

## **Linda Ellingwood/Emilia Fogg Interview July 28, 2025**

Emilia Fogg and Linda Ellingwood are the great-granddaughters of well-known Norway snowshoe maker and fiddler Mellie Dunham. They are the daughters of Lona Noble Bedard and Emile “Bill” Bedard. Lona was the daughter of Ethna Pearl Dunham Noble and Nathan “Nate” Noble. Ethna Pearl was the daughter of Alanson Mellon “Mellie” Dunham and Emma Richardson Dunham. Emma was universally known as “Gram Dunham.”

In addition to Mellie Dunham’s music fame, Lona & Bill Bedard played in several dance bands for 65+ years. Bill was inducted into the Maine Country Music Hall of Fame in 1998.

### **Participants:**

**Narrator – Susan Denison of the Norway Museum & Historical Society**

**Linda Ellingwood**

**Emilia Fogg**

Transcribed & edited by Susan Denison

*Note that clarifying information has been added to this transcript by the narrator/editor. It appears in italics and square brackets.*

**Susan 0:00**

It's Monday, July 28, 2025 and we're here at the Norway Museum and Historical Society building to conduct an interview with Emilia Fogg and Linda Ellingwood. And whichever one of you ladies would like to go first, can you tell me your full name, and if you don't mind, when and where you were born?

**Linda 0:23**

Okay, I'm Linda Bedard Ellingwood, and I was born November 3, 1946 in the little Norway hospital on Deering Street. You want any more detail?

**Susan**

No, that's fine.

**Linda**

Because, I mean, I can tell you a cool story about...

**Susan 0:45**

Okay, you please? If you've got a cool story, let's introduce Emilia first, and then we'll go back to that.

**Emilia 0:51**

Okay, I'm Emilia Bedard Fogg, and I was born April 15, 1943 and I'm pretty sure I was born in that hospital too.

**Susan**

Okay, yeah. All right, thank you. All right, Linda, tell us your cool story.

**Linda 1:04**

Well my... she wasn't born in that hospital.

**Emilia**

Oh

**Linda**

Were you?

**Emilia**

I think so?

**Linda**

I think that mom was on 38 Main Street, and she went down to the midwife down across from where the barber shop used to be in South Paris. I think, to have you.

**Emilia**

I don't know.

**Susan**

Okay.

**Linda**

But maybe that was me, okay. My cool story is the night that I was born. My sister Emilia was about what? Two, two and a half or three? And my father was keeping track of her while my mom was having me. And during that time, the fire chief in South Paris, his name was Solomon Gay, and his house was burning down. And I remember hearing that story that I was born the night that Solly Gay's house burned down.

**Susan 2:07**

We could probably look that up in the newspaper. Yes. What a thing to remember.

**Linda 2:12**

Well, I heard this story.

**Susan 2:14**

So, one of you ladies tell me you know, who your parents were and how many siblings. I know there are a few.

**Emilia 2:24**

Our parents were Lona Noble Bedard and Emile Joseph Bedard that he went by the name of Bill Bedard. And there were three daughters.

**Susan 2:38**

Okay, three daughters, no sons?

**Emilia**

No, no sons.

**Susan 2:44**

Okay, all right. And when I ask these questions, you both can answer, one of you can answer. You may each have different things to say, and that's fine. Okay. Where did you grow up?

**Linda 2:56**

We moved up to Crockett Ridge from 38 Main Street in South Paris, the day that I was six months old and I grew up on Crockett Ridge. All that time.

**Emilia**

And I did, too.

**Susan 3:08**

Okay, and is the house still there where you grew up?

**Linda 3:13**

Yes, yes it is.

**Emilia**

But not all of it.

**Susan 3:13**

Okay. What did they tear down? Part of the ell?

**Emilia 3:19**

Our father took the first, the top, maybe one and a half stories, to make it into a ranch style house, because the big, it was a big...

**Linda**

Victorian house.

**Emilia**

Victorian house.

**Susan 3:33**

Okay, and so, do one of you live there now?

**Linda**

No, my son does, though.

**Susan**

Your son lives there. Okay, all right. And so where do you live now? Each of you?

**Emilia 3:48**

I live not far from that house. My parents gave us some land, my husband and I some land, and we built a house.

**Susan 3:59**

Okay, so you're still in the Crockett Ridge - Heywood Club neighborhood?

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Linda 4:04**

And I'm over at the Lake neighborhood, where route 117 and 118 come together.

**Susan 4:13**

Oh, okay, so you live in Norway Lake Village?

**Linda**

That's where I live. Yes, I do. It had its own history.

**Emilia 4:18**

But she did live in the house, between, they owned the house between my house and my parent's house.

**Linda**

We lived there a long time.

**Susan 4:25**

Okay, all right, so you, you all, you owned the entire neighborhood at one time.

**Linda 4:31**

At one time, the whole Ridge was Noble [*family*] land, and that's why it's called Noble's Hill.

**Susan 4:37**

Noble's Hill, yes. Which, that prompts me to jump ahead to a question that someone asked me, "Would you please ask them - Tubbs Hill, and Tubbs Ledges," I assume Tubbs Hill is the other big hill?

**Linda**

No.

**Susan**

I mean, I know Noble Hill.

**Linda 4:57**

Tubbs Hill was also called Noble's Hill.

**Susan**

I see, okay, all right.

**Linda**

Tubbs Ledge is at the top of what we call Noble's Hill, which was our playground when we were kids. We played on Tubbs Ledge.

**Susan 5:12**

Okay, so is that really ledge, like rocks?

**Linda**

Yes, it is.

**Susan**

And is it on the town side of Crockett Ridge Road or the lake side?

**Linda 5:19**

The town side.

**Susan**

Okay.

**Linda**

And you can go up there and sit there and enjoy yourself.

**Susan**

Oh, wow.

**Emilia**

Well, you used to be able to. We used to. I don't know who owns it now.

**Susan 5:30**

I know that the houses on that side of Crockett Ridge Rd. they, they all have long driveways. And go up there, and you can't even see the houses. And I thought that's prime land up there. I'm sure it is.

**Linda 5:42**

We played there growing up as kids.

**Susan 5:46**

Somebody specifically asked me to ask you, where were Tubbs ledges, or where are they.

**Linda 5:51**

They're right there. On top of Noble's Hill.

**Susan**

Thank you.

**Linda 5:53**

And Tubbs, I guess Tubbs owned the top of the hill too, or some of the land. I'm not sure.

**Susan 6:02**

Okay. Now, was that the Walter Tubbs family, who eventually, I mean, who your great grandfather taught him to make snowshoes?

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Susan**

And he eventually opened the factory in town. Is that the same Tubbs family?

**Linda**

I think probably. I'm not sure.

**Susan**

Okay, so when you were growing up, up there. Did you always have electricity and a telephone?

**Linda**

Yeah, no TV.

**Susan**

No TV. When did you get television? Did you get television while you were still children?

**Emilia 6:30**

I think I was around 10 or 12.

**Susan 6:32**

And I bet that was a big deal.

**Emilia 6:36**

Yeah. I used to watch American Bandstand when I got off the school bus.

**Susan 6:40**

Okay. So where did you go to school before you went to high school?

**Linda 6:49**

I went to the Tucker Street School. Then I went to the yellow building.

**Susan**

Yes, okay, the elementary school.

**Linda**

And the junior high.

**Susan 6:57**

So, what you went? You lived up there, but you went to Tucker Street?

**Linda**

Yep.

**Susan**

Okay,

**Linda**

On the bus.

**Susan**

Okay, you didn't go to the lake school?

**Linda**

Nope.

**Susan**

I'm not arguing with you. I'm just surprised, that's all.

**Emilia 7:07**

And I went to the lower primary

**Susan 7:12**

Okay, all right. And again, you took the bus from home to come to town to go to primary school?

**Emilia 7:18**

Yeah, then later on up to the yellow like she talked about.

**Susan 7:23**

Yes, like we all did. Those of us of a certain age eventually went to the yellow school. So, you both went to Norway High School?

**Linda 7:32**

Yeah. I went to Norway High School for two years, and then we became Oxford Hills.

**Susan**

Ah.

**Linda**

We didn't have a building, right?

**Susan**

Yes.

**Linda**

So we commuted the last two years from Norway to South Paris for some classes, because there was no building,

**Susan 7:49**

So while they were building? [*the new high school*]

**Emilia 7:53**

And my class was the last class to graduate from Norway High School.

**Susan 7:56**

Okay, so you were the class of 1961?

**Emilia**

Yes.

**Susan**

Okay, the last class from Norway High. Okay. It must have been strange to go to high school. I mean, you spent two years here in Norway and then to have to go over there to go to some classes. Was that weird?

**Linda 8:16**

Yep, and I remember being in chemistry class over there the day that Kennedy was shot, and the chemistry teacher, Mr. Hearn, no, it wasn't Mr. Hearn, Mr. Brown, put it on the loudspeaker.

**Susan**

He announced it to the school?

**Linda**

Yeah, we could hear the conversation. I remember right where I was sitting in chemistry class.

**Susan 8:42**

We all do remember where we were and so by that time, by November 1963, you [*Emilia*] were out of school, right?

**Emilia**

Yes

**Susan**

Okay. Did you like school?

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Susan**

Whether it's elementary or high school, did you like it?

**Emilia**

Yes

**Susan**

Did you, Linda?

**Linda**

Oh, yes.

**Susan**

Okay, all right. Did you participate in school activities?

**Emilia**

Yes.

**Susan**

What'd you do?

**Emilia 9:07**

I was a cheerleader in high school.

**Linda 9:12**

I was in music, mostly and plays.

**Susan 9:15**

Theater?

**Linda**

Yes.

**Emilia 9:17**

I did that too. I did too.

**Linda 9:18**

She did that, too.

**Susan 9:22**

Okay. Did you go to school after high school at any time? Did you continue any sort of education? What'd you do?

**Linda 9:29**

I went to four years at University of Maine. The nursing school.

**Susan**

Orono?

**Linda**

Yes.

**Susan 9:33**

All right, the nursing school?

**Linda**

Yup.

**Emilia 9:37**

I got married about a week after I graduated from high school, I was only 18. And so, the only training I pretty much got afterwards was when I started working in banking, and then I had training for that.

**Susan 9:53**

Okay. Where did you work in banking?

**Emilia 9:56**

Well, I started in Virginia. My husband was in the Marine Corps for 20 years. So, we started at United Virginia Bank down in Chesapeake, Virginia.

**Susan 10:07**

Okay, all right. I was a customer of United - I'm not supposed to talk about me during this, but I can cut it out. I was a customer of United Virginia bank. I lived in Virginia for 30 plus years in Northern Virginia, outside DC. But yes, I know United Virginia Bank - long gone, but I know it.

**Emilia 10:25**

And when my husband retired, I started out working at the Maine Savings Bank. And I worked for them until they had to go under, and then Androscoggin [*Bank*] took [*over*] and I ended up retiring from Androscoggin.

**Susan 10:39**

Okay, and so, so where did you live by the time when you were working for Maine Savings?

**Emilia**

Right up on Crockett's Ridge.

**Susan**

Oh, okay, well, where was the Maine Savings Bank around here?

**Emilia 10:48**

It was right where the Androscoggin Bank was.

**Susan 10:50**

Ah, okay, gotcha. Okay. And so did you practice nursing?

**Linda 11:01**

Oh, yeah.

**Susan**

Where?

**Linda 11:06**

Well, I graduated in 1969. I went to my first year to Rumford Hospital on the medical floor, and then I came down to Stephens Memorial, and I worked 17 years in the intensive care unit, and I did eight years as supervisor. And then I went up to, when I went over to Market Square Healthcare for about four years, and then I went to the Maine Veterans Home for 18 years.

**Susan 11:32**

Really? Wonderful, wonderful place.

**Linda**

I retired a little while ago.

**Susan 11:37**

Both my parents were at the Veterans Home. Absolutely first-class place.

**Linda 11:41**

I thought it was. Now I'm going to tell you another little story about that. Talking about our music heritage, my mom and dad, our mom and dad had a group, and they would play at the Veterans Home and the other nursing homes. And my mother always said, she said the residents at the Veterans Home are happier. So...

**Susan 12:06**

I expect Lona knew what she was talking about.

**Linda 12:10**

She did. I mean, she didn't know why, but she knew.

**Susan**

She could tell.

**Linda**

They could tell, when the residents, when they would bring the music.

**Susan 12:20**

Again. I'm not, I'm not gonna talk about me. I'm not supposed to.

**Emilia 12:23**

I would have an answer to that.

**Susan**

Yes, please.

**Emilia**

Being a military wife, it's because they got to sit around and talk about their military lives. That's why.

**Linda**

Yup, they had something in common.

**Susan 12:37**

I'm part of the local ukulele group.

**Emilia**

Oh, you are?

**Susan**

And we play. And again, this is going to be cut from this tape, but, but we play. We have a gig once a year at the Veterans Home. It is our absolutely favorite gig.

**Linda 12:48**

I saw you up at West Paris.

**Susan**

Oh, were you there?

**Linda**

Yes, I was in the front row.

**Susan 12:56**

I beg your pardon. I'm sorry I was...

**Linda**

But you were over...

**Susan**

I was over on the far - it would've been the far left for you.

**Linda 13:02**

Lynette was way over here.

**Susan**

I was on the other side.

**Linda**

And then there was a bunch of other people. That was so fun. You guys have the best time with that. They all play ukuleles.

**Susan 13:14**

Some of us are excellent singers, and some of us are excellent ukulele players. I am neither. I am average at best, but we have a good time.

**Linda 13:26**

Wow, now that you say that. I said, oh yeah, that's where I saw her sitting right there.

**Susan**

Yes, we will cut this part from the interview.

**Linda 13:36**

Thanks for sharing that.

**Susan**

Certainly.

**Linda**

When I looked at you, I said yeah, where have I seen you.

**Susan 13:43**

The Veterans Home, we play once a year over there, and it is, it's our favorite gig. Everybody wants to, all of us want to do that just because it's special.

**Linda 13:52**

It is special. I enjoyed my working there for many, you know, for all those years.

**Susan 13:58**

First class place, first class place. How did you spend your summers as a kid? What is there to do up on Crockett Ridge when you're a kid?

**Emilia 14:09**

Sneaking our mother's cigarettes and going across the road and smoking them, and it's a good thing we didn't start a fire. We could have had started a fire.

**Linda**

I don't remember that.

**Emilia**

You did that Linda, with Barbara. Barbara Conant.

**Susan 14:24**

What brand cigarettes? You remember?

**Linda 14:27**

Probably Pall Malls.

**Susan**

Okay.

**Linda 14:30**

Well, we played on the ridge. There were no houses up there except for our house and the farm, Mellie Dunham's farm, Aunt Cherry's [*Cherry Noble Frechette*] farm, Uncle Fred's farm.

**Susan**

Okay, Fred Noble?

**Linda**

Yes, but there were no other houses, so we had the run of the ridge.

**Susan 14:49**

Okay. And so, at that time, when you had the run of the ridge, was it mostly fields, mostly woods?

**Linda**

Yes, fields and woods.

**Susan**

Okay, yes. But much more open than it probably is now?

**Linda**

Yes.

**Emilia 15:03**

Oh yeah, our field that was right next to our house growing up, was full of our uncle's cows. They would come through from his farm, Lucien Frechette's farm, and come through the woods and go and eat the grass,

**Susan 15:20**

And graze in the field?

**Linda 15:21**

And I used to sit out on the porch and play the guitar for them. And they loved music. The cows, they come right to the fence.

**Susan 15:30**

And listen to you?

**Linda**

Yes.

**Susan**

Did you just play or did you sing too?

**Linda 15:34**

Mostly played because my dad just taught me how to do a few things with a slide guitar.

**Susan**

Okay. So you played the slide guitar?

**Linda**

I did a little bit. But he taught me. But we weren't good music students. She [*Emilia*] was better than me.

**Susan 15:48**

And we're gonna get to what kind of music do you play? We're gonna get to that a little later. So, when you were kids, and in the summer, when you were on summer vacation, you weren't expected to help on the farms or anything like that?

**Emilia**

No.

**Linda 16:10**

I used to mow. I used to help dad with the high wheel bush mower. We had to mow the lawn with that reel mower, remember? But my mom was, she didn't want me in the kitchen, not cooking. I made her nervous. So as a result...

**Susan**

Go away, Linda. Go away.

**Emilia 16:31**

I didn't know anything about cooking, really, when I got married. We ate TV dinners, is what we did.

**Linda 16:38**

Though not, but with her, we didn't. We ate a lot of [*unintelligible, maybe corn?*]

**Emilia**

I'm talking about after I [*unintelligible*]

**Susan 16:42**

Yes, yes, and your skills as a cook, yeah.

**Linda 16:46**

Mom was a great cook, but I know I made her nervous, so she, but uh, we had a...

**Susan 16:56**

So you did, you did have some chores to do, for lack of a better way of putting it. You were expected to mow the lawn?

**Linda 17:02**

We were pretty spoiled, actually.

**Susan**

Okay.

**Linda 17:06**

My mom was a hard worker. She wanted things done a certain way.

**Emilia 17:11**

There was a group of us from the ridge that would go down to the lake, um, we would walk down around, not down, you know where you see the lake. We would walk down behind and go down to what's called Sandy Shores. And that was a place that was owned by people up in Paris Hill, and they allowed us to go swimming there.

**Susan 17:37**

Very nice.

**Emilia**

So, we would go there swimming.

**Susan**

Okay, yes, so you spent a lot of time in the lake in the summer, I expect.

**Emilia**

Yeah, yeah.

**Linda 17:43**

We'd go fishing with dad, with the old boat, too. He taught me how to fish.

**Susan 17:47**

All right. What is your earliest childhood memory of being here? What's the first thing you remember, or the oldest memory you have when you were a kid?

**Emilia 18:06**

When I was born, when my father was in World War Two. And when he got out and came home, I was probably about two, two and a half, three years old. And when he came home, my mother said, Emilia, your father's home. And he walks in, I look at him, and I said, that's not my father, that's uncle Fran, who was his brother, who used to come and visit us. I was a brat.

**Linda**

We were probably brats.

**Emilia 18:41**

Can you imagine my poor dad?

**Susan 18:46**

Yeah, the poor guy, I assume that you smartened up, and he got over it, I hope. And your earliest memory, Linda? Any idea?

**Linda 19:00**

I remember stories, when I was a baby, they moved up there. I was six months old, they moved up to the ridge, and mom was working on the house, and they put me under the China closet. There was a China closet with a little chamber, and drawers and she'd put me in there, and off she'd go. Other than that...

**Susan 19:21**

A good place for a baby. Nice, safe place.

**Linda 19:24**

I remember that. Then growing up, I don't remember. I remember sleeping on a featherbed, in their room.

**Emilia**

How about the apple?

**Linda**

The apple?

**Emilia**

The apple tree.

**Linda**

Climbing the apple tree?

**Emilia**

The rocks.

**Linda**

The rocks?

**Emilia**

Yes.

**Susan**

Tell the story Emilia.

**Linda**

No, no. She said, earliest memories.

**Susan 19:48**

That's all right. Early memories. I'll change it.

**Linda 19:51**

Well, she tried to hit me with... She did hit me with a rock!

**Emilia 19:52**

What happened was, we were out there under the apple tree, and I took a rock and threw it up to knock an apple down, but the rock came down and hit her. So then, she and her friend picked up this big rock, and they went and smacked me over the head with it.

**Susan**

I'm glad you're both still here.

**Emilia**

So far, I'm okay.

**Linda**

I got spanked and Barbara had to go home.

**Susan**

Siblings. This stuff happens.

**Linda 20:21**

But that's not my earliest.

**Susan**

And that's okay.

**Linda**

I remember riding my tricycle in the road, and I was going down toward Aunt Cherry's house and riding right in the middle of the road on my tricycle, and I turned and looked around, and there's Uncle Lucien with his big farm truck right straight behind me. I

remember that. And I remember getting my legs switched all the way home, by our mom. One, one very effective tool is a goldenrod and we learned that, you know, with bare legs. And she would strip the...

**Susan 20:58**

It kind of stings, doesn't it?

**Linda 21:02**

She was good at discipline.

**Susan 21:07**

Okay, she knew what she was doing. So, your favorite activity when you were a kid?

**Linda 21:16**

Oh, wow. Summer or winter?

**Susan**

Either or both.

**Linda**

Well, we used to ride bikes. Bring Timber with us, that was our German Shepherd. He protected us.

**Emilia 21:29**

He was always getting in fights. We didn't know why, but now I realize.

**Susan**

He thought he was protecting you.

**Linda 21:33**

Yeah, and he was, because he grew up with us. With me, anyway. And then, in those days, we didn't hitch our dogs. He was a very smart dog. We grew up with him.

**Susan 21:47**

Your favorite activity during childhood? Anything in particular?

**Emilia 21:53**

Well, probably bike riding.

**Susan 21:55**

Just running around.

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Susan**

Hobbies, any particular hobbies?

**Linda 22:02**

I used to make, like to make things, but mom didn't teach us how to run the sewing machine. I loved to make up songs on the piano. But, you know, that was fun.

**Susan**

Uh huh.

**Emilia 22:18**

We had a piano right in our living room.

**Susan 22:20**

Okay, yeah, okay, and could everybody play, at least to some extent?

**Linda**

We tried.

**Emilia 22:27**

Yeah, neither our parents could read music. I know that's surprising as much as they play, but they are all by ear.

**Susan**

Which is amazing.

**Emilia**

When we were growing up, my mother made sure that we took piano lessons so we would learn to read music.

**Susan**

Who was your piano teacher? Do you remember?

**Linda 22:43**

Yeah, I remember mine was over on, over behind the armory. I only had, I only took lessons for a year, because...

**Susan 22:57**

Not Florence Twitchell?

**Linda**

Yes, it was.

**Susan**

Okay, because they lived on Nevers Avenue. She was my piano teacher, too.

**Emilia 23:02**

Yeah, I think I had her too.

**Linda**

You took for three years. Emilia got very good at that. And she still plays once in a while, when forced into it.

**Susan 23:19**

Glad to hear it. So, when you were kids living up on the ridge, as you say, how often did you come to town, not talking about coming to school? Did the family come to town on Friday nights or, Saturdays?

**Linda**

Friday nights. It was just like a mall. And we'd go down to the A&P store and get our groceries. We might go see a movie. You'd drop into Newberry's, Wilson's, you'd go to the shoe place, Swett Shoe Store, you might need your shoes repaired. And then the cobbler downstairs. What were the other stores? Margo's and Crane's came in later. And there was also the Jack and Jill. The whole thing was like a mall.

**Susan 24:05**

Oh, yeah, I know them all. It was. Everybody who, of course, I grew up in town, everybody who lived out of town, they all came to town on Friday night.

**Linda**

Friday night.

**Susan**

And it was a jumping place.

**Linda 24:19**

Yeah, that's because they got their checks on Fridays, right?

**Susan 24:24**

So, when you did come to town, of course, if you did it every week or just about every week, maybe it wasn't quite so special. But were there any special treats or activities when you were here? Did you get to go have a ice cream at the soda fountain, or...

**Linda**

Newberry's had a fountain. Ashton's had a fountain.

**Emilia 24:46**

Our mother worked at the Ashton's Drug.

**Susan 24:50**

Did she? Okay. Did she work at the at the soda fountain, or...

**Emilia & Linda**

Yes

**Susan**

Or at the drug counter? Okay, yeah,

**Linda 24:59**

She was at the fountain. That was when I was in junior high school, I think, so. I don't know year [*unintelligible*]

**Susan 25:03**

So, because you've already listed some...

**Linda 25:07**

So, we went to the movies.

**Emilia 25:09**

We had a grandmother that lived down on Brown Street, my father's mother, and she would take us to the movies. We would walk up to the movie theater with her. You remember doing that? I do, because I'm older.

**Susan 25:21**

You remember any particular movie?

**Emilia**

No.

**Linda 25:26**

Yes, I do.

**Susan**

What did you see at the Rex theater?

**Linda**

The one that was the most traumatic for me was Jack and the Beanstalk. My mom left us off, and I went in with my sisters, I think, and I was so scared that I crawled down under the seat, and my mom came to get us, and some woman came out of the theater and was talking to my mom, and she says I felt so sorry for that little girl.

**Susan**

That little girl. Awww, hiding under the seat.

**Linda**

That was traumatic.

**Susan 26:01**

I'm so sorry to hear that.

**Linda 26:04**

Well, I was the youngest, and I was always getting into, I was, you know, I tried to keep up with the big kids. But one time we were running along, you know, in the ridge, and we went into Uncle Fred's field right beside our house, but between his and we didn't realize that the bull was loose. And so we had Bob Conant with us, Bob and Barbara [*Conant*] and Emilia and I, as we know, and I was trying to keep up, but I couldn't keep up with the kids, and the bull was chasing us, and Bob picked me up and put me in the apple tree. Thank God, I'd have been killed, probably.

**Susan 26:42**

Probably. Seriously hurt.

**Linda**

Yeah. He was very kind. I was just telling it his memorial thing about how he saved my life.

**Emilia 26:56**

And Barbara and I were up by the road watching all this. We weren't helping at all.

**Susan**

You were no help at all.

**Linda**

There wasn't much you could do. You know, Bob was bigger.

**Susan 27:07**

I'm glad he was thinking quickly.

**Linda 27:08**

But kids like us, we just played in the woods and the fields. You know, we picked flowers up on, near Tubbs ledge, in those springs. [*unintelligible*]

**Susan 27:17**

You just wandered all over.

**Linda 27:22**

We did. And explored. Learned a lot.

**Emilia 27:27**

And there was a dump down kind of in the woods there that we used to go check stuff out.

**Linda 27:33**

Yeah, behind the farm.

**Susan 27:35**

Okay, old bottles and things like that? From an earlier time?

**Linda & Emilia**

Yes.

**Linda 27:41**

I think there was old car down there too. Wasn't there?

**Emilia 27:43**

I think so.

**Susan 27:45**

There's always an old car in the woods somewhere.

**Linda**

Yup, yup.

**Susan 27:49**

Okay, any other businesses here in downtown Norway that you remember? Any particular businesses, of course, you've mentioned a number of them.

**Linda 28:00**

Harlow's was down on the corner of Green Street, [*Editor's correction - actually at the corner of Greenleaf Avenue*] and our sister Mary worked there, and she bought our parents a beautiful lamp, and I have it still at my house. I remember that.

**Susan 28:15**

Did you ever go out to eat at any place besides the soda fountain at Newberry's or Ashton's?

**Emilia**

Barjo's.

**Susan**

Okay, go to Barjo's?

**Linda 28:23**

And Goodwin's. When it was there.

**Susan 28:29**

What was your first job?

**Emilia**

Well, um

**Susan**

Besides babysitting.

**Linda**

Babysitting.

**Susan**

Besides babysitting, we all did that.

**Emilia 28:37**

Yeah. I was just remembering you, you skipped to something, because when I was in high school, I used to go to the dances in South Paris. They had a Teen Time.

**Susan 28:48**

The Teen Time, with Joe and Marion Quinn.

**Emilia 28:51**

Yes. Used to go to that. But my first job, I believe, was when I worked at Norway Laundry. The first summer I, we were picking over camp kids clothes. Was the first summer. And then last summer I worked there, I was on the side where there were clean clothes.

**Susan 29:16**

Pleasant change, but I expect it was hot in there.

**Emilia**

Oh yeah.

**Susan**

I bet it was kind of nasty working.

**Linda**

You worked there quite a while.

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Susan**

Okay, your first job?

**Linda 29:28**

Well, I did babysit a lot. Then I worked at the Dairy Joy, and I worked there for Lyndon Spinney. And then I worked down at the Frosty Treat, which is, you know where that was?

**Susan**

Yes, yes, I do.

**Linda**

Yeah. I worked for them for a few years too. So those were my basic...

**Susan 29:50**

Was Frosty Treat? Was that Elliot Anderson?

**Linda 29:54**

Elliot Anderson and Pearl. Elliot and Pearl Anderson. And they had a house right up on Pleasant Street, which I don't know who owns it now. Yeah, I worked for them.

**Susan 30:01**

Okay, all right. Did you enjoy it? Was it okay jobs? It was a paycheck?

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Linda 30:09**

Yeah. Occasionally, we didn't always get paid at the Dairy Joy.

**Susan 30:15**

Oh! Did they forget? Or...

**Linda 30:17**

No, he would just say, well, they haven't, the franchise...

**Susan**

It was a bad week?

**Linda**

...who sent the money or something. I remember waiting for the paycheck, but I didn't, I was only 16, I didn't know what I was doing.

**Susan 30:29**

But still.

**Linda**

But yeah, eventually, we got paid.

**Susan 30:31**

Okay, good. Okay. Any other jobs around Norway besides your, I mean, you [*Linda*] talked about working at the hospital, and of course, you [*Emilia*] were away when your husband was in the military. Any place else you work around Norway, you know, before you, before you, before you got married and left?

**Emilia 30:53**

Yeah, when I was a teenager, uh, one day in the summer, we worked for Burnham and Morrill and we went on a bus way up into New Hampshire to pick. Was it blue? It was blueberries that we were picking. And so, me and my friend did that, and we, it was good day, but we only did it that one day because that was tough work.

**Linda 31:20**

And our sister worked for Shepard's Camps, Mary, for her summers.

**Susan 31:25**

Okay, just doing, she a waitress or housekeeper?

**Linda 31:31**

Yeah. She was everything, she was just telling us this last week, when we went on the boat, she started just as, like bussing tables, I believe. Then she did housekeeping and waiting on tables. And there were a whole group of kids that worked for Shepard's Camps.

**Susan 31:54**

I'm sure. That was a big thing.

**Linda**

It was.

**Susan 31:57**

Shepard's Camp was a big business.

**Linda**

Yeah, it was.

**Susan**

Very popular place.

**Linda**

So she did that.

**Susan**

Okay, all right. The Heywood Club, just up the road.

**Emilia**

Yes.

**Susan**

And was that a busy place most of the time or just on weekends?

**Linda 32:19**

Well, years ago, it was the place, one of the places where Mellie did dances, where they did dances.

**Susan 32:26**

And that kind of makes me jump ahead a little bit. Is because I want to ask you if you went to dances there or played there, and but how did they have room for a dance, or the big suppers that they put on, or did people spill outside? I mean, the building is not the space in the building...

**Linda**

It's not that big.

**Susan**

It's not that big. And I can't imagine a supper for 150 people that I read about in the paper, or having room to dance without hurting yourself or someone else.

**Linda 32:59**

Yeah, I know they had the dances. That was, did you know the whole history of that club?

**Susan 33:04**

Yes, pretty much, yes, I do. Yeah, yes, I do.

**Linda**

And they black-balled people? Did you know that?

**Susan**

No, I didn't know that.

**Emilia**

Our mother told us.

**Susan 33:13**

I've been asked this about the Weary Club, too. Okay, no, I mean, I understand that the Heywood Club was founded as a social club.

**Linda**

Yes.

**Susan**

For the women of Crockett Ridge and a year later, the ladies of Millettville, which I can understand, because I would think it would be very isolating to live way out there in Millettville. So it makes sense. I wasn't aware that they, that you had to be approved for membership.

**Linda 33:41**

Yes, yes, you did. It was, I believe my mom said it was started as a ladies' reading club. Something like that.

**Susan 33:48**

Probably, because that's who it's named after.

**Linda**

Yeah, a Heywood,

**Susan**

Yes. John Heywood was a poet and author in the 1500s.

**Linda 33:55**

Now see, we've learned something, didn't we?

**Susan 33:59**

Yes, and named it after this guy from the 1500s.

**Linda 34:00**

Wow.

**Susan 34:03**

Okay, so did you go to social events at the Heywood Club?

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Emilia 34:08**

One thing I do remember around the Halloween time, um, oh what was her name? School teacher, she set us up...

**Linda**

Florence? Not Florence Young?

**Emilia**

No.

**Susan 34:22**

Not Verna Millett?

**Linda**

Verna Millett, maybe?

**Emilia 34:29**

Anyway, not going to come up. But anyway, she would set us all around in a circle, all the kids, and she would kind of tell a story, and we'd have this blanket over us so we couldn't see what we were feeling.

**Linda**

Uh oh.

**Emilia**

And she would send something around and say what it was, like she said, there's an eyeball, and it's probably a grape or something that was peeled or something, and it made it feel weird, you know, and things like that. So...

**Susan 35:01**

That's wonderful. We ought to do that at the Historical Society. That's great.

**Susan 35:10**

So since becoming an adult, did you move away? I know that you [*Emilia*] did. When did you return? Your husband was in the Air Force for 20 years.

**Emilia**

Marine Corps.

**Susan**

Oh, I beg, I beg, your pardon. I'm very sorry. I will delete that from the tape for sure. I'm very sorry.

**Emilia**

I'm kidding.

**Susan**

I know you are. So, for 20 years, and so when he retired, is that when you came back to the area?

**Emilia 35:38**

Yeah. What happened was he was in for the first three years from 1957 to 60 and he got out of the Marine Corps at that time. And then we got married in 1961 and he stayed out until the Vietnam War came on, and that was 1966 that he went back in. And he stayed in for 17 years after that, and retired in 1983 and that's when we came back.

**Susan 36:08**

Okay. Did you see a lot of changes between when you left and when you came back?

**Emilia**

Yes.

**Susan**

Had Norway changed a lot?

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Susan**

Was it for the better or the worse, or just different?

**Emilia 36:22**

Yeah, different, yeah.

**Susan 36:26**

Okay. And so, how do you – what - from when you graduated high school and now, what's the biggest change, or biggest changes that you see in Norway from then to now? Besides the horrible traffic.

**Linda 36:46**

You could, you could go to Norway and buy most anything you needed. Longley's store, I mean, if you couldn't find it there, it didn't exist. You know, we, you could find anything on Norway Main Street that you needed. That's been - then, when there was several years, it's felt like there was nothing on Norway Main Street anymore, because of Walmart and others. And now, it's feeling like there are specialty stores, so there's activity again. But for a long time, it felt like it was dead. Although, when we were growing up, it felt very, very busy, so to me, that's the difference, yeah.

**Susan 37:38**

Okay. So, what differences do you see between Norway then and Norway now? You think, anything jump out at you, Emilia?

**Emilia 37:48**

One thing, our old school building is gone. The yellow building, you know, that we were brought up in, you know, we had relatives graduating from that, you know, so...

**Linda 38:02**

I know we didn't, it seems though we knew everybody, when we were growing up. Now, I don't, I don't know anybody.

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Linda**

It's probably my own fault.

**Susan 38:14**

Well, it's a different, it's a different world.

**Linda & Emilia**

Yeah.

**Susan**

Okay, now I'd like to move on to music, please. And of course, your great grandfather, Mellie Dunham is a legend, as is your great grandmother. You know, Emma or Gram, you

know, and they're both equally legends in Norway history. And of course, you know Mellie was famous locally as a, as a fiddler and a snow shoe maker, famous for many years locally, but he really hit the big time when he went to play for Henry Ford in 1925. I would like one of you, or both of you, particularly if you don't agree, to trace your lineage back to Mellie, please.

**Linda 39:00**

Well, okay, our mom was the, let's see she would be the ninth child.

**Emilia**

Eighth.

**Linda 39:11**

No, they weren't, there was one child that died. At first. There was a child that died. Their first child died, and then they had nine. She told me that. So, she was the second from the baby. There were...

**Susan 39:35**

I know, yes, I don't want to interrupt you, but I know that her mother passed away the day after a child was born.

**Linda**

After Aunt Pearl was born.

**Susan**

Pearl, okay.

**Linda**

[Unintelligible]

**Susan**

Which I'm going to get to separately about growing up without your mother, and what your mother had to say about it. But okay, so Lona, your mother, was the next to the last child of, her parents were?

**Linda 40:05**

Were Ethna Pearl and Nathan.

**Susan 40:10**

Yeah, Noble.

**Linda**

Noble, yeah.

**Susan**

And Ethna Pearl was the daughter of?

**Linda 40:15**

Mellie and Gram.

**Susan 40:17**

Yes. Thank you. Okay, so again, speaking of music for just a second. So, Cherry Noble Frechette, was your, who played with Mellie Dunham's band or orchestra?

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Susan**

With Nate Noble, right?

**Linda**

Right.

**Susan**

And so she was your aunt?

**Linda**

Yes.

**Susan**

Okay. Did Pearl, Ethna Pearl, Mellie and Gram's daughter, was she musically inclined?

**Linda 40:50**

I don't know.

**Susan**

Okay.

**Emilia**

She probably didn't have time, with those kids.

**Susan**

Exactly. With a zillion kids. That's a good point.

**Linda**

She had a baby. Every two years, she had a baby. And she died, I think she was 38.

**Susan 41:02**

I think it's 39, not to argue with you, but I looked it up.

**Linda 41:07**

No, no, that's fine. 39. But she was an only child of Mellie and Gram, who I call Gram, but I think maybe that's why she wanted a big family. And so when she and our grandfather Nathan, got married, they lived in a smaller house down, down between where the present house is in the woods. They lived in a smaller house and had some of the older children, and then as they had more children, they decided they needed a bigger house, and they ordered the house from Sears & Roebuck, and it came up on the train. The Victorian house. And all the stuff was brought to the site, and a team of carpenters from the neighborhood, got together and built the house, put it together. But it was a, it was a Sears & Roebuck house. It was called the Glen Flora. That was the name of the, whoever the architect was, and we have the plans for it. [Editor's Note – the "Glen Flora" was actually a kit home manufactured by the E.F. Hodgson Co. of Dover, MA. "Sears House" has become a generic term for kit homes shipped to the building site ready to be assembled. Kit homes from several companies, including Sears & Roebuck, were popular in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.]

**Susan**

Do you really?

**Linda**

That was retrieved from, dad and mom's friend.

**Susan 42:24**

And so, I'm jumping back for just a second. And so this is the house that your father took the top story off?

**Linda**

Eventually, he did. As after they, after the original, when the carpenters got it done, my mom's whole family, our mom's whole family lived in it and, but the upstairs, was never

completely finished. As we were growing up, there were slats on the wall. They had not put the, well, they used to use slats and then they...

**Susan**

Plaster, they would plaster over the lathes.

**Linda**

Plaster, yes, and they hadn't done the plaster. So, as we were growing up, the upstairs was unfinished, but it had been used by my mom's family. But when we were growing up, only one room up over the kitchen, was where we slept in the wintertime. The rest of the house upstairs, we could play in, and you could go way up into the attic, into the tower, and look all around. That was nice. And I remember playing up there a lot, but so when, when mom and dad obtained the house, the reason they obtained it was because my grandfather, Nathan, had lived there, but he was not able to pay the taxes. And the town was going to take the house. And mom and dad needed a house, so they, they needed \$800 and they didn't have it, but our uncle, Allie did. He had the shop right on Whitman Street.

**Susan**

Yes, right over here.

**Linda**

Yes. And he loaned them the \$800, they paid off the town, and then they moved up to the house, and from that point on, our father worked on the house every day of his life. Practically.

**Susan 44:30**

Whistlin' Bill had a project.

**Linda**

Yes, yes.

**Emilia**

He did.

**Linda**

Besides music.

**Susan**

What was I going to say? That's interesting that that was a Sears house.

**Linda 44:44**

It was a Sears house, and the pattern was the Glen Flora, if anyone wants to look it up.

**Susan**

And I'm going to.

**Linda**

Yeah, you can find out.

**Susan 44:57**

So, your mother's musical talent –

**Linda**

Yes.

**Susan**

How, how did your Aunt Cherry? How did your mother? How did they learn music? Just because they're there? Pretty much?

**Linda 45:17**

Well, on the piano and the accordion, they had the piano and the accordion...

**Susan 45:22**

Your mother was known for the accordion, particularly, wasn't she?

**Emilia 45:26**

As long as she could play it. And then she, when she got older, she couldn't play it.

**Susan 45:30**

Well, I mean, it's a big, heavy, awkward thing.

**Linda 45:33**

It was like they, I know they learned chords. My mom could play, and Aunt Cherry did the same. They would play the chord the full eight keys, and then with the right hand, they would play the melody, but...

*[Emilia showing Susan a photo on her phone of the Sears house, their childhood home.]*

**Susan 45:53**

I want that picture. I need that picture.

**Linda**

Can you send it?

**Emilia**

I don't know.

**Susan**

When we're done with this. Don't let me forget. Maybe I can help you with that.

**Emilia**

Okay.

**Linda**

You can send it to somewhere.

**Susan**

Because we need that picture for the collection.

**Emilia**

Oh, good.

**Susan**

Definitely.

**Linda 46:08**

Yeah. So, they all learned to play. It wasn't just mom could play, Pearl could play, Orin could play, and all of them could play, and but that's - now I know how to do chords, I know how they did it, but I can't do it like they did.

**Susan 46:29**

I mean, I've never, that's interesting.

**Linda 46:31**

They did. Now, Aunt Cherry would do this, and then she'd go [*motions like playing a keyboard*], and I used to watch her. I loved watching her.

**Susan**

It's fascinating. Fascinating.

**Linda**

But they, that's how they learned. And I think because their dad was musical, and that was what they did. They didn't have TV, they didn't have...

**Susan**

Play music.

**Linda**

You know, but they had music, and then we used to have what was called kitchen breakdowns. You know what I mean by that?

**Susan**

I can imagine, I can guess.

**Linda**

When they would break down the kitchen, basically. And just have a lot of people and do music.

**Susan**

Kitchen breakdown.

**Linda**

Guitars, and bass fiddles.

**Susan 47:11**

And so what do you play?

**Emilia 47:14**

Well, I can play the piano, and I was playing the violin.

**Susan 47:19**

Yes.

**Emilia**

I took lessons.

**Susan**

You're speaking in past tense. You no longer play the violin?

**Emilia 47:23**

Well, I went through a hard time back in 2010 and I kind of gave it up, and I really haven't played since then.

**Susan 47:32**

So, did you play the violin, or did you play the fiddle?

**Emilia**

Both.

**Susan**

Good for you. Okay, good.

**Emilia 47:37**

Because I would play some of Mellie's music.

**Susan**

Yes. Okay, good.

**Linda 47:43**

And I played the bongo drums.

**Emilia 47:48**

And they were playing...

**Susan**

You don't have room.

*[Laughter & unintelligible]*

**Linda**

Dad had lots *[unintelligible]* And the spoons.

**Emilia 47:57**

When, when my mom and dad were playing at the nursing homes and everything, my uncle Eddie used to play the bass guitar with them, but he passed away, and so I filled in for him. And the way I did it, my father kind of showed me how to play chords on the bass, and the way I knew how, what chord to put on was I was watching my mother play the piano, of course, I played the piano, so I could see...

**Susan 48:25**

You recognized? I'm impressed. That's good. That works.

**Emilia 48:29**

Yeah, so I helped them out a little bit there.

**Linda 48:30**

Dad had a way of teaching us chords on the guitar.

**Emilia**

Yeah.

**Linda**

He would sit like this [*adjusting in her chair*], and you would have your feet to his foot, and he would put his foot on your foot, when he wanted you to trade.

**Susan 48:48**

I see. Now that's talent that he could he could keep playing and do that too. I'd get it all messed up.

**Emilia 48:54**

Well, he taught himself to play the guitar.

**Susan 48:56**

Did he? Well, that was my next question is, how did he learn? Where did his talent come from?

**Emilia 49:00**

He started out playing with an old cigar box when he was young.

**Linda**

He made a guitar.

**Emilia**

Yeah, he made a guitar out of it.

**Linda 49:09**

But they, he came from a French family.

**Susan**

Okay. Because I was going to say, did he grow up here?

**Linda**

Yeah, on Brown Street.

**Susan**

Okay, yes. All right.

**Linda**

The family immigrated from Canada. His grandfather was Dr. Prudent Bedard, and he had an office on Brown Street. And Prudent, Dr. Prudent Bedard, brought his family and his cousins to settle here in Norway.

**Susan 49:42**

Of the current generation of Lona's descendants, are there any musicians, active musicians?

**Linda**

After us?

**Susan**

After you, yes.

**Linda 49:55**

Her son, Jeff composes and plays beautiful music. Especially him, I'm thinking Jeff. Very talented. He's made lots of CDs and things. He has a natural...

**Susan 50:12**

Okay, see, it is at least partially genetic.

**Linda 50:15**

Oh, it is. I think Jeff inherited the, it isn't the same type of music, necessarily, that they played. But you know, if you listen to some of his CDs, it's relaxing and beautiful.

**Susan**

It's just lovely.

**Linda**

He does beautiful work.

**Susan 50:33**

Was Gram? Was Gram Dunham? Was she a musician, too?

**Linda 50:38**

Not that I know of.

**Susan 50:41**

Okay, I know she was a sportswoman...

**Linda**

Yes, she was

**Susan**

You know, a hunter, a fisher, and apparently quite competent at that.

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Susan**

But you never hear about her being involved in the music.

**Emilia**

No.

**Susan**

I mean, maybe she just kept everybody in line, or something like that. But she wasn't a musician.

**Linda 50:58**

But she was, I think after her daughter died, she was pretty much taken up with helping finish raising the family.

**Susan 51:08**

Yes, well, because they must have had, after Ethna Pearl passed away, all of these children. Mellie and Gram must have assisted somehow.

**Linda 51:19**

Oh, they did. Mom, mom said that they because his. Mellie and Gram's house was here and their house was here, and they spent time in both houses. And she said, Mom said, when we left one house, she said we never said we were going home. We always said, I'm going to the other house.

**Susan 51:41**

Exactly, right. I'm sure. I'm sure they were just back and forth all time.

**Linda**

That's what they did.

**Susan**

Did your mother ever talk about losing her mother? Your mother was two or three years old.

**Linda**

She was only two.

**Susan**

Yeah, she, growing [up], did she ever talk about that? I don't mean to be sad, but...

**Linda 51:58**

She said that at two years old, and then there's a baby,

**Susan 52:03**

Yes, because the baby would never have, never had known her.

**Linda 52:07**

And mom doesn't remember her mom, much other than the picture and the stories, but she did say that when she and Aunt Pearl were nine and 11, they were keeping house at the Victorian house, for our grandfather. The oldest siblings had gotten married and moved away, and so Aunt Pearl and mom kept house. You know, just they were only 11 and nine, but they did everything, you know, and Gram Dunham, she made a lot of things for them when they were little, and she taught them about, you know, the hunting and the wildlife thing.

**Susan 52:49**

Her life.

**Linda**

Her life.

**Susan**

Things that she has accomplished at.

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Susan**

Okay, does anybody make snow shoes now like Mellie did?

**Linda**

Nobody.

**Emilia**

No.

**Susan**

I don't, I don't know if that's a completely lost art now, of making snow shoes by hand. I understand that there are some people who repair them. There's like two people in the state of Maine that can repair a traditional pair of snow shoes.

**Linda 53:14**

I don't know if you know, if I got this story right, but my mom said that the pattern that Mellie used came from the Indians.

**Susan 53:24**

That is, that's...,

**Linda**

Have you heard that?

**Susan**

Yes, yes, that, of the turned-up toe.

**Linda**

Yes.

**Susan**

Which helps you go through deep snow a little easier, and yes, that that was a, the indigenous people, the Native Americans, that was their, that was a style of their snow shoes.

**Linda 53:41**

I think that Mellie was, had Indian in his background too and I'm not sure, which tribe, but I think the Dunhams probably did.

**Susan**

I wouldn't be surprised.

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Susan 53:53**

Okay, because your mother, Lona, knew Mellie and Gram, she knew them. Are there family stories about Mellie and Gram that don't have anything to do with music or snow shoes? We all know stories about the music and snow shoes. I'm wondering if there's any other family stories

**Linda 54:14**

When they, when Mellie and Gram came back from the vaudeville and the tours and everything, the kids all got a banana split, and mom said that people made such a big deal out of it because they had never had banana splits. I remember that.

**Susan 54:33**

Now, that's a great story. I like that. I like that.

**Linda 54:38**

I mean, they didn't know why everybody was making of them.

**Susan 54:41**

I'm sure. And I mean, and when Mellie and Gram went away, to play for Henry Ford, and then were on the vaudeville circuit, that was a big deal. I mean, every day there was news stories about what they did today, or the records that they made today. Or the this or the that. So, when, so your Aunt Pearl, who played piano, did she do the touring, also?

**Linda 55:11**

No, she was the baby. You're talking Aunt Cherry, right?

**Susan 55:16**

I'm very sorry. Yes, I'm sorry. Thank you. Yes, Aunt Cherry, yes, Aunt Cherry, did she?

**Linda 55:20**

Yeah, she went, I believe. I believe she went with them. There was her and our grandfather, Nate and Mellie and Gram, and I think she went with them. I don't think she was married yet, right? She was probably just...

**Susan**

I think that'd be a tough life.

**Linda**

Yeah, in '25 our mom would have been 10. I don't know how old Aunt Cherry would have been. Probably a teenager, 18.

**Susan 55:53**

Yes, okay. That's all my questions. I've learned a lot. Thank you.

**Linda**

Well, that's good.

**Emilia 56:09**

She tells more because she was still home while I was traveling around with the Marine Corps.

**Susan**

That's correct. You were away.

**Emilia**

That's why she has so much more knowledge.

**Susan 56:19**

No, it's not a matter of... Experiences are different.

**Linda 56:21**

The other thing is, where mom and dad lived in the old Victorian house that was the big house, it was called the big house. And all the siblings that could come would come back to visit, and I would listen to the stories. You know, when, like Aunt Floretta would come back, Aunt Rose used to come. She was always so pretty. Had her hair always done up. She was beautiful.

**Susan 56:47**

She was a city woman.

**Linda 56:49**

Yeah. No, she wasn't, but she was beautiful. Allie would come, and Buddy would come, Mickey would come, and they'd always sit in the kitchen and I would listen to the stories, but Aunt Pearl and mom mostly would tell us. So that's why I probably heard more.

**Susan 57:12**

Yeah, sure, that makes perfect sense.

**Linda 57:15**

But we had a very good life growing up.

**Susan**

Do you agree?

**Emilia 57:19**

Yes. Yeah, I always am very thankful for our parents. They were really wonderful people.

**Susan 57:30**

Okay, unless you have anything else that you can think of that you want to tell me, we can conclude the interview and you can relax.

**Emilia 57:35**

The only thing other thing is our oldest sister, Mary. She is a half-sister. Our mother was married to her father.

**Susan**

To Mary's father?

**Emilia**

Yeah, Mary's father. Kenneth, his name was Kenneth Brill. And he died very young. He was over in the...

**Linda**

Sanitorium.

**Emilia**

The Hebron Sanitorium

**Susan**

He had TB?

**Emilia 58:03**

Yes, he had TB, she was only two when he died.

**Susan 58:09**

Oh wow, how sad. So your mother went through this kind of thing twice?

**Linda**

Yes, she did.

**Susan**

With her mother, and then her first husband?

**Linda 58:18**

Yes, he died. Then mom stayed with her mother-in-law, Grammie and Grandpa Brill and Mary, they all, over in South Paris, and she didn't get out much. She was only maybe 20-21. And then, my grandfather Nate Noble had his own orchestra, and they played in the Grange Halls and all. And my father was only 17, and he came to play with Nate Noble's Harmony Haymakers or whatever they were called.

**Susan 58:53**

So this is how Bill Bedard got his career going?

**Linda 58:56**

Yeah, so he started playing with my grandpa Nate. And my grandpa Nate knew my mom could play accordion and everything.

**Susan**

Ah, I can see where this is going.

**Linda 59:10**

Yeah. So, he went over to her, and I think he was sick and tired of her sitting home all the time. And he said, I've got a young man over there that that plays - something about an egg - he said is as smooth as an egg out of a shower. There was some special thing that mom told me that he said dad could play. So, she came over and she played in the orchestra, and pretty soon mom and dad met.

**Susan 59:36**

Okay. The rest is history, as they say,

**Linda 59:39**

But it was through music. And through our grandfather.

**Susan 59:41**

Exactly. I do think it is remarkable how long your parents musical career was. It's one thing to dabble in the ukulele. But, I mean, they were serious musicians and performers.

**Emilia 59:57**

Yeah, they played around in dances.

**Linda 59:58**

They were still doing it when they were in the 80s, I think.

**Susan 1:00:02**

I'm sorry I missed it.

**Emilia 1:00:05**

Yeah. Because we heard practice all the time at home.

**Linda 1:00:08**

Dad would have a big sheet and all the songs, the key it was in...

**Susan**

Yes, okay.

**Linda 1:00:13**

And he would kind of emcee it.

**Susan**

Right. He helped keep it organized.

**Linda 1:00:19**

And he had the radio program, over at Katie Q [*local radio station WKTQ*] and they had the Melody Mountaineers. They did that every Saturday night for quite a few years.

**Susan**

Played live?

**Linda**

Yeah, they did, yeah.

**Susan 1:00:33**

It's just wonderful. It is. And I don't like to say things like, it's a, it's something that has passed and will never come back. You can't really say that, but it's something that we've lost.

**Linda**

Yeah.

**Susan**

That these type of things don't happen anymore, or hardly ever.

**Linda 1:00:54**

But that's how they, they, Mom said that they never, she and dad didn't fight over much. But she said, if we had an argument, it was over music.

**Susan 1:01:05**

That's a good story, and I think that's a great way to end this interview.

**Linda**

Yesh ok, thank you.

**Emilia**

Thank you

**Susan 1:01:12**

Thank you so much.