyone played bridge.

**Barb:** It was fun. A lot of kids say they are bored now. It kind of upsets you.

**Carol:** I don't know about your grandkids, but mine have phones.

**Barb:** Mine are pretty restricted. The youngest are eight and ten, so it's restricted for them. The one is totally into baking. She can't get enough of Chopped Jr. and all of those wonderful things. Today, I got a picture and she was making cupcakes.

**Carol:** Do they live close by?

**Barb:** Honey Brook, near Beaver Dam Road. That's my youngest one. The other is up in Doylestown. It's a hard thing to get to.

**Carol:** It is! I worked for a woman that lived in Doylestown and every now and then I'd have to take things to her.

**Barb:** It's a hard one because it's not easy to get there from here.

**Carol:** Yeah. Now, when you and I were talking, one of the things you told me was that you lived in the area when they were creating Marsh Creek.

**Barb:** The park.

**Carol:** They were using eminent domain to take the properties and so forth. You said that your dad was involved.

**Barb:** My dad was involved in a group and I can't remember the name. It was the 'Marsh Creek' something. He was the president of it, and there were a bunch of people who got together and opposed this eminent domain and everything. At one point, they took...this is a map of the area. Here is Milford Mills and here is my dad's property. This is topographical with all of the different layers. He figured this all out and cut it out of cardboard and we had a map that had different heights. That was part of it.

**Carol:** Oh!

**Barb:** He was proposing that they take this (map) because they put the town underwater. They didn't even knock down the buildings, they just filled it.

**Carol:** Right.

**Barb:** In the end, he was very happy with it. For a long time though, they fought the eminent domain thing. I'll tell you one thing: at the bottom, there was a schoolhouse. At one point we got the school bus down there. After these houses that were owned by the mill were demolished or emptied,

somebody down there had chickens and they left the chickens. So, my mother goes and gets corn and leaves trails for the chickens and leads them down to her barn.

*Laughter*

**Allie:** Oh wow! Did it work?

**Carol:** So, she got the chickens to come to her house?

**Barb:** Yeah!

**Allie:** That's wild.

**Barb:** It is wild.

**Allie:** You know, I've never known a time when Marsh Creek wasn't there. It's fun to hear about it.

**Barb:** Before it was totally filled, we would come up from Glenmoore and sail on it before it was even opened as a park.

**Carol:** Some of the studies today are saying that it's not the method that should be used for flood control.

**Barb:** No.

**Carol:** Downingtown would flood, and they were saying that this would prevent the flooding there.

**Barb:** Well, it hasn't. It still floods out.

**Carol:** Was that a state or federal project?

**Barb:** State.

**Allie:** It's wild that they didn't knock the buildings down.

**Carol:** I know.

**Allie:** Wouldn't that eventually float up as it decomposes?

**Barb:** No, most of it was stone and rock. There was a store there in Milford, too.

**Allie:** Was there a church? When I was growing up, there was a rumor that you could float over to one area and see a steeple.

**Carol:** Not that I'm aware of.

**Barb:** No. There was the old mill run that we would go to in the summertime because there was a waterfall that you could walk underneath of and not get wet.

**Allie:** Oh, wow!

**Carol:** And of course, there was the mansion.

**Barb:** Boo Boo Hoff. When we were little, the McCurdy's had a big farm. They lost some of their property, too. They had a farm that was up toward where the dam is now. The Turner girls and the Stone girl...I don't know why my mother let me go with them, but we'd go out early in the evening and we made harnesses and would ride McCurdy's horses unbeknownst to them at night.

**Carol:** Wow!

**Allie:** Oh my gosh! A wedding crasher at the age of seven and a horse rider by night.

**Carol:** Do you remember when the train ran along there?

**Barb:** I remember the train. It only came through once a month. When I lived in Honey Brook, the property behind us was the train tracks. The train used to go through there.

**Carol:** You'll have to come to the presentation we're hosting soon.

**Barb:** That would be great, yeah. Down on Dorlan, along 282, there were four mills there. One was a paper mill and they made high-end wallpaper.

**Carol:** Oh, really? Which mill was that, Barb?

**Barb:** It wasn't Shyrock. It was down a little further.

**Allie:** Sounds like Shyrock was too busy making scented compost.

*Laughter*

**Barb:** If you went further down, it was there.

**Carol:** Dowlin Forge?

**Barb:** No, that wasn't it. I think it was between Dowlin Forge and Dorlan Mills.

**Carol:** Interesting.

**Barb:** Anyway, they did wallpaper. The one that I remember hearing was about it being made with this specific content so that it wouldn't mold. It was an experiment of sorts and they sold it to people in France.

**Allie:** Cool!

**Barb:** For Halloween, what did you do for Halloween?

**Carol:** You made your own costume.

**Barb:** I know, you'd make your own. Did you go trick-or-treating? You had more people around you there.

**Carol:** We'd go over to Marshall's. They would invite you in and they'd have you sign their guest book.

**Allie:** Who were the Marshall's? A family?

**Carol:** Yeah. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall. They never had any children and owned the house right next to the railroad. At one time, they owned the house on Little Washington Road, it's the only one that's historically registered in the township. They had a creamery there. So, they'd take the milk over to Lyndell to put it on the train. Their house was right there. You would go in, and they'd invite you in, and you'd sign their guest book and go into the parlor and have cider and gingersnaps. You'd just sit and chat with them for a few minutes. I took my daughter there years later, when they were still living, and Mrs. Marshall showed her my guest book signature. It was a real treat.

**Barb:** How cute is that!

**Carol:** They were very nice people.

**Barb:** Well, we lived out in the middle of nowhere. We had the farm and nothing was around. We'd get together—Mike Dawson was one—and we'd go as a gang. There were five or six of us. We must have walked six or eight miles that night. We would go over to see Mrs. Shelmire who was the Colonel's wife over in the big house behind us. She was the same way, always happy to see us.

**Carol:** Now, which house was Shelmire's?

**Barb:** If you go down Dorlan Mill and make the right onto Shelmire Road, it was the big farmhouse there. All the houses are around it now. Anyway, we'd go down there and there's a pond down there where the park starts. We used to sled on that hill. But we'd hike there on Halloween and go across to another farm. It was probably only four or five houses that we saw.

**Allie:** Was Halloween candy-oriented for you then, the way that it is now for kids?

**Barb:** With us it was about getting dressed up and being with friends because there weren't houses around us to give out candy.

**Carol:** It was still the focus, some. There would be Halloween parties at the school or church.

**Barb:** Our church always had one.

**Carol:** Yeah. Your parents wouldn't have taken you trick-or-treating, like they do now.

**Barb:** No, we hiked all over the place.

**Carol:** Parents didn't take kids places. We walked. Even for church.

**Barb:** Right. We walked. Even for me to get my school bus down at the bottom of the hill, it was a mile. Kids come out of school and the bus stops in the driveway and their parents are waiting there.

**Carol:** I get amazed when I go to work and see the buses stop and there are kids whose parents are driving them to the end of the driveway.

**Allie:** If it was raining or snowing we would get a ride from our dad to the bus stop. Not on a regular day, though.

**Carol:** Well, I can see that.

**Barb:** Right. I think in Honey Brook, we walked.

**Carol:** We got the bus at the Grange.

**Allie:** That wasn't terribly far from the store.

**Carol:** No, it wasn't bad.

**Allie:** I was in a neighborhood. We had three stops within the circle, at each cul-de-sac.

**Carol:** There were kids coming from all directions to the Grange.

**Allie:** Right, and that was the one stop.

**Barb:** Yeah, the bus wouldn't stop every two or three houses.

**Carol:** Right.

**Barb:** At one point I got the bus at the corner of Hopewell Road and 282. So, we had to walk down there. That was a long walk. That hill was terrible when it was hot. Coming out of Downingtown, there were probably two stops. One of them was at the corner before Dead Man's Curve. That would be it.

**Carol:** What's your meaning of Dead Man's Curve?

**Barb:** Just that a couple of people were killed there. Now, what's your meaning of Murder Hollow?

**Allie:** You first! Carol and I have talked about this a bunch.

**Barb:** What, Murder Hollow?

**Allie:** Yeah.

**Barb:** Okay, somebody was killed in the big, white house at the corner of Crawford and Creek Road.

**Carol:** Okay.

**Barb:** That's the one I have. What did you have?

**Carol:** What I heard was that both Murder Hollow and Dead Man's Curve were from bodies that Boo Boo Hoff would bring out, knock them off and drop them.

**Barb:** It could be. From what I heard, someone was murdered in the house there at the corner.

**Carol:** Could be. Now, there was water...

**Barb:** Spring? That sat by us, we could see it.

**Carol:** I remember there being a raid.

**Barb:** Yeah. They used to play poker.

**Carol:** That verifies that.

**Barb:** They would play poker there and it was raided.

**Allie:** That's wild that it was so taboo. People do that socially now.

**Barb:** It was raided for that reason. At one point, they thought that they were going to restart that spring. One summer, they had people down there to work on it and at lunchtime they would play music. One of them played guitar and another the flute and they would play music at lunchtime. We were on the hill right above them and I'd go out and sit on the deck to listen to them play.

**Carol:** Oh, wow! That's neat.

**Barb:** It was really neat.

**Carol:** Who lived in the house at the corner of 282 and Hopewell Road?

**Barb:** There have been so many different people there.

**Carol:** It's a big house.

**Barb:** It's a big house and you don't see many people around it anymore. There was a doctor who lived there with his son for a while. I have never been there.

**Carol:** No, I wasn't either.

**Barb:** I was in the other one, the one that's falling down. I was in that one.

**Carol:** Yeah.

**Allie:** I never knew anyone over there.

**Barb:** Did you always wonder how anybody who would date you would find your house?

*Laughter*

**Carol:** Yeah. Lyndell was far.

**Allie:** At least for you, you could say the Lyndell Store. It was harder to miss, I'm sure.

**Carol:** There was a story about a guy who threw the woman down the well on Lyndell-Eagle Road. On the opposite side of the creek, in other words. The guy who lived there put her down the well after he murdered her or something.

**Barb:** Oh! I vaguely remember that.

**Carol:** After an interview that we did, someone said they remembered it. I can't remember who said it. He remembered as a child going there and there was police around. I think Norman Piersol is the one that told me the story.

**Barb:** Oh, he was sweet. He was my insurance man for a while.

**Carol:** Wonderful man. Very active in the Civil Rights movement. Awesome guy. He was my dad's best friend.

**Barb:** Did Carol ever tell you about the retirement party?

**Carol:** Oh, I forgot all about that!

**Barb:** It was her dad's retirement party and there were all kinds of fun things. At that time, I think I was still working for you (Carol).

**Carol:** Yep.

**Barb:** You said something about gypsies, so I started singing a song. That was the big joke at the campground that the gypsies would move in. I got my husband and son and his little friend and

dressed everyone up as gypsies and put them in a wagon. We came into the party and drug the kids in and sang, 'a gypsy's life is free and gay.' Her father almost fell on the floor.

**Allie:** That's too funny!

**Barb:** It was good!

**Allie:** On that note, you mentioned your husband and son. Could you talk more about your family and adulthood in the area?

**Barb:** I lived in Glenmoore for a while and then moved here again and built a house here off of Dorlan Mill. We've been there for forty-two years. I have two sons, one in Honey Brook and another in Doylestown.

**Allie:** Did you work with Carol?

**Barb:** Carol had Trade Talk, and I worked with her then.

**Allie:** Oh, okay.

**Barb:** As a matter of fact, I'd work in the office and then go and make deliveries.

**Allie:** Neat! So, you never left the area, you stayed local?

**Barb:** For three years I was gone because my first husband was in the military. We were in Georgia, Texas, Alabama, and Washington D.C.

**Allie:** All in three years?

**Barb:** *(Nodding)*

**Allie:** Wow! Did you have a preference for any of those states?

**Barb:** Not Alabama. It was so hot. I prefer Pennsylvania and our weather. We're so much better off than other places.

**Allie:** We get a little of everything.

**Carol:** We don't have the extremes.

**Allie:** Even storms, we get the tail end.

**Barb:** Right, just the side effects of it all.

**Carol:** We had a major flood. Maybe that was when you didn't live here.

**Barb:** We were here. When you come over the bridge at Dorlan, it dips down. I remember the water being across. That was probably the late 50s, maybe 60s?

**Carol:** The one I'm thinking about would have been later, probably the 60s.

**Barb:** Oh, maybe it was.

**Carol:** Pottstown was terrible with damage. I remember the fire company here was going to Pottstown to help because they were just devastated. We had damage, too. Actually, we were living in the campground at the time. We had just moved here and were living in a camper in the campground before we bought the house here. There was flooding there, and we stayed at the house at my mom and dad's place.

**Allie:** Was the campground flooded?

**Carol:** Yeah, yeah. That did a lot of damage.

**Barb:** It did, I remember. Downingtown always got hit.

**Carol:** Downingtown always flooded terribly.

**Barb:** The one end, and over there at the ball diamond off of 322.

**Allie:** That's always flooded.

**Carol:** Another thing that we've talked about before is what it was like for us as girls.

**Allie:** You grew up in an interesting time.

**Carol:** Yeah. Women didn't have the options.

**Barb:** We didn't have the options. We didn't have the options to do a lot of things. That was a guy thing.

**Carol:** Jobs were pretty much teaching, nursing or secretarial.

**Barb:** Right. That was it, too. Girls went into secretarial classes. They weren't pushed to go on to college.

**Allie:** Did you marry right out of high school?

**Barb:** Almost, yeah. I was young. I was 20.

**Allie:** How had the two of you met, did you know him for a long time beforehand?

**Barb:** Yes. He had concert band at our high school, and he was one of the students that stayed with us. He was from down around Chester. I ended up marrying him. He was an officer in the Army.

**Allie:** Then you shuttled all over the place.

**Barb:** All over the place. I had my first son in Alabama.

**Allie:** That was probably toasty.

**Barb:** It was. We were living in trailers, because it was temporary housing. I would be there with the air conditioner on full blast, and when we had hail storms the hail would come down. He would come home and I'd have pillows around my head because of the headaches. It was terrible.

**Carol:** Yeah, we didn't have air conditioning when we grew up.

**Barb:** Right. We did have it in those trailers, thank goodness.

**Carol:** We weren't in Alabama here, though.

**Barb:** I didn't have air conditioning here until ten years ago. We always lived in the woods and it was fine. As I got older it got a little harder. But back to the question, you were expected to be prim and proper. We were supposed to be goody two shoes.

**Allie:** The societal expectation was very different.

**Carol:** You didn't talk about the ones...I remember asking my mother one time about someone in the neighborhood getting arrested for something.

**Barb:** But you didn't talk about it.

**Carol:** No! I asked her if she knew, and she casually told me she did, and I wondered why she hadn't brought it up. You didn't talk about it.

**Barb:** Oh, no. You didn't talk about your family outside of the home. It was a different time.

**Allie:** We had some people who were in slightly different circumstances, but they said that they felt sheltered, but in a positive way. They were content to be oblivious to the dangers of the outside world.

**Barb:** I think it was that way. You weren't exposed. You know how we talk about cancer so openly now? It was a bad word, nobody talked about it. Nobody talked about illnesses.

**Allie:** Really? Just because it felt too personal, or because it was scary?

**Barb:** It was a personal thing. You just didn't discuss things. You talked to your girlfriend, but we wouldn't talk about other people. You knew what was going on at school and who was doing what, but you wouldn't talk about it.

**Carol:** Somebody was telling us about picnics; how, on a Sunday someone would say they were having a picnic and everybody would bring something.

**Barb:** Yes, you'd bring something.

**Carol:** I don't remember that, do you?

**Barb:** Yes, my mom's friends. We still went to church in Honey Brook after we moved down here, so we would get together with them and have the picnics. The Weaver's and Miller's...

**Carol:** This would be a neighborhood thing.

**Barb:** No, we didn't have that. We didn't have neighbors. It was different. I think that was the social thing, it's how they got together. Another example of the times changing—I don't know my neighbors.

**Allie:** Right.

**Barb:** I don't know the people in the development behind me except we had a dog that we grabbed because he went through the electric fence. In thirty years I'd never met anybody, and because of two days there were ten people who had me on speed-dial. That's the only way I know people around me. I know the neighbors who built around the same time we did.

**Carol:** The house next to me is apartments now. The one person I know lives there, because he mows our grass. There's one person who has lived there for years, but I don't know his name.

**Barb:** We have a tree that went down on our property and met somebody because of that.

**Allie:** It's interesting. I think some of it is generational. My husband and I bought a house in Coatesville and our street is a mix of younger couples like us who are moving in and then older couples who have lived there for forty years. Everyone older is much friendlier, welcomes us into their homes, helps one another, etc. It feels more old school.

**Barb:** Well, you've all been so guarded and taught...

**Allie:** Don't talk to strangers?

**Barb:** Yes, I mean, it really is true.

**Allie:** There is a couple our age who we keep trying to engage and it's just this divide. You wave when you see them, but there's a divide between some of the couples our age and the older couples. We've completely meshed into the lifestyle of the older couples, because it's friendlier and happier. There's a sense of community.

**Barb:** You've been taught to be so careful.

**Carol:** The other thing I think is that a lot of people moving here are coming from the city or Delaware County and aren't used to that.

**Barb:** Right, the country.

**Allie:** There's a couple that is super friendly, but they came from an apartment.

**Barb:** Oh, so they don't talk to anyone.

**Allie:** No! They don't talk to anybody. They'll wave, but they are just in and out.

**Barb:** People are so busy now, too. They have so many things that they don't have downtime. And their children are even scheduled and enrolled in sports and clubs. It's scheduled so tightly. My

mother is 94 years old and can talk the paint off of a wall. She can talk to anybody. She's down there at Wendy's all the time and they all know her and talk to her. It's not like that now.

**Allie:** There's a different sense of community.

**Barb:** It's sad.

**Allie:** It is. My parents live in a wonderful neighborhood and it seems that the parents were all closer when we were all growing up, they had us in common.

**Carol:** That makes a difference, when the kids are in school together.

**Barb:** I think it does, too.

**Allie:** Now there is a mix of young families and older, but it's a different social atmosphere. My parents always tell me how much they love my street because it's like a flashback. Everybody is always out and about and talking to one another on the porches and it feels very Cleaver. You know? It's so nice. It'd be nice if there was more of that.

**Carol:** Well, Barb brought up Coatesville. Luken's Steel was there, and that was the place to work.

**Barb:** That was the place to work.

**Allie:** My grandfather worked there.

**Carol:** They made big money there. People who worked there were comfortable.

**Barb:** And they were there for years, you know? They would go in after high school and work until they retired.

**Carol:** Coatesville was a really nice town. At least, I always thought that way. I mean, it was a mill town, but it was nice.

**Barb:** It was. I felt the same way.

**Allie:** My grandfather died the year before I was born, but my mom told me that when they lived in Levittown he worked for Bethlehem Steel and then they moved out here and he took a job at Luken's. They bought property off of North Guthriesville Road and then he drove there. In talking to people in these interviews it feels like if you weren't farming, you were working at Luken's.

**Barb:** It was that way, really. You know, we were saying how we don't know our neighbors? My son has a hot air balloon company and he'll land the balloon in the field. Did you ever see the thing with the *Children of the Corn*, where they come out of the rows of corn from nowhere? It's like that! People come out of the fence row and they come out quietly and they'll stand there to watch and when the balloon takes off they all go back to their houses again. Nobody talks to one another!

*Laughter*

**Carol:** Now, do you remember anything about fox hunting?

**Barb:** Oh, yes! Fox hunting happened a lot because we were very rural out where we were before the developments came in. They used to come out with the hounds. They would go along the Brandywine before the trail came in. They would come up on the hill. There was always one dog that got lost, and we named him Denny Dimwit. Denny Dimwit would get up there on a rock and howl. I would call whoever was leading the hunt, usually someone from that place up on 282.

**Carol:** Oh, White Chimney's.

**Barb:** White Chimney's. Whittaker's. They would come back and come get Denny. When we built our house forty-some years ago, they were still fox hunting out there. They came right through by our deck and we had to ask them to keep more of a distance, because at that point they were bringing the horses too close to the little kids. But Denny Dimwit came back and was on the rocks.

**Allie:** Carol and I were relieved to learn that no actual hunting took place and that it was about the thrill of the chase.

**Barb:** Right!

**Carol:** Didn't they say they'd keep the fox?

**Allie:** We were told that they would keep it but let it go at night.

**Barb:** Yeah, because that is when they go out. We have babies in our field. They are so cute. You come around the corner at night and see their eyes. They come out and they look at you and you can hear their mom yelling at them to come back. The one was sitting on the driveway one day and you could hear mom yelling and he just stayed there and finally she came and grabbed him by the neck and took off.

*Laughter*

**Allie:** When they yell, it's scary.

**Carol:** Are you familiar with that NextDoor app? A lot of people in the new developments are on that app, and you can tell who grew up here based on what they ask. One woman posted about hearing shots.

**Barb:** I saw your comment!

**Carol:** I told her it was hunting season and she was going to hear a lot of that around here. As kids, we had a week off from school for hunting season.

**Allie:** That's crazy.

**Barb:** Oh, yeah! You had off the Monday after Thanksgiving, because it was the first day of the hunting season. We also got off so that we could go to the farm show.

**Carol:** Yes, yes.

**Allie:** What farm show?

**Barb:** You've never been to the farm show? You must go. It's a lot of fun.

**Allie:** Where is it?

**Barb:** It's up in Harrisburg.

**Allie:** All that I want in life is a goat.

**Barb:** I want an alpaca, but you have to have two. I'd love to go to the alpaca farm on 282. Just after you go over the new bridge, it's on the left.

**Carol:** I went over to Yellow Springs, to the goat farm.

**Allie:** Is it Seven Stars?

**Carol:** The organic cheeses?

**Allie:** Seven Stars Farm!

**Carol:** Yes! Well, they wanted people to come acclimate the animals to people.

**Allie:** I love it. A goat acclimation party.

*Laughter*

**Carol:** Someone invited us. I took one of the grandkids. It was such fun, they are so loveable.

**Barb:** I love going to Springton Manor when it warms up. All of those little guys are bouncing around. They had to keep the one in the barn because she kept sliding under the fence.

**Allie:** Oh, I love it there.

**Carol:** That didn't exist when we were kids.

**Allie:** No?

**Barb:** No, it was a regular farm. The county took it over later. It's a great place.

**Carol:** On Creek Road, there was Kaiser's. Kaiser's Farm.

**Barb:** Oh, yeah.

**Carol:** Not far from you.

**Barb:** We had a lot of farms through there.

**Allie:** You mentioned that your dad worked in Coatesville, but you lived on a farm?

**Barb:** We had twenty-five acres, but he had a farmer who farmed part of it. We didn't. We had goats and dogs and cats and geese and sheep. It was just for fun.

**Carol:** Right, it wasn't officially farming.

**Allie:** My grandfather did that. They called it their farmette.

**Barb:** Right. It was twenty-five acres, but it wasn't his job.

**Carol:** I didn't live at all on a farm.

**Barb:** She felt like she lived in the city, because it was a village.

*Laughter*

**Carol:** I had Jim Croce!

**Barb:** I know! What was the name of the guy who had the car dump at the end? Gene Matlack.

**Carol:** Oh, yes!

**Barb:** Clean Gene Matlack.

**Allie:** Clean Gene?

**Barb:** That's what they used to call him. He had a hand that was deformed because he'd been riding in a car and he had an accident. My husband was part of the fire company in Glenmoore, and so they would go out different times and hit some places for donations. He went there and his wife answered the door and told them that Gene was upstairs and they could go ahead up. Well, he was in bed with the blankets up to his neck. They told him that they could come back another time, and he said no and threw off the blankets and he was fully dressed. He had all of his clothes on. They told him why they were there, and he said no problem and pulled a wad of money out and just rattles off a couple hundred bucks for them. Eccentric.

**Allie:** If someone told me to go up to the bedroom, I'd have just left.

*Laughter*

**Carol:** Yeah.

**Allie:** He did something with cars, you said?

**Barb:** He had a junkyard.

**Carol:** He had the big junkyard, on the corner of 282 and Creek Road.

**Barb:** 282 and 82. He wouldn't sell anything.

**Carol:** It was on that corner. He had all these junked cars.

**Barb:** There was a house on the edge of it.

**Carol:** One of Croce's songs was supposedly about Matlack's place. 'Junkyard Dog.'

**Allie:** He didn't sell anything?

**Barb:** No, he collected.

**Carol:** He sold parts off of cars.

**Barb:** Right, parts. It just kept getting higher and higher, though. Somebody died and the place was sold, and it's all cleaned up and gone now.

**Carol:** Yeah.

**Barb:** Clean Gene.

**Allie:** Oh, that's funny.

**Carol:** Was that East Brandywine, or Wallace?

**Barb:** That's Wallace.

**Carol:** There was Cornog. The go-kart track.

**Barb:** The quarry. Did you swim in the quarry?

**Carol:** I did not. I went parking there.

*Laughter*

**Barb:** We swam there.

**Carol:** I was too scared.

**Barb:** The go-kart thing, too. Cornog Tavern was great. They used to have the best shrimp nights, but they always upped the price. The shrimp was cheap, but then they upped the price of the beer.

**Carol:** Connie Quartucci.

**Barb:** Yes! Are they still there? Do they still own the house around the corner?

**Carol:** Tom and I rented the second floor of Cornog Tavern. At that time, I think they were closed. I can't remember. I don't remember people being down there. We lived there a year, at the most. It was Quartucci's. I guess that was her brother who had the house next to it with that little church. Do you remember that?

**Barb:** That's still there.

**Carol:** The tavern is torn down.

**Barb:** No, that's still there. Cornog is all apartments, it's up for sale.

**Carol:** Now, the opposite corner?

**Barb:** Where the gas station is? Lambert's? That's Far Away Farms now.

**Carol:** Right. Across the street there was a restaurant there. What was the name of that?

**Barb:** I don't remember that.

**Carol:** The same one where there was a pond.

**Barb:** Oh, the pond. That's Cornog Tavern.

**Carol:** No. Cornog Tavern sat on the opposite corner from Far Away Farms. Same side.

**Barb:** Right. There was another one on the other side?

**Carol:** Yeah, and that got built much later. It's still there. I think it's for sale.

**Barb:** Cornog Tavern is for sale.

**Carol:** What about organizations? Did your dad have anything to do with the Grange or Masons?

**Barb:** My mother was with the Republican Women. She was a secretary in that. She also was on the Election Board. She did a lot of things. My dad sold real estate for Everett Hoopes in Downingtown for years.

**Carol:** That's right!

**Barb:** He moved over to West Chester. Dad was in church things, they were in choir. That was another thing, you had all of your church things.

**Allie:** Yeah.

**Carol:** Choir was at least once a week.

**Barb:** Yeah. And there were committees. My dad was a deacon, and whatever else.

**Carol:** You went to Hopewell for a while?

**Barb:** I went to Hopewell for a while, and then I left there and went to Glenmoore.

**Allie:** You mentioned being familiar with the Bondsville area?

**Barb:** I've been there in recent years for tours, but I don't know anything about it. I knew about the houses that were on the side and was intrigued by the whole thing. When are the gardens going in?

**Allie:** I'm not sure.

**Carol:** I saw something not too long ago, but I don't know. Do you remember Bill Hart?

**Barb:** Von Haucht.

**Carol:** Bill Von Haucht lived on Reeds Road, and he was a famous DJ on...

**Barb:** WFIL?

**Carol:** He had a wonderful deep voice. He lived on Reeds Road. It was a modern-looking house.

**Barb:** It was. Liz and Will and...they had a couple kids.

**Carol:** Liz was closer to our age.

**Barb:** Right. Will was just a little bit younger.

**Allie:** Interesting. He was well-known?

**Barb:** Oh, yeah. He was well-known. He was a Philadelphia DJ. He was on TV, too. Remember Mort Farr?

**Carol:** Yeah.

**Barb:** He lived off of Springton Road. He had a log cabin out there.

**Carol:** I think it's interesting how much has happened off of Reeds Road, because there was Bradfield. Do you remember that?

**Barb:** I do. I have good friends who were mentioned in the book that was written because they worked with them at Lower Merion.

**Allie:** I don't know what this is about.

**Carol:** It was a famous...there was a teacher in Lower Merion Schools. She was found murdered in Harrisburg? Her body was found in a car. It was really quite a story.

**Barb:** You've got to read the book about it.

**Carol:** There were several books written about it, but one of them was...

**Barb:** Something in the Darkness. Wambaugh.

**Carol:** Wambaugh.

**Barb:** It's very weird. You can't read the whole thing straight through. You have to process it and come back. It's so convoluted.

**Carol:** Bradfield's parents lived on Reeds Road.

**Barb:** Nona and Sid. That's who used to live at the corner of 282 and Hopewell!

**Carol:** Oh, they did? Then they lived on Reeds Road. I've been trying to find out more about it. I guess I have to go to the historical society for more information. He was arrested there. I skipped ahead. The body was found, she was a teacher. She was in a relationship with William Bradfield.

**Allie:** Okay. And he lived locally?

**Carol:** His parents did. He lived in Lower Merion. So, they were in this relationship, and apparently he was quite the ladies' man and was in several relationships at the same time. He was named in her will for an extreme amount of money. Then, it got really confusing because the principal of Lower Merion school...what a wacky guy he was as it turned out.

**Barb:** And she had two children.

**Carol:** They disappeared, too. The children were never found.

**Allie:** What?

**Barb:** They even dragged Cornog Quarry.

**Allie:** Wait! I have heard something about this before. My mom was telling me about it. Was this in the 70s? I think my mom was telling me how she moved to the area and it was rumored that there was some searching out towards their neighborhood for the kids. It was a boy and a girl, right?

**Carol:** Yes.

**Allie:** I heard about that, but I didn't know the rest.

**Barb:** During that, they dragged the quarry and they found about four or five cars that had rolled into the quarry. It was interesting, yes. We'd gone to some parties at the Bradfield's, and we did meet him.

**Carol:** Did you?

**Barb:** Yes. He was strange. I wanted to share something with you, anyway. My dad did research on the house that they are in. It was built in 1867. Well, it goes back to when it was first built, and he has all of the owners that were there. The fun thing is that it went into receivership a couple of times—sheriff's sales. I thought that was interesting.

**Allie:** What's your maiden name?

**Barb:** Pierson.

**Allie:** *(Looking at the document)* So that was your parents.

**Barb:** Ruth Brookover's parents. Did you know Ruth? She was a secretary at the high school for years. I thought that was interesting.

**Allie:** I know that your parents were living in Philly, were they both from there originally?

**Barb:** West Philadelphia, yeah.

**Carol:** So, the original owners?

**Barb:** I think that the land was 1877. The house was built in 1867, so that's not right.

**Carol:** It's a lovely style.