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Barner-Rasmussen, Susan

08/23/2018

Interview Log

*Interviewed by Kayt Gochenaur at Will Rogers.*

00:00 Susan was born April 6 1944 Chicago. Grew up in Chicago suburbs. Has 1 brother, and a step brother and sister.

1:05 Father passed away when she was 10. Her mother remarried when she was 16. "It was a very happy occasion because we liked him and his family." Her brother was 3 years older, her step brother 7 years younger than her, and her step sister 10 years younger than her.

3:45 Her step father was a plasterer. Her mother a housewife. Before she remarried she was working at her uncle's store.

4:25 She knew her grandparents well. Both were Italian who had emigrated from Sicily. They were both from the same town. They got married, and her grandfather came to the US first then sent for her grandmother.

5:45 She, her mother, and stepfather visited Sicily and saw the house where her grandmother was born, visited great aunts. "It was wonderful, we had a wonderful time." Susan was in her twenties.

6:50 Her mother spoke Sicilian, and her stepfather spoke some Italian. She isn't fluent but she was taught bible verses, and so knew a few phrases.

7:30 She went to college at the University of Illinois, for 2 years, before going to work for Eastern Airlines in the reservation office, in Chicago. She studied physical education. She played field hockey, baseball, basketball, tennis, bowling. Her favorite sport is baseball. *Susan was wearing a Cubs jersey and cap to the interview.*

9:40 She worked for Eastern, then got married in Chicago, moved to Albany, and started working for Allegheny. She worked for Alleghany (the forerunner of US Air) and US Air for over 30 years at the airport in Albany.

10:30 Her first marriage was in 1971. She and her first husband moved to Troy together.

11:30 Her second marriage to Hans was in 1993, after her divorce. Her second husband was 15 years older than her. He worked for United and had for almost 40 years. They were introduced by mutual friends.

13:40 When he retired he moved to the Saranac Lake area, where he had some friends. He bought a house here and rented it until he retired in 1999.

16:00 She stayed in Troy and they commuted back and forth. She didn't come up here until she retired. He lived on Moody Pond "He loved it, and I loved it too. It was a great area, we had nice friends, and I just kind of slid into it."

18:15 Hans knew he would pass away first, so he wanted them both to move to Will Rogers, so that she would be taken care of. Her sister has power of attorney, and takes care of business cares.

19:35 Hans has two children from a previous marriage.

23:10 She has a son from her first marriage who lives in a suburb of Atlanta. He's a teacher at La Grange College in Georgia.

23:52 "We play games, there are all kinds of concerts, all kinds of things available." People are nice, management is terrific. He was an actor. Wife is a professional dancer, now she teaches dancing and yoga. They were on tour together on wicked when they taught at a children's drama summer camp. He went back to school to get his teaching degree and they both became teachers. He went to Syracuse University and was in many productions there.