

Emily & Jack Fogarty March 22, 2010
Interviewed by students

Emily: I was born here, so a short time in between that I was away, so 72 years.

Interviewer: Wow!

Jack: Yeah, I was also born here, and other than service, I was in the navy and college, I lived here most of my life. I came back here to teach, because I am an outdoor person. I like this area, it is excellent area.

Interviewer: Did you choose to join the navy?

Jack: Yes, yes. I was just out of high school, and I thought it would be good for me, and it was. They sent me to school for a year in electronics and I had a very nice job while I was in the service. It was a good experience.

Interviewer: Um, so, what about your grandchildren and family members.

Emily: Oh my goodness... we have five grandchildren that live right next door to us, and they range in age from 11 to almost 2 years old. So, they're back and forth all the time and...

Jack: Cross the lawn, that's right, just across the lawn from us.

Emily: I don't know if you know Owen Riley, he's another grandson.

Interviewer: I know who he is...

Emily: You know him?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Emily: And then we have another grandson in New Hampshire. He's a teacher, a math teacher. And he comes up every summer to run in August.

Interviewer: That's nice.

Emily: Yes, it is.

Interviewer: Um, when we were reading over some of the stuff that you had written for us earlier, one of them was your experience during the premier of the movie with Paul Newman, and we were wondering what movie that was and why it was important to you.

Emily: Wasn't it the Silver Chalice?

Jack: Oh yes, that was wonderful.

Emily: I think the reason that we got the premier of the Silver Chalice is because Saranac Lake sold the most stamps, TB stamps in the United States. So, I don't know if you know what TB stamps are, they were a fun raiser for tuberculosis.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Emily: And that's the reason we got it. But, I think I was in the court, so all we did as escort the dignitaries down the aisle, and sit on the stage at the Pontiac Theater, which is no longer there.

Jack: So, you were in your early 50's.

Emily: Yeah, right. I think 53 or 54.

Interviewer: And then another thing that you guys mentioned that really sparked our interest was, you said that you were...a bunch of teams like the Patriots and the Giants...

Emily: Not the Patriots...

Interviewer: Just the Giants?

Emily: The giants...

Jack: The Philadelphia Eagles....

Emily: The Philadelphia Eagles and the New York Rangers.

Interviewer: And we were wondering if you ever got to meet or talk with any of the players while they were up here?

Emily: (To Jack) Well, you....(faded out)

Jack: Well, I don't think I ever talked. I remember going to watch them practice. And also, there was a building right up here on Lake Street, called the Eagle's Nest, and that's where these guys stayed when they were here. It was right up...well, almost kiddy corner...

Interviewer: That's cool.

Jack: Yeah, from the Middle school, it was just up from the Middle school, just two buildings or so. You go up (faded out)

Emily: And you can read this on the Wiki site. A man that fixed that house up, it was awful, probably is right now too, but the man who fixed it up was very interested in bobsledding, and he put an elevator in the house to take bobsleds to the second, to the lower floor to store them. His name was Alexis Thompson.

Interviewer: Oh wow.

Emily: And, he also built the big brick building that is right next to the Post office. It was called the Thompson Building.

Interviewer: Do you know if he kept the elevator in the house or...?

Emily: I don't know. You'd have to ask one of the Murphy kids. I don't know.

Interviewer: That is cool...

Jack: What's her name, Jeannie or....

Emily: I'd have to think...don't know what the name is now.

Jack: Well, they're all...

Emily: I should find that out.

Jack: Another interesting thing about the football players is one of the football players was named Ernie Stauntner, and he lived up here. And, he had a drive-in theater, he owned a drive-in theater, which located on the road to Lake Placid, and I can....(faded)....can describe it, I don't know what the right word is. But, if you go by the golf course, and then the road's level and then you start up a grade, and there's a whole bunch of pine trees on your left hand side. Pine trees are one of your first type of trees to grow, and that used to be a drive-in theater. You'd drive in, you'd buy a ticket...

Interviewer: I wish we still had one...

Jack: You'd sit in your car and they'd put a speaker in the window

Interviewer: We used to go to a drive-in when I was younger.

Interviewer: Yeah, my Mom used to take me and my sister there.

Emily: Well, but where was that located?

Interviewer: Um, in Ohio. It was near Toledo, it was off one of the suburbs, out in the country. We didn't have a movie theater.

Emily: There not as common as they once were.

Interviewer: No, I haven't been to one since we moved up here, actually. They're fun. Um, another thing we were wondering was when you guys met, since you were both born here?

Jack: Well, I think that my mother put me in dancing lessons before I was in school. And uh, the dancing lessons were at, called the Odd Fellows Hall. It was a building right next to where the Hotel Saranac is now, right adjacent to it. And Emily's aunt taught the dancing lessons, right?

Emily: Yeah...yep.

Jack: So, I think we met then, actually.

Emily: So we were...

Jack: So we were in school, some of....well, Emily went to St. Bernard's, 2nd to 8th grade.

Emily: And then 9th grade we all came back together again...

Jack: To school together again....

Interviewer: That's really cool.

Emily: It is really cool, yeah.

Interviewer: Uh, you guys had gone to Europe, we were wondering what made you want to travel there and what kind of things you did that was really exciting for your trip.

Emily: Well, the reason we went was we had rented our house during the Olympics and we had some money, and we had 3 children, old enough to appreciate what it's all about. And so, for the summer, because we were both teachers, we went to Europe and rented a camper, and well, probably 8 weeks. The camper would stop every now and then, it wouldn't start.

Any my daughter, who is really kinda perfect about everything, said "Ah, nobody knows me here, I'm gonna get out and I'm gonna push the camper and we're gonna get it started." So I bet we had to push the camper 8 or 9 times and so it was just a silly experience.

Jack: The cars in those days were mostly standard transmission. Do you know, like, you have to shift them. You have to shift with a clutch. And if you have a car like that you can get it started....

Interviewer: As long as you get it going.

Jack: (garbled)...5 miles an hour, you can pop the clutch and the car starts. You know there's a movie like this. You know Chevy Chase, did you ever one of those movies like where the guys toured Europe.

Emily: That was awesome.

Jack: We were on a ferry once and down in the bottom of the ferry boat and it wouldn't start and we had to push it...

Interviewer: Off the boat?

Jack: Well no... (unintelligible)

Emily: He didn't push because he had to sit in the driver's seat.....
(unintelligible)

Jack: Well, somebody had to pop the clutch, so all the kids would get out and push and get it going and away we'd go. Well anyway...

Emily: We did see a ton of stuff in Europe.

Jack: We probably put on 7,000 miles in Europe and Europe is small, compared to this country.

Interviewer: Yeah, we went there a few summers ago with my family.

Jack: We made in a big circle.

Emily: What did you see?

Interviewer: We mostly went around England, we went to France. We did Scotland as well. So, of course, we saw the big things like Notre Dame, we went to the Louvre which was really nice. We saw a bunch of the old castles and stuff, and we did a little bit of hiking, like backcountry England, because it's really beautiful out there.

Emily: Yeah, that's right, it's not that difficult I would think, being a bit flat.

Jack: We uh, one place we considered going was East Germany. Now we went up to Checkpoint Charlie which was a well-known place, and we talked to one of the servicemen there and he said, "you go in there, you're gonna have to drive", might have been an hour on this highway, "if you have any car trouble no one is going to help you, and you get in trouble," and he said it's really not worth it. So we decided not to go into East Germany, so we went up into the Scandinavian countries instead. That was...you could see, you could look right across the border and you could see guys with guns and everything...

Interviewer: Oh wow!

Jack: And they had a big fence, you could see the 2 fences. This was in Germany.

Emily: And it was in 1980, and we went that summer.

(a few mumbled sentences here)

Interviewer: What was your most vivid memory from high school? The thing that sticks out when someone says high school to you guys?

Emily: Oh, I loved high school. I just loved it. But, I suppose, things like school plays, glee club, you still call it glee club?

Interviewer: I don't know if we have a glee club.

Jack: Chorus.

Emily: Chorus. I loved the dances. We had tons of dances. Now I don't know if you have as many...

Interviewer: Our dances aren't nearly as cool, we don't actually have a lot of dances. We have very loud, rowdy music.

Emily: Yeah...

Interviewer: We don't really have dances, actually.

2nd student: Nobody dances with each other. No one really dances for fun.

Emily: They don't, huh?

2nd student: No.

Emily: That's really unfortunate, because in our growing up years, they learned how to dance at a place called Teen Canteen. It was a place that was open Friday and Saturday and kids went there, teenagers went there, and saw each other to dance and have...that was every weekend. But then we'd have other dances which mainly....square dances.

Interviewer: Yeah, we learn that in gym class...that's funny because most of the kids would complain about having to learn square dancing and it's funny in comparison because I used to watch a lot of old movies because my parents wanted my sister and I to see what it was like when they were younger and stuff and I couldn't wait to go to high school because of the dances that they had. And then you get there, then you realize, well you don't actually learn how to dance, you don't actually do that kind of dance.

Emily: Well you learned how to dance from your friends, right?

Jack: Yeah, yes, I learned how to jitterbug, and Emily, we could jitterbug like crazy. You know, but those were things that Teen Canteen was good for. We learned...

Emily: I think to get away, the youth center is an offshoot of that, but not as well organized.

Interviewer: Naw, they're having trouble now.

Emily: So that was a good thing when we were...

Jack: We used to have it at the, in the town hall. You know the big area where they have the Winter Carnival stuff? Well, that's where we went for teen canteen, and they had bands, they got bands to come in and we'd dance down there....

Interviewer: So it would be a lot of fun....

Emily & Jack: Yeah it was a lot of fun....

Interviewer: Uh, do you guys have any memories of being up here when tuberculosis was, all the cure and stuff was going on up here? Was there a lot of hubbub with you guys?

Emily: It really wasn't.

Jack: It wasn't with Emily, it was with me. You know because, my father worked in the power plant at Ray Brook, which was a state tuberculosis curing place. It's now the state prison. My father worked there and so we had friends that were patients, they let them, some of them before they were ever cured, they let them out on Saturday afternoon, they'd have the afternoon off, and they'd come into town and sometimes they'd come to our house. And also, sometimes, when I was maybe in my teen years in high school still, some of these guys were cured and lived here. They used to take me hunting and took me fishing. I got to know 'em and was pretty good friends with quite a few of them. They played on the softball teams. you know, they still have softball here. Well, you know, these guys used to play in that league when they were healed up from tuberculosis and still living here, you know. They used to take me hunting and fishing and they were great. I used to love to hunt and fish and I'd go with them and so I had nice experiences with them. We never worried about getting tuberculosis and we never did and it's a very easy disease to catch. You know it's airborne and people could get it quite easily. I think you have to be rundown, it seems to be...

Interviewer: If you have a good immune system, yeah.

Jack: Either rundown, or the drug community or something of that nature. That's where it is now.

Emily: But one thing I do remember is between the hours 2 to 4 everyday, silence. No taxi horns blowing, nobody...you couldn't yell downtown. It was just very very quiet.

Jack: There were a lot of cure cottages. They took naps, didn't they?

Emily: Oh, they napped, between 2 and 4...that was part of the cure. I do remember that, but also my grandfather died here. So I would hear about it from my relatives, but not...

Interviewer: It didn't really affect you directly...

Emily: No, not at all...

Jack: No, none of your family ever died of...

Emily: Although, when they came from New York, they lived in the New York area, they went to Dannemora, because my grandfather knew a man, a doctor at the hospital in Dannemora. So, they made him sleep in a tent away from the rest of the family. So, we called it a portable house and uh, that was in, that was when he was first diagnosed...

Jack: In the late 40's, you think?

Emily: Uh, yeah.... and uh, so we had the tent up at our camp until it fell apart. We got rid of it.

Interviewer: What made you guys want to teach here in Saranac Lake?

Emily: There were openings, right?

Jack: Well, I, personally, wanted to live here, and so, I was... this was the only place I applied for a job. Let me just tell you what happened. This is kind of an interesting little story. At that time I was at Plattsburgh State, finishing up. One day this woman from Saranac Lake came down and I happened to meet her in one of the buildings and I had applied for a job here to teach biology, because that was my major. And this woman came over and we were talking and she said, "Oh, did you hear that there was going to be a job opening in Saranac Lake in earth science and physics?" And I think I left her standing right there and I walked right over...there was a telephone...and I walked right over to the telephone and I called up Mr. Murphy, who had been a teacher when I was in school, and this was like 12 or 13 years later, 'cause I was in service, and I was in college, then I worked in Albany for four...but anyway. I called him up and said "You can consider me for that job," because I have a lot of background in science. And it's a good thing that I did because he said, "oh, ok. I wasn't going to, but I will." And I got the job.

Emily: Stayed there for 32 years.

Jack: Oh, I taught here 30 years.

Interviewer: 30? Wow!

Jack: I started when I was in my 30's, I didn't start when I was 21 like a lot of people right out of college would do. But, regardless, I was really pleased to get a job here, because it was the only place I applied. I wanted to live here.

Emily: I got a telephone call from St. Bernard's school saying, "The 4th grade teacher was very sick, would you come in and be mother to the children."

Jack: That was Easter.

Emily: Yeah, it was around Easter time. And that was just like...you don't have to do anything great in the way of teaching. Well, I had never gotten certified and didn't wanna teach. So I got my certification, I graduated in math, so I went to Tupper to teach math...and then here. So, St. Bernard's gave me the right to teach.

Jack: (garbled)....teaching in elementary school gave her some certification.

Emily: Student teaching, yeah.

Interviewer: That helped back you up for jobs later, right?

Emily: Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh, what were your funniest memories from teaching?

Emily: Oh, gee...

Jack: That's hard.

Emily: You got any?

Jack: Well, my memories are always good. I had fun every day I was in school. So, it's hard to pick out any particular things, but, oh, I don't know. How about the day Jay was in the thing there and they hypnotized him?

Emily: Oh that was a funny....

Jack: Go ahead, you can tell it.

Emily: Our son was here when we were teaching. It was his senior year and they had a hypnotist (garbled) I mean he just went under, he still goes under just like that...but he said, "Ok, pretend you're holding on to an elephant's tail and the elephant takes off."

Well the elephant takes off...

Jack: And Jay takes off, running around the gym.

Emily: Well, they were running around the gym like this, his shirt billowing out the back, we couldn't do anything but laugh. But then, he stopped that and then the guy said, "Now there's a tarantula, he's in your back." And Jay could not...they guy couldn't see Jay...

Jack: He was telling another guy this, just a little later, and Jay heard him.

Emily: And so Jay is like tearing his coat apart. He was really scared. Finally the hypnotist said, "Oh, oh, I've got to stop this." The elephant trick was the the funny thing. He was very suggestive as a child.

Jack: It was very funny thing to see.

Interviewer: I don't think we're allowed to have hypnotists at our school.

Emily: Huh?

Interviewer: I don't think hypnotists would be allowed at the school.

Jack: These were assemblies? Do they have assemblies?

Interviewer: We have assemblies occasionally but it's really hard for guest speakers. Everything has to be like for educational purposes, or have a bunch a backup behind it.

Jack: Oh really, well they weren't all like that back in the old days. They'd have entertaining people here, things like that.

Emily: A lot of them were classical music. They would bring groups in and.... the same thing when I was in high school. They'd always have pretty great stuff. So, that's too bad.

Jack: I tell you one thing that you don't recall to memory now, but it's nice that former students, you seen downtown, they'd come up to you and say, "How are you today?" And they'd talk to ya, they were excited to see you. That's probably one of the benefits that come after you teach.

Interviewer: You still have like all those connections.

Jack: All the time you see your students.

Interviewer: If you guys could travel anywhere now. Are there any places you guys are really interested in going or seeing?

Emily: I would be interested in going to Asia. And I don't have enough knowledge or background to say anything about where I want to go or anything like that, but we loved being in Europe. That was fun. But, it would seem that, because we're so close now, everybody knows about China and Japan...

Interviewer: So now you can get out and explore...

Emily: Yeah. Do they teach Mandarin here?

2nd student: No, it's like French and Spanish. They did at my old school though.

Emily: Did they?

Jack: Wow.

Emily: Yeah I would think it would be a city thing.

Jack: Our daughter was in Singapore about a week, two weeks ago. She went for business and she said it is beautiful there. Tropical, and just beautiful city and they speak English there.

2nd student: Does sound really nice.

Jack: Yeah, I don't know, I think it would be fun to go to Chile or somewhere like that.

Emily: I would go anyplace...

Interviewer: Did you guys go hunting and fishing a lot back in the days.

Jack: Well, not these guys...

Emily: Not these guys, no.

Jack: Well, this guy, not that guy. I still hunt.

Interviewer: What was it like? Different, compared to now?

Jack: Well, the hunting in this area isn't as good as it used to be. But, it's still fun to get out. You know, you don't go out just to kill something. You go out for the experience, you know...so you're getting outside, you bird watch while you're out there, and you can hunt and just walk through the woods and get exercise. Its fun, it's quiet when you're out in the woods. So, it's kinda of a...it's just nice to get out and be a little bit out alone where it's quiet. Even if you hunt with other people, you sometimes you're really by yourself sitting and its nice Its just nice to be in the woods.

Interviewer: What kind of things do you hunt?

Jack: Well, there's, up here there's deer, and ah, rabbit hunting with a beagle, take your dog out. That ended yesterday. But ah, then there's grouse, the birds, ducks, there's bear. I don't go bear hunting but...

Interviewer: That's a little bit risky.

Jack: Well, I tell you something. You never have to worry about a bear. Because if a bear sees you, he's gonna run so fast. Bears up here are scared of people. They won't attack you. I don't know how you get bear to attack you here. I'm serious. Don't ever be fearful of going into the woods, and don't be fearful of bears because they'll never bother you.

Interviewer: What kind of music were you guys listening to and stuff?

Emily: It was pretty rock and roll in high school.

Jack: Yeah, and Elvis Presley...

Emily: Well, Elvis was rock and roll. I mean he wasn't around when we were in high school. Like 2 years after.

Jack: Yeah, near that....

Some of the older music you hear, like on 1240. That's the music we'd get.

Jack: You ever listen to the local radio station now?

Interviewer: Sometime. It doesn't come in very well at our house.

Jack: Because that's the same stuff we used to listen to, it unusual, but its canned music.

Interviewer: What were some of your favorite bands, just anytime when you were growing up?

Emily: I don't know that they had bands, did they Jackie?

Jack: Well....

Emily: I don't know. I call him Jackie, because we were in first grade together and that's what everybody called him.

Jack: Oh yeah, and they still...everybody...there's a reason for that. Emily was previously married and had 2 children. They were 4 and 6. Her husband eventually died. So, I wasn't their father. So instead of calling me Dad, which I wasn't, they called me Jackie. And then, we had a son, and he called me Jackie, and all their friends called me Jackie. And they're still calling me Jackie. They don't call me Grandpa...

Emily: Naw, Jay calls you Dad, doesn't he?

Jack: Oh, Jay does. But its just a....

Interviewer: Stuck.

Jack: Well yeah, just one of those things. These things happen.

2nd Student: So what was life like in general back then, compared to now? Like what kinds of things besides dance did you guys do?

Jack: Well, there were no cell phones at all.

Interviewer: You didn't need them...still don't need them.

Jack: Well, you need them sometime. You know, cars were not modern cars, everything was more rustic than it is today, I use the word...not as advanced.

Emily: But, you know, it was much more relaxed. Like we were talking last night. Our grandchildren can't walk to school by themselves because their parents won't let them, which that's an experience that you can't duplicate. We loved walking to school. You know, you walk with your friends and...

Interviewer: I still walk to school, I've always...

Emily: I don't know...

Jack: They enjoy...Amy just doesn't want to let them walk and we can see where they go to school. They go to school at St. Bernard's and we live on, well, what used to be Riverside, now it's Kiwassa. We can look right out the window and see St. Bernards school from where. She drives them every day.

Emily: Yeah, that's changed.

Jack: Of course, Emily lived about...well she lived on Lake Street, she...

Interviewer: Yeah, that's where I live...

Emily: You do?

Jack: Whereabouts?

Interviewer: Um, it like used to be called, 126 Lake Street, it's just past the apartments they have on there now.

Jack: Well, that's the uh, Eagle's Nest, right?

Interviewer: Yeah, down near there.

Jack: Well, Emily lived in that...I have to tell you, the house is all rundown now. When you go up Lake Street, the house is the first one on the left. There's stairs, and it's a big brown house. They got a garage, and there's junk.

Emily: (garbled)...falling down....

Jack: But it was a nice house in the 40's. So she didn't have far to walk to get to middle school. It took about 2 minutes. I had about a mile to walk to walk, and I walked to school.

Emily: Well yeah, but you had a boat. When he was growing up Jackie had a boat. So he would take the boat down to the bottom of the hill, leave it at a dock.

Jack: That was middle school to 12th grade. So, I'd just ride the boat and park near the dam. I have a post card, it was a picture taken of Riverside Park, and down the corner, there's my boat. The guy took the picture, and my boat was there. This one day he went and took the pictures for the postcards, and I still have that postcard.

Interviewer: That's pretty cool.

Emily: It is pretty cool.

Jack: That's one way to go to school.

Interviewer: Right now, for like our generation, the big thing is as you mentioned, cell phone, iPods, all this technology, do you remember a technology that came out in your time that was really big, like in high school?

Jack: T.V. Wouldn't you say we started to get it up here then, I mean it may have come out even a little before that.

Emily: 1950, I think probably, it came up. 1953 we got it. We used to watch hockey games, couldn't see the puck, the snow was all over.

Jack: Very different, I mean things were just not very well crafted in that time.

Emily: That's one thing.

Jack: Not very well crafted at that time, I mean just a television...pretty bad compared to what you do today....

Interviewer: It is pretty cool, though...

Emily: Yeah, thinking how quickly that's changed.

Jack: And now, the internet....that just brought everybody together. I mean instant communications all over the world. I mean that was back in the late 80's, early 90's? I mean that was the thing I think that was one of the biggest changes to occur as far as changing the whole world.

Emily: Our son was teaching in Austria, in an American school. He, we knew that we could somehow do something to get through to him on the internet. It went through the army, and through army channels and it was very, very, what do I want to say...very backward. I got a modem, but I

didn't ever, it was never successful using it. So, um, that happened in '94. That's not that long ago.

Interviewer: That's when I was born.

Emily: Is it? That's great.

Jack: But ah, yeah things, just everything, there was so little travel in those days. Now, they're going...my mother had come from New York City, and every once in a while she'd get in the car and about 8 hours later we'd pull into NYC. But I mean nowadays, you can get in the car and go Albany and fly to California, let's go to Hawaii, I mean stuff like that. I mean we never took vacations even when we were kids.

Interviewer: Do you think the changes in technology and stuff has been more positive or do you think it almost had a negative effect on society, comparatively, I mean when you guys were growing up?

Jack: Well, that's a tough question.

Emily: Some negative.

Jack: There's a lot of both. I mean there's certainly positive things, I mean like with the internet, and communication certainly is much much better than it was. Our one son doesn't have a television in his house because he doesn't want his children seeing all the stuff that's on the new which ah...

Emily: Which he feels is a little scary for kids.

Jack: The news focuses on the bad things, scary things, so and so killed someone. Well, in our day, if that happened in California...

Interviewer: You wouldn't know about it.

Jack: You wouldn't know about it, didn't knew it happened..

Interviewer: Unless it affected your immediate area, in which case you needed to know.

Emily: Then we knew.

Jack: You could be watching cartoons and come across the bottom...

Interviewer: Anything though.

Jack: You know what I mean, the alerts are coming one, we interrupt this program to tell you that so and so or some school was just shot up, things like that....so those are, it's not good.

Emily: So, we were saying as we came in here today, the door was always open, not locked.

Jack: Oh yeah, it was always open. It was never locked.

Emily: It's unfortunate.

Jack: Being a hunter, I used to leave on Friday afternoon and go to my hunting camp for the weekend. I'd throw all my gear in the car, I'd throw the gun in the car, park in the parking lot and when it came time to leave, I'd just jump in the car and go right to hunting camp. Now, you're not allowed to...

Interviewer: To have anything on the property.

Emily: Absolutely, you can't.

Jack: I used to joke with people. I'd tell them I left my dog in the trunk of the car all day so I could go hunting. I didn't, but I mean, it was that type of thing.

Interviewer: It was just commonplace.

Jack: Yeah, yes.

2nd Student: Are people as friendly then as they are now?

Emily: I couldn't be a good judge of that. Because I would say, "yes, they are as friendly." But, I've been here all my life.

Interviewer: Thank you for letting us talk with you.

Emily: Thank you for keeping it going.