

Helen Carpy
Oral History Transcript
Interviewed by Linda Sunderland
October 30, 2014

SUNDERLAND: **0:00:04.4** This is Linda Sunderland of the Wood Memorial Library Oral History Program. I'm interviewing Helen Carpy of 1465 Main Street, South Windsor, CT. The date is October 30, 2014. Helen, do I have permission to record this interview?

CARPY: Yes, you do.

SUNDERLAND: Excellent! Thank you. Well, okay. We'll start from the beginning. Where and when were you born?

CARPY: I was not a resident of South Windsor at that time. I was born in East Hartford on November 6, 1918.

SUNDERLAND: Oh, excellent! Oh, so you have lots of memories to share! What are your earliest memories of—in East Hartford, did you say?

CARPY: Yes. Well, we used to come to visit my relatives here in South Windsor and—

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. When you were a baby?

CARPY: Well, ever since I can remember—

SUNDERLAND: **0:01:10.0** Really?

CARPY: —I probably did. You know, starting in my 3, 4, 5—6 years old.

SUNDERLAND: Oh, so you were born in East Hartford. Whereabouts in East Hartford?

CARPY: On Goodwin Street and—yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Okay, and what was it like then? What do you remember about Goodwin Street in 1920s?

CARPY: It was very rural, unpaved. At that time, we did not have electricity yet or all the other modern conveniences. It was shortly after that that I remember we got them.

SUNDERLAND: Really? So what was your house like? What was it like inside without electricity?

CARPY: Well, we had to use the oil lamps and—

SUNDERLAND: The kind that sit on the table—

CARPY: On the table.

SUNDERLAND: —that you filled with—

CARPY: With the kerosene and—

SUNDERLAND: —kerosene. Ah-hah. Where were your parents from?

CARPY: **0:02:05.4** They were from Poland. Both of them.

SUNDERLAND: Oh okay, and how old were they when they came here?

CARPY: They must have been in their early twenties—

SUNDERLAND: They were young.

CARPY: —and that's how it was. I think—well, when my father came over, he first went to Scranton, Pennsylvania, and worked in the mine. Apparently, he didn't care for that type of work, so he came, I guess, and settled with some friends in South Windsor or East Windsor at that time. He worked on the farms for farmers here.

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember who the farmer was that he worked for?

CARPY: It was—I used to remember. King, over on—well, I guess now it's North King Street, I think. Just almost on the borderline of East Hartford and South Windsor.

SUNDERLAND: Oh interesting. So that's where King Street comes in from—

CARPY: I guess, then he bought his own farm in East Hartford and raised tobacco there.

SUNDERLAND: Oh where? Where was his farm?

CARPY: **0:03:21.6** Well, on Goodwin Street. That's where, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Oh okay. Hmm. So your mom and dad were farmers, then.

CARPY: **0:03:29.1** I think my mother came over, and I think she came over and stayed—because she's related to the Zagorskis, and apparently, that's where they met and were married. Because my sister was born in South Windsor in one of the King's houses.

SUNDERLAND: Really? So when he worked for the farmer, they lived there.

CARPY: Farmer—yeah, they lived in one of the houses.

SUNDERLAND: Your sister was an older sister?

CARPY: Yes.

SUNDERLAND: Then, they moved to their own house in—

CARPY: Yes, in East Hartford.

SUNDERLAND: —on Goodwin Street?

CARPY: Right.

SUNDERLAND: And he started his own farm.

CARPY: Yes.

SUNDERLAND: **0:04:11.2** Neat. So you born into that, and you had kerosene lamps.
[laughing]

CARPY: [laughing] Yes, until—I think after a few years, it must have been in the '20s they put the electricity through.

SUNDERLAND: **0:04:24.2** Uh-huh. Oh, that's neat—and did you go to school in East Hartford?

CARPY: Yes.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah?

CARPY: Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember the name of the school?

CARPY: Well, grammar school was the Burnside Grammar School, and there was the East Hartford High School, and I graduated from East Hartford in 1936.

SUNDERLAND: How did you get to school then?

CARPY: Well, we had to walk.

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. To grammar school?

CARPY: To grammar school. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: And also to high school?

CARPY: No, the high school, we walked to Burnside Center, and then we took the trolley to East Hartford because it was off of Main Street in East Hartford.

SUNDERLAND: So the trolley ran on Main Street, just as it ran down—

CARPY: **0:05:16.1** Well, Burnside Avenue and Main Street—

SUNDERLAND: Okay.

CARPY: —and to Hartford or wherever else!

SUNDERLAND: Do you miss the trolley?

CARPY: Well, it was what we had. It seemed to be better than walking! [both laughing]

SUNDERLAND: Was it cold on the trolley in the wintertime?

CARPY: I really don't remember.

SUNDERLAND: Don't remember? Yeah.

CARPY: I don't. I don't remember.

SUNDERLAND: I'm thinking today's buses are probably more comfortable?

CARPY: Oh yes, yes. Yes.

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember when the trolley stopped running?

CARPY: No, I don't.

SUNDERLAND: No?

CARPY: **0:05:50.6** No I don't.

SUNDERLAND: Were there any family stories that you remember your parents telling you of farm days or any stories you remember from those times when you were a kid?

CARPY: I think it was just hard work!

SUNDERLAND: It was just hard work. Did you have to work on your father's—your parents' farm?

CARPY: We did. In the summertime, you know, when they were cutting.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. Cutting tobacco?

CARPY: Tobacco, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: They mostly grew tobacco? Did they mostly grow tobacco or—?

CARPY: Right. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —grow corn or?

CARPY: No.

SUNDERLAND: Just tobacco.

CARPY: **0:06:27.8** Yeah, it was just tobacco. It wasn't a big farm, you know? It was—

SUNDERLAND: Right. So they grew it the way they grow around here now—

CARPY: The same. The same thing.

SUNDERLAND: —and who would they sell it to? Do you know where it went from the field?

CARPY: Well, I think the same process. The buyers came around, and I guess, purchased the tobacco. Some of them sorted at home, and some of them just sold it unsorted—and you know, it was sorted in the warehouses.

SUNDERLAND: When you say it was sorted, how did they sort it? Do you know?

CARPY: Well, by grades. I think the shade of the tobacco and the length of it, I guess.

SUNDERLAND: Ah-hah. So it's all the same plant, but some looks better than others. Is that how it's sorted?

CARPY: I guess so. That part I never got into!

SUNDERLAND: Oh okay! So you did have siblings. You had an older sister.

CARPY: I had a sister.

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. So it was just the two of you?

CARPY: Yes, just the two of us.

SUNDERLAND: **0:07:34.4** And you both went to the school, Burnside, and—

CARPY: Right.

SUNDERLAND: —and the high school.

CARPY: Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Hmm. What were your friends like then? Were they all mostly children of farmers?

CARPY: Well, yeah. The neighbors weren't that close, you know. Except after you went to school, then you got in friends with some of the other ones.

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. What did you do for fun when you were a kid in school?

CARPY: I guess you just made up something! [laughing]

SUNDERLAND: Right! Yeah.

CARPY: Or you helped out, you know, wherever you—

SUNDERLAND: Did you enjoy school?

CARPY: Yes, I did. I did.

SUNDERLAND: Were you a good student?

CARPY: **0:08:19.8** Well—

SUNDERLAND: Sort of? [laughing] What did you want to do when you grew up? Did you think about that when you were in school?

CARPY: Well, I thought I'd like to teach, but I just didn't—we just didn't have the means to go on to—

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. Yeah. So what did you do after high school?

CARPY: Oh, well, of course it was the Depression, and it was kind of hard to get—every place you went, especially the insurance companies, they wanted somebody with experience. So then, this friend and I—we went to one of the employment agencies they had.

SUNDERLAND: In East Hartford?

CARPY: No. This was in Hartford. Then, they would send you out probably like to fill in for someone. I think we figured, "Well, at least we'll get some experience that way by working."

SUNDERLAND: Right. Good thinking.

CARPY: Because she and I—we were in the commercial course, so we were looking for office work, like in the insurance companies. Of course, that was a big thing if you could get into one of the Travelers or Aetna or something.

SUNDERLAND: Sure. Right.

CARPY: So that's how we started.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh, and then you stayed in insurance?

CARPY: Well, we stayed and still looked for other higher paying—the same as everyone else does now too, and so—

SUNDERLAND: **0:09:59.9** Um-hm. Right. Did you work in insurance all your working life?

CARPY: Oh no. I didn't get into insurance.

SUNDERLAND: Oh you didn't? Oh okay.

CARPY: No, no. I got finally got into Pratt & Whitney and stayed there for 46 years.

SUNDERLAND: Holy smokes! Wow. So many people did. Thank goodness for—

CARPY: Yeah. Well, of course, then the war started, you just stayed.

SUNDERLAND: Ah. Do you have memories of that? Well, you have memories of the Depression. So what was it like then living in East Hartford during that time?

CARPY: Well, people found it very—like we were good because we were on a farm, so we had some animals that could be slaughtered and grew vegetables, but I mean, the ones in the city—and oh—they were just—anything to get a job. There was no problem for them to work on farms then because—

SUNDERLAND: Hmm, and the farmers could afford to hire them?

CARPY: Yes.

SUNDERLAND: And there was always the need or demand for tobacco, I guess?

CARPY: Yeah. You'd be surprised how many college boys were after jobs at that time too.

SUNDERLAND: **0:11:21.9** Sure. Wow. And then—

CARPY: They didn't have to get people coming in from other countries like they do now for the tobacco workers.

SUNDERLAND: Right, because they needed the jobs so much.

CARPY: Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: But most of your neighbors were farmers?

CARPY: Yeah, it was mostly farmers, or they worked for farmers. Then, some of them started selling land, and they started building.

SUNDERLAND: Did you parents hold on to their farm forever?

CARPY: Oh yes, quite a—and then when it started to get where—it was after the war and everything and people getting jobs in factories and all. Then, it was harder to get people to come and work that would like to work on the farms again. They were getting older too, so they did the same—sold a lot of the land, and they built homes on them.

SUNDERLAND: Did you live with your parents for quite a while?

CARPY: Yes, until they passed away, and then, I moved here.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. So when you were—well actually, also you lived during war time.

CARPY: **0:12:51.9** It was about—I moved to South Windsor in the late '70s, I think it was.

SUNDERLAND: We came to our house in '73, and I believe you were already here.

CARPY: I was already here?

SUNDERLAND: Yes. Pretty sure were—

CARPY: Well, it was probably in the late '60s or something, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Sixties. Sure, but before that—so your uncle lived here.

CARPY: Yes.

SUNDERLAND: So since you were a small child, you used to take the trolley here to visit him? Did you?

CARPY: Fortunately, my father had a car! One of those touring cars, you know?

SUNDERLAND: Oh. What year do you think it was?

CARPY: Well, it had to be the late '20s.

SUNDERLAND: Wow.

CARPY: In the late '20s, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah. Do you remember the street in the late '20s?

CARPY: Yeah. Well, it was just—it was—Main Street here was originally the street that was right to Springfield, which now Route 5 took over.

SUNDERLAND: That's right.

CARPY: **0:13:58.5** So this was the main—

SUNDERLAND: So it was different than now. It's quiet now.

CARPY: Oh yeah. Oh yes, yes.

SUNDERLAND: So was it quite busy?

CARPY: Oh no, no.

SUNDERLAND: No?

CARPY: No.

SUNDERLAND: There were not many cars on it then?

CARPY: Not at that time, yet. No.

SUNDERLAND: So your dad had a car in the late '20s. Did some people still use horses and buggies?

CARPY: Oh yes, oh yes.

SUNDERLAND: So you would see horses and buggies on the street, as well as—

CARPY: **0:14:24.2** Oh yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: What other visuals—what other memories might you have of the street, then? What was going on on the street when you drove down here?

CARPY: Well, we used to think this was way out!

SUNDERLAND: [laughing] From East Hartford!

CARPY: From East Hartford, yeah! We thought we were in rural country, but we always thought this was even more so.

SUNDERLAND: Things have changed quite a bit, haven't they?

CARPY: They have but for the better.

SUNDERLAND: Oh really? Oh good.

CARPY: Well, yeah. I'm sure.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah. The quality of life, you mean?

CARPY: Oh yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: So when you would visit your uncle, what was it like here at this house when you came? Was he a farmer?

CARPY: Yes, he was a farmer. Yeah. Well, they were—an uncle that I moved in with—they rented before they built this house. They didn't, you know—

SUNDERLAND: **0:15:34.4** So the uncle didn't live in this house?

CARPY: Not at that time. He was building this house that I remember when we came here.

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember the old house that was here? You had—

CARPY: No, I do not remember it. No.

SUNDERLAND: So you just remember hearing that it was taken down?

CARPY: I'd just seen this house being built. That's all. When we used to visit the other Zagorskis here.

SUNDERLAND: So where did the uncle live?

CARPY: Well, he—

SUNDERLAND: Somewhere on the street?

CARPY: Yes. He lived in the area somewhere on this street here, but I just don't remember it.

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember an approximate time frame when he built this house? Was it in the '30s?

CARPY: I would say in the late, late '20s. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. Yeah. Do you remember watching—

CARPY: **0:16:26.6** Because I think—I think I was about 6 years old.

SUNDERLAND: Oh. Well, no wonder it's hard to remember when he built the house! [both laughing]

CARPY: Harder now!

SUNDERLAND: Yeah, sure! Oh my goodness. Where did your uncle—so your uncle was your father's brother?

CARPY: My mother's brother.

SUNDERLAND: Your mother's brother. So he was originally from Poland, as well.

CARPY: Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Did he come here when your mother came?

CARPY: No, I think they came separately. I don't remember them talking about them coming together.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. You don't know who came first, especially now?

CARPY: I really don't.

SUNDERLAND: So he came here as well, and he bought land? He bought the land around here then—

CARPY: Yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: **0:17:11.6**—and began farming?

CARPY: Well, I think he must have started working, and then, yeah, and I'll have to find—

SUNDERLAND: Because this picture you showed me is of him and someone else farming tobacco.

CARPY: Oh pardon me. Oh yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Right?

CARPY: Oh yeah. He—

SUNDERLAND: And it's right around here, so the—

CARPY: Right—yeah, that’s right here.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah, your house was surrounded by tobacco. It came up—right up to Main Street, apparently. Not just down in the meadows.

CARPY: No, that’s right. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: This picture actually looks like the tobacco is growing right under where the house is, doesn’t it? Like it would be right here.

CARPY: Well, it’s right next to—yeah, it’s the land right to the—

SUNDERLAND: —next to the Zagorski’s garage.

CARPY: —the way we’re sitting, it’s right next to—right, yeah—to our right.

SUNDERLAND: **0:17:55.8** Right, right. Where the Donnelly’s house is now. That’s where this tobacco would have been.

CARPY: That’s right. Yes.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah. These are great pictures. How long did he live here?

CARPY: Well, he passed away in—

SUNDERLAND: Would it be the ’60s?

CARPY: No, he passed away probably late ’70s or early ’80s.

SUNDERLAND: Oh really?

CARPY: I’d have to look that up in the—

SUNDERLAND: Huh, and what was his name?

CARPY: Charles Zagorski.

SUNDERLAND: Charles Zagorski. Oh okay. So yes, okay, and the Zagorskis here, who also were farmers, still one farmer here, were related to him and to your mother—

CARPY: Yeah, right. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: **0:18:55.0** —and originally, I guess, from Poland?

CARPY: Right.

SUNDERLAND: Interesting. Charles Zagorski. So he sold to you. Then you took on the house, and you think it was in the '70s.

CARPY: Yeah, it was left to him—yeah—after my parents passed away. I was alone, and he was alone, and so—

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. So he was family, and you would take the trolley to visit?

CARPY: Yeah, I was his niece. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh, and did you take the trolley yourself to come and visit him?

CARPY: Oh no. This is already—

SUNDERLAND: This was already—okay.

CARPY: **0:19:30.1** (???) (inaudible).

SUNDERLAND: Yes! [laughing] So you were driving.

CARPY: Heh-heh-heh! **0:19:32.5** (???) (inaudible) Oh yes! Oh no, this was in the, as I said, either late '70s or early '80s that I came here.

SUNDERLAND: I think we were here, though, in the early '70s, and has much changed around you and around this house since you used to visit him, after he built the house?

CARPY: **0:19:55.5** Oh yeah—well—

SUNDERLAND: And the house next door?

CARPY: Of course, they put in Route 5, and people had cars, and well, yeah that's like—like now, more—

SUNDERLAND: Was that when this barn was behind you? The barn where they hung the tobacco to dry?

CARPY: Oh yeah, that was there. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: That was there. The land that the house was on—did it go all the way down to the river?

CARPY: Yes, it did.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah. Just as it looks now.

CARPY: Oh yes.

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. Hmm. Wow. So when you visited here on this street, you came in the touring car with your parents—

CARPY: Well, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —and visited here. You remember what the house across the street looked like?

CARPY: Well, same—

SUNDERLAND: **0:20:46.9** Same as it does now pretty much?

CARPY: Pretty much, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: But behind it are two new houses that were built after—

CARPY: Oh yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —but before that.

CARPY: There was just nothing. There was just, you know. To me, even along Main Street it was just where **0:21:05.2** (???) (inaudible) (s/l Beaufort's) and all those houses are built. It was just pasture.

SUNDERLAND: Right, right. So the Jacob and Abigail Strong house directly across the street, where I live—

CARPY: Yeah, and the one across—

SUNDERLAND: —and north—oh, the one across—

CARPY: —was yeah, those two—

SUNDERLAND: Those two were there. The old Bancroft house—

CARPY: —were the only—only things, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Just north of the Strong house, though, before those two, the **0:21:33.7** (???) (inaudible) (s/l Beaufort) house and the Jones house went in the two ranches there. That was pasture.

CARPY: **0:21:38.5** Right.

SUNDERLAND: And tell me what you used to see in the pasture. Was it summertime?

CARPY: Well, my recollection of it was in the summertime there always came a group that they called “gypsies,” and they had tents and spent the summer in the part that looked like the pasture, and I guess they made baskets and little tables from the wood from trees that they must have cut down. In fact, I thought my uncle had one that I would look—I thought I looked up in the attic, because I know he had some of the articles they made. I thought there was a little table up there, but I guess it’s gone—so I was going to keep it for Gloria. But I’m so surprised. Everyone I talk to doesn’t seem to remember those—what we called the gypsies.

SUNDERLAND: It was before their time here, apparently.

CARPY: So—

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember them coming into town?

CARPY: No, I don’t remember. All I remember is when we—of course, we didn’t come that often, you know? We didn’t come every week here, but when we did come, especially in the summertime, I remember several years, and then, that they used to come and they were—

SUNDERLAND: Did they spend the whole summer?

CARPY: Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Really?

CARPY: Yeah, with families. You know? They had children and all—

SUNDERLAND: **0:23:23.7** Did they live in tents?

CARPY: —and they had—well, yeah, they had tents that they lived in.

SUNDERLAND: Like what kind of tents? What did the tents look like? Just—

CARPY: Well, they were like from the canvas or whatever. They were like regular tents, but I mean, they—

SUNDERLAND: Did you go in the tent to buy wares, or did they have tables set up outside of the tents?

CARPY: I couldn't remember too much. I just remember, you know, seeing them—and I don't know whether they worked for the farmers during the summer. I don't really know what they did. I mean, because it was usually just on a Sunday that we would come when we did come.

SUNDERLAND: Did you know Mr. Bancroft who lived in the house across the street?

CARPY: I didn't. Personally, I didn't know him. I've heard the name, you know, and—

SUNDERLAND: Did you ever see him?

CARPY: Well, I just—I know my uncle was quite friendly with him because I think he used to speak about him, but as far as my meeting him, I don't think I met him or anything, because he was elderly already when I came here. Because he was elderly.

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. Did you know any of the other neighbors? You knew the Zagorskis because you were related.

CARPY: Well, the Zagorskis, yeah, and then the other—well, most of them I just knew by sight, not really where I met them because I still worked when I came here, so I didn't get to know them too—

SUNDERLAND: **0:25:04.6** But you were related to the older Zagorskis.

CARPY: Oh yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Do you remember visiting them—

CARPY: Yes, I do.

SUNDERLAND: —when you came to—yeah. Do you ever talk about any family memories when you visited together?

CARPY: Yeah, well, we—

SUNDERLAND: Did they also own farmland here that—

CARPY: Oh yes. Yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —went down to the river, as well, right?

CARPY: Yeah. They have—yeah. It was like all the others!

SUNDERLAND: Hmm. Well, let's see. Any other memories that—

CARPY: But I mean—no, I—as far as anything is historically, that was the only thing I remember. Well, I remember, I think, there was also an ice barn—

SUNDERLAND: An ice house.

CARPY: —ice house, yeah, and a—

SUNDERLAND: **0:25:56.1** On Strong Road.

CARPY: —on Strong Road, yeah. I remember that because I remember in the wintertime I think we even skated on the ice there before they started to cut it.

SUNDERLAND: That's right.

CARPY: But I mean, kind of vague, you know? Of my—

SUNDERLAND: Sure. I understand that—on Bancroft Brook—that's what that's called there—that runs across Strong Road—

CARPY: Yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —and there's the bridge which is the road, and on, I believe, the south side of Strong is where the little ice house was.

CARPY: Is it? Well, I knew it was **0:26:34.5** (???) (inaudible).

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. But you used to ice skate on the north side of Strong—

CARPY: I think, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —and I remember being told that Ben Bancroft, the old man who lived in the house, used to string lights for the kids to be able to ice skate out here. Do you remember lights there at all?

CARPY: **0:26:49.1** Oh probably, too. No, we came in the daytime, so they wouldn't be. Yeah, it's usually in the—you know, like Sunday afternoons, so I don't remember the—

SUNDERLAND: Right. Um-hm. It's too bad it's more of a stream now.

CARPY: Oh yeah, because like—

SUNDERLAND: It used to be a pond.

CARPY: Oh yeah. That's why, that's why, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: A big pond. Yeah. It just filled in.

CARPY: Yeah, and of course, water probably got—as they started building in other areas, it probably got directed someplace else too, so it just is a stream now.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah. A lot of changes here, right?

CARPY: Yes! [laughing]

SUNDERLAND: Are there any changes you don't like that happened here since you were a kid coming down here? You had such fond memories of the pastures and more open space.

CARPY: Well, yeah. But no—because you were happy to see it getting more populated and all.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. Yeah. Do you have any friends still that you had when you were growing up or family members here that you had?

CARPY: **0:28:01.0** No. Most of them have been—have passed away, but it was just memories.

SUNDERLAND: Yes, yes.

CARPY: It was just memories.

SUNDERLAND: But it sounds like you were—have happy memories.

CARPY: But I mean, it was something different to see the gypsies, you know? So that's

really my memory of it, but it seems it must have been a lot before everybody else's because everyone I talk to—no, I don't remember! I don't remember!

SUNDERLAND: [laughing] Well, you have a good memory!

CARPY: [laughing] Well, I hope so!

SUNDERLAND: You kept very active. You've been very active. You were always out there raking your lawn. You've always done that. Raked it yourself—

CARPY: Well, yeah. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: —and kept in great shape. Good for you.

CARPY: I like the outdoors.

SUNDERLAND: **0:28:56.2** Right. Well, it's from that farm blood, right?

CARPY: Well, yeah. I've always lived in the country too, you know? In the country. It was country in East Hartford and country here.

SUNDERLAND: Right, and Route 5 going through helped.

CARPY: And Route—it took away a lot of it. Commercial traffic—and away.

SUNDERLAND: Yeah. Right. So it kept this country?

CARPY: Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: As opposed to East Hartford which became more of a city.

CARPY: More. Well, yeah—Main. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Do you ever drive by your parents' property and—

CARPY: Of course, it's all built up around there now too when I—

SUNDERLAND: Really?

CARPY: —yeah, like—

SUNDERLAND: Is their house still there?

CARPY: **0:29:38.1** Yes. Yeah.

SUNDERLAND: It is. Was it an old house, do you know? Or did your father build it?

CARPY: Well, it was only a four-room when they moved in there, and they added on, you know.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. So it was there when he bought it. It was a standing house.

CARPY: Yes. It had a house, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: Um-hm. So it's fairly old. Wow.

CARPY: Yeah, so that—

SUNDERLAND: Well, thank you, Helen, for sharing your memories that you do have of this area!

CARPY: Well, I wish I had—I wish I had more to tell you about my memories of South Windsor and the good old days!

SUNDERLAND: Right. Well, I should ask you. Do you have any memories of Wood Memorial Library? Do you remember that being the only library on Main Street, and then, the big library—the main public library was built, and then—do you have any memories of—?

CARPY: Oh—well, I mean I just remember that it was here.

SUNDERLAND: Uh-huh. Did you ever go there to that library?

CARPY: Uh—I have been in it, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: **0:30:41.6** I mean, has it—when you were younger, when it was the only library?

CARPY: No, no. No.

SUNDERLAND: Okay. Because you were more relating to East Hartford and—okay.

CARPY: Oh yeah, I was already—yeah, yeah.

SUNDERLAND: All right. Well, we should wrap this up, then, so you can get on to your coffee and your day! [laughing]

CARPY: Okay! Okay!

SUNDERLAND: And raking your leaves.

CARPY: Oh!

SUNDERLAND: I thank you so much, Helen, for doing this.

CARPY: I hope it's something valuable as far as the addition, but I mean—

SUNDERLAND: Yeah, it's good. It's all good.

CARPY: It seemed to be more East Hartford than South Windsor—

SUNDERLAND: No, it's half and half.

CARPY: **0:31:15.2**—since I spend more time there.

SUNDERLAND: I'll stop this now.

[0:31:19.4 end of interview]

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