



**Margaret Harlow**  
**Interviewed by Beverly Bishop**  
**October 7, 2004**

**Beverly Bishop:** This is Beverly Bishop speaking. I'm from Stowe, Vermont and I'm working on the Oral History Project for the Town of Hartford and I'm sitting today with Margaret Harlow and her daughter Peggy McDerment and it's October 7th, 2004.

**Margaret Harlow:** I'm, I was born in Hartland, Vermont but then we bought a place here in Hartford Village and on Christian Street, Town of Hartford and that was probably, I forgot 1934 -- 14, and that's where my sister was born and we lived there until 1918, and my father died with the flu and pneumonia and at that time and then that winter we couldn't stay there so mother was from Canada and she went back home and took us children with her for the winter and then we came back in the spring to her place and she went to work for the people that she came from

Montreal down to work with, they took her back to work at their family and that was the Cone family in Hartford.

**Beverly Bishop:** Spell, K-o-n-e?

**Margaret Harlow:** C-o-n-e. C-o-n-e, Cone, and then in 1920.

**Peggy McDerment:** Then she married him.

**Beverly Bishop:** Your sister?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, my mother remarried.

**Beverly Bishop:** Your mother. Oh, your mother remarried?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes and we moved down on, on that Route 14 which is the main street through Hartford Village and right across from the parsonage and lived there with them until 1941 and I went to school from that place, the school was on Christian Street at that time and I came up to school everyday with my sister and that was eight grades at that time.

**Beverly Bishop:** Really, uh-huh.

**Margaret Harlow:** And which is interesting about the little house where we lived there's a spring just above it and the spring was taken from our place and but then somebody else took over the spring, two people in Hartford took over the spring but being the spring was on our property we only had to pay \$5.00 a year for our water and at that time that spring was quite valuable because it took in a lot of the people on our street as well as the school and then down the other street in Hartford Village but it got so people, they kept being more people all the time and using more water, they had to go back onto town water but we stayed there as long as we lived in that house.

**Beverly Bishop:** Which was how long?

**Margaret Harlow:** We moved out and sold the place in 1973.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow.

**Margaret Harlow:** And then we moved down to a trailer park on the North Hartland Road and, which is still in White River Junction and lived there for twenty-five years and then moved to Wilder to a senior housing for four years and then came here to Family Terrace on account of my husband's health and I wasn't able to do all the cooking and the housework, take care of him and, then been here ever since.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep. What do you remember about say grandparents? Did you have grandparents now?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, well they were in Canada, the Banes of Ontario in Canada and we'd go up to see them every once in awhile and my mother was married up there to my father and then we went up to visit them after she married Mr. Dutton too, Percy Dutton my stepfather and, but we go back every once in awhile to visit.

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you remember anything about them? How would you describe them?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yes. Oh, yeah, I got pictures of them.

**Beverly Bishop:** How would you describe them like?

**Margaret Harlow:** He was a big man and she was a little bit of a woman but they had twelve children, two of them were twins but the twins only lived a day so she brought up ten of them and they all stayed in Canada but one uncle came to Oregon to live. So I had him growing up all my life and the cousin and his family, yes, we kept very close together with the one here but we're also very close to all the ones in Canada but since then they have all died and there's just all these cousins left and a lot of them are going, I've lost a lot of them this year it seems though but.

**Beverly Bishop:** What did the family do to make a living?

**Margaret Harlow:** They were farmers, and my father was a farmer too, he lived in White River Junction on that road to North Hartland and then of course we had at home we had a cow which we had to pasture out because we didn't have land on our property for a pasture and then we had a pig and we had chickens and we had a big garden and my mother had a big flower garden.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did the children, did, what was your family make-up, your?

**Margaret Harlow:** Just my sisters and I, that's all, was just the two of them, the two girls cause she didn't, was born in three years later than I did and I was 1911 and she was 1914.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** And they took her away the day my father died and she was watching out the window and didn't know the cars going by, their horses are, and, and that it was her own father's funeral but.

**Beverly Bishop:** Was she younger than you?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, three years.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** And she's gone now she died in '85.

**Beverly Bishop:** How old were, was she, were you when your father died?

**Margaret Harlow:** Seven, and she was four.

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you remember him at all?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yes, I remember the fun times I had, the, the, he pulled me in a cart, I remember that and of course he worked for Governor Pingree when he came back to Hartford from North Hartland he worked at a big farm down the, the Willard Farm in North Hartland, but then some way he got rid of Pingree, he got him away and, and had him come back to Hartford and that, that was where Don my father, I mean Robert Simonds was my father, was my middle name is, was Simonds you see, and I married.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Margaret Simonds with an "D" in it, and he had to take the Governor to White River everyday in the office with the horse and buggy, somewhere I got a picture of that.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was his job with the Governor?

**Margaret Harlow:** Just to take care of the place, the farm and all, I mean the place, the horse and the buggy and all the things outside and the gardens and all and then he did take him to work everyday back and forth, oh yeah they were very fond of us as a family cause they helped us buy the house when we bought it, they signed the papers.

**Beverly Bishop:** They meaning?

**Margaret Harlow:** The Governor, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh wow.

**Margaret Harlow:** The Governor and his wife, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** How interesting. What, can you remember if you had to describe your father what he was like?

**Margaret Harlow:** Peggy's got the nice picture of him. Nice looking, nice curly dark hair, none of us girls got it, we were upset.



**Peggy McDerment:** I would've described him as a hunk.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** He was, he was nice.

**Beverly Bishop:** And so, but was he, you know was he definitely, was he loud, soft-spoken?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, oh no, no and he met my mother in church they both sang in the choir and that's how they started going together.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, did they carry on with music in the home?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, we had piano that the two girls were suppose to take piano lessons but neither one of us panned out that way but we still kept on singing, we've always been in the choir.

**Beverly Bishop:** In what church?

**Margaret Harlow:** In the Hartford Congregational Church. Yeah, there right in, it's right on the, the Route 14 just beyond where I lived. Oh yes, my mother had a lot to do with the suppers and things in the church and we went to church just about every single Sunday and my stepfather he had the job of filling the furnace up with wood into the morning and getting the fire going and when he went, he had a cow too and he'd would fix the furnace and then go on to milk his cow which was in the building beyond the church and then he also had, he was the mailman for Dothan and Jericho District in White River Junction so he had two horses at the place across the road from my place where we lived and had sleigh in the wintertime and then the wheels in the summer, or as he got older he did have a Ford pick-up that he delivered the mail.

That was my job to feed the horses at noon and one day I didn't do it, my mother called up the neighbors at the school and had me come home and feed Noah, and I didn't like him, he crowded me over in the stall, and I, I had to come home and feed him that day and then go back to school, I remember that.

And we had a big garden down there at the Dutton house, down near the river and that was oh, an awful lot of steps to go down to that garden and back and he, he had pigs and he also had chickens too, there so. Oh, yeah we helped to get all our own meals in, we didn't have to buy, although we did have good stores in Hartford Village, two of them, one was a meat store and the other was a grocery store and the post office is inside the store at that time.

**Beverly Bishop:** So how would you describe your mother?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, she was nice.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** But she had the straight hair, she didn't have the curly hair either, we took it. Oh, yes, all that family, her family was all nice. Yeah, being a big family like that six boys and six girls it was.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was their interests if they weren't working? I mean did they have?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well the girls more or less in her family were, worked on the farm. My grandfather had a farm and they worked on the farm there until they went to work in Montreal and that's where my mother got, saw the ad in the Montreal newspaper about the job down here in Hartford and that she answered it and got the job.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was the job?

**Margaret Harlow:** Working in a house, as a housekeeper.

**Beverly Bishop:** For?

**Margaret Harlow:** The Cone, the Cone family.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, for the Cone family?

**Margaret Harlow:** Uh-huh.

**Beverly Bishop:** See what I mean about getting distracted.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, and they had, the Cones had the mill, the big woolen mill across the river so that he was busy everyday and then their children grew up and got married and they had houses around their place right here in Hartford and lived there too and then when I got older and going to school down at White River because I went through the eight grades in Hartford and then I had to go to White River to go to the high school and we came home every noon for dinner and then walked back to school and then after school I helped take care of the Cone family children, not the, the Cone's children's families, children when they were growing up, they were babies and all and as each one came along I was there to help take care of the children. I had to have shoes to walk to White River, yep, that was a long, that was just about two miles to White River and that was cold in the wintertime.

**Beverly Bishop:** Can you think of some of your family traditions that you had for example say Christmas or Thanksgiving and all those holidays?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, we always had it at the Dutton house, we always had it there because he had his children come home for Christmas and we quite often had those Sunday dinners and then he had a brother that lived in White River and his wife and her sister and quite often we had them and that's where my mother had big meals to cook on, on Sundays for all these people that, you might not both his children but one of them and then the brother and his wife and her sister and they'd come in after church for dinner and that meant that my mother had to have a good meal and they always put it in the oven to cook while we were at church and then it was done when we got back.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you girls have some chores about that to help with?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yes, I was the boy I had to do all the outside work, down in the, in the garden and all the hoeing and everything, the shoveling in the wintertime, I remember that because I was the oldest and my sister was the one that helped inside with my mother, yeah, and then the son and his wife they lived downstairs under us in an apartment in the house and they had a, a daughter and then finally it wasn't big enough for them, see they wanted more room for her to play outside so then they moved out and then they rented it to other outsiders. Yeah that was quite a time and a busy time. Oh I did the, lot of the things in church, too. I was working in the Sunday school like the Sunday school teacher and then finally I became the superintendent and I did things there as well as afterwards I sang in the choir all the time.

**Beverly Bishop:** What, what were your duties as superintendent?

**Margaret Harlow:** In the Sunday school?

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** That's quite a ways back. Yes, you had to take care and be sure you had teachers for everything, for all the classes and all, and then you had to have the, be sure and have everything going smoothly, I remember that, then Christian order in the afternoon, that was the same way with your, there are people didn't have outside activities like skiing and everything

then so they did come to these things that we had at church and then the summer we planned hikes and things, climbing mountains and doing things like that.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow, so you got involved in planning those kind of activities too?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well when I was superintendent of the Sunday school or the youth fellowship it was all those things to do, yes, we, we had a busy life.

**Beverly Bishop:** And now how did you meet your husband?

**Margaret Harlow:** At Christmas party, he came from Hanover down to a Christmas party and it was next to the church and he brought me home that night, the next day he came back and wanted to know where he left me, and that started it. He'd been to the party before so he took me home but he didn't exactly remember where he left me.

**Beverly Bishop:** So he found you again where, at church?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, he did. He had to go back to the people where he had super and find out where I lived the next day and we got going and, and we have 65 years and this, this was our 66th and he died before the anniversary so yeah. Oh yes, we had a good life we, he was a ham radio operator so he kept busy with that and had made a lot of friends that way and then he did a lot of the things of course before he, he met me he was in civil defense and what's the other one? Well, no, he was a State Guard and then the National Guard later

**Peggy McDerment:** The State Guard and National Guard.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, and then he was in civil defense after we got married, and then he worked for Twin State Electric in White River Junction and then he went up and worked for Dartmouth College.

**Beverly Bishop:** Really, what did he do up there?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well, he was doing, in fact in civil defense he started doing the, the counting trees and things up on Mount Washington and keeping track of the different kind of trees there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh really.

**Margaret Harlow:** And then that was good penmanship for him so when he came, he worked for Twin State Electric that's what he did too, was ordering and buying and stuff like that and then the man from the college who come down and order stuff for the college and he ended up getting

Don to go work for him up at the college and he was fifteen years in the electric light, Twin State Electric and fourteen years at the college.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow.

**Peggy McDerment:** At the college he worked in Thayer School.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** And they were doing, back then at the time they were doing some atmospheric research, you know listening for sounds, see if there's anybody out there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Huh.

**Peggy McDerment:** So he'd take me up once in awhile and you know he'd play a tape because they had a tape running and it was like this set of noises happens in the morning and they used to call this set of noises the Dawn Chorus, you know just stuff like that, kinda interesting.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, sounds very.

**Margaret Harlow:** We had a lot of chance to travel with that job, too, with the crowd from up there that go ahead and put up antennas in different places, foreign places oh, goodness, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** So he went where, like where?

**Margaret Harlow:** I don't remember, up in northern part of Canada.

**Beverly Bishop:** Huh.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, and then of course we had an interest in going through the, at the place because I took care of the garden there and the, the trees and all, we had apple trees and oh, everything, we had all kinds of things on that property and --

**Peggy McDerment:** Raspberries, blueberries, rhubarb.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, and the big fruit, big flower garden besides and then mother got sick and had to go to the nursing home and I bring her back every once in awhile when her flowers are out because I want her to see the garden and then, it was a nursing home right there in Hartford Village so that she could come back and stay with me, but then she begun to have little shocks and I'd have to take her back but they were good about taking her back and that was back in the beginning of these nursing homes, in 1963 she died so that she left the place that Don and I, and I never went to work I stayed at home because we had blueberries and a lot of blackberries

and I sold them and I sold some of the flowers out of her garden on Memorial Day time and then my, I, I had my garden then was more or less like it is today, and I had great big piles of oh, what weeds and everything else that I've got. What do you call them today?

**Beverly Bishop:** Compost.

**Peggy McDerment:** Compost?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah but what do you call them?

**Beverly Bishop:** Mulch?

**Peggy McDerment:** Mulch?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, the, the food now.

**Beverly Bishop:** Food.

**Peggy McDerment:** Organic?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, organic, I said back then mine was organic, the first of the organic, I had a lot of the compost piles, had awful good results and then I canned and froze things.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Big twenty-foot freezer and I froze things.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did, and what, I know you have one daughter?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, I have a son, too, they're both born the 12th of February two days apart.

**Peggy McDerment:** Two years.

**Margaret Harlow:** I mean two years apart, yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** That's better.

**Beverly Bishop:** Both in February.

**Margaret Harlow:** And February 12th it's the same day my mother died on February 12th and then eventually the doctor died on February 12th that delivered us.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, my goodness.



**Margaret Harlow:** So then the doctor took care of my mother too and he was laughing when the two kids were born, and then she was to, and he says you want everything on the 12th of February, don't you, so.

**Beverly Bishop:** That's kind of creepy, you know when it comes around you must kind of hope nothing happens.

**Margaret Harlow:** No, it didn't bother like that, but I know I asked Mrs. Stevens, I said did the doctor die on the 12th of February and she said yes, he did.

**Peggy McDerment:** Gosh.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow.

**Peggy McDerment:** Now if I could interrupt here, mom said she didn't work but she worked in the mill for a little while.

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, that was --

**Peggy McDerment:** Before I was born.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Peggy McDerment:** So tell her what you did over there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** That was interesting.

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, well, I, in the mill I first went in as a specter and that was where you picked out the specs out of the coffers it was called, being a woolen mill there were some specs in it, and that was before it was washed. No, was it or after? I guess it was washed. I don't remember getting that dirty off of it and then last of all Mr. Cone called me in and wanted to know if I would do some perching for him, so I ended up doing some of the perching which is going over the new clothe and, and just checking it out for holes or any specs in it or anything like that, so I did a little of that but.

**Beverly Bishop:** How did you like that?

**Margaret Harlow:** It was all right until the children started coming.

**Peggy McDerment:** She's probably glad she had us.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yep, yeah I only --

**Beverly Bishop:** So what year were you born?

**Margaret Harlow:** 1911, I'm ninety-three.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow, you are?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow, that's hard to believe, my goodness.

**Margaret Harlow:** I know, my doctors say so too. The doctor I have now is a woman doctor and her name is Margaret too so we, she says that she thinks I could live to be a hundred the only thing would be a blood clot so but every doctor I have they said you know people your age usually they can't even walk in here, there's nothing the matter with you, I am taking a mess of pills.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Not bad but.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow, that's amazing.

**Margaret Harlow:** Six a day I guess really, not including those you buy over the counter.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, yep. Can you remember your school days, your early, early school days like your first day of school? What was that like?

**Margaret Harlow:** I don't remember that so much.

**Beverly Bishop:** Or any particular day in, in your school life?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, I remember all going to school everyday.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was that like?

**Margaret Harlow:** I had a -- I don't remember the school so much.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was --

**Margaret Harlow:** But I didn't, I didn't stay back in any grade I went right ahead, I know that.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was the name of the school that you --

**Margaret Harlow:** Just the Hartford Grammar School, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Who was in it with you? Do you remember some of the other, the teachers and some of the other children?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, I remember some, not all the teachers now; I guess I have to do some thinking.

**Beverly Bishop:** What is, what is -- I mean like if you remember one, that's good.

**Margaret Harlow:** Well Mr. Dolney was the eighth grade, the seventh and eighth grade teacher.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** And kind of kept in with that family until she died, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** What do you mean by kept in with them?

**Margaret Harlow:** I was quite friendly with them.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Right up until after she, she died, even though they lived in White River I'd stop in and see her everyday going home from school.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. Was it a one room or was there?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, there was -- We had two grades, first, second, third, and fourth and fifth and sixth and seventh, and eighth in Hartford, and then we went to White River to the high school and the, that was down near the store then which is now a children's school, young children, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you remember anything about the higher grades? Who were some of your friends in high, when you were growing up? I know you must have been pretty close to your sister.

**Margaret Harlow:** Well, oh, yes, but then all the girls on our street I knew.

**Beverly Bishop:** What were some of them?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, heavens.

**Peggy McDerment:** The Mitchells, Ruth Mitchell.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, the Mitchell family and, and there was the Putney family across the street from them and Shepherd family, let's see I was thinking of all the houses that was on that street in Hartford Village across from the library and there was, they took them all down but one and that's still there now and they took in, I've forgotten how many family now, that was thirteen

or fifteen families on that street and they finally torn, tore them all down but this one that they've kept.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now is your house still standing?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, it's gone.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was it like?

**Margaret Harlow:** My stepsister was in it; she got a fire in it, and disappeared.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, it was a two family house.

**Beverly Bishop:** What do you remember about the area around it, did you --

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, I remember all the, all the families on that street.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, how about -- What are, what are some of the things that you did when you had a little bit of free time? Did you have a favorite friend that you got together with and did, did things?

**Margaret Harlow:** I don't think so. I don't think I had that much time although I did do some, with some of them once in awhile but in the wintertime we'd, I'd borrow a pair of skis and we'd go up on the hill and take our lunch and eat it up on the hill in back of the church with some of them, but and then I'd go skating down on the river and borrow a pair of skates and did that, and skate down there, but really I don't remember.

**Beverly Bishop:** How about summertime?

**Peggy McDerment:** You had swimming lessons.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you swim?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh yeah I went swimming.

**Beverly Bishop:** Where did you swim?

**Margaret Harlow:** In the White River but it was up the, up the river more because it wasn't deep enough in back of my house. The dam let out so therefore the water went down back of my house.

**Beverly Bishop:** The dam went out?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, so that.

**Beverly Bishop:** Because of, because of a flood or?

**Margaret Harlow:** No I think it was –

**Peggy McDerment:** Ice jam.

**Margaret Harlow:** -- the, yeah, and the mill wasn't using the dam anymore the water there you see because the mill burned eventually and they weren't using that water.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** I guess they went onto town and bought it before that too.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. What was I just going to say? Do you remember, I mean what, what are some of the big dates of, in, in your life some of the big periods of time that life changed for you?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well both my children went in the service so. Peggy went in the Air Force after she graduated from high school and Ronnie went in the Navy and so then they were gone so Don and I had more time some on our hands and we had joined the Harlow Association then so then we did a lot of traveling and we got on the committee with, genealogy committee.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** Therefore we did a lot of traveling. We went to Nova Scotia and we went to, around different places and did genealogy we went to different houses and worked on the genealogy because at that time you see before they didn't take any of the women in genealogy it was just the men so when we started doing genealogy for the Harlows we went back and picked up all the mothers and that meant a lot more work and that, but it was interesting. I don't know how many years we were in that, and I still do it here in this area because there's nobody here but Peggy to help me pick it out and there's so many of them over in New Hampshire that don't have the Harlow name you don't know they're Harlows and you have to, we know them because they go to the association and a lot of them we gain through people in other areas that their, their children.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** And that's, I find that so interesting.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep. I'm going to take you back, back to 1917 when your father died. How was that for the family, I mean what happened?

**Margaret Harlow:** It was hard because mother and I both had the flu too and cause they took my sister away and.

**Beverly Bishop:** Where did she go?

**Margaret Harlow:** She went down to one of the families on the street and mother and I slept in the same room so it was easier for the people to take care of us and him but he wouldn't keep his pill down, he kept spitting it out all the time so that's why he died.

**Beverly Bishop:** But then you had to move?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well we tried to stay there but then we found out that winter mother had to get rid of all the animals and everything because we were going to Canada to stay with her folks, and then we came back the next spring and then she got her job back at Cones and went back to work. That wasn't easy either because I remember we'd come home from school and we didn't have anybody to stay with us Peggy, Margaret, well, Arlene and I came home and I had the chimneys to clean on the lamps, odd jobs to do and then we did some sliding, we had to stay home, we couldn't go in the neighbors or anything we had to stay at home when she was working.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you were very young, your sister was really young, so you must have been what eight or seven or eight?

**Margaret Harlow:** I was seven when he died.

**Beverly Bishop:** So maybe --

**Margaret Harlow:** So I'd be eight.

**Beverly Bishop:** Eight.

**Margaret Harlow:** But my birthday wasn't 'til July.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you weren't even eight years old and you were taking care of a four?

**Margaret Harlow:** My sister, yep.

**Beverly Bishop:** Five year old, four year old, oh goodness. Now wait a minute, you were going to school?



**Margaret Harlow:** Not then.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh you weren't, not when you were eight?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well I mean at seven I was, I, I had to stay back a year when I went to Canada.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah, but who watched your sister when you were at school?

**Margaret Harlow:** I did.

**Beverly Bishop:** While you were at school?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, not that I, I mean I don't, never we went back to school that year but I don't know.

**Beverly Bishop:** Boy that's a lot of responsibility, isn't it?

**Margaret Harlow:** If we did we come home after school when school let out and I stayed there until my mother got home from work. We had good neighbors but I don't nobody came over, nobody took care of us, I remember cause we went out and sledding and do, did things outdoors I remember that but.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you have a good sliding hill?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, oh yes, our property was practically all hills, hills all around, our big vegetable garden was on a side hill, I guess her flower garden wasn't on a, too much of a hill. It slanted a little yeah but from her garden up everything begun to go up, the asparagus bins going up and then further up was the --

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you remember say the flood of '27?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** You were how old then?

**Margaret Harlow:** We were down living on, on Main Street then and my mother was afraid that night.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you were a teenager I guess?

**Peggy McDerment:** Yes.

**Margaret Harlow:** Cat wouldn't come in the house that night and my mother was afraid because she said that our house had been across the street where the parsonage was at one time and

they had moved it over on this river bank and our garden was down below that and then the hen pen and it came way up, half way up in the hen pen, water did and the cat would go out on the porch but he wouldn't come in to eat or anything and that bothered my mother she was afraid our house would slide into the river.

**Beverly Bishop:** Boy, I don't blame her.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, oh that was an awful night, being dark you know and then hearing all those crashing of the houses and things coming down the river and hitting the bridge and eventually the bridge went out. Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Boy, so it happened mostly at night?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** It just seems so terrifying. Do you remember the rest of the town whether, do you, do you recall what it looked like or?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, in the morning we went down and looked at some of the houses and thing on the street down below us where the water had all come in and all. I was working for the, one of the school teachers at that time and I took care of her house, her apartment and also her father lived downstairs and his got flooded and I remember for years you'd find that silt, that dry silt in the cracks of his apartment. It was awful. I didn't have to clean out his apartment the, some of the student came from Hanover, cleaned out a lot of the houses.

**Peggy McDerment:** Yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah. Did any of the people that you know lose their houses --

**Margaret Harlow:** No.

**Beverly Bishop:** -- or anything?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, not there, the West Hartford people lost theirs. They were above us they lost a lot of those houses, came down through and a lot of them were, and the West Hartford Bridge came down and smashed against the Hartford Bridge.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh my, gosh.

**Margaret Harlow:** Well that was, theirs was I think a wooden bridge and it came down and but the White River one didn't go out. Our bridge, part of it, went down below the mill across from the mill and sunk in the river.

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you think it's still there?

**Margaret Harlow:** No I guess, I think they took it out what was there and then they, when they put in the new bridge they put it higher up.

**Beverly Bishop:** Uh-huh, probably some roads were washed out?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you have to change your routes of how you got to places?

**Margaret Harlow:** Not really, railroad track took a beating but that was across the river but then further up the river the railroad track took a beaten, beating and that that was out to West Hartford.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, I suppose you got to go up there and find somebody.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. How are you doing? Are you, I don't want to tire you out cause we can continue on cause there's another whole side of this tape, I'd love to hear some more but I don't want to wear you out either. So are you feeling up to --

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** -- continuing? Oh good.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Glad to hear that. It's hard to see the, this it's almost at the end but --

**UFV:** Hi.

(The end of side one of tape one. The beginning of side two of tape one.)

**Beverly Bishop:** So Seth Parker was who?

**Margaret Harlow:** He was born in Hartford in the parsonage and then he went on to be Seth Parker on the radio. We all listened to him every week.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well, was that a local station, or was that something that was in, in Hartford?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** But I mean he, just it happened to be he was born in Hartford and of course being his parents lived there, we knew of them.

**Beverly Bishop:** So what kind of a trip did he take?

**Margaret Harlow:** Gee, I shouldn't have started it now you got this on.

**Beverly Bishop:** That's okay.

**Margaret Harlow:** National House gives Seth Parker ovation in Washington.

**Beverly Bishop:** So he must have been a known name, you know known nationally then?

**Margaret Harlow:** "Philips Lord known to radio listeners as Seth Parker of Jonesport, Maine today was presented the House of Representatives, Snow republican Maine Snow said, 'Lord was the source of more joy, contentment and cheer to the people of this country than any other individual'".

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow, so he was a --

**Margaret Harlow:** Nice looking man then.

**Beverly Bishop:** He was a well known?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, and he --

**Beverly Bishop:** Uh-huh. Wow, isn't that interesting?

**Peggy McDerment:** Radio star back before they had television.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, yep. I'm gonna to take a photograph of that. I'm going to take a photograph of that after but I'm gonna to wait, but I wanted to just mention that I did take some photographs of that long bridge that was gone before the turn of the century.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** That huge, long bridge and the house, the picture of your house that you bought, that your parents bought in '14, 1914, right and then I took a picture of the, the, the Carrie Newton house.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** With the tree on top from a flood that happened in the '30s.

**Margaret Harlow:** Well that was high wind.

**Beverly Bishop:** That was what?

**Margaret Harlow:** High wind.

**Beverly Bishop:** High wind just took that thing right down, wow, but and we had already talked about the flood of '27.

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** So what, I'd like to also know what your feeling, what were, what did you go through in the '30s when it was the Depression and maybe even leading up to it during the '20s when everything was gay and you were, you were a teenager towards the end of the '20s but there was prohibition right?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well that was when I lived down there at the Dutton house on Main Street then and, and we had our own garden and our own pig and stuff like that so that we had hens and all but we seemed to get by but.

**Beverly Bishop:** So this was in the '30s?

**Margaret Harlow:** And being he was a rural mail carrier so he always got his pay.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now this was your stepfather?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now so he carried the mail throughout the whole area?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** In the rural parts?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, well, yeah, through Dothan and Jericho District.

**Beverly Bishop:** Gothan?

**Peggy McDerment:** Dothan.

**Margaret Harlow:** Dothan.

**Beverly Bishop:** Dothan.

**Margaret Harlow:** D-o-t-h-a-n and Jericho, J-e-r-i-c-h-o.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep, and how long did he do that? Long time?

**Margaret Harlow:** I don't remember he been doing that before my mother married him.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** And then he –

**Beverly Bishop:** He continued.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, he stayed there until he retired and I don't remember exactly what that was.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** Cause he was a lot older than grammy is.

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh yes and when he died in 1941 so then she turned around and moved back to her own house because she left the house, I don't think he did I think she just turned it over to her, his daughter.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** And she took it over cause she wanted to go back home anyway.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. So the Depression didn't feel so harsh to you because you had pretty self-sufficient means there and with him?

**Margaret Harlow:** I remember it, you know.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Fixing the butter and stuff like that with that oh the old thing in there yeah they all remember that.

**Beverly Bishop:** What about World War, World War when it happened? Do you remember the First World War?

**Margaret Harlow:** No.

**Beverly Bishop:** You were really too young?

**Margaret Harlow:** See he died in 1918 and, and awful lot of the Hartford residents did die there was a lot of them his age because he belonged to the fire company then and I remember it was, made a big hole in the fire company.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, and then the, in World War II what do you remember about that period? Do you remember where you were when you heard?



**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, we were on Christian Street then. We moved back and Don wasn't called to go in, he only had one eye so I don't remember whether that had something to do with it or not. He just went in the last, he changed jobs and from, well he didn't like the mill work, he, they took him into the mail because he had to work, he had to do something so he was working in the mill and then he got a job at Miller Auto in White River Junction and because he'd left the mill job and took another job they put him in the service and so then he went down, he only went in in 1945 and went in, oh April or May, somewhere there, and then he was out in December.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** So he wasn't in the service very long and he was, just went down to Virginia.

**Beverly Bishop:** But going back to when the, when the war was declared where were you, you were on Christian Street.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** But I mean were you at home or did you hear it on the radio? Do you remember where you heard it, some people remember right where they were in these moments you know?

**Margaret Harlow:** Didn't make that impression on me.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. Did it, how did it affect your life and?

**Margaret Harlow:** You know I don't like war so.

**Beverly Bishop:** I know.

**Margaret Harlow:** Because I had the two children then and they were both small because Peggy was two and then Ronnie was born in the same month in February so they weren't very good months so we stayed home a lot.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** When dad went in the Army you had to, you went down to Virginia Beach you and gram had to take care of both of us.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** And the, and the folks and probably do the spring planting too so.

**Beverly Bishop:** Right. Now you were gonna tell me something Peg, I forgot now what it was, we were talking when the, when the tape was off and now I can't remember what you were telling me about.

**Peggy McDerment:** You mentioned about the bridge.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yes

**Peggy McDerment:** And in 1927 the West Hartford Bridge went out, came down crashed into the bridge in Hartford took part of that with it, part of it went down towards White River but the bridge used to sit lower and there was this road down to the bridge when I was growing up you could drive from the corner, the road started just about the Elks Club and it went down to some houses along the edge of the river there and then it came up the other side where there's the brick Martin house just a little further down and it went under the bridge that had replaced the 1927 bridge that had gotten washed out and I used to have my dad say well you know drive us down underneath the bridge I thought that was so cool to go down underneath and look up at the bridge from being in a car.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah, is that -- That's not still there then?

**Margaret Harlow:** The wheels are still there.

**Beverly Bishop:** That road --

**Peggy McDerment:** Well, I guess they --

**Beverly Bishop:** -- that goes underneath is that still there?

**Peggy McDerment:** You can't go from one end to the other.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh no.

**Peggy McDerment:** Now you can only go one way but there are still houses down there and of course that was where you went down to go across that bridge so you, you could, people still live down on that road down there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** It's Ferry Boat Crossing Road now.

**Beverly Bishop:** There probably must have been one there at one point.

**Peggy McDerment:** A long time ago.

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you remember any of those ferries that took?

**Margaret Harlow:** I remember the hills where we, cause we went down one hill and you'd get going some good and go right up the other hill partway.

**Peggy McDerment:** On a sled, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, on a sled.

**Margaret Harlow:** And go back up. When Don and I went we went over beyond the railroad track and came down across the railroad track down onto the lower bridge.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh boy.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, well there weren't too many trains then and you could hear them whistle because the, the crossings were close by and you could hear them.

**Peggy McDerment:** Yeah, right.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, well, wow.

**Margaret Harlow:** That was after we were married.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, so what was it like to have him home, come home from the war which he was in, not in but?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, well.

**Beverly Bishop:** But how was it?

**Margaret Harlow:** I was glad to have him back home and help take care of the kids.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Because my mother eventually went back to work again, she was working down in the diner in the, in Hartford Village and, and to get her Social Security.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** And she finally got it.

**Beverly Bishop:** Which diner was she in?

**Margaret Harlow:** The Hartford Diner.

**Beverly Bishop:** The Hartford Diner.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes, it's in a mess, it's still there but it's a mess but there were some nice people that owned it then.

**Peggy McDerment:** Yeah, she washed dishes. Did she wait table or just wash dishes?

**Margaret Harlow:** I think so she just was there but I mean if she might have waited on people she knew.

**Beverly Bishop:** So where were, when you were a teenager where did you go? What did you do for entertainment, fun? Was there any place that you gathered?

**Margaret Harlow:** No.

**Beverly Bishop:** As children, as teenagers?

**Margaret Harlow:** No mostly church things.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. Did you have -- Did the church have any traditions that, or the Town that all the community kind of got involved with like?

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh yes there's one in here. We had the, well there's the Lady's Aid Social Hour there and then we had dressed up one time and we joined a big parade down to White River and.

**Beverly Bishop:** About what year was that?

**Margaret Harlow:** Let's see if I have got a date on it 1961 does it say. Yep.

**Peggy McDerment:** Oh, the Town's bicentennial celebration.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah, yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** These aren't very bright either. They are black and white pictures.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, those are the best I like 'em, yeah, yep. Oh yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** That was the one that won and then.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** This is my mother's dressed up and I'm dressed up and some of the others in church that got dressed up that day.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** To go in the parade.

**Beverly Bishop:** Very nice.

**Margaret Harlow:** I lost all my pictures I took, I took a whole batch of pictures of that parade and I looked forward to 'em, get, went to get 'em and pick 'em up after they were developed, found out somebody else had got 'em they, they'd lost them.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh no.

**Margaret Harlow:** So I found out after, of course after that there's other Margaret Harlows around so maybe they got 'em, I don't know.

**Beverly Bishop:** Hopefully they're enjoying them. But did you have other, what other, what are some of the events that you had at the church? You had probably some suppers. What other things did you do there?

**Peggy McDerment:** Auctions.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you have -- Don't be afraid to speak up now.

**Margaret Harlow:** They played, oh they played whist the Ladies Aid had, they'd go to the different houses and play whist and.

**Beverly Bishop:** Was that with your own church mostly?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Members, yep?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, and that was through the winter.

**Beverly Bishop:** How about Christmas, did you do anything special for Christmas?

**Margaret Harlow:** Probably I guess we had the Christmas tree. I don't remember, I helped trim up, as I got older I helped trim the church for the Christmas season I remember with a Mrs. Lyman from up there in Jericho District and she and I had charge of that and we got to do it of course every year.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Got some pictures of that but not every year, perhaps somewhere else.

**Beverly Bishop:** Do you remember anything about the fairs or things like that?

**Margaret Harlow:** Don't remember going to the fair.

**Beverly Bishop:** Nope?

**Margaret Harlow:** Now my mother's used our guestrooms for anybody at the fair that I guess worked at the fair they came and stayed with us in the guestroom every year they had the fair.

**Peggy McDerment:** Now this was a State Fair in White River?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** State Fair in White River.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, okay.

**Peggy McDerment:** Up where the current Post Office is.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** In that area, big State Fair, used to have it every year up there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Is that when the airport was there?

**Margaret Harlow:** The airport came in afterwards.

**Peggy McDerment:** Yeah after.

**Beverly Bishop:** Afterwards.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now that must have been harsh when the fair moved around different places though?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well probably they opened up somewhere else and they were better and ours dwindled to not much. I don't even remember going to the fair.

**Peggy McDerment:** I understand it rained a lot.

**UFV:** It could be.

**Beverly Bishop:** Probably had too much work to do.

**Margaret Harlow:** Well I imagine it's like these fairs now they, they get rained out.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** And then.

**Beverly Bishop:** What was your, do you remember the first automobile that you had or rode in or do, do you remember more when you were a child riding in horse and buggy or more cars?

**Margaret Harlow:** No my stepfather had the horse and the buggy for his route in wintertime and then he had an old Ford in the summertime, but I don't know as he – I, I really don't remember.



**Beverly Bishop:** How about you when you got married? When were you, when did you get married what year?

**Margaret Harlow:** 1938 and he already had bought a new car, trying to pay for a new car after he got married and pay rent and pay for refrigerator, I remember that.

**Beverly Bishop:** Of the appliances and the new ways that made it convenient, what was one of the, what were some of the things that you really made a difference in your life? Do you remember?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well I didn't live too long in my house, the apartment that we had in Hartford Village after we got married because my stepfather got sick and then I moved back with her to help take care of him so that we gave up our apartment, but I was there of course in the 1938 hurricane in that apartment and it pulled the electrical stuff right off the building so we had to wait a whole week after and people, other people got their electricity back before we could get ours back because they weren't doing houses then, if it pulled it off the house you had to wait, they just did the ones along the road.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Margaret Harlow:** Because Don was working up in Hanover then and he had to walk home that night, leave the car and walk home and in the dark so that.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh my.

**Peggy McDerment:** Because of all the trees down.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, but he didn't walk clear from Hanover, he got partway home and then he had to walk the rest of the way.

**Beverly Bishop:** Wow.

**Margaret Harlow:** And that was scary, that hurricane.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah. So what were some of the things that came along that made life a lot easier in terms of house, you know in your household?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well we stayed with my mother after that, that's where after he got sick and he, she finally had to get more help than me even and to take care of him and then he died because it was from '38, I don't remember he didn't, it was soon after we got that apartment, I

don't remember whether we even lived there a year before we moved back with her and helped her.

**Beverly Bishop:** What were the -- Where did you live after that? Where were the different places that you lived?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well we lived right on the corner there in Hartford, just an apartment in the building there and.

**Beverly Bishop:** I think I must have missed it, where were you? So did you stay in your mother's house then?

**Peggy McDerment:** No.

**Beverly Bishop:** I'm not, I'm confused.

**Margaret Harlow:** No, after he, after he died.

**Peggy McDerment:** Her stepfather.

**Margaret Harlow:** We stayed there with my stepfather until he died and then after that we moved back to my mother's place on, on Christian Street.

**Beverly Bishop:** On Christian Street, and that's where you grew up?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** On Christian Street?

**Margaret Harlow:** And then we, we stayed with her then because it was a lots of things to do, run the place after we moved back although she did rent it to three different families during those years and they kept it up, they put in electricity cause one of the people that lived in the apartment he worked for putting in electricity in people's houses and he helped put it in my mother's house for her and.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well I'm curious now in the '30s and '40s, well more '40s and '50s what stands out in your mind in the Town of White River or in Hartford, what, what kinds of places did you use in the, in the different villages? I mean did you go like to the Post Office, movies, restaurants and things like that?

**Margaret Harlow:** No we had a Post Office right there in the store in Hartford and.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you didn't come into White River?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, I didn't.

**Beverly Bishop:** Or any place like that for anything?

**Margaret Harlow:** The only thing cause Don was gone with the car, he was at work, I don't remember when he got through down in White River and then he went up to Hanover and he was gone everyday so that.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you only had the one vehicle?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** What about shopping and things?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well, no, I waited until he was home and then we'd go shopping although we had some good stores in Hartford then that I used to, I could walk down and even after the kids were born I could go to, in the stroller and walk down street and shop, pick up the mail.

**Beverly Bishop:** Where did you, where did you shop?

**Margaret Harlow:** Right there in Hartford.

**Margaret Harlow:** I mean what, did they have, did it have a name, the store?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, well there were two stores, yeah, Child's store and that was a grocery store and then the meat store was Warren Morse and.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** Who was the other guy; there were two guys, oh, Woodard.

**Beverly Bishop:** Woodard.

**UFV:** Aher brothers.

**Beverly Bishop:** Who?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well Aher brothers was the store where the Post Office was.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you say Arker?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, Aher, A-h-e-r.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Margaret Harlow:** Aher.

**Beverly Bishop:** Aher, and if you didn't shop right there where would you go to go shopping?

Where would you go, what town? I mean where would you go?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well White River had stores better stores there for clothing stores.

**Beverly Bishop:** Like what ones that?

**Peggy McDerment:** Newbury's. Newbury's, Colodny's.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Peggy McDerment:** Colodny's had clothes. Newbury's was a typical dime store, you know dishes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** Sewing supplies.

**Beverly Bishop:** And that, and Colodny's sold what?

**Peggy McDerment:** Just clothes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Just clothes.

**Peggy McDerment:** And some baby clothes.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, and where did you get food? Where did you buy?

**Margaret Harlow:** I didn't.

**Beverly Bishop:** You just raised your own?

**Margaret Harlow:** And we had the stores there in Hartford Village.

**Beverly Bishop:** The meat and stuff, yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Good

**Peggy McDerment:** Well, we've talked about that among ourselves before it just seems like even when I went to school, when you went to high school you were with children from all the villages because then they were bussed in but when we were younger it was like, it was your particular village was fairly self-contained you know it had the school, it had a drug store, you know there was the grocery store, the Post Office, the diner, the church and the library so you were pretty, pretty self-contained it wasn't, you didn't associate a whole lot with children in the other villages, you, you might know them but you had everything in your own and not too many times did you actually socialize a whole lot, you had your own things, your own activities and whatever and it just wasn't outspread, it was sometimes someone will mention something from

another village and it's like what, you didn't know it was there or you just vaguely remember maybe traveling through with it on a, on a Sunday drive.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** To visit your aunt or something that you remember going through or going for ice cream or something like that but each village seemed to be fairly self-contained.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, you must have got to know each other pretty well?

**Margaret Harlow:** I didn't go into White River. I never had to go there at all, and I didn't know a thing about Wilder hardly until I moved up here.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you have some good friends in Hartford Village?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well, yes, on my, my street there we've already spoke of that with the Mitchell girls and the Shepherds.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh you're, okay, you were --

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** I was thinking about as you were now a young mother and, and I wondered who your, did you have other women that were able, you know to get together and talk sometimes?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, not really.

**Peggy McDerment:** Well some of the, some of the, you've got some pictures of two or three mothers out walking --

**Margaret Harlow:** Oh, yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** -- their babies in the baby carriage of which I was the baby in the baby carriage, so --

**Beverly Bishop:** They must have.

**Peggy McDerment:** -- occasionally they.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, I just was.

**Peggy McDerment:** Took the baby out in the afternoon and got together and chatted as they walked and pushed.

**Beverly Bishop:** Right. So let me think. So what changes in your lifetime do you think has affected the Village of Hartford the most? I mean anything that's come through different that's kind of changed the whole place?

**Margaret Harlow:** Well I think I, only thing I've done is as, as I grew up and took care of these older people I got in the habit of doing that, I took care of Governor Pingree's wife after he died and she got older, apparently she was younger than he was because he died first and then when she become old, she had a girl from Scotland that came to take care of her and live with her but then when this girl went on vacation I was there to help take care of her, and I took care of my mother, and I took care of Stan Dutton somewhat and I just got that habit so that I seemed to have kept it right along, that I get along with older people well then I came up here and with Don and after he left I was acquainted with all the people downstairs and now we have thirty-seven in the dining room and just that memory lost before was over twenty of them over on that side too.

**Beverly Bishop:** So did you have something to do with getting all those people down there, or?

**Margaret Harlow:** No.

**Beverly Bishop:** No.

**Margaret Harlow:** It was just that I'm acquainted with all of 'em.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, so you know them all?

**Margaret Harlow:** And I meet their families, I do the menus everyday so therefore I take out the old menu and put in the new one for the next day and I'm acquainted with all of them and a lot of their families too and they fought for me, they wouldn't let me move.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Peggy McDerment:** Mom's a people person.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah, I can see that.

**Peggy McDerment:** Very much so, a people person so she sort of makes it a point to introduce herself to any new people that move in.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Peggy McDerment:** Here and.

**Beverly Bishop:** Hospit -- Mrs. Hospitality.

**Peggy McDerment:** Yep, yep. Now are you one of the ones that's now been here almost the longest?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yeah, I've been here three, will be three years November 5th and it's just two others that came before that.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Margaret Harlow:** And I told them that we've lost nineteen people here in the dining room since I came here. So yes we've had them up to a hundred here.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now you were telling me earlier about the, the senior group that you had?

**Margaret Harlow:** Yes.

**Beverly Bishop:** And I, I told you I wanted to try to get that on tape.

**Margaret Harlow:** Well, I don't know, I think we'll have to left it go cause it's 5:00.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you have to go?

**Margaret Harlow:** No, I can stay here a while longer but they finish serving supper at six.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well, we should let you go and eat.

**Margaret Harlow:** It's 5:30 anyway.

**Beverly Bishop:** No, we should let you go and eat, but I would have liked to have heard about that, but it's just about getting to the end a little bit left but I think we should let you eat and maybe, maybe we can get that story another time, maybe you can do some oral taping or something

(The tape ends.)