



WINDSOR
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jenny Hawran:
Share Your Windsor Story

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Jenny Hawran

OK, so my name is Jenny Horner Hawran. I have lived in Windsor my entire life, except for two years when my family moved to South Windsor. I went to John F. Kennedy School for kindergarten through sixth grade at the time. Then we moved to South Windsor for two years. When I came back, I went to Sage Park, which was a junior high at the time, and I went there for ninth grade. And then I went to Windsor High School, where we are, from 10th to 11th grade. My favorite teachers, it's one of your questions, is without a doubt my fifth-grade teacher, Barbara Belzer. She recently passed away; I think in 2019. A bunch of us reconnected with her on Facebook. [00:01:00] We were her first class, so I think that's why she remembers, I mean, thinking of how many kids she probably had in her career. But we reconnected and she was just as wonderful then. She's very encouraging and wonderful. Do you think that's too loud still?

Sulema DePeyster

I'm not sure. Should I turn it down a little?

Jenny Hawran

I don't think so. I think we're good. I just didn't know. You were looking over there. So, my Windsor story is, I've told this to people before, is about Bart's. So, when I was, I'm the youngest of five, and when my dad -- we lived on Diana Lane, which is off of Matianuck [Avenue] and Robin Road -- and my dad, his favorite thing was to go down to Bart's for a milkshake and cheeseburger. And it was a treat when I would get to go [00:02:00] along with him. So, in those days, one side of Bart's was what it is now, the fast food and the counter and all that. The other side was a little convenience store. You could get all kinds of things over there -- candy and fishing tackle and all kinds of bizarre combinations of things. And my fondest memory of that is that when we would go to Bart's, I couldn't see over the counter, so I would look up and, it's kind of gross, but I would see everybody's gum underneath the counter.

Jenny Hawran

And I would just look at it, you know, and my dad would order me a strawberry milkshake, which I could never finish because they were huge. He would order a coffee milkshake. And while they were making it, he would give me 5 pennies and he said, "OK." He goes, "You can go next door and get some candy." So, there was a connecting door, just like there is now. At one point, they actually had closed that door off, [00:03:00] but at that point, you could still walk through. And so, I would walk over there. And so, I was like 5 years old, and I got to pick out Penny Candy all by myself, and I got to go up. And I put the candy down. I pick Bazooka, like a couple of Bazooka gum's because they had the little comics in it and I loved that. And I would pick, usually, like a fireball and then I would pick usually a couple of Tootsie Rolls. And I remember going up to the counter and I put the candy down and then I put the five pennies down.

Jenny Hawran

So when I was paying, I felt very grown up, and Bart Dillon's wife Carol Dillon, I just remember her. She was very motherly and very sweet. But she was so glamorous to me because she had this big poofy blonde hair and all this beautiful makeup. And she had this pink, pink lipstick and she just, I just remember her [00:04:00] so clearly. And she would count out the pennies, you know, and she'd say, "OK, you're all set!" And I'd take my candy and I'd go back, and my milkshake was ready at that point. And so yeah, so that's, like, that's a really happy memory I have, you know, spending time with my dad and being at Bart's and the fact that Bart's is still there and open is just, you know, it's a wonderful thing about Windsor. You know, that Windsor has supported it all these years, so that's my story.

Sulema DePeyster

Thank you.