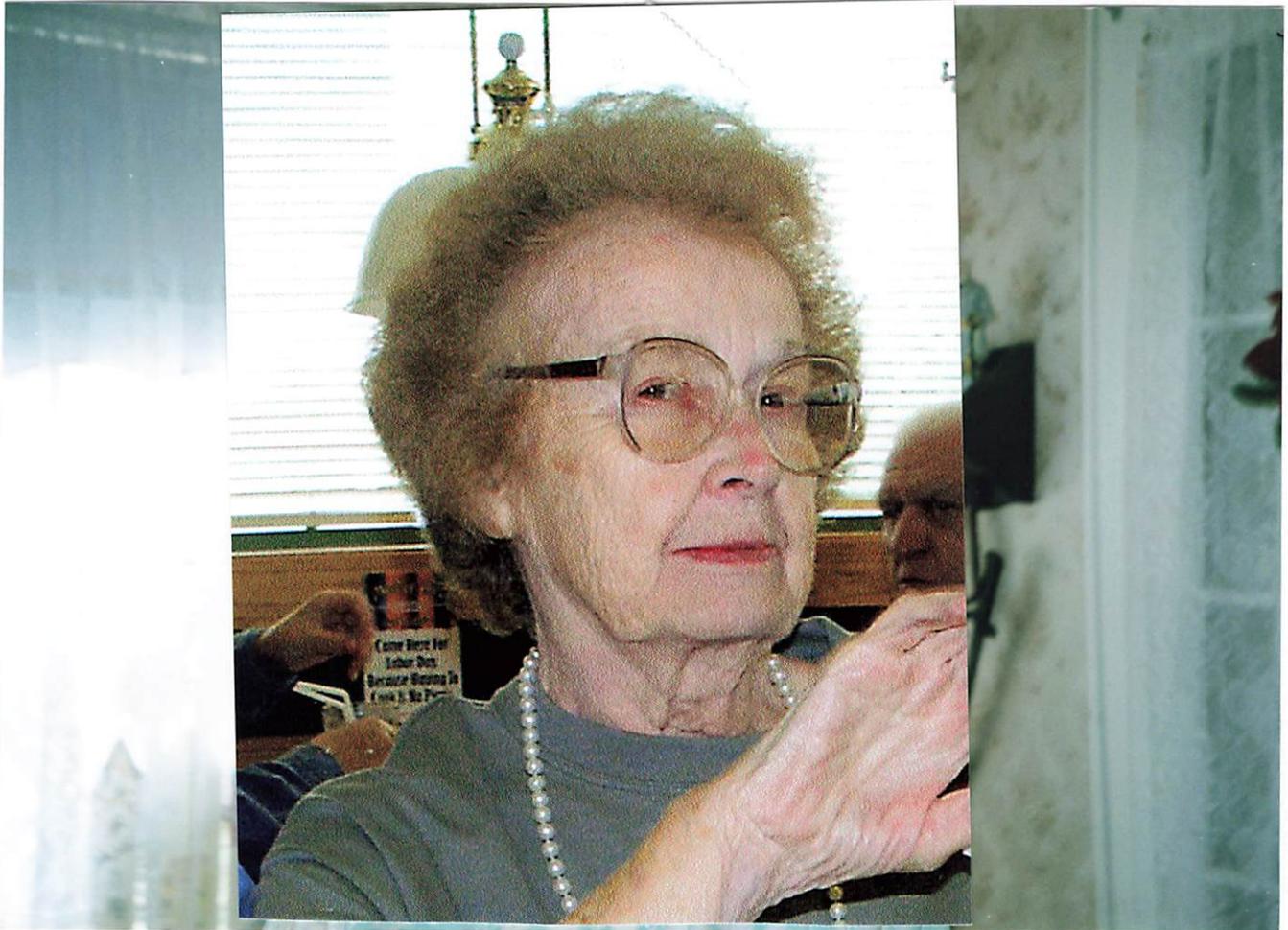


AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH
PHYLLIS HUNTER



RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED FOR THE BENEFIT OF
THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HAMMONTON

BY: ELLEN AIELLO

TODAY IS TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2007 AT 2:00 PM

I AM HERE TO DO AN ORAL INTERVIEW WITH:

PHYLLIS HUNTER

I AM CONDUCTING THIS INTERVIEW AT HER HOME ON:

223 OAK ROAD, HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY

MY NAME IS ELLEN AIELLO AND THIS INTERVIEW

IS BEING RECORDED AND TRANSCRIBED FOR

THE BENEFIT OF THE

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HAMMONTON

Q. Hi, Phyllis. My name is Ellen Aiello and I am here today to do an oral history.

Q. What is your full name?

A. Phyllis Hunter.

Q. Please state today's date.

A. Tuesday, March 13th, 2007.

P. What is your age?

A. Eighty-two.

Q. What is your date of birth?

A. April 4th, 1924, not the 1st.

Q. Where were you born?

A. Wildwood, New Jersey.

Q. Were you born in a hospital?

A. No.

Q. Did you grow up in the town where you were born?

A. Sometimes. I spent my summers there.

Q. Did you and your parents move to different houses, cities or states when you were young?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you move to?

A. We came to Hammonton in 1925 and I have lived in ten different houses here.

- Q. What streets, do you remember?
- A. Central Avenue, Horton Street, White Horse Pike, Seagrove Avenue, and now, Oak Road.
- Q. When you were a teenager, where did everyone gather for entertainment?
- A. At the Sweet Shop on Bellevue Avenue.
- Q. How did teenagers dress when you were a teenager, what would have been considered wild clothes or hair in those days?
- A. Perhaps ponytails. It's been so long ago I don't remember what they wore!
- Q. Are you married, or have you been married?
- A. I've been married.
- Q. Do you have any children?
- A. I have two daughters.
- Q. What are their names and birthdate's.
- A. Kathy was born in 1947 and Maryann in 1949.
- Q. The day?
- A. One was a Tuesday and one was a Thursday, that's all I remember.
- Q. What was your mother's maiden name?
- A. Kloo.
- Q. Where and when was your mother born?
- A. October 1903 in Wildwood, New Jersey.

- Q. Do you know where and when your mother's mother was born, your maternal grandmother?
- A. Yes, she was born in Murry Hill, North Carolina, June 20, 1879.
- Q. Do you have a family bible that records this?
- A. No.
- Q. What was your mother's mothers' maiden name?
- A. My mother's mother. Keeter.
- Q. Do you know where your mother's ancestors came from? Was that North Carolina?
- A. Does that mean country?
- Q. Well yes, if you know what country they came from.
- A. I just know they were from North Carolina.
- Q. What was your mother's fathers' name?
- A. Chris Kloo.
- Q. Do you know when and where he was born?
- A. In Wasa, on Iskmo Island in Finland.
- Q. In Finland? Okay. Wasa, how do you spell that?
- A. I don't know, probably with a J. (laughs)
- Q. Jh.....
- A. Something like that.
- Q. Do you know where your mother's fathers' ancestors came from?

A. From Finland.

Q. Do you know any stories about your mom's ancestors?

A. I know a couple funny stories about my grandfather. My grandfather's older brother was conscripted into the Russian Army. His mother did not like that, so she told the older boys to go to sea and not go back to Finland. When the men visited the different ports, they were fishermen, they heard about apples and didn't know what an apple was. They were red and hard and juicy and they were to look for a man pushing a cart in New York City. So they found a vendor and they pointed to the red apples, and then they went away grinning and smiling because they were going to have good stuff. They bit into the apples, the apples collapsed and the juice ran down their arms, and they threw them back at the vendor. They had bought tomatoes.

And I have two more stories.

Q. Go ahead! These are you mother's relatives.

A. Another time when they came to New York, they had heard about watermelon. It was so good, but you don't eat the seeds because they don't taste good. So they bought the watermelon and sat on the curb, cut the watermelon in half like they were told to do and scooped out the red pulp and were eating the rind.

And then there was the guy that ate a banana and when he was asked how he liked it, he had never seen one over in Europe, he said it was alright but he didn't like the outside. (laughs)

Q. They sound like those jokes I hear, but it really happened.

Q. Where and when was your father born?

A. He was born November 23, 1900, in Philadelphia.

Q. Do you know your father's mothers' maiden name?

- A. My grandmother's maiden name was Darcy. D'Arcy. But the family changed the name to Dorsey. Dorsey. I have my great grandfathers Civil War papers.
- Q. Oh wow! He was in the Civil War? We are probably coming to that.
- Q. Do you know your father's mothers' maiden name?
- A. My father's mothers'? It was Dorsey.
- Q. Well you know what? I have the same question twice. There's one that has to come out. Okay.
- Q. Do you know where your father's mother was born?
- A. In Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.
- Q. Do you know where your father's mothers' ancestors came from?
- A. They fled Scotland and went into Ireland and immigrated over here.
- Q. Do you remember stories about your father's ancestors?
- A. No.
- Q. No funny stories about them.
- A. And that's only because we had company down in Wildwood and were sitting at the table, pop would look at mom and she'd start to giggle and he would glare at her, and everybody would say, "What's the matter?" And she'd tell these stories and he would laugh louder than everybody else.
- Q. What was your father's fathers' name?
- A. William John Hunter the 6th. My father was the 7th and my brother the 8th.
- Q. Do you know when and where your father's father was born?

A. No.

Q. Do you know where his ancestor's came from?

A. Well, they fled Scotland during some uprising.

Q. Do you remember hearing any stories about why any of your ancestors came to America?

A. There was some conflict in, they came from the Stewart-Campbell Clan in Scotland and there was some kind of a war and they fled Scotland and went to Ireland and eventually came to America, but that's all that I know.

Q. Tell me about your parents?

A. Well, I know how they met.

Q. Did they ever tell you how they met and fell in love?

A. In their early years my father lived across the street from my mother in Wildwood, and then my father's people moved away and came back to Wildwood in 1920. And, of course, there were very few inhabitants down there, but there were always dances on the weekends, and she re-met my father at one of the dances and, eventually, they fell in love.

Q. Did you ever hear them talk of entertainment and social life before marriage? Where did everybody go for entertainment and recreation.

A. Down in Wildwood there were dances on the weekends all year long and almost everybody went to them.

Q. Where was your father born?

A. Philadelphia.

Q. Do you remember any tales of his childhood?

A. No.

- Q. Did your mother work before or after marriage, and if so, what kind of work?
- A. My mother was a bookkeeper in Wildwood, in Hammonton, and in Bridgeton.
- Q. That was before marriage or after marriage? Did she work before her marriage?
- A. No, she was nineteen when she married. She worked up on the boardwalk in the summer, but not in the winter.
- Q. Was your mother married before she married your father?
- A. No.
- Q. After?
- A. Say that again?
- Q. We can skip that, I'm not sure what they're asking.
- Q. Was your father married before he married your mother?
- A. No.
- Q. What did your mom look like?
- A. She was a very tall, skinny, woman. No matter what she ate she didn't gain any weight.
- Q. Ooh, what a lucky lady!
- Q. Describe your father to me?
- A. I was three when my father died in an accident and I don't remember.
- Q. Tell me a story about your mother, like her likes, dislikes, hobbies, what she cooked.

- A. My mother was a very talented woman. She could sing, harmonize, play the piano, the accordian, the guitar, the glockenspiel, anything that came along she could master and play and she liked her work in an office and bookkeeping. Well, when I was a kid we only had our meals out of cans. A can of spinach, uugh.
- Q. Did she work outside of the home?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was her favorite meal?
- A. She was a very good spaghetti sauce maker. I think it was a Mrs. Mottola who taught her how to make it and it was delicious!
- Q. She was an Italian.
- A. No, she was a Finn.
- Q. No, I meant Mrs. Mottola.
- A. I don't know who Mrs. Mottola was.
- Q. I presumed, she sounds like she was Italian.
- Q. Did she have any secret recipes that maybe she passed on to you?
- A. No.
- Q. That maybe we could steal. Just kidding.
- Q. What did she make that was your favorite, the spaghetti?
- A. The spaghetti.
- Q. Well , I used to think that WAS Italian food. Spaghetti, meatballs and pizza. I didn't know there was anything else that was Italian.
- Q. What meal did she make that was your father's favorite, do you remember?

A. I don't know.

Q. What kind of an accident was he killed in, a car accident?

A. It was a car accident out at Hospitality Creek on Route 54. You know, where the road goes over the railroad, that didn't use to be there. We don't know what happened, but they found him overturned in the creek.

Q. A one car accident?

A. We don't know.

Q. Was either of your parents actively involved in the community?

A. No.

Q. Did they belong to clubs or fraternal organizations?

A. No.

Q. Did either one of them ever run for office?

A. No.

Q. Could you tell me a story about your father, his likes or dislikes or something he did, or you don't remember that.

A. I don't remember.

Q. Was your father artistic, musical, was he handy with tools?

A. I don't know.

Q. Do you ever remember your mother losing her temper?

A. Oh yes, with me.

Q. You were the cause.

- Q. Did she ever lose it with your brother or just you?
- A. Oh, no.
- Q. All the kids in general.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did your mother and father have a good sense of humor? Your father, you don't remember. Did your mother?
- R. Uh huh, at times.
- Q. When she wasn't losing her temper with you!
- Q. Do you remember either telling jokes or funny stories?
- A. No.
- Q. What is the saddest event you can remember. If it's something you don't want to talk about, that's okay.
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Do you remember either parent crying?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. Do you feel you inherited more traits from your mother or your father? Even though you don't remember him, you could have inherited his traits, and people would have let you know.
- A. They tell me my father was a monotone, and I am a monotone. I can't sing, I can't dance. I can't even play chopsticks.
- Q. And you know you didn't get that from your mother! You definitely got that from your father.
- Q. Which one do you resemble the most?

- A. They tell me my father.
- Q. Well, you said your mother was tall and thin.
- A. Well, I'm not thin!
- Q. How was your mother's health?
- A. After my father died my mother lost a baby and there were no support groups back then in 1928 and she had a deep emotional problem all through her life. She always had an ache or a pain.
- Q. After she had a miscarriage?
- Q. Was your mother ever ill or injured? A lot of aches and pains?
- A. Always in and out of the hospital. They all knew me there. They didn't know if I lived there or worked there or why I was there.
- Q. But that was when she was older? We didn't have a hospital years ago when she was younger.
- A. She had abandoned us and she took me back after a year and I started taking care of her then. Then she took my brother back the following year and I started taking care of him.
- Q. This is in her older years?
- A. No. I was eight so she was twenty-eight or twenty-nine. She was twenty when I was born.
- Q. Well, you know, in those days you didn't have like welfare, you lose a husband, you didn't have anything.
- A. No support groups, no nothing.
- Q. It's not like today, you had to either sink or swim.
- Q. What religion was your mother raised in?

- A. Lutheran.
- Q. What church did she attend?
- A. The Lutheran Church in Wildwood.
- Q. What religion was your father?
- A. Episcopalian.
- Q. What church did he attend?
- A. Also, the Episcopalian Church in Wildwood and Philadelphia.
- Q. What do you think was the greatest tragedy your mother or father suffered in their lives?
- A. Well, my mother suffered when my father died and then lost the baby.
- Q. What do you think your mother or father would think about today's teenagers? Like, your mother probably thought you were an annoying teenager! What would they think of the teenagers today?
- A. Probably that they could do better.
- Q. When did your mother die?
- A. In 1988.
- Q. How did she die?
- A. She was sick for a while and then just passed away.
- Q. When did your father die?
- A. 1928.
- Q. What cemetery are they buried in?

- A. The Baptist Cemetery in Cape May Court House, New Jersey.
- Q. Tell me about your parents' education. Did they go to Elementary? Did they graduate?
- A. My mother graduated from Wildwood High School and she was Valedictorian and she graduated in 1922. I don't know about my father.
- Q. She didn't go on to college?
- A. No.
- Q. How did she get to school? Did she take the bus?
- A. The school was on the next block from where she lived and she probably went through somebody's yard.
- Q. Was your father ever in the military that you know of?
- A. No.
- Q. Have you ever heard of any of your ancestors being killed in battle?
- A. One of my grandmother's brothers was killed during the civil war, but that's all that I know.
- Q. Didn't you say you had some of his Civil War papers?
- A. That's my great-grandfather.
- Q. Was your father or his father physically strong?
- A. No. No one ever mentioned that.
- Q. Did any of them like working outdoors? Did any like to fish or hunt?

A. My mother's father was a commercial fisherman and he was also a boat builder and built his own boat to go fishing and would go out. There is one story that my grandmother told in the early part of 1900, the ocean was pretty far up in Wildwood. They lived about a block away and if Pop didn't come in, now that's my grandfather, at a certain hour, Mom would load the kids in a cart and push them down to the beach and wave a lantern to guide Pop in after, if it was getting dark.

Q. Did he used to see that?

A. Yes.

Q. This was your mother's father?

A. Yes.

Q. You don't remember your father because he was killed so soon, but do you remember his parents, your grandparents?

A. Oh yes. My father was a surveyor and did the surveying from Deepwater into Atlantic City. Came through the Weymouth Woods and in all that direction and in the Bridgeton area too. That's all I know about my father. My father's mother was a seamstress and my grandfather, at eight years old, was yanked out of school and apprenticed to a sign painter. He was the only sign painter in Wildwood for years and years and years. And you would see his big signs out in the meadows or on the buildings, on the boardwalk, on any of the buildings.

Q. They did him a favor then, taking him out.

A. Yes.

Q. Did they like lots of people around?

A. Down in Wildwood, during the summer.....

Q. You probably had a lot of people whether you wanted them or not (laughs)

A. My father's people rented their winter home and had a summer home there and there was one big room and a bathroom out in the garage. We called it the shop, and this is where we lived in the summer with my father's people. And with my mother's people, we all slept up in the attic in the summer and they rented the four bedrooms and some people were boarders and others ate out. But, there were always people around.

Q. How many children did your mother have?

A. She had three children and one died at birth.

Q. What are their names?

A. Phyllis (me) is the oldest. I was born April 4, 1924. My brother Bill was born December 18, 1925. The other one was stillborn. She would have been the youngest if she lived.

Q. And was that a girl?

A. Yes.

Q. And this was after your father died?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you look like your brother?

A. No.

Q. Did you or your brother look like anyone else in your family? Perhaps your parents or an aunt or an uncle?

A. No.

Q. Is your brother still alive?

A. Yes.

Q. Did your mother or father have a favorite?

- A. A favorite child? No.
- Q. Did you have a favorite sibling? I did these questions over but I still have to do them over again because they still aren't right.
- Q. Did your brother have any special talents or skills, did he take after your mom in the musical field?
- A. No. My uncle went into the State Police and Bill followed him. He was a Detective. He's very good at looking at everything that everybody else overlooks.
- Q. What kind of a person was your mother's mother?
- A. My grandmother had varied talents. She was, if you had an ache or a pain, and Mom put her hands on your ache or your pain, you felt better. When anybody was sick in Wildwood, they wanted Mom. They wanted her come and take care of them and often, in the summer time, I would have special chores to do because she wasn't there. She was also a good cook. A pinch of this and a pinch of that, and a paste of something else, and boy, you had a good meal.
- Q. What did she look like?
- A. Mom's grandmother was a full blooded Indian from North Carolina. Her mother was half Indian. I heard Tuscaroora but I'm not sure. Mom had the high cheekbones and just a different build than anybody else.
- Q. What kind of personality did she have? Was she funny, did she tell jokes?
- A. She was a very sincere person and didn't show any emotion.
- Q. Tell me about her education. Did she finish? If not, why? How did she get to school? Where did she go to school?
- A. Mom was pulled out of school in fourth grade and had to work on the farm in North Carolina. Her spelling was atrocious. "Me" was

“Mee”. But she could pick up a needle or crochet hook and make anything.

Q. How many children did she have?

A. Six living children.

Q. Was she married more than once?

A. No.

Q. Do you know when she died and where she is buried?

A. She died October 9, 1972, and she's buried at the Baptist Cemetery at Cape May Court House.

Q. Did she do any kind of work to make money for the family, I guess at home?

A. She rented the rooms in the summer time. Sometimes there were year long boarders there. Then she did the nursing work whenever anyone needed her.

Q. Did they pay her for the nursing?

A. Oh, very, very little.

Q. They say years ago, doctors didn't go to school. She could have probably hung a shingle up. (laughs)

A. Well, there was one doctor down there, he was in Cape May, maybe he wasn't a doctor, but he was black, and if you had something wrong with your child and went to him, he would smell the diaper and he could tell what was wrong with the baby or the child. I don't know his name.

Q. How many aunts and uncles do you have on your mother's side? Are any of them still alive?

A. No. My mother's oldest sister, Annie, died when she was twelve. She had worked in the saltwater taffey place in Wildwood and died on the kitchen table of burst appendix. They had to wait for the doctor to come from Philadelphia to operate and she died on the table. My mother's next sister, was Ida. She died at age 92 in 1994 and she was very talented in singing and piano playing. I don't know too much about my mother's third sister, but she died in Philadelphia, I don't remember when. Her name was Edna. Then my mother's fourth sister was named for Annie who had died at age twelve. We called her Doll. She was ten years younger than my mother and ten years older than me and we were friends until she died in 1996. She and I were always friends. She had a brother, his name was Carl Kres Kloo and he went fishing with Pop and he would get seasick all the time so he didn't last long at that. He's the one that became a State Trooper. I forget when he died. He was born in 1916 and he had to retire at 55, that would be, he probably died in about 1973, because he was only out a couple of years when he died.

Q. Do you think your grandmother had any influence on you?

A. Oh yes. My grandmother was very patient. I was with her all summers and I always wanted to go back at the holidays and I learned responsibility. It was my job to water her flowers in the summer time and to brush the steps in the summer time and other parts of life.

Q. You loved spending time there. What did she die of?

A. Old age. She was 92.

Q. Was she still living in Wildwood?

A. No, she had come to live here with us and it got so she wasn't happy, so she went into the Lutheran Home down in Ocean View. She wasn't happy there either. She died down there.

Q. Tell me about your mother's parents.

A. They all lived in Wildwood. Pop had an accent. Bill and I loved to go down to the harbor where he was working on a boat or coming in fishing, and I would have to go down and bring fish home. I'd have a couple fish on two of my fingers and walk home and maybe these fish were wiggling a little bit, but he was very patient with us.

Q. What did he look like?

A. Pop was tall and thin but when he stood, it looked like his shoulders were back and his chest was out that he was proud to be here and proud of us.

Q. What kind of personality did he have?

A. A very, well he loved us. It was a lot of fun with him when we were there. If he was shaving from a mug with a brush he would always be sure to put the lather on us and make believe he was shaving us. He liked to kid around with us. When we would go down we would go stamping up the steps and he might be laying in bed reading . "Ya, ya, where did you come from" he would always tease us. I think Bill and I are the only two that every brought this out in him.

Q. Was he married more than once?

A. No.

Q. Do you know aunts and uncles on your father's side?

A. I had one aunt and one uncle. Marian lived in Detroit, Michigan, and John lived in Pleasantville.

Q. Are you like him in any way?

A. I don't have any talent.

Q. How important was your grandfather to you?

A. Very important.

- Q. Do you think he had any effect or influence on you?
- A. Well sure. He was very sincere and very quiet when he would talk to me. He never scolded. He never preached, but he would point out things to me like, if a person was lame, I should never make fun of them, or if there was some mental or physical condition, I was to accept them as such.
- Q. Do you know when he died or what he died from?
- A. Dad was born in 1876 and, I think he died in 1955. He is also buried down in the Baptist Cemetery in Cape May Court House.
- Q. Do you know anything about his education? Is this the one that was taken out of school when he was eight?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Can you remember any stories about his experiences from school? I think that would be being taken out of school at age eight to be an apprentice.
- A. Yes. At eight years old.
- Q. Was he ever in the military?
- A. No.
- Q. How did your grandparents meet?
- A. My mother's mother was on a ferry in North Carolina and there were no seats and Pop got up and gave her his seat and they got to talking and that was how they met.
- Q. Were there any family heirlooms, property, that had been handed down from generation to generation that you know of?
- A. No. I don't know of anything.

- Q. Do you have any photographs of your ancestors?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have any old letters that were written by your ancestors?
- A. No.
- Q. What about diaries or journals?
- A. No.
- Q. Has anyone written down the family history before that you know of?
- A. I think my brother has made a video and I have a copy.
- Q. The video is of ?
- A. The family and talks about the different ones of the family.
- Q. He's talking?
- A. Yes.
- Q. I thought he had filmed the events.
- Q. Can you think of anything else about your grandparents?
- A. I miss them!
- Q. Don't we all..... Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives on either side of the family?
- A. No.
- Q. No pirates or anything?
- A. No.

Q. Describe your surroundings when you were a child, like where you lived when you were a child, whichever house that was. Can you picture the kitchen?

A. No.

Q. Were you in a big house like this? A little house?

A. We lived in so many. I do remember 1930 or 31, when my mother was sick, I lived with Miss Robinson and Miss Eddy, the schoolteachers on Central Avenue. My mother was with a friend. I think I was with them for a year and they were very good to me and all the neighbors, especially, were very good.

Q. This was when you were in school, or out of school?

A. I was in First Grade and Grandpop, I called him Grandpop Langheim, if he collected leaves I always rode in the wheelbarrow and he would dump me out in the pile.

Q. You lived near him?

A. They were next door. And the other neighbor, Mr. Cathcart, was a carpenter and when he was out in the shop I could go out and play with the shavings and put on curls and he would ride a bicycle to work, to his job, and he would take his tools out and put me on the shelf in front of the bike and I'd hold the tools and he'd pedal me the block down to school.

Q. That sounds like fun.

A. And if I was running down by the back of the properties, Mrs. Dunkle would call me in for a glass of milk and a couple cookies and I played with Ginny Davis, and her mother was very good to me. There was a man with a horse and wagon, we called him the yum-yum man, he had orange ice, lemon ice, and when I'd see him on Grape Street I'd high tail it down the back of the houses after I ate mine and go to the Schenks' house where I was friendly with Bob and his sister, but I knew that the sister couldn't eat all of hers and I would get half of it and Mrs. Schenk would be sure to give me part of Lorraines. I was a pig even then!

Q. Who was your favorite cousin? Did you have a favorite? Did you have a lot of cousins, or a few cousins?

A. I am years older than my cousins. I forget how many cousins I had. I'm fourteen years older than the one closest to me and, I think, twenty years older than the youngest one. I had no favorites.

Q. You probably didn't even know them. They weren't in your age bracket.

A. A little bit.

Q. Are you in touch with any of your aunts, uncles or cousins and where do they live?

A. Periodically, I'm in touch with two cousins. They live here in New Jersey. Another one lives in Florida that, we correspond at Christmas time. Another one is out in Washington State, but I don't hear from him.

Q. What was the major news event of your life? I know for me it was Kennedy getting shot.

A. Yes, I think Kennedy's assassination was one of the biggest.

Q. But you were around during D-Day and Pearl Harbor Day, maybe that was bigger.

A. Yes, but I didn't understand what Pearl Harbor was and then when it was explained, I couldn't understand why anybody would do anything like that. Any company. I think there was one girl here in Hammonton that lost her husband at Pearl Harbor.

Q. Like 9-11, that would come after Kennedy to me. It should probably come before Kennedy, but, I don't know, they were probably both pretty big.

Q. What political party did your parents or grandparents belong to?

A. My mother was a democrat. I don't know about my grandparents, but I know they voted.

R. Do you remember your grandparents' parents, your great-grandparents. Do you remember them at all?

A. I remember my father's grandmother. I was probably four or five years old , but I just remember visiting an old lady.

Q. Do you know where she is buried?

A. I don't know where she is buried.

Q. Did your parents or grandparents speak a foreign language, like the one that came from Finland, did they speak Finnish?

A. No. Pop never spoke Finnish. Everything was Americanish.

Q. Where did you go to school? Do you remember some of the names of some of your teachers?

A. I went to school here in Hammonton.

Q. To one of the little country schools or the one in town?

A. No, I went to the one in town. I remember all my teachers.

Q. Oh, let's hear their names.

A. In kindergarten I had Mrs. Lobley and, sure, now I forget the other teacher's name! But I can see her! In First Grade I had Miss Hurley. In Second Grade, Miss Wood. Third Grade, Mrs. Jones. Fourth Grade was Miss Phillips. Fifth Grade was Miss Whitmyer. Sixth Grade, Miss Hatch. These are my homeroom teachers now: Seventh Grade, Mrs. Fisher. Eighth Grade, Mrs. Volmer.

Q. Very good. We can give you an "A".

A. In Ninth Grade I had Ruth Alloway (later, Ramiciotti). We were her first class and she's coming up in June and we're going to have our sixty-fifth reunion.

Q. Oh my goodness. She's still with us?

A. Very, very sharp. Alert. Very aware.

Q. You graduated high school.

A. Yes.

Q. That was where the Catholic School is now?

A. Yes.

Q. In what year did you graduate?

A. 1942.

Q. How did you get to school? Did you have to walk? Well, you lived so many places, some of them you probably had to walk. Did they have busses?

A. There were busses. We walked to school until we lived on Seagrove Avenue, no, we lived on the Pike first and we rode the bus, and on Seagrove Avenue, we also rode the bus. When we moved to Oak Road, I guess we rode the bus for that one week.

Q. Who were your best friends during your school years?

A. Well, I'm still friends with my classmates. There are three. The two girls are cousins and we go out to lunch frequently. I take them to their appointments. Another one calls me when she needs me. I have another friend, we were in school from the Ninth Grade, we still gossip on the phone. Some years back, I wrote to a magazine that was popular and wanted to know where some of our other classmates were, but I never got an answer.

Q. Yes, in those days they came from Elwood, Winslow and a lot of other towns. They weren't just from Hammonton.

A. No.

Q. What has changed the most about Hammonton from when you were a kid?

- A. I think the lack of stores on Bellevue Avenue where everybody knew everybody. The lack of a movie in town where kids used to go on Saturday afternoon to watch Gene Autry and Tom Mix. The drugstores where we could go.
- Q. What was one of your favorite places in Hammonton that is no longer there?
- A. I think the movie. There were two movies. The Palace and the Rivoli.
- Q. Do you remember the one on Vine Street, the Eagle?
- A. Yes. I just have a very vague recollection. I had to be three and my father carrying me when we went in there. I probably went to sleep. I just have a very vague recollection.
- Q. Basically, the main street is still there, except for the building on the end that they tore off, you know, they redo them, but wasn't that where the First Federal was, the Palace? I remember them opening it up for a couple of months to a year when I was a teenager. Not too long.

Okay, thank you Phyllis for allowing the Historical Society of Hammonton to make an oral interview for their archives.

I have read the typed copy of the interview and find it to be accurate.

Signed:

Phyllis Hunter

Interviewer:

Ellen Aiello

PORTRAIT OF PHYLLIS HUNTER'S GRANDMOTHER

MARY IDA KEETER KLOO

WithEDNA CHRISTINE KLOO

MARY IDA KLOO

MYRTLE ELIZABETH KLOO

(Phyllis' mother)

Taken about 1911-1913, after death of oldest child, Annie



PORTRAIT OF PHYLLIS HUNTER'S PARENTS
MYRTLE E. KLOO AND WILLIAM J. HUNTER



PICTURE OF MARRIAGE LICENSE OF
PHYLLIS HUNTER'S PARENTS
WHICH HANGS IN HER LIVING ROOM



PHYLLIS HUNTER AT ABOUT 16 YEARS OLD

