

OH2020.038
Hoover, Erna
12/05/2020
Interview Log/Notes

Phone interview. Interviewed by Kayt Gochenaur. Contact info came from Paula Michelson of the Friends of Eagle island.

00:46 Erna Hoover, 94 years old.

1:06 Was at Eagle Island the first year it was open as a girl scout camp. Erna speaks a little about the island history. Camp built by NY Gov. Levi Norton, then sold to Harold Graves. The Graves estate gave it to the Girl Scouts of the Oranges/Maplewood districts in NJ.

3:25 Description of camp—dining room and large picture windows. Tent platforms added later.

6:05 Girl Scout mariners. Speaks about Mariner Boathouse

8:20 Attended camp between from when she was 12-18. Tells story about inviting renowned Shakespeare actor to see their camp production.

9:00 Remembering the Dedication Ceremony.

11:00 Memories of canning and camping.

12:50 Remembers the mail boat and the Chris-Craft boat used to lug food etc. to the island.

13:56 ***Fondest memories—Story about swinging on the birches.

15:50 Canoeing memories—portaging the Old Town canoes.

17:15 Camp friends—they all came from the same Girl Scout Unit, so they saw each other throughout the year. to be cheap postage for bags of laundry, so she'd send laundry home to be leaned. Mother sent some articles back to her with the laundry. Remembering black-out curtains, rationing.

22:20 Speaks about isolationism before WWII, but then “everyone pulled together.”

24:05 Worked at Defense plant in Maplewood. Speaks about labor shortages, and women going to work in factories.

26:34 Story about New Zealand and Australian Air Force training in Canada. People would host them during their leave. Remembering dances. She still gets a Christmas card from one of the air force.

34:00 Marriage to her husband, and speaks about taking her daughter up to camp. Once high schools started offering varsity sports it changed participation in Girl Scouts. Talks about increase in extracurriculars affecting Girl Scouts.

36:37 Collapse of Girl Scout Council

38:50 Gear used while camping

45:54 More on the dedication ceremony—dedicated to the idea of living close to nature.

50:10 ***Anything else?—It was a great place to be. It was quiet. Remembering trips from Saranac Lochs and eating blackberries. Had a feeling of do it yourself. You didn't need a man around to do it for you. It built confidence, gave her confidence to go into a male-dominated field.