



WINDSOR
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Robert and Marguerite Ellis: Share Your Windsor Story

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Windsor High School, Windsor, CT

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Interviewee: Robert and Marguerite Ellis

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Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Oh my.

Robert Ellis

Let me inhale first.

Sulema DePeyster

OK. Can you start by introducing yourselves? Tell us your names?

Robert Ellis

OK.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

I'm Polly Ellis.

Robert Ellis

And I'm Bob Ellis. I belong to her. So, we moved here in Windsor back in 1978, the summer of 78. We had brought our two children with us.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Two girls.

Robert Ellis 00:00:25

And it was a tough summer for them because they didn't know anybody in town. But they got through and they started the school. They were the last kids to attend the John Fitch Elementary School over on Bloomfield Avenue.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Yes.

Robert Ellis

And from there, they went onto the— I guess it was Sage Park Junior High.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Yeah.

Robert Ellis

But we don't have any real strong stories to tell about our life in Windsor. We've had a lot of memories. We remember [00:01:00] when we moved here, there was an A&P store downtown, there was a— in addition to a drug store.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

I remember all the things that were in town like that Windsor Tavern Restaurant and I don't know.

Robert Ellis

Most of all, I remember a 99-cent movie theater downtown. We used to have that. The kids loved that. We did too because of 99 cents. Couldn't find those theaters anyplace, anyplace else. So we have— let's see, what else do we remember? I wrote down some things.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Gee, [inaudible] I remember.

Robert Ellis

The gas station downtown. There used to be a gas station.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Yes, yeah. Where that restaurant is now. Then after that, after the gas station, I think there was a Thompson Florist there.

Robert Ellis

Oh yeah. Yep, [00:02:00] yep. And before Dom's, the restaurant down by the Geissler's grocery store, there used to be Friendly's. And before that, it was something else.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

It was a different— it was a different restaurant, but I don't remember the name of it. But anyway, but it was a nice little town. We really enjoy it.

Robert Ellis

And we remember the Hurricane of '79 and '85, was it? '85 or one of them.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

It was '79, I think. That's the one.

Robert Ellis

Yeah. Mostly, we remember that because—

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

One of our daughters—

Robert Ellis

— our daughter was attending a piano lesson down the street.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

On Poquonock Avenue, yeah. Lower Poquonock Avenue.

Robert Ellis

We were concerned about [that].

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

We were worried about her because we weren't home and she walked. Of course, we lived on Maple Ave, so she just walked from one place to the other.

Robert Ellis

A lot of fond memories, nothing [00:03:00] terribly funny. We moved here— one of the reasons we moved here was because of Washington Park. We had lived on upper Maple Avenue and the park was right around the corner from us.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

And the kids could walk to school and back. We could walk everywhere, which was great.

Robert Ellis

It was nice, and we had great neighbors. I remember that. We were very impressed with the Windsor residents.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

We lived next door to the Olihan's.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Tommy Olihan was the Postmaster downtown at the time and the Winslow's lived on the other side of us and—

Robert Ellis

Anyways, we had great neighbors. That was probably our fondest memory. A lot of those neighbors either moved away or passed on so. But it was a good time in our lives when we moved here. [00:04:00] We now live up in _____, which is not quite the same as Maple Avenue.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

No. We miss Maple Avenue, but—

Robert Ellis

Yeah, it was a good time. Oh, the other thing we miss, there used to be a Sage Allen down in the Windsor Shopping Center.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

Yes, that's right.

Robert Ellis

That was a nice clothing store. I no longer have access to that, but that's— so not everything was an improvement. [laughs] We missed some of the things.

Marguerite (Polly) Ellis

But thank you very much.

Robert Ellis

Yeah, that's about it, I think.