

EVELYN (ARENA) GALSON

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW DATES: APRIL 4, APRIL 20, JULY 9, AND JULY 18, 2022



HISTORICAL SOCIETY *of*
HAMMONTON

EST. 1960

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HAMMONTON ORAL HISTORY
EVELYN ARENA GALSON

Date of Interview	Monday, April 4, 2022 (First Interview)
Interviewer(s)	Janet Hasulak
Interviewee(s)	Evelyn (Arena) Galson
Others Present	

Question: I'm sitting here with Evelyn (Arena) Galson. It is April 4, 2022. This is Janet Hasulak doing the interviewing. And we are sitting around the kitchen table discussing Evelyn's family and relatives. She's filling me in a lot on her memories of Hammonton.

This is my mom's Hammonton junior high school commencement program from 1931. I'm giving it to you as part of her history.

Question: Look at that. Oh, my gosh.

Yes it has different things listed, awards the students received. In the back it just has all the student names, and my mother's name in here. There's Arena, who's that?

Question: It would have to have been a relative of yours on the Arena side.

That's Mamie Arena, my Uncle Bill Arena's daughter. Bill has the Arena Olds Dealership. She's my cousin. The name, "Mamie" was the name of my grandmother, my father, Joseph E. Arena's mother and Bill's, because Bill is my father's brother. That's why my father named my sister Mamie, after his mother. I was named after my mother, Evelyn. Louise was named after mom's mother, Louisa Perna. Madelyn was named, by my mother, she liked the old time actress Madeleine Carroll. My sister's name was originally spelled, Madeline, but she now spells it Madelyn.

Question: Here's your mother's name. Yes, she was a Perna.

Yes, Evelyn Perna [Phonetic] is right there.

Question: Now how did they distinguish between you and your mom? Were you always called Evelyn? Or did you have a nickname.

A lot of people when we were growing up, they called my mother Evelyn, they always called me Evie. If you grow up around people, they just get used to the nick names. One farmer used to call me "Fuzzy" because of my hair.

Question: You had curly hair?

Yes, it was real curly.

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Question: I can relate because my nickname was “Frizzy.” So, I can empathize. That wasn’t a nickname you liked, was it?

No.

Question: Because I didn’t like “Frizzy” a whole lot, I can tell you that

Question: Sometimes they’re not nice.

Well, Mamie and Madelyn are twins, they didn’t have nick names. Well, one farmer did give them nicknames. He says, “You’re Double, and you’re Trouble”, he would laugh and say, " Double Trouble."

Question: And did he continue to refer to them that way?

He always said, “Hey, double trouble.” Stuff like that. So, it was funny. Me, I have a nickname for my sister Louise, sometimes I call her Wheeze.

Question: But she tolerates it from you.

Her name is Louise. But I say, “Hey, Wheeze.”

She doesn’t like it if others say it, but she’ll let me do it because I’m her little sister.

Question: That gives you the privilege.

Yes, it gives me the privilege.

Question: Absolutely. Well, let’s look at the questions. I want you to state your full name, including your maiden name, even though I just said it.

Okay. My name is Evelyn Diane (Arena) Galson, G-A-L-S-O-N.

Question: And what is your age if you don’t mine?

I’m 72. I’ll be 73 in July.

Question: And what is your date of birth?

July 2, 1949.

Question: And can you tell me where it was that you were born?

Swenson’s Nursing Home, Mary Cottrell Swenson, R.N. in Hammonton, N.J. I never saw it, but it was a home for the women who became pregnant, you know, married, and they

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needed to go there to give birth. I found a postcard of the place and it has written on the card, "Hammonton Emergency Hospital, Hammonton, N.J. actually it looks like a house.

Question: More like a birthing center.

There was a problem my mom didn't like it, she said because after you had a baby they had you resting in bed for two weeks. She says, "Then when you get up, you couldn't even walk right. You would be unsteady because you weren't allowed out of bed." So, she says, it made you weak, just like being in the hospital for two weeks." Now women are up and about right after giving birth. Back then they thought you needed all that rest or something.

Question: That practice has changed. That was a change for the better for sure.

Yes. It was crazy.

Question: And you grew up in the town you were born in, correct, in Hammonton?

Uh-huh. Correct. Yes.

Question: Your parents never lived in any other states or any other cities?

Only during the war, where they had to go to Spokane, Washington. They were sent to Spokane, my father.

Question: Was that just your father?

No, my mother went with him and Louise, we weren't born, yet. Louise was born in 1942.

Question: Can you describe your surroundings as a child? For instance, where did you live? Do you remember the address?

Yes. 40 Main Road. It was 50 Main Road, and we had that number for a long time. Then all of a sudden we heard somebody wanted 50 Main Road and I believe the Postal Service changed our number to 40.

Question: You just changed house numbers?

Yes. They wanted the number 50 Main Road. We wound up with 40 Main Road. I don't know, they didn't tell us who.

Question: You're probably at the mercy of whatever the postmaster says your address is going to be.

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I guess. It's really strange but we changed it.

Question: Tell me about the house you were raised in.,

When you drive down the White Horse Pike traveling south east and see the Arena Olds Dealership, on its left side is Main Road our house was on the left, near the dealership. Dad rented that house from his brother Bill. Our address there was 6 Plymouth Road. When you come off of the pike, immediately on your left is Plymouth road and ours was the first house on the right. When I was 4 years old we moved into our new house which dad and his friends and family built.

Question: Are there apartments back in there?

There are. This is further down main road away from the Plymouth property and the dealership. Now, after all these years. When in my 60's they tore down Arthur Celi's house and big sheds and they are building apartments.

Question: I'm only familiar with what's there like in the past five years.

Yes, It never was there before, and it's still being built.

Question: That was all open fields, at that point?

Yes.

Question: It is Main Road.

Yes, okay. Because I have to get that, too. I got the paper anyway.

The house and the welding shop are still standing. I saw it several times recently.

Question: Okay. I might take a drive by just to see it and get a look at it.

Yes.

What house are you talking about?

The house you grew up in.

Question: 40 Main Road.

No, I'm not talking about 40 Main Road now. You said where did I start growing up at.

Question: Right, right, that's what I'm mainly interested in.

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Okay. The road goes like this, and as soon as you come off the Pike and you're on the side of Arena's Olds, just a little bit, there's a road that just shoots off on the left.

Question: That's Plymouth.

That's Plymouth Road. First house on the right. Where the house use to be, there is now a parking lot for their vehicles and stuff. They park on the side of the road over there.

Question: I remember that. I've taken my car there.

Yes. Well, there used to be a house across from the garage, that's where we use to live.

Question: That was convenient for your father. He lived right there and just had to walk across the street to work.

No, dad he wasn't working there.

Question: Oh, he wasn't there yet?

Dad did work for Arena Olds, Louise told me that he did, but we don't know when or for how long. He was renting that house from his brother Bill. We were all born and living there. He worked in Philadelphia at Ford Motor Company. But this is the house he rented, it was a big house. A woman lived on the other half of the house, and we lived in the front part of the house, with mom and dad, Louise, Mamie, Madelyn, me. We were there until I was four years old.

Question: How many siblings did you have?

I have three. The twins and Louise.

Question: Can you name them for me? Do you remember their birthdates off the top of your head?

Oh, yes, we couldn't forget their birthdays every year. Louise's birthday is Oct 19, 1942, Mamie and Madelyn's are Oct.6 1946, and mine is July 2, 1949.

Question: You were at their parties enough times.

We always celebrated birthdays.

Question: Louise Arena.

Yes.

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Question: Louise did she marry?

Yes Late in life. 1984, I believe

Question: What was her married name?

Walter Sadowsky was her husband, so she's a Sadowski.

Yes, my sister Mamie married John Sauser. And my sister Madelyn married Barry Shoff. Then later on she remarried. But it just didn't work out. And me, I married Tyrone Carlin and had Joe, but the marriage didn't work. Twelve years later I married Russell Galson.

Question: Oh, okay, so that's what your Father did.

Before he went into the service

Question: And then he went in the service, and then he married your mom at the age of 24. Was he out of the service at that point, your father?

No, because when they married in 1941 mom was 25 and dad was 30 they then had Louise in 1942 their only child at that time. He went in the service, and he filed and went to Spokane, Washington. It gets confusing trying to find out dates and papers to confirm when and where, I hope this is correct.

Question: And that's the only time that they lived out of the area.

Yes. Then he came back. But then we were living there at 6 Plymouth Rd. because then we were born. We lived there until I was four years old. But I liked it. I still remember as an infant being in a crib and summer, we didn't have air conditioning. The window was open. My crib was right there against the wall.

Question: You could watch the traffic.

No, I was in a crib.

Question: Your memory goes back a long ways.

Oh, yes. So I was in the crib, and I remember my mom, she came in after she had put me in the crib, I looked up and I was looking at the light. You know how kids do, babies.

Question: Even the fact that you moved when you were four, for you to even remember anything about that house is pretty amazing.

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But I do remember. I looked up and I was looking at the light and my mom was going out of the room. Well, she turns out the light. But when she turned out the light, I saw all these balls.

Question: Oh, like when you get a flash, remember the flashbulbs that used to be on cameras. If you stared at it you'd get the halo, that light.

But it looked like they were really little balls, like coming down.

Question: Did that scare you?

Yes. I didn't know what it was, but I didn't know how to express it, because I'm little. I started crying, I guess, because she came. Then I don't remember what she was saying because I couldn't understand her. But she was looking at me, and she was saying stuff. When she said what she had to say, she started walking away. But this time I was watching her not the light. I was looking on the side of the crib looking at her walk and go out the door Then she turned the light out.

Question: That's usually not something a child likes to see. They want their mom right there, especially at that age.

That's not what I was afraid of. The light goes out. As soon as the light goes out, I look straight up to see if those balls were there. And they weren't there, so I laid back down. Then I heard the train whistle from town, so what I tried to do is to see how long I could hear it.

Question: Yes. That took a while to get used to when I first moved here. But I liked the sound, it just was unusual. I learned wherever you are in Hammonton you can hear the train whistle.

Yes, but it was far because look where we are and look where the train is.

Question: Yes, you were pretty far from the train track.

But I could hear the ch-, ch-, ch-, ch-, ch-. You know how a train sounds on the tracks?

Question: Yes, oh, yes.

And then I'd hear them blow that whistle. In my mind, I decided I'm going to keep listening until I can't hear it anymore and see how long I could hear it. That's what I was doing

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laying there, just listening and listening and listening to see. The next thing I knew it was morning because it must have put me to sleep.

Question: It probably lulled you right off to sleep.

Yes, it put me to sleep. Then another time mom, we were going to bed and my sisters and I had the same room. In the room here's where the door was, and the light, my sister's bed was over here. Mamie and Madelyn, they were in the bed, I then heard them scream I looked from my crib and I heard them scream, " a mouse," as they jumped out of the bed as mom came back in.

Question: Which sister was that? Oh, it was the twins?

Yes, it was the twins, don't know if Louise was in the same bedroom. She could have been in the same bedroom, I don't know.

Question: Louise was older than you and the twins were younger?

No, they're older than me.

Question: They're older than you as well.

Louise is 7 years older than me and the twins are three years older than me.

Question: What was it like growing up with twin sisters?

We had fun. People would get them mixed up because they looked so much alike. We were loners, all of us in the family. Even mom, she didn't go too many places and visit too many people. She went to visit her sister, Angie down Plymouth road and we'd go there. Aunt Rosie was my father's sister and Uncle Sebastian her husband, the one that got married in that picture that I was showing you. We used to go see her and Uncle Sebastian. He had an arbor and there were grapes and different things he did. Farming, I think he had a farm, so we'd visit them. But that was like once a year maybe.

Question: That you'd go to the farm?

No, we would just visit them, we were still young, not teenagers.

Question: So, you stayed home. So really your siblings were your social life.

Yes we were playmates. They were my friends.

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Question: And you had the outdoors to play, and you had them to look after you because you were the littler one.

Yes we would all play outside, Louise didn't join us, she would watch television. Sometimes when we would ride our bikes down Main Rd and Plymouth rd. Louise would come along.

Question: Back to your childhood, just going back to that. What were your school years like? What school did you go to?

The Hammonton school system. There were three schools. The High School faces Central Ave. The Grammar School and the Elementary School is no longer there, they were on Vine Street.

Question: Where would it have been located?

They were on Vine Street

Question: Yes.

There used to be a library here. And you have that little shop now that's right beside that library that used to be there.

Question: Oh, yes, they moved the building from that area.

Did they?

Question: Yes

Oh, I didn't know that. Okay. So, the high school you can see it if you come down Central Avenue you go right past the high school that's now St. Joe's.

Question: Oh, that one. Okay, yes.

That was our high school. That was my high school.

Question: That was a public high school at the time? Okay. I didn't know that

Then it had the little school. That's where the lower grade kids went, like first and second, and third, and fourth, I believe.

Question: That would have been the building behind it.

And then there was this big one, a real big one, and it was a two story. That's where I went to fifth, sixth and seventh grade and eighth grade.

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Question: That would have been considered, maybe called the junior high now.

It was junior high. Later, they demolished this one, and now there's only this one. They kept that one right in the middle.

Question: That's still there. Yes, that's back behind. I'm trying to remember. I go past it all the time, but you'd think that would be at the forefront of my mind.

Yes, that was the little school.

Question: Yes, that's there.

That was the little school, so I went there. And then later on you go right here to fifth grade, sixth grade, seventh grade and eighth grade, and then you go into ninth grade to the high school here.

Question: All the classes were in that same general area.

Yes, right in here.

Question: Did you take a bus to school?

Yes, we took a bus. What was the bus driver's name? I know it was Pete, I think it was Pete Marinelli. He was a nice man.

Question: He was the bus driver?

Yes. He was the bus driver we always had.

Question: Who were your best friends during your school years? You said you were a loner, but did you have people, girlfriends that you palled around with? Not really?

No. I just observed everything. I always felt older than my age. My sister, Louise, said she always felt older, that she had nothing in common with the kids in school. That's how I felt. And I believe Mamie and Madelyn felt the same. Comment: I remember there was a girl I really liked and I became friends with her, Rosa DeMarco. We used to talk and I even went to her parent's house, eight grade and high school. I still today send her Christmas cards, even call her once in awhile. Also, Doris and Shirley DeMarco, not related to Rosa. We were friends but later in the 70's we drifted apart. It was nice to have those friends.

Question: I can understand that.

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At 14 years old I was working on the farm. We'd get off school, blueberries came in season. We went to Bellbay Farms down Main Road, which is Bill LaManna. Bill LaManna was the owner. Even Shirley and Doris worked there for awhile with us.

Question: That's the current owner now or that was the owner then?

Billy LaManna recently died. He went to Florida. You know, the seniors go to Florida. But he owned it. I used to go packing blueberries there. My sisters and I did, but I don't know who owns the property now, maybe his children.

Question: You had responsibilities at a young age.

Yes. Then after the blueberries were done, we'd go right across from our house, to the farm across Main Road. Mr. Arthur Celi's Peach and Apple farm.

Besides that we had to take turns feeding the hunting dogs our father had. We had 7 dogs and Mamie, Madelyn and I would take turns feeding the dogs. We also cleaned the big pen that they lived in, shoveled the (you know what) out of it and buried the stuff out in the field. At 12 years old I was the one who would clean all the fish that dad would catch, fillet the fish and package it and put it in the fridge. I also skinned and cut up the rabbits, and quail, and packaged them, I also helped dad skin a deer in his welding shop. I did this because he had no sons and I loved him so much. He worked so hard and long hours. I did this for him so he could enjoy his day off without having to clean the animals himself. I did this the rest of my life into my adult years. I also cut trails into the woods with dad to put up a tree seat, for hunting deer. I would go with dad to pick up baskets of pumpkin squash, load up his truck, this would be bait for the deer. One thing I couldn't share with him was the hunting, I couldn't kill anything. He understood.

The 4 of us had to take turns doing the supper dishes, the whole job. So we had chores to do. That was a lot of dishes and pots for 6 people. But we all had our turn and made them sparkle. Ha!

We would pack peaches, Mom, Mamie, Madelyn, and Me. We really enjoyed it, we were paid by the hour, so we made more money there. After the peaches were finished, we started packing apples. We worked until it was almost time to start for school. Louise at that time had a regular job, when I was 14, she was 21.

Question: Wow. It must have been fun as a child just to play back there or go pick peaches off the trees.

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It was nice to pick peaches off the trees and they were nice and warm when you bit into them. Yes we loved the outdoors, and so at night, a full moon, Mamie and Madelyn and me, we'd go running through the peach orchard. Go all the way to the end, look around, wasn't supposed to be back there, and run back.

Question: Did your parents ever catch you?

No, they never caught us, they wouldn't really want us to do that, but we loved it at night. We were always playing outside.

Question: They didn't care anyway. Well, they probably knew you were safe.

Yes, I said that, but she really would have cared, she was very protective. She wouldn't let us go ice skating or go horseback riding, because she was afraid we'd get hurt.

Question: The answer to my question is no, they never caught you. You were out there having a good time.

No we never got caught, but it was three of us, and we weren't real little when we did it, like little kids. We were teenagers. We learned to take care of ourselves.

Question: But it sounds like a marvelous place to play hide and go seek. It was the country. You were able to be out there and do what you felt like doing with your sisters.

Yes, it was great. Our house faced Main Road, and Dad's welding shop faced the White Horse Pike. In the back of our house, facing the pike, on the left was a great big field, it was where our grandfather had his grape fields and made wine. He died in 1947, but in the field some grape plants were still growing on the ground, purple and white grapes. When we were little we would play in that field and pick some grapes to eat and continue playing. It was great.

Question: I can picture it.

But there's a line here. This property here, there was a house here. Nick Patrusey [Phonetic] his name was.

Question: Was he your closest neighbor?

Yes, the field was sold, I may have been fourteen at the time, they build the car dealership. I believe they fixed cars, not a new car seller. I missed the field a lot. His house was built next to us on Main Road. His name was Nick Petruzzi and he had the Auto Sales next to us.

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This is later when we became teenagers. But when they weren't there this was a gigantic field all the way down, it kept going until there was a store called Capaccio's on the pike. I think there was a little gas station there. We'd walk to the gas station and buy candy.

Question: In the picture over the fireplace there?

Yes. My father's father, Angelo Arena.

Question: The same guy in the picture you showed me.

Yes, the photo of my father's sister, Rosie's wedding, my dad was sitting on his father, Angelo Arena's, lap when he was 4 years old.

Question: Can I get a copy of that picture? I could actually take a picture of it when we finish talking. I don't want to forget.

You can turn the lights on because it's so dark.

Question: Where did Angelo Arena live.

It was an old stucco house, and later I'll give you pictures of it, some pictures probably when it was still okay. But then over the years after decay. But it was over 200 and some years old, that house. My grandfather Angelo lived in it with his son John Arena and his wife Clara. It was on a small hill facing the White Horse Pike, later my father's welding shop was built on the lot next to John's house.

Question: What was that address again? What would that formal address have been?

It was 287 White Horse Pike.

Question: While I'm thinking of it, what was the address of the ranch house that you were just describing to me?

40 Main Road.

Question: 40 Main Road, and that's on here. No, that's Middle Road.

That's mom's old homestead. That address there belonged to my mother's father and mom, and all her brothers... David and Louisa Perna and my mom's 7 brothers and 2 sisters.

Question: Well, that makes sense. She was a high school student because she was still living at home, and this was sent to her parents.

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Yes. Right down Middle Road. You know where the airport is?

Question: Oh, yes.

They owned all that land all the way to the airport. But when they got back from the war, the boys, because she had a lot of brothers...They didn't want the farm, hard work, not much money.

Question: Did they subdivide it? Or did they sell it for profit?

No. They were tired of farming. They wanted to do something else, and their father didn't really want to get new crops or something. But when they got back, from the service the men didn't want to stay working on the farm.

Question: So that would be Teddy Perna.

Teddy Perna. I showed him a picture that I had of him. He's leaning against an old car like this, leaning back.

Question: That seemed to be the thing to do back in the day. The men posed by their vehicles.

Yes, they did. And he was looking at the person taking the picture. I told him, I said, "Oh, man, do I love this picture of you." He says, "Oh, don't show me that picture." I said, "Why, you look good in it." He says, "No, you don't know what I was thinking when they took it."

Question: What was going on in his mind that was bad?

He said, "I was miserable. I came back from the war. I didn't want to be a farmer. I just wanted to just go and live my life and I wanted nothing to do with the farm. I just wanted to go and live my life."

Question: So that photo didn't remind him of a happy time in his life.

No. He was depressed. So, there were \$400.00 in taxes due. It was a lot of money back then. Pay the taxes, otherwise you lose the property. None of them wanted anything to do with it, none of the brothers.

Question: Nobody wanted to come up with the money to pay the taxes.

They didn't really have the money to pay. One of the brothers did, but he didn't want the place. He was older.

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Question: Did they walk away from it?

Yes, it went in foreclosure.

Question: What a pity. Think how valuable that land would be now if it was just still in the family somehow.

Yes, I know.

Question: But it is what it is.

But you know if you can't stand.

Question: Well, they had to follow their dreams. They were young men. They needed to feel like they were doing something that they wanted to accomplish.

Right. They all went their way. She had seven brothers.

Question: That was a big family.

Yes, seven brothers and three sisters. The first three had died at a young age.. We're not really sure of the names. I think one was named Mario, and one was Marie or something like that. I'd have to go by grave markers. We're not sure. They were just over a year old when they died. The third child was a miscarriage. Then Louisa had 10 more children.

Question: These would be your mother's siblings.

Yes, my mothers, brothers, and sisters.

Question: So sad. Well, she made up for those losses she had so many more children. God bless her. That's a lot to go through. I can't even imagine.

Yes.

Question: I'm just thinking about your teenage years, to move on to that. How did the young people dress back then? If you were just trying to describe this to let's say how things were for you as a teenager, let's say you're trying to describe this to your grandchild that was 12 years old or so and you were going to try and describe how you dressed and how the boys dressed and the music you listened to. What would you say to them?

What age do you think? In school we had to wear dresses or skirts with a blouse. Never any slacks, they weren't permitted. The kids, boys wore shirts or tees, they didn't were tee

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shirts with singers faces on them, or funny things. Their mothers bought appropriate clothes.

Question: From when you were a teenager, from when you were maybe 15 to 18 enjoying yourself.

Me, what music? I listened to Mario Lanza and Elvis Presley, and Paul Anka.

You guys all dressed up. You've got pictures of all that.

No, I'm talking about the stuff I listened to.

Yes, you listened to Mario, I listened to Elvis.

Question: Elvis was big.

Yes. And who were the other ones? The Beatles came later, then Paul Anka, and Chubby Checker who had a record out. Also Jay and the Americans and Trini Lopez.

Question: The clothes we bought for school

But the clothes, we would go to Vineland to this store, Sears I think it was. When we used to work at the farm, after the blueberries we went to peaches, and we packed the peaches. Then from peaches we started packing apples.

Question: What would you get paid for doing that?

I don't remember but it was hourly pay.

Question: An hourly wage for however many hours you put in packing.

Hourly wage. The blueberries we got 10 cents a crate.

Question: You would get paid that?

That's what we got.

Question: And with that money, you were young, you were a teenager. When you got that money, was that money to put in your pocket? Or did you take that home to your mother?

We'd cash in our tickets and get the money, that was for the blueberries. The same with Arthur Celi, we kept the hours and he did too. You wouldn't get paid until after the end of the season.

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Question: Oh, I see. You weren't getting paid until the farmer got paid for selling all the produce.

No, he would pay his workers, after the season was over.

Question: Gotcha. I didn't know that was how it was done.

Yes, until the end. And so, what we'd do, we would, Mamie, Madelyn, and me, Louise a little bit, but she was oldest. She's seven years older than me. She got to a point where she got a regular job. But what happened is working all the time, when we got paid from the different places; we had to buy new clothes for school. We gave all the money we worked for to mom, and she would give us \$20.00, each. The \$20.00 we used at the carnival. This was in August for anything we wanted to buy.

Question: And that would be for your school clothes?

Yes, we would go to Vineland to Sears and mom would help us find some nice clothes for school, and the money we gave her, helped us buy what we needed. And we were happy to be able to do it and we had fun working together.

And we didn't mind. We didn't care. We had fun. My sisters and I, we made our own fun. We would have fun going to the carnival every year, Lady of Mount Carmel Celebration. We would ride our bikes down Main Road.

Question: \$20 would go a lot further back then.

Yes, candy was 2 pieces for 5 cents and stuff like that.

Question: Like a family style?

There's a table and you put the blueberry carrier on this table. It has pints in it filled with blueberries. You put it down on one side. You then put your empty crate near you so you can fill it. There's this square wooden thing and it has rubber on the inside edges. You get a small sheet of cellophane and put it over the pint with the berries and press the wooden frame down on the pint. Then while the frame is holding the cellophane in place you put the rubber band over the cellophane. You then take the frame off of the pint and put the pint into the crate. You do this until you fill the new crate up. Then you have to put two slats on it and put another crate on that one and have to fill it also. Then you do the same with this crate and when the pints are all covered, you put two slats down on top of this crate. These are the ones that are going to be shipped. You have to fill them real fast, if

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you want to make money. You put two slats on it, then you carry it to where the guy is waiting, this teen is waiting he's working, and he uses a gun to staple the slats down to hold the pints in the crate, and then you get a ticket.

Question: And then you'd have proof of what you had packed. Is that what the ticket was all about, just to show how many you did?

Yes. I have a little pint and you put your tickets in there, each time you give him the crates he gives you a ticket with a two on it. So that's what we used to do. When the crates with berries are all packed we get a break because you have to wait for the berries to come in from the field.

Question: And you wanted to move along as quickly as you could because you were getting paid by the crate.

Uh-huh. Yes.

Question: Makes sense.

But it was fun. The kids were mostly high schoolers at the time I started. I was working when I was 14. The radio was playing all the songs we liked while it sat on the table.

Question: You had a lot of young people in there doing the work alongside you.

Yes. I didn't even bother with them because they're all talking stuff that I had no interest in. They were older and they kind of didn't want to bother with me.

Question: At that age that would be typical.

But that was it. I didn't even bother. I liked boys but I didn't bother with them. They knew I had a crush on an older teen working there that would brought in the berries.

Question: You weren't interested in boys yet.

I was, but they knew because of the way I looked at him when he used to walk by, I had a crush. But he was in high school and they were too and I was 14 years old and they were making fun of me.

Question: Young love.

Yes. But my sisters and I didn't date or anything like that. All through school and stuff like that. I didn't go to any dances or nothing. It didn't interest me because I was shy.

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Question: I was just going to ask you, what did you do for entertainment? Did you get out to functions at the church? You mentioned you would always go to the carnival.

We were in the Catholic Church.

Question: They didn't have anything like that they didn't sponsor dances?

St Joseph's church I don't believe had dances. We wouldn't have gone even if they had one. We had our life at home. We didn't really do functions like other kids did. But see, that's not good really for children because we were too shy

Also two of our classmates from grade school I believe 6th grade got killed walking to St. Martins church down Egg Harbor Rd, they were going to a dance the church was having, they were hit by a car and were both killed.

Yes, we were shy. I remember this guy knocked at the door and we ran from the kitchen table, that's because when this individual would come to talk to dad, for dad to do a welding job, he would just stare at us, we didn't like it. We were children at the time, not adults. So when we knew it was him, we'd run out of the room, before he came in.

Question: Because he was a stranger.

Yes. But people would come because my father was a welder, and they'd knock on our door. We didn't like him, he would stare at us.

Question: They probably wanted to talk to him or had business with him.

Yes. Dad would talk to him or mom would take a message for dad if he wasn't home .

Question: How old were you when you started dating? And how old were you when you married

We really didn't date like other girls. When we started working we would meet people and talk to them at work. This was how we would know what they were like, whether we would like to know them better or not.

Question: You didn't go anywhere?

Every year mom and dad would take us to Atlantic City and walk on the board walk, we saw the girl with the diving horse. We bought the Turkish Taffy. We would visit all those stores.

Question: Did the boys come over and visit in the front parlor?

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A young boy and his brother came and a friend, to visit us. Bobby was 14, Billy was 17, I think, Slick their friend was about 17 years old and Mamie and Madelyn were 17. I was 14 years old. I don't even know how we met them. I think my sister met them.

Question: They were dating I would imagine because they were older high school age. They didn't date either?

We weren't dating the three young men, they would come over on Saturday and we would make pizza and listen to records mom would put out chips and soda. They came on New Year's Eve we watched Dick Clark on TV. They celebrated the evening us and our family.

Question: You were loners. How did you ever meet your perspective spouses?

Church, I met Russ in Church

Yes, you I met in church. But that was after.

Russ: Yes, you have stories about what I did in church.

He wrote a little sweet letter.

Russ: Yes, I wrote her a letter and I passed it to her in church, and everybody read it along the way.

Question: Bunch of busy bodies.

Yes, they read it. And they looked at me. This is for you. We laughed it was funny.

But I met my first husband, the father of Joe in DiDonato's bowling alley.

Question: Oh, I know exactly where that is.

Yes. I was at their little bar in there having a rum and Coke.

Question: How old were you?

Let me think. Twenty Three

Question: You didn't get married all that young. You were in your 20s already?

Yes. I married in 1972 and Joey was born in 1973. But it didn't work out we had issues, we couldn't solve. So I left him because it would have gotten worse.

Question: Do you have any other children besides Joe?

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No. I don't know what happened, but I couldn't have any after that, after him.

Question: Wasn't meant to be apparently.

Yes. You've got to leave it in the Lord's hands. So that was 1972 and I moved on and just took care of my son and everything. Then 10 years later, I wasn't dating or anything. I met Russ.

Question: In church.

Yes, in church.

Question: So that was meant to be. It was a Godsend, for sure.

It was God sent. It really was.

Question: That was meant to be as well, yes.

I had a dream years ago before I met Russ. And I saw this house, and I was sitting at a table, and he had a bench right over here. And I was sitting at a table where there was a bench. And that room right there, there was this boy and a young girl, little girl. She had her thumb in her mouth, and then was holding something. I didn't know what it was. And walking in they're arguing with each other. He was arguing. She was sucking her thumb. And I remembered it. And the next thing you know after we met and everything and we got married, one day I'm sitting at the table, and here comes Sean out of that room arguing with his sister, Kate.

Question: Now who is Sean?

Russ's son, because he had children.

Question: He's been married before as well.

Yes. And my son was 10 when I came here. His son would be ten in December.

They were born the same year.

The same year, but Joe is in June.

Question: When you left your husband where did you go?

I moved in with mom when I left my husband, and I was raising my son there. Later I got an apartment because I figured I'd have to try and live on my own. Joe was three and a half years old.

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Question: How did you like doing that? Did that work out for you, living on your own?

Yes, it was fine.

Question: You were single about 10 years before you married the second time.

Yes, because I married in 1972 to Skip and later I was married in 1985 to Russ.

We had our pastor marry us right here in our house. He was our pastor in 1979, he became our pastor again later. But yes, so then I knew. I told Russ, I said, "God meant it to be because I remember the dream, but it didn't make sense to me until I saw the dream happen right in the room."

Question: When you had the dream, you didn't know what it meant at the time.

No. But I remembered it. I remember a lot of dreams that I've had when I was even a young teenager.

Question: Wow. And they weren't necessarily recurring dreams, but they were things that just were significant.

Yes.

Question: You were raised in the Catholic faith?

Yes I was, from birth until I was 19 years old.

Question: Are you still a practicing Catholic?

No. I'm an ordained minister of Full Gospel Pentecostal Faith. He's ordained, too. I went and I became an evangelist.

Question: That's a 180 from being Catholic actually.

Yes.

Question: With no judgment. I'm just saying, it's just an observation.

It's a different perspective.

Well, at age 24, I received Christ as my Lord and Savior and gave my life to Him. I made some mistakes, but that's why we need the Savior and His forgiveness. I dedicated my time to studying the Word of God, praying, and learning about the Lord and what He wants us to do, how to live for Him. I would be reading and studying the bible some days from 6pm

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to 12 am. I'd put Joey to bed and then start my studies. I am 73 years old now and I'm still doing this, not that long but some each day and praying for people.

Question: That's very special.

I used to go to all the healthcare centers and talk to all the people, tell them the stories of the Bible and salvation message, and pray for them. I was doing that for years. I did 12 years at one place at Healthcare at Washington, in Turnersville, N.J. I'd go in there and talk to them. This was 1985 until 1997

Question: You did visitations.

I just went to healthcare centers and again, I'd talk about the Lord, and they would receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. I was doing it for years until this heart thing started, I had a problem with breathing.

Question: Well, I'm sure you brought comfort to a lot of people over the years that you did that. Because people in those situations in particular can be very...Gave them joy.

And I would give them Christ, they would receive Him as their Savior, so many of them.

Question: Yes. And they can be very lonely, to put it plainly. Just plain lonely, so just to see another face and somebody who feels like they care and then if you're giving them spiritual inspiration to hang on to, that's even better.

Yes. Because they really didn't read the Bible, and they didn't even know the stories. One man I led to Christ; he was a teacher in Deptford. He was in Galloway Township Healthcare Center. I might be going off the thing, but what happened was, he couldn't eat from his mouth. They had to feed him with a tube.

Question: Oh, he was pretty bad off.

And he was crippled up and he couldn't talk really well. But I asked him if he ever read the Bible, and he goes, "It's hogwash. It's all hogwash." I say, "No, it isn't." I started telling him about the Word of the Lord, and about how I received the Lord and how my life changed and everything. He was listening and listening. Then I said, after I got done telling him about the Lord dying on the cross for our sins, how He was punished for what we did I said "Do you want to receive Christ as your Lord and Savior and have forgiveness of sins?" And he says, "Yes." Real hard to talk. I then asked him to pray this prayer to the Lord to receive

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Christ as his Lord and Savior and ask the Lord to forgive his sins and Lou did. He was really happy. Did you ever hear this prayer?

Question: No.

It's just a prayer that they wrote up because people wouldn't know how to pray. It's just I believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for my sins on the cross, and I receive Him as my Lord and Savior, and right now I ask Him to forgive all my sins, in Jesus' name.

Question: That's beautiful. I'm sure it gave this man a nice, fresh start. And he was pretty much on his deathbed. He was a very sick individual.

And here, after he had received, I said, "You want me to read, I have the Bible, can I read something for you?" He goes, "Okay." Because he never read the Bible because before that, he said it was hogwash.

Question: He considered it hogwash, right.

I started reading Matthew. Matthew it starts out with this one begat this one and this one begat this one. But then it talks about Jesus' birth, and about Herod and it talks about how they went to Bethlehem and killed all the babies from 2 years down.

Question: I remember that Bible story.

And I was talking to him, telling Lou about Jesus, where Jesus goes into the wilderness and was tempted by the devil I was reading it, and he says, "What are you reading?" I say, "The Bible." He says, "The Bible?"

Question: So those were stories he had never heard in all his years.

He never read the Bible, and he couldn't believe it, how the Bible read just like a story, but he gave his life to Christ, that day.

Question: And there's lessons to be learned in all those stories.

Yes. I told him I would come back and see him. And he says, "Okay." And then I let him rest because my sister's husband was in the next bed. That's why I was there in Galloway Township, to visit Louise's husband, Walter. After that, I was going to go see Lou again one weekend later. When I called Louise she says, "Lou's in the hospital now because he got real sick." I said, "Okay, let me know when he's out because I promised I'd come back to see him."

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Question: The second time you actually visited.

When Louise told me Lou was back at Galloway Health Center, I went to visit him again. When I went he was asleep, but I woke him up and said, "Hi Lou," he smiled. I said to him, "You are really tired, I can see that." "Are you still trusting in Jesus?" he said yes. I asked him "Do you still believe in Him as your Savior" and he said, "Yes." I then told him I was going to let him sleep and I would come back in a few days. He agreed, and I left.

Question: He had been doing a lot of thinking in the time being. You made an impression for the better.

I noticed he was so sleepy so I told him I would let him rest and I would come to him the following week. Louise called later that week and told me Lou died. The nurse who took care of him was so surprised because when she went into his room she saw that Lou died with a smile on his face. And I know it's when he saw Jesus coming for him to take him to heaven.

Question: Was it difficult for you to walk in and talk to a total stranger about God and things that are so intimate as their spiritual life?

No, not any more. I used to be shaking in my boots when the Lord first told me to tell a guy about him. I actually heard the Lord tell me that...

Question: Because you basically had a shy nature.

Yes. We didn't even see our own relatives.

Question: I'm just imagining what it would be like to walk in, totally cold, by the way, hi, I'm here. My name is Evelyn, and let's talk about Jesus. Well, that's a very personal thing.

But you know what?

Question: And especially when you get a reaction like them saying well, that the Bible is totally hogwash. So where do you go from there? That usually can take a lot of convincing to listen.

When I was going to these places, I never asked them what religion they are, like are you Catholic, are you this? It didn't matter because Christ didn't worry about that stuff.

Question: Good point.

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It was do you believe in me. I died on the cross and got punished for all the sins that you made so you didn't have to be punished for them. He took our punishment and said if we come to Him and accept His death on the cross as our death in proxy, and we receive Him as our Lord and Savior and pray and trust in Jesus, all the sins that we did was already placed on Him. He got punished for them so as long as you trust in the Lord, you're forgiven, and you have salvation.

Question: And a nursing home is a lonely, lonely place, with a lonely, lonely existence. I just know from experience.

I know.

Question: For them to see your face and just have somebody to talk to that was giving them... I know it has to be a place where people are reflecting back on their lives, did I do well with my life? What did I do? Was I a good enough person? What's going to happen when I cross over to the hereafter? That's a tough thing.

Do you know what I always heard? A lot of what I heard was almost the same as others I spoke to. This woman said, " I took my daughter here, there, and everything. We were like sisters. And she comes, and she picks me up, and puts me in this place and told me I was going to live in here forever' until I die.

Question: Wait, this was a dream, or what was this?

No, this was a woman.

Question: A woman that you spoke to at one of the nursing facilities.

Yes, at the Health Care at Washington, facility in Turnersville, N.J. But she received the Lord, she was 94 1/2 and she died when she was 95. Her name was Carrie. L.

Question: People don't reject? It's like people say, "The older the people, they're set in their ways."

Oh, my word. Uh-uh. I've led so many elderly people to Christ. One woman was 97 years old.

Question: I don't believe that. I've been around old people a lot.

The oldest was 97 that I led to Christ.

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Question: Usually 97-year-olds have a very tough constitution.

Oh, my word. You should have saw what happened when I...

Question: I have found, they're usually from a wheelchair shouting orders and barking orders. That's just their nature. People who live that long are people with tough constitutions. I was certified in geriatric care, and I've had people, very frail old men, 94 years old say, "Hey, girlie, come here. I need you to do something for me." They were tough guys. And if they asked me to jump, I would ask how high. Because just out of respect and because they were that commanding, that type of a personality is my point. There is always somebody like that. The reason I'm saying that is I think you're a brave woman to go in and to speak to people with that are in their 90s and 80s, on their last leg to put it plainly.

You know why, I had to get that way, I had to get over the shyness is because when I heard the Lord wanted me to talk to this man that came to get a tire rim welded from my father, I heard the Lord say, "Tell him of Me." I was so shy, in my head I'm saying, "But Lord."

Question: But you got past it. You got past that shyness.

I said, "I've heard him use your name in vain, Lord" You know how they talk.

Question: Truck drivers, sailors.

I just heard, "Tell him of me." Three times, "Tell him of me." That's all I heard in me. And I didn't. When he went to the truck, I didn't tell him because I was so shy. Talk about being shy, and the Lord's telling me to tell him, and I didn't. And two days later when I walked in the house and mom says, "Guess who died?" And she told me his name. I felt a withdraw in me, like... and I doubled over. He died.

Question: It made you physically ill even thinking about it.

All these years because the Lord said tell him about Jesus and salvation, and I didn't do it, and two days later he's dead. He probably was open enough for him to receive and because of my shyness, maybe he didn't get to heaven because if he didn't know salvation, then he would have lost out.

Question: We'll never know.

I hope that someone else talked to him.

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Question: Maybe you got his mind thinking, maybe he prayed on his own like after you left.

No, because I didn't speak.

Question: Oh, he wasn't able to speak. Or you just never even spoke to him at all?

Yes he could speak, but I didn't. When he was telling me about the rim and how he wanted dad to weld it, I was looking at him, and I said, "Yes, yes." And the Lord spoke to me those three times, and I didn't open my mouth to him. When we went out to the truck, he says, "Are you going to tell your dad?" I said, "Yes." But I didn't say anything to him. And two days later he was dead. I said, "Oh, my God." You don't know how I grieve for him years and years, every time I think of him I am sad.

Question: No, I get it. That stayed on your conscience.

So that's what caused me to say I've got to get out of this feeling. I worked on it for years. I would speak with one person at a time, and lead them to Christ. I joined the worship team in church. I sang in front of the church. And what happens, years later I join the Coast Guard.

Question: Oh, you joined the Coast Guard?

With Russ, but he had joined many years before.

Question: Did you really? How old were you when you did that? That just is out of character to me.

It was 1999, I was 50 years old.

Question: Oh, wow.

And it's the auxiliary, but. It's not enlisted coast guard, we were just civilian. It's not enlisted, it's volunteer, but we do the same thing they do.

Question: I see. What kind of training did that entail?

All kinds of training, you have to learn how to work on the boats. You actually advance to a point where you're working with training officers in the Coast Guard.

Question: Oh, wow. Do you go out on ships?

Yes. You can.

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Question: What would they require you to do?

Well, we would patrol.

Question: Oh, your certificates.

Yes. Find the lost, help people not get into trouble. See, and it tells you what you are...

Question: Boaters, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Cool.

We teach the classes so people can get a boating license. I passed the boating skills and seamanship course.

Question: That's a good practical thing to know. If you just go fishing.

Uh-huh. And administrative procedures course that you have to take in 1999 when I first got in, 1999 when I got in there. Well, I was gone all the time, and she said, "The only way I'm going to get to see you is if I join the Coast Guard with you."

Question: Good thinking, Evelyn.

Then I got into, let's see, a seamanship specialist.

Question: What do seamanship specialists do?

It's more or less learning navigation, how to handle a boat. There are no stop signs on the water, so you have to learn all the signals and signs.

Question: Do you know how to use a Sexton?

No, they didn't use a Sexton.

Question: That was already passe.

Question: My father was a captain, he had his captain's license, pretty advanced captain's license because he would transport other people's ships. That's why I asked. I was always fascinated with them.

Then I became vice flotilla commander. Then I made marine safety officer. See, these are all the things, and you study when you're doing it. Then I became the commander, flotilla commander. Russ was a Commander, he's a captain now, past captain. He's still in it. But I got out when I took mom in to take care of her. An instructor for the Coast Guard, I used to teach them on all the forms, the other officers. And vessel examiner, I did that, and I started inspecting boats on the dock.

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Question: Wow, you've done a lot Evelyn. Wow.

Yes.

Question: So where would you go? What dock were you at when you did these inspections?

Fortescue. Fortescue, yes.

Question: Where is that located?

Fortescue is at the end of the earth in Cumberland. Then we became Homeland Security.

Question: So that has to be since 9/11. Oh, yes, this is in '03.

Right.

Question: I'm sorry, where was that?

You ever heard of the Shell Pile? It's far near the shore. All the way down near the shore.

Question: South of Jersey?

If you were to go to...

Question: How close to Cape May or Wildwood?

Neither.

Question: North of that?

No. If you went to Salem, New Jersey, are you familiar where Salem is?

Question: I've heard of it. I've never been there.

Okay. Do you know where the nuclear power plant is in Salem?

Question: I think I've been past it.

Oh, it's way out in the thickets. I'm trying to think of the actual name of the town. But it wouldn't mean much to you because it's such a small town. It's about 20 miles east of Bridgeton.

Question: Okay.

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Or that's southeast I would say. Is that possible? Yes, that is. And it's along the river. And everybody who lives there is pretty much a sailboat person. When it was established there, they were all sail boaters.

Question: At your job as civilians would be to go and inspect the boats?

We would inspect the boats. We're in full uniform. We would teach safety classes.

Question: That's so cool.

And we used to recruit for the Coast Guard. We would recruit for the high schools for the kids graduating if they wanted a career in the Coast Guard. Well, as a general rule, to join the military today, the maximum age you can be is 27. If you are 27, you would have had to have been in a previous military environment.

Question: You still go out to these functions?

Yes. Since COVID right now it's laxer a little because of COVID and being around people.

Question: Are things starting to open up a little bit more?

Yes, they're going to have to start opening up. It is starting to open up. We're beginning to mainstream again. The meetings are online. You know how they have those things?

Question: Oh, the Zoom meetings.

Yes. We're still following the restrictions regarding what we call mass gatherings. If you're going to have a group of people with more than 8 or 10 people together, there are certain notifications that have to go out. You have to be vaccinated, all those kinds of things. But I can see that we're making some progress. Now looking at the government control, it would appear that we will be wearing masks forever if we don't sort of have a stronger personal understanding of what's happening here because it is a pandemic. It's real, and people have died. You need to exercise caution. But you don't have to stop living. It's kind of like diabetes. It's not the end of the world.

Question: It's very difficult, that's a fine dance to do, to go on living and still abide by mandates that are in progress and to keep up with what the mandates are. It's everchanging, it's an everchanging science. We've never been through this before.

Well, the other thing is in America, we cherish freedom to the point where we don't stop because something can make you sick. We intend to protect our freedom. People are

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accustomed to not living by a bunch of rules that restrict you to the degree where I can't go to work, or I lost my job because of, and all these sort of new things that came along.

Question: We did help stop the spread. I think we did pretty good. Do you mind if I come back another day, another afternoon? Because that way we can talk some more.

End of Interview Part 1.

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Date of Interview	Wednesday, April 20, 2022 (Second Interview)
Interviewer(s)	Janet Hasulak
Interviewee(s)	Evelyn (Arena) Galson
Others Present	

I'm with Evelyn Arena Galson and it is April 20. This is the second part of our interview for the oral history in Hammonton.

Question: Evelyn, you were just talking about your birds. You want to tell me a little bit about that?

It started when I was a young girl. We'd go outside to play, we lived in Hammonton. We had a big yard, plus a huge field beside our house. Our Uncle lived in the next property and he also had a lot of ground. Sometimes when we'd be playing outside we would find a baby bird calling for its mother. But there was a problem because there were a lot of cats around. You would see a baby bird that was alone. Its mother may be away, but the cats are there ready to kill it. You pick it up and take it into the house to take care of it. That's how we got Robbie our Robin. We had him for 12 years.

Question: It was really a bird you just simply found on the ground?

Yes, a baby bird.

Question: You decided you were going to make sure it got better.

I did. I named him Robbie because he's a robin.

Question: Oh, my goodness.

This was really in 1958 I would have been 9 years old.

Question: Had you had other kinds of birds before?

Yes.

Question: Like parakeets or anything like that?

No, not like parakeets we had three quails. They were tiny, the size of a quarter. They're little, tiny things. So the little quails would be running in the box that we put them in. We put them in this box because they were so tiny, we couldn't put them in a cage. We would have to wait until they grew bigger.

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Question: They'd probably go right through the - or whatever you had.

One did get out of the box and I was freaking out because it was in the kitchen, I looked in the box and only two were in there. I'm like, "Where is he going to go?" There was no place to hide in the kitchen. Everything was sealed on the kitchen floor. I go in the living room and I'm looking under the chairs and everything. I looked under the couch and the chairs, nothing there. I wondered if he could be in the fireplace because we hadn't been using it and it was nice and clean.

Question: Is that where you ended up finding him?

Yes, I'm looking and the tiny quail was right inside, in the fireplace. I finally cupped him in my hand and put him back. I have a whole small book of pictures I can even show you. It was Quailie and Femmie and one we didn't even name. I don't even know why. Quailie was the male he lived for 12 years and Femmie the female lived for 10. The other one died, what happened was there's two females and one male in one cage.

Question: Did they end up with fertilized eggs?

No. What happened is - you have two females and one male in the same cage. The male mated with one of the females and she laid her eggs. Both female quails like the male. But one of them broke the eggs and ate the eggs after she laid them. A fight broke out the female that laid the eggs attacked the female and male. When I got up that morning I saw what was happening and took her out and put her in the next cage, which was the bird that was attacking the other ones. This cage was built by my father. The cage was about 6 feet long.

With 4 separate cages down its length. Robbie was in the first cage, we had two myna birds in the next cage, then the three quail in the third cage. After the attack, we put the female who had laid the eggs in the last cage. We left Quailie and the other female in the same cage. Quailie had a big blister on his head, where the female pulled out his feathers on his head. He recovered but the female that was attacked, started having trouble walking, losing her balance and she died later. I believe I was 14 years old when that happened. Quailie lived 12 years and the female, 10 years. I didn't name the female, because we couldn't tell them apart, they looked alike. One was Femmie but we don't know which one.

Question: Did you really give that any thought until it happens?

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No, not really. We didn't know until it happened. I never thought of such a thing until it did happen.

Question: Sections especially for your birds?

There were four different sections, cages, for birds, yes, that we have.

Question: Where did the quails come from?

My father was hunting and was shooting quails. All of a sudden, he noticed that there were little baby quails.

Question: Maybe they've seen the nest or maybe the mom had gotten shot.

He shot some adult quails. He didn't know there were babies. He grabbed them up and put them in the container and took them home.

Question: He had a soft spot for them too.

Felt sorry for them because they'd be in the wild. If he left them out there some animal would have gotten the little quails.

Question: It sounds like you had a really nice setup though doing all of that.

Yes. I will show you the pictures afterward. Robie the robin had perches in his cage and the other two birds, the mynahs they perch, but the other section the quails were in they are always on the bottom, they didn't perch. We kept Quailie and the other female on that side. But every time they walk near that cage on her side, she'd attack the fence.

Question: She was still pissed. You learn things when you watch the animal kingdom. You understand things more.

But the female started getting unsteady when she walked this was after she had been attacked.

Question: Got a little sick?

No.

Question: Dizzy?

By attacking her the way she did, she probably damaged her brain or something because she eventually just died, and it was just him and her. But even if he walked over there, she

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would attack the cage. You could never put her back together with him. But he lived 12 years, she lived 10 years.

Question: That's a long time to keep a bird.

Robbie lived 12 years.

Question: They wouldn't have done that well out in the wild. That's for sure.

A woman who worked for DuPont gave me her two parakeets because she had a bigger bird who was jealous and she believed if it got out of its cage it would kill the parakeets.

Question: My grandfather used to work for them, by the way. Not that same DuPont. He was employed and so was an uncle of mine. He retired from there. It was a good paying job down in Kentucky to work for DuPont.

Question: Toucan?

Not a Toucan, I can't remember what it was called but it was big.

Question: With the big, curvy beak?

No, I'm not sure what it may have been.

Question: A parrot maybe? A parrot of some sort?

No, I don't know. But it's a big bird and she had these little parakeets. She had two parakeets and one was Firecracker and one was Algae.

She raised them. I have pictures of them that she had and when they first came out of the egg. She hatched them.

Question: Oh, she hatched them? That's got to be an experience.

I don't know how she got the eggs, but she hatched them out. She had them, but the problem was that big bird was jealous of it, and she was afraid when she'd be at work it would do something. It would get out somehow and kill them so she asked Russ if I would take them. He says, "Yes, okay." We had Algae and Firecracker. Now, Algae was a playful bird. He was into mischief a lot. We had him and Firecracker in the cage together.

Question: He had his own private residence.

They're brothers, right?

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Question: Pun intended.

You ever have a brother with some mischief that he's always picking on his other brother?

Question: Oh, yes. I'm the oldest of seven. I've seen that happen.

That's what was happening. When Firecracker went on the bottom of the cage, Algae was on the top of the perch. Firecracker's down the bottom. He's up there, and he's holding on to the perch, but he loosens his feet. He hangs upside down with his beak open straight like a bat with his mouth open and he's hanging straight down like a bat.

Question: Just to get the other bird?

Firecracker looks up and he's down at the bottom of the cage going squawking running in a circle like Indians chasing him. I said, "Algae, you get back up." And Algae would sit straight up on the perch, and then Firecracker would stop. As soon as I walk away, all of a sudden I hear the squawking again.

Question: It was their little thing.

Algae was teasing him, and Firecracker was scared.

Question: Fun to watch?

No, I had to separate them because I had other parakeets 10, I believe. I had to put Algae in with the other parakeets, and then later I had to get Firecracker used to being in there also.

Question: For years, you raised quails. You raised parakeets.

Yes this was in the year 2000 or older. I had 10 or 12 parakeets.

In the early years, we had a blue jay named Rocky and we had a cardinal we raised, Topper.

Question: They had to come in from the wild.

They were tiny things.

Question: Were they babies you simply found?

Little tiny birds, yes.

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Question: Did you have to feed them with eyedroppers and things like that when they were babies?

No. You just learn how to do it.

Question: They were old enough when you got them to eat, drink water.

You got to know what they're going to eat. Topper was the cardinal. The blue jay he was Rocky. That was Louise's bird. She loved that blue Jay. We had the quails, we had the cardinal, we had a Cedar waxwing, and we had a brown thrush.

Question: Is that a bird?

It's a little tiny bird –the Cedar Waxwing

Question: I'm unfamiliar with that.

That one we raised and he liked dad. He'd come and he'd fly on dad's shoulder. He'd always go to him and go on the lamp and sit there and look at him. Finally, one year, someone had the door open outside, the screen door was open.

Question: Did he manage to get out the door?

He looked at that and he saw the door was open. They could live out in that area because they are an indigenous bird. All of a sudden he sees it. He took off flying real quick, went out that door and it was the last thing we saw of him.

Question: Like adios.

Then, we had the brown thrash that we raised. He liked the blue jay and at night they'd all sit together, the blue jay and the brown thrash.

Question: That's interesting, the different types of birds, species associated.

The blue jays, the brown thrush, the cardinal, and they'd sit together, and they would go to sleep. When the blue jay was on the door in the house and our little cousin was over. Mom says, "Well, we should get Rocky," that was his name. We've got to get him and the little girl she slammed the door shut on the bathroom. He was on the bathroom door and he got crushed in between.

Question: Oh, no. What a way to go.

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My sister still hasn't forgiven her our little girl cousin and said, "She killed my bird." She loved that bird. Then, we had Blackie, the blackbird.

Question: How many years would you say you've done it? You were how old when you started rescuing the birds?

Around nine.

Question: You were still at home with your parents. You were a little girl. All your life you've raised rescue birds.

Oh, yes. Yes. Blackie was something because when he was little, we'd take him outside in the summer. We put him down on the ground and walk around, and he would go near rocks. Blackie he looked for bugs and he'd find some beetle bugs and stuff.

Question: I'll be darned.

And then, we'd take him back in and everything. We'd take him in. Afterwards, we would have his cage and everything. Another day we'd take him out. But one day as we were doing this, we would usually take him in, but all of a sudden, my sister was raking grass in the yard. Blackie got scared when she lifted the rake. He flew away. Then, mom goes, "Oh, well, he's gone."

Question: There went another one.

What happened, we were waiting and all of a sudden next thing you know, that night we hear a bird calling, and we go out and Blackie flew right back to us, and we took him in.

Question: He came back? He knew which side his bread was buttered on.

Do you know we used to let him go? Every day he'd go out, we let him go and he'd fly away with the other blackbirds.

Question: He was just a common blackbird, but trained well enough to come back?

Yes. We didn't train him.

Question: He did it on his own or just happened.

He would fly away with the blackbirds and then at night come back on a tree that was close to the house.

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We'd hear him call from the tree at supper and we'd go out. "Okay, Blackie," and he'd come fly so we'd take him in. But my Uncle John [Phonetic], oh man. Clara [Phonetic] she lives in the old stucco house that's ours.

Question: What's Clara's last name?

Clara Arena. She's married to my uncle, my father's brother, John Arena. That's where the old homestead was where Angelo Arena my grandfather lived years ago before I was born. He lived there, Angelo, the picture I have above the fireplace. He was 90 when he died.

Question: He's your grandfather?

Yes 1947, he died. I was born in 1949

Question: He was in that group picture. I remember.

Yes, I got that picture for you, and I wrote everything on it.

Question: Excellent. Everybody was very excited to see all of the other things that you donated.

Really?

Question: Yes. My friend, Deborah tagged everything so we know where to look again if we need to.

Aunt Clara she was hanging out the wash. What she was doing, she was hanging clothes out in the garden. Do you remember the old the rhyme?

Question: Which ones?

I forgot how it started, but it says, "The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes. Along came a blackbird and snipped off her nose."

Question: Yes.

Well, I forgot how the whole thing went now.

Question: The king was in the -

"County house counting out his money. The maid was in the - no. The Queen was in the parlor eating bread and honey. The maid was in the garden hanging out the clothes and along came a blackbird and snipped off her nose." Well, Aunt Clara she was hanging up

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clothes outside. Here comes Blackie walking along the clothesline pulling out the clothes pins.

Question: I wish you had a cell phone back in those days to record all this.

I know.

Question: That's quite a trick. You could put that on YouTube or Twitter, and you'd get lots of hits.

Well, Blackie was pulling the clothes pins off the clothes she was hanging up. When she turned around and the clothes were on the grass underneath it, they really wouldn't have become dirty. I hear from the house, "Evelyn, come here and get your bird." I went out and called Blackie and he came to me and I took him in. She's all mad."

One day when Blackie was out with the other blackbirds, my Uncle John came over our house and he had a basket filled with dead blackbirds. He asked us if we wanted to cook them. He left the basket on our step. We don't eat blackbirds.

I was so sad he killed them, I went down and buried them in one big grave. That day Blackie, our black bird didn't come home.

Question: They were quite tame, the birds that lived with you a long time.

Oh, yes.

Question: They were quite tame when you traveled. Some birds are not. They don't want to be around people.

We didn't travel.

Question: How long have those been in your house?

I have had Pidgy since 2015. He was hit by the car, or something, but can't fly. She, the dove, was caught by a hawk and dropped on the hood of my car and I took her in, she has a broken wing and can't fly. I've had her since 2015

Question: You've got two of them in there?

Yes, a dove. I call Grace. And the pigeon I call Pidgy

Question: I have to take a look in a minute.

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What happened, she broke her wing. This is what happened. I was looking outside the window and all of a sudden, because we feed them out there.

Question: Yes. I saw the seeds.

We feed them because sometimes there was such a drought all those years where it got real hot and they couldn't find food and they're looking for water.

Question: You mean all the other wild birds outside?

Yes we are feeding the animals. I put seeds out in a bowl. This hawk came down, grabbed her, carried her, but he had her by the wing. The hawk dropped her on my car, the hood of my car. It was parked right there. On to the hood of the car I heard boom. It sounded like a bullet shot. That's how loud it was. I go out there. She has no tailfeathers. It pulled them out. However, he did it with its beak or whatever. Her wing was hanging. She was in shock because she was just staring, on top of the car. I picked her up. There was no reaction or anything. She didn't know what was going on. It took the whole morning and night before she even came out of it.

Question: It's amazing she survived that. Even though she was alive when you caught her, going into shock and all that, she had a lot to succumb to even weeks later.

I looked at her afterwards and she lifted up her wing and blood spurted. I know the bone in there was broken and I couldn't do anything about it. The problem with it is you take them to these places, if they can't fly, they'll kill them.

Question: Is that what most of the vets do?

If I had to take them there, and his wing's frozen to the side, they would kill the bird.

Question: That one with feathers?

Yes. Pidgy his wing it hangs and then the feathers start to grow and he could trip on them. I keep that wing short, but it's frozen. But if I took him to a vet, then he says, "No, we can't have that." They would euthanize them, and they would euthanize her because she can't use her wing but she's happy enough.

Question: You don't usually take them to vets for anything? They don't need shots? I'm thinking like what you have to do for dogs or whatever.

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No, if they're sick I would get them checked out. They're not sick or anything. I give them seeds. Give them millet and sometimes, and fruit.

Question: Did you just read up on how to take care of birds?

I always read up on the birds.

Then, we had two myna birds and they would talk. It was funny because we didn't say certain things and they wound up saying it. My sister had a dog once, Judy [Phonetic], the dog, and she brought it over to the house. The dog was walking by and Mamie kept saying, "Judy, come here. Judy, come here." You know how you do it. "Judy, Judy, come here, Judy." The myna bird when they see Judy walking by, he goes, "Judy, Judy."

Question: That's funny. That bird was listening the whole time.

Well later, Mamie had a baby and then, when he was older, she'd put him on the floor. He was crawling by, and the bird looked down and went, "Judy, Judy," because he was crawling. That was the dog's name.

Question: It's so funny.

When we were finished washing the dishing, we would turn the lights out and go in the living room. We'd go in the living room and all of a sudden, I would hear the myna bird say, "What are you doing in there?" "What are you doing in there?" They wanted to know. Ha ha.

Question: That must have been something it heard repeatedly too. Someone was telling me that their bird made them crazy because the bird would make the sound of the microwave going off. Perfect pitch. Sounded just like the microwave beeping. They were constantly thinking, "What did I leave?" "Did I put my coffee in there to warm up or what?"

My son Joe had a bird, and it was right in the room. Their bird learned how to ring like the phone was ringing just like that. Every time the bird would do it, they rushed to the phone to get it and there was nobody on the end. The bird would laugh.

Question: They're perfect animals. It's amazing what they can do.

They still do it outside in the wild. I've been told that they hear stuff. They imitate car alarms, they learn it, and then people think it's a car alarm going off and it's not. It's a bird doing it.

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Question: Wow. That's going to mess up your mind. Let's talk about your parents a little bit. Tell me about your mother's personality.

Well, she was a homemaker.

Question: Tell me her name first of all.

Evelyn.

Question: And then, what was your mom's maiden name again?

Perna they were living down middle road. They had a farm down there and all that land where the airport is over there it used to be all their property.

Question: That was all Colonel land.

I don't know about Colonel land but this was their property. Yes, that was theirs. But like I said, the war and everything. All her brothers went into the service.

Question: What about your mom's personality? You had said at one point that she was a bit of a loner. She didn't even see relatives all that much.

Yes. People when they're growing up with relatives, things happen that you don't know about. We never talked about.

Question: Do you think hard feelings?

I just don't know, but later she started getting out of that. She received Christ as her Lord and Savior and was even witnessing for Christ. We went to church together mom visited her brother Sylvester and Helen his wife. She would share with them about the miracles that would happen. And how the Lord blessed her and one day they went to mom's church and when the minister asked if anyone wanted to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior, they both went forward and prayed to the Lord and received Christ as their Savior. I believe he was almost in his 80's and Helen was close to it.

Question: People get busy with their lives.

I don't really know. I didn't really know why, but she wanted to be a nurse. I found that later when I found a book that she had. It was nursing school, and she had signed up for it. She wanted me to be a nurse. I went to Atlantic City, and I took a test in Atlantic City. She says, "It'd be a good enough education for you, so I went there. I always read on my own

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encyclopedias and stuff like that. It would interest me, and I'd read about the bones and read about the body and the organs when I was growing up.

Question: Was there something that turned you off about nursing? What made you decide not to go into nursing? You can be honest.

00:25:40 (unintelligible)

Question: Oh, that. I get that.

00:25:49 (unintelligible)

When I went to Atlantic City Hospital and took the test, I passed it with a high score. It's a medical test a written one. It had questions about the heart, bones and what is this and all this stuff? What would you do in a situation like this. I just took the test.

Question: It sounds like they expected you to know a lot without even having been in school.

Yes. But I read a lot. Here, I got a high score that they called me and wanted me to join right away, and I don't have to pay anything. I could come because they couldn't believe my score and everything. They said all expenses paid and all that.

Question: You have to want to do the work. That's for sure.

I wanted to be an artist. Mom would say, "You'll be a starving artist?"

Question: Unfortunately, that goes hand-in-hand with being an artist. It's not lucrative. It's a good, creative job.

Do you know, in the '90s, I put five of my paintings in an Italian restaurant? It was like a pizzeria. I asked them if I could put my paintings on the wall for sale and he says, "Yes, go ahead." There was someone else who had paintings on the wall, but it was all the abstract stuff. Some kid - guy did it. I started putting my paintings up and the workers all stopped because they were all family members, brother, and brother-in-law.

Question: The paintings you have shown me, I was very impressed with it.

They looked at me and said, "You did that?" I said, "Yes." He stopped and looked.

Question: When did you start doing paintings?

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When I was a little girl, I started and then trained myself because I feared I couldn't go to school for art.

Question: Did you ever take classes and all that?

Yes, I did art instruction schools they sent me courses. Remember that? Be an artist. Art instruction school. Join.

Question: I remember matchbooks covers.

That was Art Instruction School. I did and I graduated from it. I learned what I could. But the way I used to do it, I'd get a photograph and stare at it. I would draw where the things were, and I look at every line. There are the paint by number kits I learned a lot from paint by numbers because you would paint the numbers like four and then another number. "Okay, that part is the one color and now I go switch and they had another number. You look and you see how they would paint that color. Then you notice how they place the shadows, and highlights.

Question: You were able to apply that then to whatever to make that.

Yes, when I was young, little, I'd start doing that. I used to even get the Sears Roebuck.

Question: The Wish Book.

Yes. They were black and white and everything, so I'd get my crayons and I'd color.

Question: So, it looks better. To color is very creative. You have a creative mind.

I was doing all that. I would do some small paintings and when I would show them, I was selling them one by one to different people when they saw them they wanted to buy them.

Question: Nice.

But this restaurant I put five paintings in there. I got a call that night on the phone by this girl, Bridget who was working there, she comes to our church. She says, "Oh, I wanted to tell you that one of your paintings sold." "Oh, great, great."

Question: Nice surprise.

I'm walking away and I laughed, and I said to Russ, "Wouldn't it be something if she called back and said they're all sold?" Before I got out of the room, the phone rang again. I went over there, and she says, "They're all sold." The owner bought one. The owner's brother

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bought one of the ones he liked. A brother-in-law bought one. There was a young woman with her boyfriend. I had a real long painting. It had a house on top with a barn. It was a snow scene, with kids playing at the top in the snow, Kids sledding down the snowy drive. A red brick bridge over a stream with holly growing near it. Two children were walking on the bridge with holly in their hands. A little girl near the pond with ice skates in her hand, but can't skate because the pond isn't frozen yet.

Question: That sounds lovely.

I really liked it.

Question: Did that sell as well?

That sold. This girl kept looking at it. She was with her date. Bridget told me. She said, "She kept looking at it and staring at it." He goes, "You really like that," because she heard the conversation. "Yes, I do. It reminds me when I was real little. But I don't have the money." They kept eating. She looked at it again. He says, "You like that that much?" She says, "Yes. But I don't have the money." He says, "I'll give you the money." "You can't do that," He said. "Yes, you can."

Question: He bought it as a present?

He bought it for her. They all got sold. One was a lighthouse, dark night scene with lights coming out of the house that was beside the lighthouse. The lights coming from inside the house were reflecting on some of the little bushes on the outside, lights are reflecting on the water.

Question: How did your parents cope with you deciding not to be a nurse and you going off to investigate art and things?

They let me do what I wanted to do. I used to do that. Plus, in the meantime, I was writing. I already wrote two.

Question: Fiction.

Yes, I write in rhyme all the time. I was a poet and didn't know it.

Question: It comes naturally.

That's what these books are. I am going to give one of each of the books I had published. These are all the drawings I did in the book.

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Question: Oh, wow. You illustrated it as well?

Yes, illustrated. I'd like to read one to you.

Question: It's beautiful. Yes, I'd like to hear some of it.

Let me read one. The Rug was a Brat.

Question: You know which ones are the good ones.

I got favorites. I'll hold it this way so you could see too. Stop standing on me. Get off my pile. I'm a handsome rug with the latest style. Don't stand on me like I'm not here. Your weight is just too much to bear. This rug just has an attitude. In fact, this rug is just plain rude. He didn't want to do his job. In fact, this rug was just a snob. I was made in Paris the rude rug said with the finest dyes of blues and red. And the thickest pile that's oh so fine. Just look at me. I'm one of a kind. And just keep those kitty paws off my face. Get rid of the kitty. It's a big disgrace. An animal belongs outside you see. Don't let them set his tail on me. Stop your complaining. You should be glad. I picked you from all the rugs they had. They said you were adorable, and it served me well. If I knew you were a brat they would have lost the sale. I'm not a brat. I'm a rug divine. I'm a handsome rug, top of the line. And I don't need you and your dirty shoes or a cat that sits on me to snooze. I'm a wondrous rug. I'm a great creation. I should be used as a decoration. A special place upon your wall to be admired by one and all. If I do this thing as you request just because you say you are the best. Well, I hear you complain for the very last time and finally have peace of mind. Oh yes, he said my solemn vow. Just take me off the store right now. Okay, I'll honor your request not because you say you are the best. Just because I need to rest.

Question: Is that you?

Yes, this was me having a slender version when I was younger.

Today the rug came off the floor and placed upon my wall. And everyone admires it while standing in the hall. And this little rug has been so good. And yes, he's kept his word. Since he's been upon my wall, complaints have not been heard. So, today I bought another rug and placed it on the floor. This rug is nice and sturdy and I set it near the door. I turned around and walked away, but then I heard a whine. I'm a very handsome rug, oh yes, I am divine. What am I doing on this floor? I took the rug back to the store. Buy a rug? Never more.

Question: I like it.

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They all rhyme like that.

Question: How did you publish it? How did you go about -

I got the name of the publisher, and I sent the manuscript. They said it's okay. They would do it.

Question: Nice.

I had to work with them.

Question: How old were you when you did that?

This was 2004, I think it was. I forgot. I forgot already. 2005 and I did all the illustrations.

Question: That's quite an accomplishment.

This one I like.

Question: The Moon Was Really Full. I like the title.

The Moon said to the Sun, "I'm greater than you. Men have walked upon my surface I was in their headlines too. They couldn't visit you no matter how they felt because if they tried these people would all melt." The Sun spoke up and said, "This may all be true, but I make all things grow. That's something you can't do. And I keep people warm, and I take away the gloom." And that is what she said to the uppity old moon. Then, the Moon said in response, "But I am also bright. I take away the gloom in the middle of the night. The people stare at me when they are in love. And they always talk about this big old moon above. They say that I am beautiful as they hold each other tight. I make people happy in the middle of the night." "Well, I agree to that. The people say these things, but in my morning light the birds rise up and sing. They're happy that I'm there and so is every living thing." The Moon said, "That is true. But as the day wears on, their little eyes get tired and they're happy when you're gone. And when I come on out, my face they all admire. I make them very sleepy so at night they can retire." Then, the Sun said, "Silly moon, you get your light from me. And if I didn't shine, then moon, where would you be? The people on the Earth wouldn't know that you were there." With that answer, the silly moon began to stare. "I get my light from you? They wouldn't know I'm here. Oh, me, oh my, you're way beyond compare. How come I didn't know this? Who kept me in the dark?" "It wasn't me," smiled the sun with a little spark. Then, the Moon and the Sun smiled at each other. The Sun said, "I'm your sister. Moon, you are my brother."

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Question: Love the expressions on them.

Yes. The Moon, he was so happy he closed his little eyes and then all at once he drew her light inside. And when he began to smile, the light was seen on high. It was a great big smile in the darkened sky. And when you see that smile, you'll know her light was drawn inside as he thinks about his sister with a little brother's pride. What do you think about it?

Question: It's sweet. It's very, very sweet. Really not bad as a children's book with all the rhyming and the illustrations are simple enough that they can understand.

That is true.

Question: It is funny poetry for children.

Yes. That's right.

Question: Window to Aunt Evie's World.

That's what they called her, Evie.

Question: And then, it says on the back which poems you have in there.

Right.

Question: This is very nice. You're very accomplished, I have to say.

I'll give you this. This is in the newspaper about the book when they came.

Question: Very nice. You were a lot heavier here.

Yes, I know. I lost 46 pounds. I went on a strict diet and watched what I was eating when I finally said I've had enough of this.

Question: You just counted calories to get thin?

I didn't even count the calories. What I did was I cook vegetables, a little bit of chicken or something. I always eat fruit, apple, or orange. I did eat a regular meal, I cook the food the way I would like it. I'd only eat what's in my dish and when I'm done I push away the dish. I won't eat seconds. I kept doing this and the weight came off. I'd have dessert and that was it.

Question: Can I have this?

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Yes. I am giving you the books for the Historical Society . And this is the one I had made. The Unhappy Spud is the first one story in this book. It has a different ending in the single book. This one I had published by another publisher, Tate Publishing,

Question: Did you start writing at a particular age?

About eight or nine years old.

Question: Mainly with poems that rhyme?

Everything rhymes, just rhyming all the time. I even have some of them in my book in here though. I'll show you.

Question: That's a pretty picture of that lady.

Yes. I did this painting because my pastor's wife said they want to have little princesses. She wanted to make a flyer for little princesses. The little girls would be princesses in the church and they had a special group. She said she wanted something for the thing to do little princesses. She said, "Could you paint a little princess?" And I had painted this.

Question: She almost looks Indian, an Indian princess.

Yes.

Question: How pretty. This is from 2006. A painting that Evelyn did. We were talking about your mom's personality and all that. Was there any more that -

She was a home maker. She always cooked. She Always cooked good meals. We used to have the sewing machine. She'd make aprons, real pretty aprons. She would make some of our clothes. Around 1972 mom started working for White Hall Labs, in Hammonton. She packed pills and other health products. She did this for some time, she was still working there after dad died in 1979, I believe.

Question: Did she sell them?

Yes, she would sell them, the aprons. Some of them she'd give away as gifts. We would always do things together. We went to work for a farmer, I was eight years old. We were picking strawberries. And we would pick blueberries, mom, and me when I was a little girl at the time. I'd go out and she would get paid. We'd picked the berries. At eight years old, I was out doing that stuff.

Question: It sounds like a nice memory, though because you were doing it with mom.

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Yes. Oh, yes. I loved being out in the fields and stuff and in farms.

Question: I remember you saying that you've packaged things.

I packaged blueberries, peaches, and apples. I did all different ways. There are different ways to do each fruit. I did that every year. By the time you get the blueberries, you get out of school. All of a sudden Bill LaManna would have the blueberries down the streets. It's all down our street, main road. It was Bellbay Farms. It's Billy LaManna. He just passed a couple years ago. I have his death notice with his picture. He had the blueberries. We packed the blueberries here until the blueberry season was done. Then, we go to Arthur Celi. They just tore down his house and they're building all those high rises.

Question: That was just a little further down the road?

It was right across from our house.

Question: You didn't have to go too far though?

No, just walked across to Arthur Celi's farm. And Salvatore Celi was still there Arthur's father who originally bought the land. Because when I was there, he was in his 90s when I was going there.

Question: You were a teenager?

Yes, when we packed there, but I was in my 20's when he told me about the property. He was talking about the property a doctor owned the house before. It looked like this with white pillars on the porch everything white and they had the round circular driveway that came out into one drive out.

Question: From a young age you were bringing in some money. Tell me about your father, his personality.

He's was a hard worker, He usually got up around 10:00 eat breakfast, go out to the shop, at 6:00 pm he'd come in for dinner, then back to the shop, and he'd finish around 4:00 a.m. I remember him doing this all the time and this was hard work. His arm muscles were hard as rock. Shaping metal to rebuild trucks a farmer wanted converted. Sometimes he would take out his portable welder and go to a farm to weld some equipment that was broken on a farm. Dad worked hard all his life, a good man. He also was kind, he would do a job for a customer and it really would have cost a lot for the repairs, but he knew the

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person really couldn't afford it, so he'd give him a really low price. I heard one man say, "But Joe, this job cost more than that"

My father would say no the price is and repeat it. The man gave in, and he handed my father a little more money then he asked for. Dad accepted it because it made the man feel better that he gave a few dollars more. He said, Thanks Joe, smiled and went away.

Question: They had a good marriage? You describe their marriage as a good marriage?

Yes. They loved each other. And they took care of each other. Mom would pay all the bills and send out the bills, for jobs dad finished and wasn't paid yet. Dad told her to save the money and mom would do the banking.

Question: Do you have any stories about him? Did he have hobbies?

My father?

Question: Yes.

He would take us crabbing in the summertime, in Tuckerton, N.J. down Seven Bridge Road. You would drive over seven wooden bridges, If another was driving on it, you would have to back up because only one vehicle would be able to drive on the bridge, so sometimes you had to wait. These bridges were small, small streams of water would pass under them.

He built that boat. He built another boat before that. He built over 100 tractors. Before blueberries, they always had apples and peaches.

Question: That they grew themselves?

Yes. People had apples, peaches, or potatoes. My Uncle John, they were growing potatoes. Here, the farmers had the big trees. Apple trees, peach trees this is before farmers decided to plant blueberries. You have big rows. My father wanted to plant blueberries. He was telling his brother, John that we got to get into blueberries. But Uncle John said, "No. No, we're not planting blueberries, just potatoes." "My advice is this, it is the new thing." My father read a lot. He used to work on the farm. They made him quit school when he was in seventh grade. He had to work on the farm. He can't go to school. But he studied and he read everything he could. He was a genius, I tell you. He says blueberries are going to be the thing and this is what you're going to make money with.

Question: He was right about that.

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The blueberry farm over there and Testa's big blueberry farms, they made a lot of money. But the problem was when they planted the blueberry bushes, they weren't thinking.

Question: What happened that they did not right?

You plant an apple tree here. You plant an apple tree here. You have your tractor.

Question: You make rows.

Then, they made a mistake. The bushes, plant a bush here, another bush here. When they start growing, there's not enough room between the rows and the big tractors can't get between the rows. They weren't making small tractors.

Question: Not enough room to get down between the rows is that -

They had no tractor small enough that could go between the rows.

Question: Did your dad build something? Invent something?

My father built a tractor for himself. Because we planted corn and stuff and we had a garden. He built a small tractor to get through the rows of our garden.

Question: He was brilliant.

A farmer comes over, "Where did you get that tractor?" "I built it." "You built it? Joe, you have to build me a tractor. I can't get my big tractor through the rows of the blueberries."

Question: Then he had people wanting him to take orders, I imagine?

He used to make everything, and he'd do it all by hand. Bend things with a hammer. He was so strong his muscles were hard as rock. He had a friend who had a metal shop down main road. Matthew Gazzara would help him make parts also.

Question: He sounds like an amazing metal worker.

Yes. He built another tractor and sold it to the farmer. Another farmer came, "Where did you get that tractor?" "Joe Arena." "I got to get a tractor." He comes, "Would you build me a tractor?" My father went and built him a tractor. Then, another and the news spread and spread. He built over 100 tractors. 110 tractors were built by him. It's made by himself in his welding shop with some help from Matthew Gazzara.

Question: That's an amazing accomplishment. All built by hands.

Yes. That was in the '50s, early 50s. Even the '60s.

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Question: You were just a young girl at the time when all that was happening.

Yes. This guy from a garage, he was selling used cars, a friend of ours. He says, "You'll never guess what came in the lot He says you'll never guess. All of a sudden, there was this flat body truck that came in and there was this tractor on it. I asked, "Where did you get that?" He says, "A man named Joseph Arena in Hammonton made this thing and it still runs perfectly." This was made like I said, in the '40s or early '50s.

Question: When was it he was saying this?

In the 90's

Question: Your father built it to last, as they say.

When he went into the service, they used to do camouflage nets and the men would have to weave them by hand. It took so many hours with these guys trying to do these nets. A High ranking officer asked him, "Could you build a machine that can weave burlap for camouflage. We got burlap that you could do something to make these camouflage nets they put over tanks and planes.

Question: To hide the tanks?

Yes.

Question: But they wanted a machine to actually do the weaving so they wouldn't have to do it by hand.

Yes. They asked my father to invent something to do that.

Question: He did?

My father worked and worked and worked. Then, this guy, a higher ranking officer than dad, comes in there where he is trying to make this machine, and starts bothering him. My father gets angry and tells him to get out and leave him alone." The officer tells my father he was in trouble now, you wait and see.

The officer reports to the officer who gave this job to my father and tells him what dad did. This officer who bothered dad was chewed out by the commander, because they told dad, "Nobody bothers you. They will answer to me if anybody bothers you." He didn't have to listen to anybody who would go in there. This guy comes in and like "What are you doing?"

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Question: He was his own boss and given free rein to the shop, it sounds like at whatever he was working.

Yes, he did. He had figured out how to do it. How to do the gears. How to do anything. The guy came in and bothered him. He lost his temper, my father because imagine trying to build a machine that never existed.

Question: Yes because he has to design it. He's got to make it work. Make it built to last so it holds up.

Right.

Question: It's funny how men will try and throw their weight around if they can get away with it.

My father built the machine. There was a video of him showing it working. Dad was given the photographs of him doing it. There were these photographs of him standing there with the machine. The burlap would go in and will come out in strips.

Question: The machine will cut it? Cut the fabric?

Actually, weave the inside so they were strips. I think they were like this wide. All the men had to do was clip the strips together

Question: Simplified the whole process.

They didn't have to weave it themselves by hand. It says on the thing that it saved many man hours.

Question: Did he patent that device?

He couldn't because he's working for the government, because he was a soldier.

Question: I wasn't aware of that.

He did get full credit for inventing the machine, and it was put in writing and the government thanks him.

Question: Just that alone is pretty cool.

Yes.

Question: Did that put any money in his pocket?

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No.

Question: I see. Wow. Interesting. Your father was very accomplished.

Yes, he was.

Question: He was quite a genius.

Yes. He made his own boat.

Question: How long did he live?

He was born on Dec.7, 1911. He was 68 years old when he died on Dec 19, 1979 He had that and he built his own bows. He invented the compound before anyone else invented it.

Question: I've heard of those.

Well, do you know he invented it before they had them?

Question: I'll be darned. He had a lot of forethought.

You pull it back and at a certain point, the tension is off. You're holding like this and as soon as you bring it this way, the tension comes back on. People who were always there were like this and they're shaking.

Question: Holding it a long time.

But you pull it back, and it hooks somehow. When you see the deer, you just push it forward and you let go.

Question: And then, you get the spring back. It's funny because I've heard of compound bows. My brother does archery. I had a niece who did archery and competed. But I didn't know how they worked or what the whole process was.

He was also in the process of making another thing, another bow. I have it downstairs and it's not totally complete. My son will get the other stuff. All that stuff that belongs to dad.

Question: Amazing.

He always had tons of inventions for locks and other things. He has diagrams for a tree-seat. You know what a tree-seat is?

Question: Is that just for somebody hunting?

Yes.

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Question: That attaches up a tree.

Yes. He built this thing and in his tree-seat, the way he built it. You have this pedal thing on the floor of it, and you move it with your feet and it turns the tree seat in a different direction.

Question: It'll shift around the tree?

No, All you have to do is move your feet, two pedals and it will rotate the seat. If you use push down the left pedal it will move the seat left. If you push down the right pedal the seat would move right. The whole tree seat doesn't move, just the seat inside it. He had a heater he built that he would take for the inside of the tree seat, to keep warm.

Question: Was he an avid hunter?

Yes.

Question: I'm assuming only a hunter would know what's needed and what would make the whole process a little easier.

I helped him put the tree-seat up in the tree. Since he didn't have a son, I became like his son. I wanted to help my father. I went fishing with him. I cleaned all the quail, all the rabbits. I even skinned a deer.

Question: Wow. You didn't mind getting your hands dirty.

Not for my father. My father was a wonderful man. Since he didn't have a son, I thought it was no good that nobody would help him.

Question: You got a lot to process it sounds like.

Then, my dad and I would go out and load his truck up with the squash because we bait the deer with them. The pumpkin squash, the farmer would say, "Go pick up all you want Joe because it's the end of the season." I'd load the bushel baskets. He would get a bushel basket, fill it and I had mine. We would put them on his truck, and we load the truck, come back home and then unload the truck, we'd carry the bushels into our cellar. And at the end of our day we could rest and feel like, it was a wonderful days work. We were out in the air and nature, God's good earth, and so close to nature. I miss it so much, it hurts.

Question: You must have been very fit and strong doing all that.

Always was.

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Question: You were farm girl.

Do you know what the doctor told me about two years back? He says, "I think you might have a little osteoporosis because you're aging and everything." I said, "No." I tell him. "No, I was very active in my life." He goes, "Well, we'll see." They made me get the bone density test. You know where they do the x-rays and everything?

Question: At certain ages, they want you to do all this testing.

Guess what happened? The nurse came out to say, "Yes. It's all right." I said, "It's all right?" "Well, let me tell you what the doctor said. "She has the bones of a horse."

Question: I guess that's a good thing.

So strong.

Question: It means you're strong.

I fell down the stairs carrying a basket of clothes. I fell in the other room when I fell. I didn't get a bruise. I didn't get any broken bones or nothing.

Question: You're lucky. You're really lucky. You're strong, that had to help.

Yes, I was strong. I was in my 60's at the time. I have a weight machine and I was always lifting weights to keep my muscles good. I haven't done it since I got sick because of my oxygen. Stopped lifting the weights because my heart rate goes up and my oxygen goes down. I can do it sometimes but I have to keep checking both the oxygen and heart rate.

Question: How long have you been on oxygen?

Since 2018.

Question: Is it tough to all of a sudden be sideline - on the oxygen because you're used to being outdoors and doing outdoor things.

Yes. It's horrible. But this ground is loaded the stuff that I'm allergic to. See this?

Question: What is that from?

It's a rash. See this rash? I can't get rid of it. It comes and goes. If I get my hands in hot water, it gets bad and the rash appears.

Question: That feels more apt to be an allergy of some kind to something that's in the environment.

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It's something in the grass.

Question: Yes now that you pointed out.

You know what it was? I had the air hose and I walked out to the mailbox. When I got in, I had to pull my air hose back in, but it was lying on the ground and the grass. And then, I'm sweating. I wiped my face with my hand and I got this rash on my face, my face swelled up from here on my forehead and my eye was closing.

Question: That's definitely an allergy.

It's something in the grass. The doctor had put all this cortisone all over my face. I had to do it two, three times a day.

Question: You just become sensitive.

There's something in the grass that I can't touch. If I touched the grass, a rash breaks out and I can't get rid of it and that stays in my skin.

Question: With allergies sometimes, you just never know the culprit.

We don't know.

Question: Not to cut you off, but to go back to your family a little bit. Did you know your grandparents at all?

No. They all died before I was born because I was born in 1949. He died in 1947 at 90 years old.

Question: He had a good, long life, though, to make it to 90. It's amazing.

Yes. He was born in 1857 and he died in 1947.

Question: I'm impressed everyone that you can keep these dates in your head and spout them off just like that.

Actually, I did this for you. Let me see where it is now. I got some pictures for you too.

Question: Excellent.

Look at this photo, this is Louise. That's Louise I think she was 10 years old. Then there is Madelyn and Mamie. They would be 6 years old, I can't tell which one's which, being twins.

Question: The twins are very identical.

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And there I am, a raga muffin, I think I was 3 years old.

Question: Oh, look at you. Oh, you're so cute. This is priceless. Your sister, Louise was getting to that age where the kids get leggy. All long arms and legs. She was shooting up. She's getting tall.

Look at my hair. It looks like a bush.

Question: What was your mom thinking?

I don't know, but that's why they called me Fuzzy. That farmer I said, he calls me Fuzzy. Here's another picture of my mom when she was older. This is a year before my mom died.

Question: She looked very healthy here.

She would've been 90. My mother would've been 90 in that picture. She was months away from being 90.

Question: She does not look it.

Yes, I know. She didn't.

Question: She looks late 70s.

This is 2005.

Question: You have good genes. Very good genes, I think.

That's my mom there too.

Question: I see she is on oxygen.

Yes.

Question: Did she have some lung issues as well?

COPD. She wound up with COPD. Let's see. These are pictures you can have. This is my mom's dad. This is my grandfather, David Perna. That's mom's dad.

Question: What a handsome mustache he has.

Evelyn Perna Arena. Her father, David Perna and Louisa, that's the mother. These are her children. The first two died, Mario Perna and Maria Perna.

Question: These were your grandmother's children? Your mother's siblings?

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My mother's brothers and sisters. Grand mom had a baby girl and later a baby boy. They both died about a year old, Maria and Mario then she had a miscarriage. That would have been three. Then, she had Daniel Perna, Dave Perna, Teddy Perna. Joe Perna, Rocco Perna, Lewis Perna, Sylvester Perna. Angelina, they called her Angie Perna and Stella Perna and then mom. But they're not in order of their birth.

Question: How many? What's the grand total? I lost count. Living children, she had one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10 living children and then 11, 12 and 13. 13 pregnancies?

Yes.

Question: All she did with her adult life is to have babies.

No, Down middle road, Louisa our grandmother, she would help her neighbors. Whenever people living down middle road became ill, they would say, "Get Louisa, and Louisa would go and help take care of them. Make soup and bring food for the sick one. And just care of the person. She did this all the time while she lived there. She was very kind.

Question: Electric Welding. Joseph Arena. Was this outside your family home?

No. This was the old homestead on top of the hill. Up here, it's up on the top of the hill. And then, you come down and the driveway is like this low. You go back and the barns were there. He did welding in the barn with his electric welder, before he had his welding shop. He put this electric welding sign up there because he was living at this house with Uncle John, his brother, who was a lot older than him. Because you have to remember his brothers and sisters were adults when he was 4 years old.

Question: Your father was the baby.

Yes.

Question: Your father was like change your life baby it sounds like.

Yes. Look at this.

Question: There were how many siblings?

Looking at a photo. Here's dad. This is my father.

Question: How many of these people were -

This is my grandfather, holding Joe on his lap. Dad was 4 years old and grandfather was 58

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Question: That would have made him 54 when his last child was born.

Yes.

Question: That's old by today's standards even.

Sebastiano Grincerì, he was 27. It was 1888 to 1967, the years. And then, Rose, his wife, she was born in 1896 and died 1969. She was 19 years old in this picture. She was my father's sister. I don't know who that is. I have a question mark with these two. John Arena, Bill Arena, Kate Arena.

Question: Probably friends or maybe bridesmaids.

Yes. Now, that is John at 25 years old. He's the one who lived in that house he's the one who killed the blackbird.

Question: That was him?

Yes.

Question: I'm not fond of him.

He lived from 1890 to 1983. Then Kate, she died in 1967. I don't have when she was born. But it's in the same range

Question: Your grandfather.

He was 1857 to 1947. He was 90.

Question: He was 90, but how many siblings did he have that were older? He had one, two, three, four, five siblings with him as the sixth child?

It was John. It was Kate. It was Bill. And Rose Let me think. And Joe.

Question: And then, the bride, right?

Yes, Rose.

Question: The fifth child?

Angelina.

Question: He was the sixth.

Angelina was the one who died when she was 13. She's not here.

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Question: What happened to her?

She just came home from school, and she didn't feel good. She laid down when they called her for supper. They went in there. She had died.

Question: You mentioned her when we talked last.

Yes.

Question: Now, I remember.

She's not there so that would have been another one. One, two, three, four, five, six. There have been six children.

Question: Right. That's a big family. Very nice. Thank you for doing that.

Uncle Sebastian, that was my uncle, and dad's sister, Rose, married him. Dad's brothers and sister and brother here in these photos.

Question: That identifies everybody. Awesome. Thank you for doing that. Handsome men.

Bill Arena, the one who owned the Arena Olds (Oldsmobile). One is Bill. John was the farmer.

Question: That's Uncle Bill. This is him here.

Yes. He owned the Arena's Olds, started it. Then John Arena had the farm. Kate and Pete had Pete's market on White Horse Pike and the Beer Garden, and it was Pete Grincer who Kate, dad's sister married. It's still there up on the pike. Coming out of Bellevue Avenue.

Question: I was just going to say, down towards the railroad trestle down that way to the left?

Yes. Your left, then you go all the way down, you'll find the Pete's Market down there.

Question: I know where it is.

That was theirs.

Question: Is it still owned by family?

I don't think so.

Question: I think I'm going to turn this off, so I don't run out of time.

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Date of Interview	Saturday, July 9, 2022 (third Interview)
Interviewer(s)	Janet Hasulak
Interviewee(s)	Evelyn Galson
Others Present	

Here's one. It was in 1988. I submitted a poem called "The Little Church on the Hill" that I wrote, and I got the Golden Poet award.

Question: Certificate that they gave you. Awesome.

Yes. Was there something else there? Or was that just... oh, yes, there is. After that, I received this, the Silver Poet Awards The same poem, 1988 and 1989 for the same one.

Question: Very nice.

And then I received this award from Art Instruction schools, the Blue Moon Art Award, which is for artistic skills.

Question: This is when you were still learning.

Yes, I was still learning.

Question: Do you ever do shows? Or have you done just a one person show and rented out a place and had a show of any kind?

No, I never have. I just put those painting in that Italian restaurant and they all sold.

Question: And it sold.

No I had put five paintings in there. They all sold in one day. I also do pet portraits and people pay me.

Question: That's awesome. So that's a way of making a little money off of your talent.

Yes, selling the paintings brings money in, but it's more like sharing myself, my art, more than the money.

Question: You're a homemaker, home health aide course. I did that before I became a nurse.

Yes. And this is what I had done. Later I went in 1992 to college to become a home health aide.

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Question: Board of Nursing has certified you. Excellent.

I was taking care of many patients in their homes. Yes, But when I was taking care of a one patient in a home, he was six foot tall. This was after I was doing it for a little while, and he went into spasm, and he was falling this way. He was six foot and I'm leaning back this way so he wouldn't fall, if I do this he would fall. I leaned back until his spasm left, and then I was able to grab him like that and put him in the wheelchair. I had to do everything, do the bed, I had to take care of him and register his intake and output, take care of his physical needs, wound care, hygiene care and all that. But that day I hurt my spine.

Question: Did it pull your back out?

Oh, man. My back got so bad that I already had surgery on my spine in 1987 because of a fall, and this was 1990s, It wound up every disc in my back had deteriorated. My surgeon from Temple Hospital told me they couldn't do anything for me. **So I prayed to the Lord and asked Him to heal me, and stood on the Word of God, It says He bore our sicknesses and carried our infirmities and by His stripes we are healed and spoke it every day and in four weeks I was totally healed of my back injury.** Then I got this basic heart certificate in 1993 from them. While I was still doing this, I was studying for Berean Bible in '95. I got that as I passed that one course.

Question: For the Assemblies of God. How do you say the name of the college?

Berean Bible .And then I got this in '98 where I completed it, I received the completion certificate for these courses.

Question: Another art certificate.

Yes. And then in '99.

Question: You're a good inspiration for younger people. I can see from all these certificates that you kept learning throughout your whole lifespan. You started with your interest as a child, and then you just built on it, which I admire. I think that's a very important thing to be doing.

Yes. And that's 1999, I got an ordination from another church for evangelist, but I've be doing this work for a long time, at healthcare facilities since 1985.

Question: Did you need to go away to get this? Or was it a certification?

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No, to a local church, because I was doing evangelism on my own. But God ordained me, but I studied the Bible from when I gave my life to the Lord when Joey was only three months old and I started into the Bible, reading it, and reading it. I learned a lot, and then the Lord called me...

Question: You were young when you became...

Twenty-four when I received Christ, I was 25 when the Lord called me.

Question: That's one of their newsletters then.

This is when I wrote for the Coast Guard Booklet. I forgot what I wrote about now but, they gave me a press pass badge. We would write articles for the Coast Guard and different operations. Yes. It's not a newsletter, it's a booklet. That's our press pass. That's my press pass. It's a booklet. It's thick, about this thick, and it has all the pictures and everything that people did. Then this was when I joined the Coast Guard in 1999.

Question: This is so cool that you have all these, you saved them all and have them in one place.

Oh, she's got boxes. I've got books, but you wouldn't want them. I became a seaman specialist, weather specialist, I became crew on there. The last one I did was I became crew to go on search and rescue. But then my mom, I took her in to live with me.

Question: Did you do that much? Did you go out and have to go and do search and rescue?

We'd go out and we would if anything we came upon. But I had just qualified when I took mom in in 2003 to take care of her.

Question: That was when you quit the Coast Guard because you were taking care of your mom. Yes I quit in 2003 when I took my mom here to take care of her.

Question: Civic participation, Evelyn Galson, recognition, and appreciation of commitment to strengthening our nation and for making a difference through volunteer service

Yes. This is 2005, I got an award, presidential award. Russ got one, too, earlier. Yes, that's the presidential. It was signed by George Bush.

Question: There's your letter of congratulations from George Bush. Yes.

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Yes. He gave me that.

Question: This is the publishing company who stole your stuff.

Then after that, let's see what this is. This is 2012 this is the publishing company that stole your stuff. This is what they had put out and released for the book, the little book, this one. Tate Publishing Company.

Question: So that's the company you had problems with. Who published the other book for you?

Author House. But I made a mistake. I fired them; I shouldn't have fired them. Because I figured they weren't helping much because you have to do all your own stuff, and it's really with everyone you have to do it.

Question: Your own publicity and things like that.

Yes, I would have to promote my own book and try to get them in stores, etc.. but all publishers do this.

Question: So that's why you chose them?

I chose Tate because they said they were born again, filled with the Spirit. They were a bunch of liars because Mr. Tate, his son, and the two wives, all the money was going in their bank account.

Question: Charlatans is what they were.

Yes, and nobody was getting their royalties. And we couldn't get any of our books all the authors lost out. They went to trial in Oklahoma, for embezzlement, and the judge gave them 20 years probation. They are now back in business again, and no author received money. They got away with it.

Question: The Silver Rose Award.

Did you bring in your silver award, Eve? That's it there. Your little rose, okay. Yes. I didn't even know they did this kind of thing.

Question: Oh, that's beautiful.

See it. This is what I was presented with, this silver rose. Underneath of that is a real rose.

Question: Who was it that presented?

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The Coast Guard.

Question: Oh, wow. That's absolutely beautiful.

They freeze it in nitrogen, and then they spray it with silver. Erma Crossman Award [Phonetic]. I've got to wash that off. The silver is getting tarnished already.

Question: It's beautiful. A little tarnished. If you keep touching it, it will probably come off. Perspiration removes it.

And they gave you the thing you can put it in it.

Question: It's heavier than it looks. That's precious. It looks fragile. I don't want to mess it up.

We're the first ones to... two other women received it too.

Question: Was that given to you when you left the Coast Guard?

No. This was to recognize wives whose husbands are still in the Coast Guard. Yes, and we support them. But I was still, what year was that? It would have been the last year before COVID started up.

Question: 2019.

Is it dated? Right here. 2019. I had already been out. Because I was not at the conference when they awarded these roses. Because I had stopped attending conferences when mom became ill, I had to take care of her. Three women received this award, none of the three women were present at the conference.

Question: I can relate to that. I had my father at my house. You've got nice storage right there for all your books and stuff.

Oh, my word.

Question: I love all your shelves.

That's just some of them. Well, there's 12 bookcases downstairs full of books.

Question: I want to take a peek at your pigeons.

Yes, my pigeon and my dove. Oh, the Pidgy.

Question: Which one is Pidgy?

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Just make pigeon noises. They'll talk to you. The ornery one. She's here. They're all scared. He's not scared. [background conversation].

[End of Interview]

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EVELYN ARENA GALSON**

Date of Interview	July 18, 2022 (Fourth Interview)
Interviewer(s)	Janet Hasulak
Interviewee(s)	Evelyn Galson
Others Present	

I'm here at Evelyn Galson's home, it's July 18th. We're continuing to do an interview because there's a part of Evelyn's life where she was involved in researching UFO sightings, and we wanted to talk about that a little bit.

Question: I wanted you to explain what Filer files are.

It's George Filer. It's his name.

Question: Oh, that's a person.

Yes, he was a Major in the Air Force. And while he was in the Air Force, one of the things that he had to do was when they'd see something unidentified, they would get in their jets, you know how they do, and they'd take off to the area.

Question: To investigate?

To investigate what this thing is up in the sky. If they don't understand what it is. He did, he used to do that. He told me that one day when they scrambled and went up, there was this gigantic object, it was so huge this object, he says, as big as two football fields. Like a big aircraft carrier. It was just still in the sky just hovering. And here come the planes, there were three planes they sent up. They're flying towards it and as soon as they started flying towards it, the thing started to move and they're chasing after it. The next thing you know, he says it got to a certain height it was gone in seconds.

Question: And was gone?

It was gone that fast. They say they could go 8,000 miles an hour, 8,000 miles. They've already been putting on Fox News all the UFOs the military have been seeing and tracking.

Question: These files are just reports.

All around the world.

Question: All the reports that were given to this George Filer to investigate?

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A lot of them are coming from all around the world that MUFON investigators have been investigating and people writing to George Filer telling him of their experiences and photos they have taken of UFO's. George writes them up and puts out the " Filer Files" and sends them by e-mail to whomever wants them.

Question: Interesting. Then what is MUFON?

M stands for mutual then UFO then N for Network

Question: UFO.

That's M.U.F.O.N

Question: Network?

Network. You got M for Mutual and UFO Network. And that's what MUFON is.

Question: Is that an international association?

Yes, It's all over the world, but George Filer is in charge of this area.

Question: George Filer. Is he still in charge of it?

Yes, he's still doing it. I just talked to him recently because I was thinking of the UFOs, and everything. I called him because we used to go out to the people's houses who had seen UFOs and everything and I wanted to talk to him.

Question: People would simply call up and say, "I had a sighting, I need to talk to you about it."

They would call George, yes. They would call MUFON, and they would give them George. Then George would call me, and he says, "Do you want to go to this person's house?" Woodbury was one of them. And go to this house to get this investigation report. I would go with him, and I'd have my little tape recorder, but everything she was telling us, I was writing while she was talking. I was really fast in writing, even taking the tape, so I was getting everything down.

Question: That could be a lot of unusual detail in an incident like that.

Yes. And there was a lot of stuff you wouldn't really remember. Well, the one case, like I said, where 60 Minutes called and wanted to do an interview of the man and woman who have been seeing UFOs near their house and also been abducted.

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Question: 60 Minutes wanted to inquire with you as to what they found out.

They heard about it. They saw my reports on MUFON and it became so big item that a lot of people were talking about it. 60 Minutes wanted to have them on their show.

Question: Where was that sighting?

Mullica Hill. She was being visited by this UFO, and they even saw the aliens, because they were coming in her house, she was even taken on board. She had marks on her body. She showed me the marks.

Question: And you went out and investigated all that.

I was investigating and it was really bad. What happened, she was going to my Church, not the church I attend now. I was studying the MUFON Journal. When I started going through the investigation process where you have to study and then they say you passed the test, and then they make you an investigator. I was studying it and it had a sketch of a person's body, and it shows where there may be scars and marks on the subject's body. This is for training purposes.

Question: With these people that had said they were abducted.

This is all people who said they were abducted and what they found, what kind of marks they would find on their bodies. When they're training you, they have a drawing of a person, showing you there was a mark here, what it was like, if it was a triangle or was just a hole, whatever it was. I was reading it when she came over and she sat where you're sitting and she says, "What are you doing? I say, "Well, I work for MUFON, I'm studying to be an investigator because I've been seeing UFOs since I was little." And I said, "A lot of people, they get these marks on their body." And she went like this, straightening up and staring and made a funny noise. And continued to stare and I said, "What's wrong?"

Question: She wasn't over here to talk about UFO sightings. But when she found out you had an interest in that she opened up about it?

All of a sudden, she does, you should of seen her. She had fear. She went like this [Gestures]. I said, "What's wrong?" She said, "What do you mean marks?" I said, "Sometimes they get scars triangles and sometimes you get the round circle scar." And she's like, "Right." And I say, "What's wrong?" She didn't say much at that time she wanted to hear more. And I was even talking about women who would be eight weeks pregnant and the next thing you know they're not pregnant anymore. They go to their doctors and

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they say, "You're not pregnant." And she says, "What you're talking about? You're not pregnant." And she says it happened to her three times. She was pregnant, and then she wasn't.

Question: That's really freaky.

Then there's no baby. She says, "How can there be no baby? You just told me I was pregnant. And you could see the child, ultrasound, and everything." He says, "Yes, but you're not pregnant." She was freaking out. Then she found inside her legs a triangle, a piece of flesh was taken off her inner thigh. And on the other thigh it had a circle where the skin was off. And that was the day when she started bleeding and now she's scared. I think it was an instrument they used on her to take the baby out.

Question: Had she reported this to anybody prior to talking to you? Had she reported any of this happening?

Just the doctors when she would find out there's no baby, but they couldn't give any explanation, like what happened? Yes. "It must have been a fluke," he says. She said, "How can it be a fluke?" It happened when she was eight weeks pregnant, that all of a sudden now there's no baby. And that's the day they saw the UFO above her house. She got really tired. She had three children, a little girl 6, an older girl 14, and a boy about 8. What happened is they went to a Christian conference you know how a minister will go and people go to the place to see him. He has a conference, and you go, and they pray, and all this stuff and they were coming back. Then when they arrived home, she didn't want to go with the husband and neither did her older daughter, because he was going to get the younger children ice cream. Go out and a maybe some little toys for the two younger kids. She didn't go and her 14 year old daughter stayed home and were going to watch a Hallmark Movie that was on the television. They said they were tired, and they just wanted to go rest. The others left. She told me when they went up to her bedroom, they turned the TV on. All of a sudden both of them got so groggy and dropped off to sleep.

Question: This all happened in Mullica?

Yes. She's in her house in Mullica Hill.

Question: This is the same sighting that 60 Minutes was inquiring about?

Yes, this is the one. She gets really, really tired. And the next thing you know they're out. During that time, the father comes home with the kids, and they have the ice cream, they

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have a few gifts. He pulls onto his driveway and parks. He walks into the garage, which is on this side of the house.

He just went in the garage door, he flipped it open, and he went in, but the kids went out in the back to go and sit on the deck. And so, he, the boy, and the little girl were going out to the back. When they go out back, the little boy always used to tell the little girl that he used to see UFOs, and she used to laugh at him all the time, laugh at him.

Question: Their house must have just been in a hotbed where there was activity.

Yes, around Mullica Hill and Hammonton is too. What happens is he's walking in front of her and she's licking the ice cream cone and she's walking, but she's not looking anywhere but at him. All of a sudden, he stops like this [Gestures]. He's looking up and he stops like this. And she says, "What's the matter with you?" And he's staring up and she looks up, she freaks.

Question: Was it the vehicle there or what was there?

Right outside the mother's bedroom window was the gray, the alien gray. They're the small ones, they're totally round heads with the big black eyes and all you see sometimes they draw. And it was hovering right outside the window. They ran into the house and dropped the stuff they had in their hands and started yelling for their mother and father. When the kids looked outside again, they saw the ship and the alien was gone and the ship took off. Their mother she's coming out of the bedroom and she's groggy, real groggy. That's when she went in the bathroom, and she noticed that she was bleeding, she told me she was pregnant again when she was sitting there, this is after we talked.

Question: Another time?

Yes. It was after we talked. And here she had that triangle mark and that little half circle, one on each thigh, inner thigh. She went in there and she's bleeding, she's thinking she's having a miscarriage. The kids are in the living room they dropped all their stuff that they had and ran out, but the thing had already gone. When the mother comes down and tells them what's the matter.

Question: The father was entering the house another way.

He was in another room, and they told him. "Okay, this is what we have to do." "When he came out, he says, "I'm going to separate you. You go in one room, here's a piece of paper

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and here's a pencil. You, here's a piece of paper and pencil. Write what you saw, draw what you saw, but in different rooms. You write what you saw." And that's what they did.

Question: To collaborate the evidence as to what occurred.

Yes, what they saw. That's what they did. And when they came back, they had drawn the same thing and wrote the same experience they had. She goes to the doctor, they said, she's no longer pregnant. Now, this is the third baby and it's eight weeks and she's freaking out.

Question: It's not really a miscarriage. There's just nothing there.

They take them.

Question: How weird.

People all over the world, they say after eight weeks, all of a sudden they're pregnant and then they are not. They get taken and the baby's gone. There was one woman, and also in Glassboro. Now she was scared to death. She died about two years ago, her name was Joanne. But she was elderly. No, not elderly, but older. She's not a young girl, like 20 years or 30 years, something like that. She was probably in her 60s at the time. What happens is the other one Patty that I know who was also an abductee, she used to get taken.

We went to see Joanne because she said, "I want you to meet Joanne." I go to her house with Patty. She's talking and she says, "Yes." She says, "They take me, they always take me." She hates it. She has real thick curtains on all the windows, thick. I'm talking about thick. Block out everything. Then she has this big tapestry on her wood paneling on the side wall, and the couch was there. And she said, "You see that tapestry?" I say, "Yes, it's nice." She says, "I do it to hide the alien eyes." I say, "What! Alien eyes?" "Yes. Lift it up." Oh, my word. I couldn't believe it. I would've torn it down. I'll tell you that much.

I wouldn't have left it up. She pulled up the tapestry, she held it up and I see these big eyes, big pupils. And there are even lashes on some of them, and there are two of them together like they would be on a face. They were weird shaped like the aliens. The wood was covered with them.

Question: Was it all in the fabric of the tapestry?

It's in the wood. She covered the wall with the tapestry, because of the wood paneling, the wood that they put up. It's been up and the whole thing was covered with these big eyes,

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like alien eyes. Where they are big and dark. And even had some lashes on them like this, and the whole thing was covered. She says, "That's why I do it. I can't stand it. I can't believe that."

Question: She stated that she was abducted repeatedly.

Yes. She used to tell her daughter. The daughter didn't believe in it. Kept telling her she was crazy. When she got older, the daughter left her. She says, "I'm not staying here. You're crazy. Look you got all this stuff on the windows and everything. I'm going." She moved to California, the daughter. She became an adult and everything, and she moved to California. And didn't believe what the mother was saying. And Joanne says, "But I have to tell you if they come after me, they're going to come after you." "No, you're crazy. You're out of your mind, the daughter said. That's what she used to tell her.

Question: A lot of it does sound far-fetched.

It does.

Question: You've got to stop and think about how it sounds to the average person. Let me just be sure that recording's still going. It is. We're doing okay.

Yes. What happens is - I've lost my train of thought.

Question: Her daughter went to California.

She told her that if they come after me, they're going to come after you. She was a redhead, the daughter, and she had green eyes. Can you imagine? She was pretty. Then she said, "No, you're crazy. You're just crazy." She left her. She just did go. Then all of a sudden, one day it must have been maybe a year or two or so, she calls her mother. She says, "Mom," she says, "Yes, what's up?" She says, "You were right."

Question: The daughter had an experience out on the West Coast.

She says they took me. They took me. Then she was talking to her and everything.

Question: What things did they report would occur? Did they have memories of what occurred when they were abducted?

She says they started doing the test on her, the other one Patty. But when she says, "It hurts," they just put their hand on her forehead like this, and the pain all went away, and

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they put her out. They just put her out. It was over by the time she came to; she was back in her house.

Question: Maybe they were doing some scientific testing of some sort. Wow.

There was one case. Real quick, just a little tweak.

Question: I want to hear about some cases that occurred in Hammonton that you know about.

Oh, I've seen a lot in Hammonton.

Question: Whatever you know about anything happening there.

This didn't happen in Hammonton, but I thought it was funny, what happened. One woman from Japan got taken and there was a woman in the United States got taken, but they took them on the same night while they were sleeping. But when they came back, the one in America was wearing Japanese clothes, and the one in Japan was wearing the nightgown the woman in America had on. they got them mixed up. I can't imagine what they thought. I think it's funny.

Question: Oh, for heaven's sake.

Because they forgot, which one was wearing which. They just put their clothes back on them and they wake up.

One day when I was 19, I went to bed. I had this black, silky ,nylon nightgown on with a see through piece on top of that. It came above my knees. I was living at home, I was still single.

Question: A chiffon?

Yes. You could see right through it, and it covers the nylon nightgown. One night all of a sudden I got really groggy. It originally took me a while to fall asleep. All of a sudden, I got really groggy and was out just like that, but when I woke up, I looked down at my nightgown and the sheer part of it was in shreds. It was like something got me. And it was torn, like something had big hands with really sharp claws and ran them down my nightgown. It was cut in long strips.

Question: How did you explain that?

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To this day, I don't know, because I was out like a light, which never happens to me. I lay down on the bed, next thing it's morning, that usually doesn't happen, but I felt – what are you going to do, I'm still here, so.

Question: You can't prove anything now.

This is my attitude. If they do take you, they send me back. I don't know anything. I just know that, I don't know. You just move on with life.

Question: If they put you back where they got you.

And don't put me in Japan, Ha, Ha .

(The Mullica Hill Case.) What happens is here, she goes to the doctor. They say that she's no longer pregnant. You're not pregnant. And she's so upset. I'm talking to George Filer.

Question: That happened a third time after you got there in the kitchen?

She already lost babies. Three of them. This would've been the fourth. I believe it would've been the fourth. She never understood it. I was investigating the thing and writing everything down, we were talking and everything. I always changed the name of the person to different names because they don't want to be known. She's a biologist and her husband was the Vice President of a large corporation. They don't want their names out you're seeing UFOs, and she's going to talk on 60 Minutes. What if someone finds out, they fear they'll lose their jobs, they'll think you're whacked and all this stuff.

Question: They will, definitely. It could hurt your reputation a lot.

Then their little boy woke up one time and he had a lump in his neck.

Question: Is it in the same family?

Yes, the same. The eight year old. It was round about the size of a half dollar and it was in his neck. If you touched it, it would move up, and if you touched it, it would move down. It would move. You could push it up, push it down.

Question: Strange.

Yes. If you pushed the lump up, it would go up. If you pushed the lump down, it would go down. She went to the doctor for him to see it. They took a little piece. They did a biopsy of it and said, "It's not cancer, it's nothing that seems like it would harm him or anything."

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They didn't do nothing about it, so he still had it. Then one morning she called me, and she says, "My daughter has a fever.

She woke up and had a fever? No, she went to school and all of a sudden she had this fever, and she went and picked her up. She said, " I found this mark on her face." And I said, "Mark?" She says, "Yes, it's really smooth. I don't understand it." I made a video of it, and it was a round circle on her face cheek.

Question: Would you have to do that, Evelyn? You would document what marks and things that people showed you. You'd have to photograph it. And you would then write up reports for the Filer files?

That's what I would do. I'd send it to George Filer. It was on the little girls cheek. It was really smooth, but in the center of the, it had two zigzag lines like how you would draw lightning bolts?

Question: Yes.

Down cross like that.

Question: A little zigzag.

Two of them were inside that thing. In that circle was two lightning bolt red marks.

Question: What did they think it was? Did she have any recollection of how they got there?

All they could think of is that somehow that they're starting to take the kids, and they're doing stuff, and she doesn't know, and she's so distraught. All of a sudden, she told me that she's not going to see me anymore. Doesn't want me coming anymore. Because since I started, they came in her room and she saw them and spoke to them and started telling them, I have Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, you shouldn't be here because I rebuke you," and she's going on and on. And they say, "We know about Jesus. We know about Jesus." And she said "Well, he's my savior. And I love him," and all this stuff, and they put her out.

Question: Did she think that they were coming to her more frequently because she was reporting to you?

Yes. They said, "What is she doing here? This is what they told her because I was going there. "And what is she doing here? They wanted to know. They knew who I was.

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Question: Interesting. That does sound a little threatening.

And they started coming more. They would come maybe - 3 times a week. Before it was spaced differently maybe once or twice a month or less.

Question: Then she decided to cut off her relationship with you?

Yes, because she couldn't handle it. One day she goes to, you know those little Clubs for kids, it was the time they used to have the black lights. You go into this little Club and the black lights were up there with posters and everything looks psychedelic and everything. The kids could put paint on and it would glow.

Question: A teen Club?

Yes.

Question: I remember they had the Hullabaloo. They were teen dance clubs, but they didn't serve anything alcoholic back in the day.

It was like a black light; you would put some paint on and it would glow bright. Well, she and the kids didn't do that stuff, put the paint on. What happened was she walked in there and all of a sudden, people are looking like this [Gestures], looking at them. Looking at them like what's going on?

Question: Did they glow?

All of a sudden, the mother looks at the kids and she goes like this [Gestures]. They have stuff all over their face and on their arms glowing, and she freaked out. They got out and everybody was staring at them, and they ran out. They didn't understand what in the world was going on.

Then one night it was actually really late, it was almost 12:00 midnight. She calls me up and she said, "I just took a shower, and when I came out, my daughter says, 'Mom, you're glowing,'" in the light in her bathroom. And she looks at it and she's trying to wash it off and she's going like this, rubbing her arms with a rag with the stuff on her it won't come off.

I told her, I say, "Okay, what I want you to do..." She says, "I tried to get it with my nail, how can I get it off?" She says, "Maybe I'll get a knife." I said, "No, you could hurt yourself from doing that stuff." I'm trying, to think what could I tell her to do? And I say, "Get scotched tape, put it on your hand and rub it real hard, like rub it and pull it off, pull it real

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fast. Okay. And fold it and put it in a little jar." She got a little baby food jar, and she did that with a whole bunch of them and put them in the jar because it was glowing. The next day I went and picked it up and there's this guy named Dr. Leavenwood, when people find something on their skin or they have a new object that was on one of them, he would analyze it and everything.

Question: Did that turn up anything? Any concrete results?

He says a crystal. How do I say it?

Question: Some crystal thing.

Yes. I'm trying to think of what it's called. I probably got it in the report. I think I have it here. I don't know.

Question: He had an explanation for what it was.

Yes, it's a crystallized thing, but I'll find it there. Crystallized substance. He says, "Silicon based crystal." He says, "We never saw it before and there's no classification for it." When she was taken on board the UFO, you know how the doctors do.

Question: Something they never saw.

Yes there was no classification for this Silicon that was on her. Do you know what doctors do when they have to deal with a patient.

Question: No.

They put stuff for antiseptic purposes, sometimes. I believe they are afraid of catching something, these aliens. What they do is wherever they touched her, they'd wash her down to protect themselves.

Question: It's like their form of betadine, the antiseptic solution.

Yes. You don't see it because it's stuff with the same color as your skin. They put it on her and she remembers one time almost waking up. She felt herself in the ship where it was going, and it would turn really fast, faster than anybody could do with a plane, because it would crash probably. She says, "And then you're like this, and then with the turn you sway to the left and then to the right when they turn the other way, back and forth.

Question: Did her family have more sightings of that ship?

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They saw a lot of sightings. One time they reported it to the police. They said there's a UFO hovering. The boy scouts were out in the field in Mullica Hill. You know how the boy scouts go with their- what do you call them?

Question: Overnight camping.

The guy that takes care of them. I don't know what you would call him. The camp leader. Here they looked up and they saw this UFO. It was hard to see it, but you could tell, it was silver and it was reflecting the color of the clouds and sky. While they were watching it, all of a sudden, something opened up and they said - this thing was huge like a mothership you would call it.

All of a sudden, these little, tiny saucers and they weren't little, they were regular size, they were coming out like bees would come out of a nest. Some was going north and some were going south, some were going west and then east. They went in all directions. They were just scattering all over. They called the police too. And guess what? The police, even the newspapers were called, you got to see this is crazy.

Question: Police would come and investigate a little bit themselves?

They didn't even come. The newspaper didn't, either.

Question: They just write it off as being a crazy person talking.

Crazy, yes. They wouldn't even show up. And he says, "I'm the Cub Scout leader. And I got the kids out here, performing stuff. There's this big UFO, and these little things are coming out, other saucers are coming out, heading in every direction." He says, "Can you come?" "Yes. Yes." You know how they are, and they didn't show up. Even the woman I'm talking about, with the children, they had called too. They didn't even listen to them, they didn't come. Police didn't come, the newspaper didn't come. They missed out they didn't get any of it.

Question: Now tell me some of things that happened in the Hammonton area that you were involved with or that happened to you personally, or maybe you investigated.

You want me to read some of the stuff about the sightings?

Question: Okay.

Rocco Perna is my uncle, it's my mother's brother. Over here, it's talking about how he was going hunting and he was walking towards the woods, I think he was in Hammonton

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at that time, it was in the 50s. He's walking towards the woods with a shotgun. He's going to go into the woods to hunt. "All of a sudden," he says, "I looked up and all I saw was silver, there was no sky. All I saw was silver, I was scared to death." He says, "I took off running. I ran and ran and ran. I just kept running and running towards the woods until I got in the woods. When I got right in the woods, I turned around I looked up, and there was nothing there."

The funny part about it is my sister Maimie when we were little, she was on the swing and I was just playing, probably the dog was over there, and I was just playing with the dog. She was on the swing because dad put a swing in that tree that was there, it's not there anymore. She's swinging, all of a sudden, she gets off, she's walking, when she got off of the swing then she just started running. She was scared to death. She's ten years old, I'd be seven. I didn't know, I got scared too, even though I didn't know why she was scared. I ran too, I ran to the house. When she got to the steps she goes, "Did you see it? Did you see it?" I say, "What?" She says, "When I looked up, all I saw was silver." Just like Rocco said, "All I saw was silver and I thought a plane was crashing down on us." She said, "I looked back, and it was gone." That was that one in 1950s. This time it would have been 1956, when my sister saw it.

Next Sighting

This one, I even did little drawings. This one, see it. This is the drawing I did of the house, and this is supposed to be us. Above the house, we are playing outside and all of a sudden way up in the sky, we see something about the size of a basketball, maybe a little bigger. You could see through it like a bubble. This thing comes out of the sky from way up and comes down, we're looking at it. It comes across the top of the roof of our house, goes towards the left and around the Chestnut tree. Then it turned and came back up and above us. At that time, I was wishing I had one of the nets you go fishing with to catch the fish. The thing we used for fishing and crabbing; I was wishing I had that. I wanted to catch it. Can you imagine me hooking that thing with my fishing net? It probably would have pulled me up in the sky and took off with me.

Question: Up to the mother ship.

Yes. Wherever it was, but no sound, nothing, but you could see through it, and it was solid, but it's not a bubble.

Question: You never heard any sound. Nothing. How weird.

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Nothing. You could see through it; it was perfectly round. You know how a bubble moves with wind? This object was solid. It came over our heads and then it went up, and it went up in the sky until it just disappeared up, and that was that one. That was when we were young, right near mom's house. Boy, we saw a lot of stuff in mom's house.

Question: And all of that is close to where Arena Olds and Buick is, down to the left?

No, This is the story about it. And I drew it, this is the area. This is Arthur Celi's house, the one that had the peaches and the apples that I used to pack.

Question: You worked there.

Yes. Our house is right across the street from the orchard, so we would be right here, you could look across.

Question: And the peach trees used to be here?

The peach trees were all up here. His house was here, peaches were here, and after his house was the apple orchard on that side. This is the funny thing because, I was talking to Mr. Sealy, the father, his son was already old. The father was in his 90s already. I don't know how old he was when he died. He told me the guy who owned this house before he did, was a doctor. He worked out of his house here. Then they sold it to him, when they did it, he says there used to be a church here with graves. Over here on this side where the peaches were, he says there was a church there and they had a well, and all here was graves.

Question: That had to be going back years and years and years.

Yes, he died when he was in his 90s and I was still a kid. At the time he told me this I was an adult and I was cleaning his house. I was working cleaning houses, one house a day for six days a week. Then I'd go to church on the seventh day. I was doing different houses in town at one point, when I had Joey, just so I'd be back when he came home from school, half-days, and stuff like that. Here's the house. Here's the peach orchard, you come here and it's all peaches, all peaches back here, totally.

Question: This picture was taken in 1964 or '65 and the peach tree everything's gone?

Later years the peaches were gone. No, that's when this happened. I'm figuring it's 1964-'65 when this thing happened.

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Question: When the UFO incident happened. What happened? Something happened in the peach tree orchard.

Yes. This is the drawing I did again. There are all the trees. I was watching TV. I don't know what show I was watching, but I was interested in the show. I was young. I was 14 about. I'm watching TV at 10 o'clock at night, I was watching the show. All of a sudden, the house started vibrating and there was this loud hum, so loud and now I'm missing my show. Would you believe it? I went to the television and turn the volume louder and louder and louder, and I still couldn't hear it because the hum out there was so loud, the volume of the TV couldn't get loud enough for me to hear it. When I touched the picture window, it was vibrating the whole house was vibrating. My mother came out and my sisters came out. It's funny, my father didn't wake up. This is 10 o'clock at night and he went to bed. He was a hard worker, I figure because of the physical work, welding, and hammering, his muscles were like iron. He didn't wake up. What happens is they come out, what's going on? I say, "I don't know, but there's something out there in the orchard."

When we looked, the noise was horrendous. I'll tell you, so horrendous that our neighbor all the way down Main Road woke up at night and walked out of the house to see what was making that horrible sound. She saw it too, she saw what we saw, and that's another thing I saw. What happens is, dad's sleeping and my sister Louise came out my twin sisters, and mom and we're looking out there and there's an object moving towards the Main Road. We're here and the thing is coming this way from the trees going this way. I was wishing it would come out of the trees so we could see what the thing is. It had three beams of light coming out of it.

Question: Yes. That's light. Is that light?

On top of that object, there were three beams of light going up in the sky, and they were going like this, moving back and forth. Did you ever see when they have an opening for a business with that light beam moving back and forth in the sky? but this light was yellow, and the lights were going like this. There was another object in the center of the orchard. There was also a third object moving away from us in the distance, that one also had the three beams of light coming out from it. The light in the center, it was really dim this was a separate object.

Question: Opposite direction.

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Yes. And it's going all the way out. But the problem was this is what I don't understand. At the same time the objects with the beams changed directions. The one in the distance starts coming back, and the one that is close to us is moving back into the orchard, they joined the light in the middle. When they joined the light in the middle, that's the dim light, this object changes it looks like a door opened up, and there were these orange lights on top. The two objects disappeared inside of it and that thing closed up.

Question: What a crazy light show.

The humming got really low; you could hardly hear it. And they were in there maybe 10, 15 minutes or something we didn't time it, we were just looking.

Question: Was it all lights or could you see a vehicle too?

No. All you saw was all the lights. You could see the trees because the trees are full.

Question: If there was a vehicle there, it would've been hidden by the trees.

Yes, it would be hidden. You would have seen nothing but the lights. Then the thing opened up again, all we see is the square light and the thing going around up there, the orange lights. This one came out, started going towards us again, and the other one came out and was going away from us in the distance again. The hum was so loud again. This was going on and on and on.

I called my friend Arlene. Now Arlene is older than me. What happens is, I called my friend Arlene. I'm older, I'm the instigator. I guess. My sisters didn't even think of her. And so, I call her, "Hey, Arlene." I say, "Guess what? There's a UFO out in the orchard." She's laughing and laughing. "Yes, sure" she said.

And I opened the front door, it's facing the road. I said, "Listen," and I held the phone right near the screen. It was so loud. "I'll be right over." She did come right over. She had her coat over her baby doll pajamas. She didn't even take time to change. She came over in her pajamas because it was after 10:00, it was 11:00 at night. We're in there, we're looking. She said, "Oh my God," The way the thing kept doing this.

Question: It lasted a while.

Until 4:00 in the morning.

Question: Oh my gosh.

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I got tired, I had to go to school. At 4:00 in the morning, but what happened is this thing's going back and forth.

Question: Did anybody call the police? Did anybody call anybody to investigate?

No. We decided, Arlene, Maimie, Madeline and me, we decided we're going to run out there and go find out what it is.

Question: Just on your own.

We ran out of the house. We started running across the lawn, we were going to run in the orchard to look at these things. We were fearless. I'm still fearless. I told George if a UFO lands, I'm going up to it and knocking and say, "I want to see you."

Question: You're going to find out for yourself what's going on.

I did a radio interview for Jeff Rentz about UFOs for two hours one day. George wasn't feeling good. He said, "Could you take over and tell him your experience?" I did it for two hours, they have it all on tape. Then he called me again, and I did another thing on the radio. That's what I told them, next time I'm going to make sure if it lands, I'm going to knock on that door and tell them to let me in. I could hear them laughing, I was too.

Question: What would become of these reports? You would write up these reports in great detail to try and convey what occurred to other people and then your own experiences. What would George Filer do with the reports?

Yes. These things that I printed up, he types it all into the computer and all the sightings and everything every week they're going out.

Question: Who is he reporting to though?

He reports to a higher-up, he's the District -

Question: Just within MUFON?

Also, there's astronauts and other people. I had a man from England who heard about the UFO I saw. He sent me paper to fill out and he wanted me to draw and write down everything I saw and send it back to him, because these boomerang objects they were interested in.

Question: Sometimes you have people having similar experiences or seeing similar-looking things.

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Yes. What happens is we start running out and our mother's yelling at us, "Get back here, you get back here. You want to die. The thing will kill you. You don't know what that thing is." We listened because we were obedient. We did, we came back. When I came back in, I picked up the phone and I'm dialing. She says, "Who in the world are you dialing?" "I'm dialing the police. They'll come." "Put that phone down. They'll think you're nuts or you're drunk." She hung up.

Question: Your mother didn't want you reporting it?

She says, they'll think your nuts or drunk, so she hung up. I couldn't do that. All we did was watch it all night long, doing the same thing back and forth. Do you remember it says on Main Road in the book, there was a cemetery? Across from our house, where all those trees were and everything where the aliens were, way back, from Pleasant Mills Road, where they could come into this low-income housing place back there. When the builders went, they bought that land. All of a sudden, they did a survey and they found out that there was a cemetery on their property, remember the church?

Question: There really was, yes. That was a common thing to have a cemetery attached right to the church grounds.

They told them they couldn't use that ground. From our house, they had a long driveway all the way past all where the trees had been, all the way back. Then if you look good, you could see this housing. They said, because you can't put houses on a cemetery. The church that was there became dilapidated, so when the property was sold to Mr. Celi, the church was torn down. They took the well, which you know how the wells were at that time, stone. You know how they had back then. They took the well away and they filled it in with dirt and they took all the headstones.

Question: They were erasing any trace of there being a graveyard there.

Yes. They were going to use it as a farm. They took all the headstones and piled them up and I don't know what happened to them. When the builders found out, they told them no, the builder you can't build on that ground, you can't because this was a cemetery, the bodies are still down there.

Question: You'd think it would be sacred ground. It must have been extremely old at that point in time. No living relatives around or something.

Well, you figure the church was gone

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Question: You'd think somebody would step forward and say you can't desecrate that ground.

Well, Mr. Celi was in his '90s. I was working for his son Arthur Celi, who was in his '60s at the time.

Question: And he bought that property ages ago.

He bought it when he was a young man and so it had to be 1700s, because if he's 90. He said they took all the things and then they cultivated, and they planted their peaches. Salvatore Celi was Arthur's father's name.

Question: They just ignored that there was any graveyard there.

I don't know how they got permission back then when they bought the property, to plant peaches.

Question: That area was well fertilized with human bodies.

That's where those aliens were doing something over there and I don't know why. That's where the peach orchard was during that time. The people who bought the land later found out they couldn't build on that part of the land, from the road all the way back, far back. They put a driveway in a was real long one. And put the grass all the way back where they couldn't build because they said it was the cemetery. Now, many years later maybe 20, they're building there, and I don't know how they got around it.

Question: We drove around through there.

That's the Main Road on this side. Yes. On that side. They took down Celi's house, the old white house that was the doctors. They just took it out, and all that grass was taken out, the lawn. Now they're building all that area.

Question: The orchards are all gone.

In that book, Joey bought, my son bought from the historical society it says there was a cemetery on Main Road. Also, there was bodies that people who couldn't pay for having their relative's bodies buried in the cemetery they buried on other unused properties.

Question: Paupers that couldn't afford a burial.

They were putting them in a different area. We were wondering why. I'm not sure of this, but our house where it is, there is an area near my Uncle John's, it's right next to us.

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Somebody went and they had said they dug up 38 bodies, their bones, the Historical Society. They were talking about there's these bodies that people who couldn't afford, paupers, they were burying them other places. And on our side of the property, that part was owned by my Uncle John and Angelo Arena my grandfather, Uncle John is his son, my father's brother, was living in that old stucco house. Right alongside, where the barns used to be, we used to always walk around there, we noticed one day that there was a big trench that was dug on the side where the barns used to be. Here's our house. Here's the field. Here's my uncle's house. Then the barns were here and then his driveway would come around here in front of the barns. And here's his house. Our house is here. Where the barns were, right over here, it was a wooded area, like little trees that grew up. A big trench and a lot of dirt was piled up and we don't know who dug all that up.

Question: You think that was the paupers' area back in through there?

They dug up something, all this area was dug up for no reason because it was left that way after all the dirt was taken out. There was a big trench and I never understood it because it wasn't like that before. I don't know when they did it.

Question: What's another story that you heard about a UFO in Hammonton?

This one was about that. I told Arthur Celi because he was there at the time. I told him later when I was older.

Question: Did he hear it?

That's why I was going to tell you. I said to him, "Let me ask you something. Do you ever cultivate at night, or do you fertilize at night, do anything?" He says, "No. I get up early in the morning."

Question: He didn't have any farm equipment out there.

And he says, "Why?" Because this was when I was older now I wasn't 14, I was an adult maybe in my 20s. I said, "These things were out in your orchard, and they were going back and forth, back and forth." "My orchard?" He said.? "It was so loud. Our house was shaking, and the hum was so loud." "My orchard?" This is what he kept saying. "My orchard?"

Question: He couldn't account for it.

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I said, "And you didn't wake up." "In my orchard?" I said, "Yes." He kept saying that. I said, "Yes." He's right there because his orchard's right here. He has to go in from the road and he's right across from the orchard. He says, "No, I didn't hear nothing." He was a hard worker, too, so he was probably sleeping." He said, "My orchard?" Then at the time of the incident I get on the bus to go to school and there's a girl named Diane; I don't know if I should mention her last name. I said, "Hey Diane, did you hear anything?"

Question: This was after it happened.

Yes. Right after on a school day. Right after it happened, I say to her, "Did anything strange, did you notice anything?" I didn't want to say nothing.

Question: Your mother probably had you convinced they'd think you were crazy or drunk.

Yes the police may have thought it was a joke or something. But I want to know what she sees, because if you say what you're seeing, they could say, "Yes, I saw it."

Question: You wanted to hear her account?

Yes. Even then, I was like this investigator. I said, "Did you hear anything strange or something?" She said, "Oh you mean that sound, it was so loud." She's all the way down, she's about six houses down.

Question: She would've been in a much further distance from where it was.

There were over six houses down, it's almost towards the end of Main Road. That's where she was.

She says, "Yes, I woke up, it woke me up and I got out and I walked up to my mailbox, and I was looking all those lights that were going around, and it was so loud."

Question: She was out there looking, too.

Yes, she was looking at it too. She said it was so loud. After a while, I got so tired, just standing out there. She says that I just went back in. So, that was the end of that one.

This one, this is October 19th, 1967, the way I remember it because it was my sister Louise's birthday. This was a Sunday. I don't know what the time was at the time we went out for a ride. Mamie my sister had a '57 Chevy, and we went for a ride. We were going

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down 1st Road in Hammonton here. You could see it; I even have drawings for that one. What else is in this one? I could see the drawings. Yes, okay, that would be next thing.

We were going down 1st Road and when we came down 1st Road, it was still light, but it was starting to becoming dusk. We came from 12th Street; you know where 12th street in Hammonton is, and then 1st Road. They have that Italian restaurant right there and turn and go down 1st Road, you pass the cemetery. All the way, down till we reach Weymouth Road. While we were coming down 1st Road towards Weymouth Road, we could see Weymouth Road coming up, I noticed this object in the sky. It was like three squares like that, three squares. Each square, it would light up, it was going like 1, 2, 3, the way it would light. This one would light up, go out, the next one would light up and go out. Then the next one would light up and go out. And it would start all over again, but it was fast when it did it.

Question: It was in a line.

It's going straight across the sky, blinking as it moves and then suddenly drops down lower. It goes straight again for a short distance and drops lower, like free fall. This continued and I tell my sister I see a UFO.

Question: Almost like it was making its way down to the earth.

It was. We're still traveling and I'm telling Maimie, "Maimie, it's a UFO." "Shut up. she says. "It's going down", I said. It's dropping and it's dropping and it's dropping. There's a warehouse on 1st Road and this is Weymouth Road, and there's the warehouse, and the last house is here, then there's the last house here on this side of the road right here, and there's the warehouse, then there's empty space here. You come to Weymouth Road and you either go left or right, if you go straight you will be in the field.

We're coming down and as we were getting to Weymouth road, the UFO landed in the back of the warehouse on that grass, it just came down. When we first saw it, it was dusk, we could still see the trees and the light, the sky was getting gray.

Question: It wasn't dark yet.

It was starting to get dark, but you could still see the trees. The trees looked black, but the sky was still grayish. As soon as we got to the end and she turned left on Weymouth Road the car died just when the thing landed, the car died, and there was no sound in the car. And it was pitch black out.

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Question: How weird.

It just died. And it was pitch black out.

Question: What did you two do?

We're sitting in the car and I'm saying, "Maimie it landed," "Shut up." She's scared to death. I say, "It's out there." I'm not scared.

Question: She didn't want to believe it was anything like that.

I don't get afraid like that; I don't know why. I said, "It landed." And she says, "Shut up, shut up. I got to get the car started." And she kept saying, "I got to get the car started." No sound when you turned the key. Now you were riding all this time now it lands and the car dies. We're just sitting there; we don't know what to do and it's dark. It's funny, the light they had there on the telephone pole had only a small bulb, it didn't make much light.

Question: That was the streetlight back then.

Yes, that was the only streetlight down Weymouth, if you look, there's hardly any lights down Weymouth Road. I opened the door to the car, and I stand outside now and I'm watching.

Question: You had your curiosity going then.

I'm saying Maimie. She doesn't want to hear from me, I'll tell you. She didn't want me to say anything. I say, "Maimie, it's out there, it landed." "No, shut up, shut up." I say, "I'm looking, I'm looking." Then I see that last house on that side, the side of the road, where the thing landed because we were going down 1st Road, on this side where the thing is. The light on the back of that guy's house comes on, he has a little deck on the back of his house. He runs out, the guy that was in there, ran out of the house. He's got his hand on the rail of the deck and he's leaning forward, and he's staring at the thing that's out there. He was like this; I could see him.

Question: Could you see a vehicle or something behind the warehouse?

I couldn't see. No, it was still blinking just like it was in the start. I could see, but I couldn't see a shape. All I could see because it was getting dark and all I saw were these lights going like this.

Question: Blinking in a line.

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Yes, out there. And he's stretching and stretching like this. All of a sudden, he turned around and ran back in and closed the door. He never came out again and I'm still looking. We don't know what to do. All of a sudden, this car, now it's real dark over there. A car starts coming down Weymouth Road like it would be going to the Pike, came along. We're scared because in there you could see five people, and we don't know who these five people are, and we're left alone over there. I was 17 and Mamie's three years older than me. It turned out to be a man with his four children and his wife.

Question: Did he know you were stranded there?

Yes, he saw us, and he stopped. He says, "What's up? We never told him about the UFO, but we told him the car won't start. This is the strangest part because I've heard it in other people too, that they don't let you tell, the aliens. Even though you saw something land and if someone comes to you, you won't even mention it.

Question: Because there is just a compulsion to not say it because you've seen something from the UFO?

They do something. They have control. I'll tell you; this is what got me. Afterwards, the car pulls up and he has his four kids, his wife, and everything. He says, "What happened?" Mamie said, "Our car died."

Question: That's all you said, you just told him the car died.

Yes. I'm still standing outside the door, looking at it out there, way out. The road is here, and then there's a little bit of land, and then it's gravel.

Question: Could you still see some lights at that point?

You could still see that warehouse is still there, and it's behind the warehouse. Yes, I could still see the thing blinking out there, but nobody's going to be looking there you know what I mean. They wouldn't know what it was anyway.

Question: They wouldn't pay attention.

No, they would not. He says, "What happened?" We say, "The car died." And even Maimie didn't say anything. The car died. He said, "Well, maybe you ran out of gas." She says, "No, I got a half tank of gas." He says, "Well, let me see." He says, "I'll take the kids home and then I'll come back." He probably lived around there. "I'll take the kids and my wife home. First, he tried to jump the car but it didn't work. He said, "You're probably out of gas."

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Mamie said, "No, I have gas, a half a tank." So he tells us he will take his family home and come back with some gas." And he did. He put it in and the car still wouldn't start.

Question: Did something fry the battery? Did you ever find out what was wrong with the car?

They wouldn't let it start. They wouldn't let it start because he tried and tried and tried. He goes out and gets the jumper cables, he tries it but nothing happens. He kept trying and trying and got the things back on. Now he is jumping it again, jumping and jumping, trying to jump and jump and jump it. I don't know how long he was there, like half an hour or more.

All of a sudden, it starts up, and Mamie's all happy and everything, and I get in the car. He says, "I'll follow you. I want you to go to a gas station and get more gas, because I didn't put that much in, but you may need more gas and I'm going to follow you."

Question: That was nice of him.

Yes, we went all the way down Weymouth Rd., to Egg Harbor Road, we come in Hammonton where the railroad tracks are on the left and you go over the railroad tracks and down 12th. There was Celona's gas station on the right. We pull into the gas station and the guy waves to us, and we waved back and Mamie says, "I have enough gas. I don't need gas." I say, "Let's go back."

Question: You wanted to go back.

Yes I wanted to go back. "You're out of your mind," Mamie said. "Let's go back. I want to see it. Let's go back." I talked her into it.

Question: Was this man following you?

No, he left. We got to the gas station, and he figured we were going to pull in. She pulled into the gas station like she was going to get more gas and he waved to us goodbye, and so he leaves. I said, "Let's go back," and she says, "Your crazy?" "No, I want to go back. Let's go back." She listens and we go down 1st Road down to Weymouth.

Question: You were crazy but in a good way.

We go down 1st Road and all of a sudden I noticed the thing's not in the field anymore, behind the warehouse. I look up, it's up in the sky.

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Question: Oh my gosh, it's still around.

Yes, I tell her to follow it. It's blinking. It's high up.

Question: This is an all-night adventure for you girls.

Yes. We go all the way down the White Horse Pike, you know where Kessler Hospital is?

Question: Oh, yes.

Across from Kessler Hospital, there's a little road, I forgot what road. There's a little road oh it's Pleasant Mills Road and we turned down it, because the UFO turned that way.

Question: In the general area.

If you drove down Main Road all the way to the end, you would come to Pleasant Mills Road.

Question: Is that Broadway right there that goes back to Kessler?

No, it's Central. On that side near the hospital is Central. Right across, just from Central Avenue you're at the light, you just go straight across. You'll hit Main Road this way and if you just turn a little bit, that's Pleasant Mills Road.

We're following it and we cut on this other little road, which is Pleasant Mills, and we start following it. I'm looking at it and it looked like it stopped. Mamie pulls over to the side and stopped. It didn't stop. What it did when something changes direction, you're following it this way, and it stops, and starts going this way, it looks like it stopped. But it just changed direction.

Question: And it's getting further away.

I say, "It changed direction." She backs up and now we're going down Main Road. We're going down Main Road and it stops right above our house. It knew where we lived.

Question: Oh my gosh.

It stopped, it's right above our house, blinking up above the house. I tell Mamie, "Let me go tell Madeline". This is funny because since Madeline's been hearing it from us all the time, she thinks she was with us when it landed. I can't convince her she wasn't actually in the car when we saw it, because she still thinks she was. We have no conversation about her, she never said anything, because she wasn't there. I don't have any dialogue.

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Question: She tells the story as if she was part of it now.

Yes. She thinks she really was there in the back seat. No, we picked her up when we went back, and the thing that came above us, I said, "Let me tell Madeline."

Question: That was later in the evening that was a lot later.

No, that was when we were following it. Then it was right above our house. I said, "Let me go call Madeline." I run in the house, "Madeline, Madeline there's a UFO." I'm talking fast now about the UFO and everything. When I walked out, the thing changed its shape. It looked like a star above our house, like a big star. It didn't have squares; it was like a big star. "That's it," Mamie says, "it changed." Madeline says, "Well, let's go back there, maybe it's back there where it first landed." I said, "No, it's up there." "Well, let's go back over to First Road, where it landed." My sister Mamie, says, "Okay, we'll go down First Road and we'll show you where it was." We go and there's nothing there.

Question: Did you take Madeline with you then?

Yes, that's when we took her, she wanted to go.

Question: She was in on it a little bit, but at the tail end of things.

She wanted to know where it had been and all. She's looking when we come back that bright star above the house was gone.

Question: Any other sign of it after that?

No, not that one anyway. The thing is I was talking to George and everything. Then I say, "You know that man, the one that was living there, the man who ran out on the deck of his house, I would like to talk to him because I always thought about him." Now, this is 20 some years later.

Question: Who's he thinking of? Of Mr. Celi?

No.

Question: Who's he talking about?

Me. When the UFO landed, that man ran out on the deck of his house and I was thinking about what took place, and the guy ran out of the house and stretched and looked.

Question: Oh, him that's who he was wanting to look for.

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I went there. It was over 20 years later; I still was thinking about it. I knocked on his door. I say, "Hi." I say, "I'm Evelyn, I want to ask you something."

Question: You're gutsy, Evelyn.

He says, "Come in." I tell him, "Well, about 20 years ago," I said, "This thing, this object landed in the backyard, and it was blinking out there. I think it was a UFO." He says, "My yard?" "In the back behind the warehouse." I said, "Do you remember that?" He said, "No, I don't remember anything like that." I said, "How long have you lived here?" "Oh, a long time." And he told me this.

Question: You knew this was the same man.

It was the same man, yes. He says he's lived here all this time. I don't know if I had written it in here. Yes, he was there a long time. He doesn't have any recollection of it. He said, "Well, who are you?" I said, "I'm Evelyn Arena. I'm Joe Arena's daughter." "Oh, Joe Arena. I know Joe Arena. I know him really well." They all do.

Question: He opened a lot of doors for you.

Yes. One guy said, "Yes, you could stay." That's a different one. So that's that one.

Question: Wow. This one what's this one?

Oh yes, this was probably 1969, I was 20. And I was friends with a guy, we were just friends, and he was interested in UFOs, too. I was 20 and he was going on 18. And so, at night, we'd go out just to see if we could see something. What happens is that night, when I went to bed, I had a dream. I had a dream of a UFO landing on the side of our house, mom's house, where I was living, a big disc-shaped object. The thing came down and this man came out, he looks like us. Here he had this type of suit like astronauts might wear, but a white type of suit. He had a patch on his chest, it was a big C around the patch with a world and it was inside the C.

Question: Some type of logo.

Yes, on his shirt. He says, "We know you've been looking for us." This is the dream. "We know you've been looking for us. If you want to see us go down 14th Street tonight and you'll see us." He got into the ship and took off and that was the dream. I called Tony. "Tony, Tony, I had this dream this morning, just a little while ago. And I said, "He says, 'We

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know you've been looking for us.'" And I told him it was a UFO. He said, ";If you want to see us go down 14th Street tonight', do you want to go?" "Sure, he said.

Question: You would just do this for fun. Go UFO hunting? Looking to see what you could find.

Yes. Sometimes people don't look, they never see. We went and I have the drawing of the area.

Question: Is this it?

That's the area, that's the picture I took of the area. We pulled into a driveway, and this was in the '60s, '69 because I was 20. There were these trees like this, and it was a blueberry field, Campanella was the owner of this blueberry field and Tony and I went there. It's funny, I don't know if I didn't have my camera yet or what, or didn't use it I don't know. What happens is it's summer and we're waiting and waiting; we're sitting on the hood of my car. I had a '64 Chevy white Malibu, I loved that car. We're sitting on the hood, just waiting, and we're looking, it was a beautiful sky, all stars, and everything. No clouds, nothing. And we're waiting, we're waiting for maybe 20 minutes. He says, "Do you think they're going to show up?" I said, "Well, I'm going to wait." All of a sudden, out of nowhere on this side of us you see those trees, they were in front of us with a little drive way., and then there was the trees off to the side like that. All of a sudden, there was a big, gigantic ship. Huge, it was round, the thing was huge. It was this big orb, but a gigantic ball. And it had bright light inside. The light stayed inside the object though. You know how you have a light and if it's a round globe, you can light a room with it. The light in this huge ship is self-contained, it doesn't come out and shine on something.

Question: It was just like an orb glowing and it wasn't projecting light.

It was huge, it was like a big ship, it wasn't a little thing. I don't even know maybe 20 feet high, maybe more. Right above us, huge, bright but it wasn't blinding.

Question: How weird it was. Where you were told in your dream to go to?

Yes. All of a sudden, it's moving. Yes, that was 14th street. It was right above, no sound moving, moving right above us. It went about two or three telephone pole lengths away, disappeared, and reappeared in the same place. Now Tony's saying, "Call it down, call it down, call it down." In my mind, I'm thinking, come down, come down, come down and it did not happen. And so, it starts again, no sound, just moving.

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Question: The same thing.

Two or three telephone poles. It was slow when it did it, it didn't go zoom, and you're watching it, and it goes, it disappears and it came back over here again, a third time. Then it did it again and went all the way over there.

Question: Three times.

Three times. Oh, this is what I wanted to tell you. After 20 years of the 1st Road in Weymouth landing I was talking to my sister Mamie. She said, "Yes, I couldn't get over it. Do you know when I was at the end of Weymouth and we were ready to turn, I looked at the time on the clock in the car." She says, "Do you know, from the time I stopped to turn, it was a certain time and when we drifted over there it was two hours later just from crossing over."

Question: There was two hours to when you got to the gas station or? She was timing from when to when?

When we got to the end of the First Road and the thing landed and she turned, it was two hours later. That's why one minute it was light and the next second it was pitch black out and two hours later.

Question: The time you'd made the turn to the time the car quit was two hours.

Yes. It was two hours later. She never told me that. It took over 20 some years or more and she told me. I said, "You never told me that, you didn't tell me about the two hours difference missing time." In that time two hours were gone, who knows, we were probably onboard the UFO and everything.

Question: You could have been abducted at that point.

Yes.

Question: Because this time you, couldn't really account for?

Yes. That was two hours difference.

Question: I'm going to have to wrap this up because we have to get home to let the dog out and stuff, and get back for that. I really appreciate you sharing the stories. I'll take anything that you have printed out.

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I printed all this stuff for you because I have copies of everything. And these were all my reports, and these are things I've seen. Another thing that came in our yard. Huge and it was still coming. We had a Dogwood tree on that side of the house and when it passed...

[End of Interview]