

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([00:10](#)):

My present name, my present name is Sophie Blaschik.

Ken Simon ([00:16](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([00:16](#)):

Okay. So I was married to, uh, Bill O'Bryan. I- I divorced him and I married Phil Blaschik and that's how, um, my name is Blaschik.

Ken Simon ([00:31](#)):

Okay. And your maiden name was?

Sophie Blaschik ([00:34](#)):

Was Bielot. My maiden name was B- Sophie Bielot.

Ken Simon ([00:38](#)):

Okay. So w- when were you born?

Sophie Blaschik ([00:41](#)):

1922, April 29th 1922. I was born on, uh, Lower Neptune Avenue. And, uh, then from Lower, uh, Neptune Avenue, my folks bought this house at Neptune, uh, Neptune and it's still there and my niece and nephews live in it.

Ken Simon ([01:06](#)):

Wow.

Sophie Blaschik ([01:06](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([01:07](#)):

So, so, um, when you were born, what- what were your parent- what are your parent's name, names and?

Sophie Blaschik ([01:13](#)):

My ... Okay, my ... Okay, my parents, my father was Stanley Bielot, my mother was Anna Bielot.

Ken Simon ([01:20](#)):

Okay.

Sophie Blaschik ([01:21](#)):

Yeah.

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Ken Simon ([01:21](#)):

Wa- wa- were they bo- was- was your mother local as well? Was she born here? Were your parents born here?

Sophie Blaschik ([01:27](#)):

No, they both came from across, yeah.

Ken Simon ([01:31](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([01:31](#)):

They didn't speak English really. My fa- When my father died, he never spoke English, but my mother lived longer and she did a little bit, you know? Yeah.

Ken Simon ([01:44](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([01:44](#)):

Oh yeah, wa- it was- it was hard. We'd lived down a farm. We had, we had cows, we had pigs, we ha- uh, uh, oh, we had ducks, we had chickens, we had turkeys, that's what we lived at. They killed a pig every year and, and then hung in the barn. It- it's funny. So whenever they wanted any meat, they went to the barn and just sliced it.

Ken Simon ([02:13](#)):

Yeah. (laughs)

Sophie Blaschik ([02:14](#)):

And we would, yeah, we would ... I remember and, uh, then I remember we would be making kielbasa, so, uh, in the kitchen. Yeah. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([02:23](#)):

Yeah, I bet you that tasted good.

Sophie Blaschik ([02:24](#)):

Yeah. Yes, we'd ... And that's how we lived. We lived off the farm.

Ken Simon ([02:29](#)):

Yeah. So, so that you didn't ... Your, your dad didn't sell anything. It was all for your-

Sophie Blaschik ([02:34](#)):

Oh, no.

Ken Simon ([02:35](#)):

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Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (02:35):

No. That's what we ate.

Ken Simon (02:38):

Yeah. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (02:38):

Yeah. And, and I had, uh, uh, uh, a four, four, there were four girls and four boys and I was the only one that could go to high school. Uh-

Ken Simon (02:53):

Why is that?

Sophie Blaschik (02:54):

Because, because when the, the ... When the boy ... When the elders turned 13, they had to go work in Neptune Mills right on Johnsonville.

Ken Simon (03:03):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik (03:04):

Yeah, when the mill burned of course, yeah.

Ken Simon (03:06):

Yeah. Yeah. Did you ... What ... Did your dad ever worked in the mills?

Sophie Blaschik (03:10):

Did I what?

Ken Simon (03:11):

Did your father ever worked in the mills?

Sophie Blaschik (03:13):

Y- uh- Yes, eh- yes, he did, but then late- uh, yes he did. I remember he worked in the woolen mill, we had a woolen mill and he worked there and, and every once in a while there was a fire, because the ... uh, uh, they used to grind coals and they catch on fire, uh, it was always the fire, whenever you hear the siren it was the woolen mill, yeah.

Ken Simon (03:40):

Yeah. They, they ... You say they ground, what did they grind? The, the ...

Sophie Blaschik (03:43):

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They, they, they ground up that, that material. I forgot for what, uh, well, then they made something out of it, you know?

Ken Simon ([03:51](#)):

Yeah. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([03:51](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([03:52](#)):

Yeah, a lot of mills, uh-

Sophie Blaschik ([03:54](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([03:54](#)):

... burnt.

Sophie Blaschik ([03:55](#)):

Yeah. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([03:56](#)):

Because of cotton dust in the air.

Sophie Blaschik ([03:57](#)):

Oh, I remember that, yeah.

Ken Simon ([03:59](#)):

Yeah. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([04:00](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([04:00](#)):

So, so, um, how- how was it for you growing up on the farm?

Sophie Blaschik ([04:05](#)):

Well, okay. So when I was, oh, about 13, I would, uh, work at that, uh, and that now is a daycare center, but it used to be a, um, tavern, you know?

Ken Simon ([04:20](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

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Sophie Blaschik (04:20):

And I would work in the kitchen, uh, for \$5 a week.

Ken Simon (04:26):

(laughs).

Sophie Blaschik (04:26):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (04:29):

Yeah, and you walk there from home?

Sophie Blaschik (04:30):

We- well I- uh- well, I would walk there, but they would have ... they drove me home, yeah.

Ken Simon (04:37):

Uh-huh. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (04:37):

The owner did, yeah.

Ken Simon (04:38):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (04:39):

And, and then from ... Then when I was at high school, I worked in Billy Soda Shop. I made, you know, right? Oh yeah. I could tell you, I could tell you right at the very end who, you know, those stores. Oh yeah.

Ken Simon (04:55):

Wow. Um, yeah, we'll talk about Moodus Center, but I wanna, I want to sort of kind of work our way up-

Sophie Blaschik (05:00):

The center? , if you want to know about that, I could tell you every single store.

Ken Simon (05:06):

I'm gonna want you to tell me that, (laughs).

Sophie Blaschik (05:07):

Yeah, I can, uh, yeah.

Ken Simon (05:07):

Na- in- in- in- in a second, yeah.

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Sophie Blaschik (05:09):

Yeah, I-

Ken Simon (05:10):

So, so how was it, um, so you worked from the age of 13?

Sophie Blaschik (05:15):

The what?

Ken Simon (05:16):

You- how- you work- you started working at the age of 13.

Sophie Blaschik (05:19):

Oh yeah.

Ken Simon (05:21):

Yeah. And how-

Sophie Blaschik (05:21):

And then I- I worked there. Then when I, when I graduated, oh I grad- there were 12 of us that graduated, you know, that was a big class. So I got a job at w- uh- Williams Chevrolet-

Ken Simon (05:37):

Right.

Sophie Blaschik (05:37):

... a- as a- a book keeper. 12, uh, \$10 a week and when I got that \$10 I had to give it to my mother. My mother gave me 50 cents.

Ken Simon (05:49):

Yeah, (laughs).

Sophie Blaschik (05:50):

Yeah, that's the way ... that's-

Ken Simon (05:51):

Well, room and board, right?

Sophie Blaschik (05:53):

That's the way it was.

Ken Simon (05:55):

Yeah, yeah.

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Sophie Blaschik (05:55):

And then, let's see, uh, uh, from there, let's see, uh, oh, that's right, oh, then I went to work in as a, as a clerk, uh, in, in Site, uh, Site Like they called it No, no, that Site Like was Deep River. Uh, Remington Rand building, yeah, that's where I met my first husband, see?

Ken Simon (06:22):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik (06:23):

And, uh, then from, uh, oh, then, uh, then from there, I went to work in Hartford at, uh, Liberty Mutual Insurance.

Ken Simon (06:40):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik (06:41):

And the- and I drove with y- with the, I can you inaudible 00:06:48] with Joe Boward (sp)?, Tommy Sipples, yeah.

Ken Simon (06:53):

Oh I know- I know who Tommy Sipples.

Sophie Blaschik (06:54):

Yeah. Oh, I remember all that, yeah.

Ken Simon (06:56):

Yeah. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (06:56):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (06:57):

So, um, how, how was it when you ... So you went to, um, when you went to school, was it in the ... Was it in the current town off this building all 12 years.

Sophie Blaschik (07:10):

That's where, where we are, where the town office is right now.

Ken Simon (07:13):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (07:13):

That's where I graduated from there.

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Ken Simon (07:16):

Yeah. And you went all 12 years in that building?

Sophie Blaschik (07:19):

The what?

Ken Simon (07:20):

You, you started in first grade and went through-

Sophie Blaschik (07:23):

Yup, right.

Ken Simon (07:24):

Yup.

Sophie Blaschik (07:24):

Right. At that school, yes.

Ken Simon (07:26):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). How was that?

Sophie Blaschik (07:27):

And then at my senior year, they were building the Ray school, see? But I ... So I never went into the Ray school.

Ken Simon (07:35):

Oh, so they were building that addition?

Sophie Blaschik (07:36):

It was just the high ... It was just the Nathan Hale High.

Ken Simon (07:40):

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. I went all 12 years to that school.

Sophie Blaschik (07:43):

Yeah, see?

Ken Simon (07:43):

Yeah, (laughs).

Sophie Blaschik (07:43):

Yeah.

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Ken Simon ([07:43](#)):

Um, so how, how was school? How- how- did you enjoy school? What- What do you remember most about school?

Sophie Blaschik ([07:52](#)):

About school?

Ken Simon ([07:53](#)):

Yeah. Do ...

Sophie Blaschik ([07:54](#)):

Uh, let's see. Before I was-

Ken Simon ([07:57](#)):

Besides graduating number one in your class, I'm sure, (laughs).

Sophie Blaschik ([08:01](#)):

Yeah, but Mr. Fisher was our principal at that time.

Ken Simon ([08:05](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([08:05](#)):

Of course, you know? Oh, and then, oh, oh, we would go our ... We would have a basketball team and we played at the Continental Hall. Do you know where that is?

Ken Simon ([08:17](#)):

That, that was, um, sort of opposite, opposite, kind of opposite to Cashman Gas Station or?

Sophie Blaschik ([08:23](#)):

That was opposite right across the Lumber Yard.

Ken Simon ([08:28](#)):

Right, right, I was close right across from the Lumber Yard. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([08:32](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, right across the Lumber Yard. So that's what- that's what we, that's where we had our basketball where the pop belly stove in the, in the middle of the sto- eh- uh- uh- of the building, because to keep us warm.

Ken Simon ([08:44](#)):

Yeah.

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Sophie Blaschik ([08:44](#)):

Uh, but we did a lot of walking in those days. And- and- and that thing scared us. You know, we didn't have ... Then we had the Moodus Theater and we would walk at night, never worry about anything, you know?

Ken Simon ([08:59](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([08:59](#)):

No nothing.

Ken Simon ([09:00](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([09:00](#)):

But we did a lot of walking.

Ken Simon ([09:02](#)):

You walked from Neptune Avenue up to the movies theater?

Sophie Blaschik ([09:06](#)):

All- All the way, yeah, all at the ti- all the time- yeah.

Ken Simon ([09:09](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([09:09](#)):

Never worried about a thing, never locked a door in the house.

Ken Simon ([09:14](#)):

Yup.

Sophie Blaschik ([09:15](#)):

I'd come home from a day and this, this man, he was a handicapped man so he used to live with ... He used to, you know, I- live around town.

Ken Simon ([09:27](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([09:27](#)):

And he'd be laying on the couch, the door's wide open, you know? Come in.

Ken Simon ([09:33](#)):

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(laughs) Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (09:35):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (09:35):

Um, so I- uh- uh- uh- what do you remember, what- what was your first memories of old Moodus Center?

Sophie Blaschik (09:44):

Of that Moodus Center?

Ken Simon (09:45):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (09:47):

Well, I could tell you, you know, well, I can tell you every store.

Ken Simon (09:52):

Go ahead, tell me every store.

Sophie Blaschik (09:54):

Okay. As you wa- uh- as you walked up the hill, the first thing was the post office. That was the post office and next to the post office was hardware store. Then you get off that, go into the next building was grocery store, upstairs was a lawyer. The next b- building, the- then, um, then it ... Well, the drugstore at that time was way over, but then they b- they built a drugstore next door.

Ken Simon (10:28):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik (10:29):

And, uh, then the barbershop was upstairs. Then it was the, um, post , then it was Levine's, and then it , um, uh, w- where we went to get our teeth cleaned, druggist. And then, then it was, um, Pear with his butcher. Then it was First National store, then it was Billy's Soda Store, then it was the, then it was, uh, uh, a, then it wa ... wait a minute. It w- s- eh- yeah.

Ken Simon (11:11):

Yeah. We- we- well, Harry Weinstein's.

Sophie Blaschik (11:14):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (11:14):

Yeah?

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Sophie Blaschik ([11:15](#)):

Well, before that, there was a little-

Ken Simon ([11:18](#)):

App liance store maybe?

Sophie Blaschik ([11:19](#)):

Uh, where they drank, you know?

Ken Simon ([11:21](#)):

Oh, tavern?

Sophie Blaschik ([11:22](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([11:24](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([11:25](#)):

Yeah and then a shop and then, and then, then it was [Froomers (sp) 00:11:30] and then they build another store and then, oh we used to go to church and actually, you know, Saint Bridget's.

Ken Simon ([11:37](#)):

Saint Bridget's. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([11:38](#)):

, so, at that time, the [Rafas 00:11:41] had a bakery. Oh, every time we went by you could smell the bread then it was Rafas building and then it was, uh, shoemaker. Uh, I can't think of his name right off, yeah. I- I, yeah.

Ken Simon ([11:56](#)):

Yeah, so wh- how many, how long did you work in the Bil- Billy Levine's?

Sophie Blaschik ([12:00](#)):

For who?

Ken Simon ([12:01](#)):

For Bill Levine's.

Sophie Blaschik ([12:03](#)):

Uh...

Ken Simon ([12:03](#)):

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How long did you, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([12:04](#)):

Oh, so that was in while I was in school. So I would work there then from there-

Ken Simon ([12:10](#)):

Can you, can you back up and just say, "That was in sch... I worked in Bill Levine's while I was.."

Sophie Blaschik ([12:16](#)):

Oh okay.

Ken Simon ([12:17](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([12:17](#)):

I worked in Bill Levine's store while in my high school years. And then from there, you know what I did? I used to go, uh, to, uh, up-up the street from, uh, where [Meltzer's?] is up there, it was the teachers' and I used to go cook. Can you imagine I used to go cook for the teachers?

Ken Simon ([12:42](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([12:42](#)):

Oh my god.

Ken Simon ([12:43](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([12:43](#)):

(laughs).

Ken Simon ([12:44](#)):

Yeah so, when you were at the Levine's, did the kids hang out there?

Sophie Blaschik ([12:50](#)):

The Levine?

Ken Simon ([12:51](#)):

Yeah and what-

Sophie Blaschik ([12:52](#)):

Billy Levine's?

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Ken Simon ([12:53](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([12:53](#)):

Oh, he was very good, you know. Yeah, I wasn't the only one working there, you know, there were a lot of us, you know?

Ken Simon ([13:01](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:02](#)):

Yeah, he was very good.

Ken Simon ([13:04](#)):

What kind, wh-what kind of-

Sophie Blaschik ([13:06](#)):

Oh it was, uh, ice cream, you know.

Ken Simon ([13:08](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([13:08](#)):

Yeah, we used to make sundays and-

Ken Simon ([13:11](#)):

No hamburgers or anything at that point? Uh...

Sophie Blaschik ([13:13](#)):

No what?

Ken Simon ([13:14](#)):

No hamburgers or hotdogs?

Sophie Blaschik ([13:16](#)):

Oh no, no.

Ken Simon ([13:16](#)):

Okay.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:16](#)):

No, no.

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Ken Simon ([13:18](#)):

Strictly ice cream stuff.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:19](#)):

No, it was, yeah. Ice creams, yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([13:21](#)):

So most of it, was it popular with-with the-

Sophie Blaschik ([13:24](#)):

Very popular. Oh and then, yeah. down below, just two doors was Weinstein's, they another one, they got competition there.

Ken Simon ([13:32](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:33](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([13:34](#)):

Yeah, which one was the better, uh, [crosstalk 00:13:36]

Sophie Blaschik ([13:35](#)):

Oh, Billy's we always went to Billy's, yeah.

Ken Simon ([13:38](#)):

Yeah, yeah. I think Weinstein's, um, made hamburgers and hotdogs, I think.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:44](#)):

I think they did, too.

Ken Simon ([13:45](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:46](#)):

I think Weinstein's. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([13:48](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([13:48](#)):

They did. Yeah.

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Ken Simon ([13:49](#)):

So, so what do you feel about, how did you feel when they ripped down Moodus Center?

Sophie Blaschik ([13:55](#)):

Oh, oh, it, I, it was unnecessary. Unnecessary.

Ken Simon ([14:02](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([14:04](#)):

They-they could've, they could've put, uh, uh, you know, toilets. [inaudible] toilets like they do now.

Ken Simon ([14:14](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([14:14](#)):

It was not necessary.

Ken Simon ([14:17](#)):

How did you feel when that happened?

Sophie Blaschik ([14:21](#)):

It felt terrible. It wasn't our Moodus anymore. They used to call that, um, uh, oh god what was his name, Bill Hi... Billy...

Ken Simon ([14:32](#)):

Uh, Hood? Bill Hood.

Sophie Blaschik ([14:35](#)):

Billy, yeah. He's a part of hills.

Ken Simon ([14:37](#)):

Mount Hood.

Sophie Blaschik ([14:38](#)):

Yeah, Mount Hood, yes. Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([14:40](#)):

Right, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([14:41](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

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Ken Simon ([14:42](#)):

That was, that was-

Sophie Blaschik ([14:43](#)):

Oh yes, oh yeah. It's not the same because I walked there, because my sister lived in one of the house, apartments with, I used to deliver milk all the time, yeah and, uh, oh Moodus is not what it used to be.

Ken Simon ([15:01](#)):

Yeah, yeah. It was center, it was a place for people to gather, right? And whether be it Levine's on Weinstein's.

Sophie Blaschik ([15:16](#)):

Yeah. A-and, and of course Froomers (sp)?, you know the, you know that was their joint, that was very popular and-and, and they would take, the wives would take their husbands and they would park across the street an wait for them.

Ken Simon ([15:32](#)):

Oh really?

Sophie Blaschik ([15:33](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([15:35](#)):

Where in that parking lot next-

Sophie Blaschik ([15:36](#)):

Oh I can read that but... say, I used to have to go and bring the cow home. We used to pasture. I lived in way low, way down Lower Neptune Avenue and-and we used to pass through the cow pass, well at that time, it was Nichol's Garage, you know, and the baseball field, and the baseball field was there.

Ken Simon ([16:03](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([16:03](#)):

So at Sundays, my father would bring in home... my father was drunk most of the time. Sundays and the cow would, the cow would be walking all over the road.

Ken Simon ([16:16](#)):

(laughs).

Sophie Blaschik ([16:16](#)):

And he would, too. Yeah, I remember all that.

Ken Simon ([16:21](#)):

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Yeah, yeah. So, when you, um, you were born 1922, right? And the, the Great Depression started in 1929, right?

Sophie Blaschik ([16:32](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([16:33](#)):

And it went for about 10 years before things got back.

Sophie Blaschik ([16:37](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([16:38](#)):

Do you recall how that changed things in your house or in town, uh, how the Great Depression affected your family?

Sophie Blaschik ([16:53](#)):

What do you mean by that?

Ken Simon ([16:54](#)):

The Great Depression in 1929-

Sophie Blaschik ([16:57](#)):

Oh yeah, the Depression, yeah.

Ken Simon ([16:58](#)):

Yeah, how did that affect your family economically or otherwise?

Sophie Blaschik ([17:03](#)):

Well, as I say, we lived off the garden. We had a huge garden and every winter, you know, they would put up sourkraut in the basement and potatoes in the basement. That's what we lived on, chicken. Every Sunday, chicken soup, you know, every Sunday. That's the way we lived.

Ken Simon ([17:23](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Did the Depression make a difference? Did things get tougher? Do you remember? Cause you weren't that old.

Sophie Blaschik ([17:30](#)):

Yeah, you know, it didn't bother us, you know.

Ken Simon ([17:35](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([17:35](#)):

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We always had plenty to eat, so. You know the Depression really, you know, didn't bother us at all. That's because, you know, my parents, we had everything, they killed a pig every year, you know, we had a cow, you know, and we had all kinds of other birds they can produce, you know.

Ken Simon ([18:01](#)):

So when you, when you would butcher the pig, did your dad do that or did somebody come around?

Sophie Blaschik ([18:08](#)):

No, John Williams, I remember the name. John Williams, Joe Williams, yeah. He came every year to kill the pig. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([18:17](#)):

Yeah, yeah and how long did the pig last? Before you ate it all up?

Sophie Blaschik ([18:25](#)):

Uh, well, see they were pretty smart you know. And that was days, it was so different than it is now. Well we had winters, we really had winters. I remember that, you know.

Ken Simon ([18:39](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([18:39](#)):

Oh yeah.

Ken Simon ([18:40](#)):

Really harsh? Harsh winters?

Sophie Blaschik ([18:43](#)):

Oh we had bad winters. Oh yeah, we wore arctics, you , real arctics. And, and you know, the town when, uh, the roads weren't paved well, they started to pave the roads, so what's a town would do but go with the town trucks and leave a gravel every so often. So when they came with the, with the, you know, hardtop, whatever you call-

Ken Simon ([19:15](#)):

Right.

Sophie Blaschik ([19:16](#)):

-but before they did that, the kids would've, the kids would come and they would mix up the old sand, yeah.

Ken Simon ([19:24](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([19:25](#)):

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Yeah, it wasn't easy.

Ken Simon ([19:26](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([19:27](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([19:28](#)):

Did you guys have an automobile or a horse and buggy? Or

Sophie Blaschik ([19:31](#)):

We-we didn't have anything until the boys grew up. Then, uh, one of the boys had a car. Yeah. But, yeah. Then little by little, uh, my father drank on weekends, yeah.

Ken Simon ([19:55](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([19:56](#)):

Home brew. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([19:57](#)):

Home brew? Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([19:58](#)):

Home . Yeah. We, yeah. Henry [inaudible 00:20:04] made it, and-and so we would complain and they would hide it underneath something, yeah. We knew all about that. Oh yeah, it was, it wasn't easy.

Ken Simon ([20:15](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([20:16](#)):

It was hard.

Ken Simon ([20:18](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([20:19](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([20:19](#)):

And so, of all the jobs you, that you had, what-what's your, what was your favorite job-

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([20:26](#)):

My favorite job... I had a lot of (laughs) jobs yeah, let's see. Oh I guess Sight Light. I worked during the war.

Ken Simon ([20:38](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([20:38](#)):

I worked in Sight Light as a, uh, clerk.

Ken Simon ([20:43](#)):

I'm sorry, where did you work?

Sophie Blaschik ([20:44](#)):

As a clerk.

Ken Simon ([20:45](#)):

At Sight, Sight?

Sophie Blaschik ([20:46](#)):

Sight Light in Deep River.

Ken Simon ([20:48](#)):

Oh okay.

Sophie Blaschik ([20:48](#)):

Oh yeah, that's during the war.

Ken Simon ([20:51](#)):

And what did they do?

Sophie Blaschik ([20:52](#)):

They made stuff for the war. I don't remember. I was, I was the shipping clerk.

Ken Simon ([20:57](#)):

Oh okay. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([20:59](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([21:00](#)):

Um, so what, can you tell... We touched on some of this but, what other kinds of things that, that you or your family did for entertainment?

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([21:13](#)):

Well, I'll tell you what, we had a Polish , that building is still there, on Neptune Avenue, but it's house now. But that was a Polish Hall. And I was just a kid and I wanted to go. So in order to go, it cost us 10 cents, you know. But the man who was collecting, he didn't want kids so we would, I would have to duck under to get in to the hallway and once I got to the hallway, he left me alone. But that's where I learned to dance.

Ken Simon ([21:50](#)):

So, at the Polish Hall...

Sophie Blaschik ([21:52](#)):

Polish Hall.

Ken Simon ([21:53](#)):

Bes... so a lot of-of dancing and-

Sophie Blaschik ([21:57](#)):

Lot of dancing and a lot of fights.

Ken Simon ([21:59](#)):

Fights? (laughs).

Sophie Blaschik ([22:01](#)):

(laughs) because they would get drunk. They were drinking beer.

Ken Simon ([22:05](#)):

(laughs).

Sophie Blaschik ([22:05](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([22:07](#)):

And they probably fights off over the women.

Sophie Blaschik ([22:08](#)):

Oh god, yeah.

Ken Simon ([22:08](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([22:10](#)):

They fight all the time.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([22:12](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Uh, how important-

Sophie Blaschik ([22:15](#)):

Yeah, but those, you know what, now that I think about it, those were the good old days. We had some good days. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([22:21](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Uh, besides the dancing there and drinking, was there like, did people play any games or anything like that? Card games or

Sophie Blaschik ([22:31](#)):

No, we used to play croquet a lot.

Ken Simon ([22:34](#)):

Really?

Sophie Blaschik ([22:35](#)):

Yeah. No, not too many card game, but croquet.

Ken Simon ([22:40](#)):

Over... at the Hall? Or...

Sophie Blaschik ([22:43](#)):

Uh, you know, the croquet, on the lawn.

Ken Simon ([22:47](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Um, and that was at Polish Hall or-or just...

Sophie Blaschik ([22:52](#)):

Well, yeah, yeah. We used, that's where we used to gather-

Ken Simon ([22:58](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([22:59](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([23:00](#)):

Yeah, yeah. So, um, the-the mills. A lot of folks came here because of employment in the mills.

Sophie Blaschik ([23:08](#)):

I saw them all burn.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon (23:09):

Yeah, yeah. Um, when your folks came over, your dad came from Poland.

Sophie Blaschik (23:15):

What?

Ken Simon (23:16):

Your father came from Poland.

Sophie Blaschik (23:17):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (23:18):

And did mom come from Poland, too?

Sophie Blaschik (23:20):

Yeah, both of them.

Ken Simon (23:21):

And so did they come... A lot, a lot of Polish people here in town.

Sophie Blaschik (23:26):

Oh, yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon (23:28):

Can you talk about that? Like did those folks work in the mills?

Sophie Blaschik (23:33):

They were working in the mill and my mother made home brew and-and we would also make, uh, uh, let's see what, oh god I can't think of the name of the, the, we used to lay in on the lawn to form a... But but my mother made home brew, so that for me, you know, the old time would walk down, visit with them and drink beer.

Ken Simon (24:06):

(laughs). Um, what, uh, you know, you were talking bout kielbasa and all that, what are some of the foods that you remember that, you know, you ate, that your family ate.

Sophie Blaschik (24:20):

Mostly potatoes and chicken. Mostly potatoes and cabbage, of course. Anything that came out of the garden. But chicken, yeah, chicken every, every weekend.

Ken Simon (24:35):

It doesn't sound like you like that very much (laughs).

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([24:38](#)):

Oh god. That... it was food, we had to eat it. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([24:44](#)):

Um, what else do you remember, if anything, about the mills and, um, how every peo... a lot of people worked in the mills, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([24:52](#)):

Oh yeah. All my brothers, they-they look, they worked in Neptune Mills, the mill that burned down.

Ken Simon ([24:59](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([25:00](#)):

Yeah. All of them. But you know, every Christmas, and this was very nice of Mae Dourghety (sp?), She was the head of Neptune, you know. She would, she would write and give every family, we hand kids candy, boxes of candy.

Ken Simon ([25:21](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([25:22](#)):

Oh how we used to look forward to that, yeah.

Ken Simon ([25:25](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Um, wh-what, when when people worked in the mills, their brothers, I mean, what were the hours that they worked? Do you remember?

Sophie Blaschik ([25:34](#)):

Uh...

Ken Simon ([25:35](#)):

Like how long did they work every week?

Sophie Blaschik ([25:37](#)):

They worked never at night. It was always day time.

Ken Simon ([25:41](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([25:42](#)):

Yeah, it always day time. And everybody brought their own lunch boxes, you know.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([25:48](#)):

Yeah, yeah. And when did people start working in the mills? What age?

Sophie Blaschik ([25:54](#)):

When they start?

Ken Simon ([25:55](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([25:56](#)):

Oh, god. They were 13 years old.

Ken Simon ([26:01](#)):

Yeah and they worked there all their life if the mill didn't burn down.

Sophie Blaschik ([26:06](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([26:08](#)):

Yeah. Do you remember what they said about that? Was it hard work? Was it...

Sophie Blaschik ([26:14](#)):

They made, uh, strings, ropes, that's what they...

Ken Simon ([26:20](#)):

Why?

Sophie Blaschik ([26:20](#)):

I don't know, but, yeah.

Ken Simon ([26:22](#)):

Yeah. Made twine, I think, right?

Sophie Blaschik ([26:24](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([26:25](#)):

Yeah, um, so. Um, how important, like Saint Bridgets at that time was up by the cemetery, right?

Sophie Blaschik ([26:35](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([26:35](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

In North Moodus, on North Moodus Road

Sophie Blaschik (26:38):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon (26:38):

Um, how important was that to the community? Uh, was Polish catholic and were there many Irish Catholics in town, I believe, yes.

Sophie Blaschik (26:49):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (26:49):

How important was the church to your...

Sophie Blaschik (26:53):

They all...

Ken Simon (26:53):

... growing up.

Sophie Blaschik (26:55):

Well, we all went to their church. You know what, it didn't make any difference if it would snow or not, I had to go to church.

Ken Simon (27:03):

Yeah, yeah. And how did you get there? Walk?

Sophie Blaschik (27:05):

Walk. Yeah. We had to walk.

Ken Simon (27:11):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (27:12):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (27:12):

And then-

Sophie Blaschik (27:12):

We had arctics, you know the old arctics, you know.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([27:16](#)):

Yeah?

Sophie Blaschik ([27:17](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([27:17](#)):

How long did it take you to walk there, do you remember?

Sophie Blaschik ([27:20](#)):

The what?

Ken Simon ([27:21](#)):

The walk. How long was it? How long did it take.

Sophie Blaschik ([27:24](#)):

It's a long walk.

Ken Simon ([27:25](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([27:26](#)):

[inaudible 00:27:26] Yeah and it didn't matter what kind of weather either.

Ken Simon ([27:30](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([27:32](#)):

I had to go.

Ken Simon ([27:32](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Um, so were other families in town, there were a lot of people who, like your parents, farm, they had the pig in the backyard like you guys and I mean do you recall any like, was that a common thing for people to-to be subsistence farmers, meaning raising the food for themselves-

Sophie Blaschik ([27:59](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([27:59](#)):

...was that a common thing?

Sophie Blaschik ([28:02](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Well, people were really good in those days, you know, they would give. Everybody was giving, trading, you know.

Ken Simon ([28:11](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([28:11](#)):

Yeah, they were good. You know.

Ken Simon ([28:13](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([28:13](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([28:14](#)):

Yeah, so. Um, what about, do you remember, like, right kinda where you live, uh, it was the Ted Hilton Resort or Elm Camp that started out?

Sophie Blaschik ([28:30](#)):

The what?

Ken Simon ([28:31](#)):

Donnellan's? Elm Camp, Ted Hilton's, the resorts, did you, did you go to any of these resorts? Get a job at any of them.

Sophie Blaschik ([28:42](#)):

Oh, yeah. I used... Oh yeah. I-I worked at Echo Farm. I worked there.

Ken Simon ([28:51](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([28:53](#)):

In the summertime, yeah.

Ken Simon ([28:54](#)):

And what did you do there? And if-

Sophie Blaschik ([28:55](#)):

Waitress. Waitress.

Ken Simon ([28:57](#)):

Waitress.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([28:58](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([28:58](#)):

So h-how was that?

Sophie Blaschik ([29:01](#)):

That was, that was good.

Ken Simon ([29:03](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:03](#)):

Oh, that was good because that was where I got some good meals. (laughs)

Ken Simon ([29:09](#)):

(laughs).

Sophie Blaschik ([29:11](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([29:12](#)):

Yeah? Did you get tipped in those days?

Sophie Blaschik ([29:14](#)):

Oh yeah, we got tips, too.

Ken Simon ([29:16](#)):

Yeah?

Sophie Blaschik ([29:17](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([29:18](#)):

And you worked there every summer pretty much or-

Sophie Blaschik ([29:21](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([29:21](#)):

Yeah?

Sophie Blaschik ([29:21](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Yeah I did.

Ken Simon ([29:22](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Where did the guests come from?

Sophie Blaschik ([29:25](#)):

The what?

Ken Simon ([29:26](#)):

The guests, the visitors.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:29](#)):

New York.

Ken Simon ([29:29](#)):

New York City? Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:30](#)):

New York. The bosses would bring them.

Ken Simon ([29:33](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:34](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([29:35](#)):

And how would you, were they, were they friendly, were they...

Sophie Blaschik ([29:39](#)):

Yeah, very nice.

Ken Simon ([29:40](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:41](#)):

Yeah, they were very very nice. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([29:43](#)):

What else do you remember about Echo Farm?

Sophie Blaschik ([29:47](#)):

Well-

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([29:48](#)):

If you could describe the place.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:50](#)):

Do you know where it was?

Ken Simon ([29:52](#)):

Kinda do, yeah. T-tell me where it was.

Sophie Blaschik ([29:54](#)):

Um, okay. Well, it was right next to, uh, Ted Hilton's.

Ken Simon ([30:04](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([30:06](#)):

You know...

Ken Simon ([30:07](#)):

Between Ted Hilton's and Donnellan's?

Sophie Blaschik ([30:11](#)):

Uh, the house is still there now and [inaudible 00:30:18] live there and then, then it was Echo Farm and then past Echo Farm was Ted Hilton's.

Ken Simon ([30:26](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative) mm-hmm (affirmative), okay.

Sophie Blaschik ([30:26](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([30:28](#)):

So-

Sophie Blaschik ([30:28](#)):

I also worked at, um, Riveredge, that's Donnellan's, that was down below. Yeah. I used to work everywhere I could.

Ken Simon ([30:37](#)):

You did a lot of work.

Sophie Blaschik ([30:38](#)):

I did. I did a lot, a lot of work.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([30:40](#)):

Yeah, yeah. And it all, for a while, it all went back to your family.

Sophie Blaschik ([30:45](#)):

I did. I did a lot of work and, uh, you know, then I ran a beauty parlor, you know.

Ken Simon ([30:53](#)):

Oh yeah? Where was that?

Sophie Blaschik ([30:55](#)):

In my house.

Ken Simon ([30:55](#)):

Oh yeah? How long did you do that?

Sophie Blaschik ([30:58](#)):

Like a long time.

Ken Simon ([31:00](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([31:02](#)):

Yeah. I-

Ken Simon ([31:03](#)):

You're a hard working woman.

Sophie Blaschik ([31:04](#)):

Yeah, I did. I did. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([31:07](#)):

Um, so, so, uh, in terms of the resorts and people coming up, um, a lot of people came up during the summer, to all these resorts.

Sophie Blaschik ([31:21](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([31:21](#)):

Yeah. So how did that changed the town, how did that affect people working here?

Sophie Blaschik ([31:30](#)):

It-it really didn't you know?

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon (31:32):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (31:32):

Because when the people came out, they just stayed where they came to visit, you know.

Ken Simon (31:38):

Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik (31:39):

And we-we looked like we did.

Ken Simon (31:40):

Yup.

Sophie Blaschik (31:43):

It didn't matter, yeah.

Ken Simon (31:44):

More people walking down the road-

Sophie Blaschik (31:47):

Oh yes.

Ken Simon (31:47):

...during the summer.

Sophie Blaschik (31:47):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon (31:49):

Yeah, I remember that.

Sophie Blaschik (31:50):

Oh yeah.

Ken Simon (31:52):

Um, so-

Sophie Blaschik (31:54):

I remember Pop Smith as First Selectman], you remember that?

Ken Simon (31:58):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Who?

Sophie Blaschik ([31:59](#)):

Pop Smith.

Ken Simon ([32:00](#)):

Pop Smith? No. Yeah, he was First Selectman. When was that? What years?

Sophie Blaschik ([32:07](#)):

Way, way, way back. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([32:09](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([32:10](#)):

Yeah, he-he, to add, well this what I'll tell you. He was, He was a Republican and if-if you wanted a, if you were a Democrat and you wanted a job, you have to change.

Ken Simon ([32:25](#)):

(laughs) Yeah, that's pretty good.

Sophie Blaschik ([32:29](#)):

Yes, that's the way it worked.

Ken Simon ([32:30](#)):

Playing hard ball. Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([32:32](#)):

Yeah I remember, I remember that, too.

Ken Simon ([32:36](#)):

Yeah, um, do you remember, um, the Goodspeed Opera House?

Sophie Blaschik ([32:42](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([32:43](#)):

Uh, you know, it was closed.

Sophie Blaschik ([32:45](#)):

Okay, I'll tell you some. My oldest, my oldest sister, uh, this-this family, I-I know the names, he came and he stole my sister's wristwatch so we had to go to court and the court was where the opera house is,

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

and we would walk from Neptune Avenue all the way down but on the way back, we would get a ride by, uh, the man who delivered mail. Yeah.

Ken Simon (33:35):

Yeah. And it was in the Goodspeed Opera House building?

Sophie Blaschik (33:38):

In the Goodspeed, that's where the court was.

Ken Simon (33:41):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (33:41):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (33:42):

Well, so and-

Sophie Blaschik (33:44):

That's why I hate to have things changed, you know?

Ken Simon (33:48):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (33:48):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (33:48):

Except for the walking part.

Sophie Blaschik (33:50):

Yeah, we walked, yeah.

Ken Simon (33:53):

Um, do you remember when the, uh, you know, after the court let and there was a, uh, kind of a WC Reynolds was in the Goodspeed Opera? Do you remember that?

Sophie Blaschik (34:04):

No, that, no.

Ken Simon (34:04):

Groceries, um, and then it became a state garage and started deteriorating even more then it reopened in 1963. Do you remember that? When it reopened?

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([34:20](#)):

No.

Ken Simon ([34:20](#)):

No?

Sophie Blaschik ([34:21](#)):

No, we in Moodus didn't have much to do with East Haddam, ain't that crazy?

Ken Simon ([34:26](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([34:26](#)):

Yeah, that was true.

Ken Simon ([34:28](#)):

Yeah, at one time, Moodus was the capital of East Haddam and East Haddam was down on its luck.

Sophie Blaschik ([34:38](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([34:39](#)):

That's-that's turned around.

Sophie Blaschik ([34:41](#)):

Yeah, I remember, yeah.

Ken Simon ([34:42](#)):

Yeah, um, so I I were to ask you, like, what comes to your mind first and I'll go over some things we-we talked about. I just want your first, your first thoughts that come to your mind when I say, "Old Moodus Center".

Sophie Blaschik ([35:04](#)):

The what?

Ken Simon ([35:05](#)):

Old Moodus Center.

Sophie Blaschik ([35:06](#)):

Old Moodus Center?

Ken Simon ([35:08](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

What comes to mind, what do you, what-what's the thing that just immediately comes to your mind when I say, "Old Moodus Center".

Sophie Blaschik (35:18):

To me, oh it was too bad. That's all I can say. It's too bad, you know. It happened when, uh, who you call him, moved into town. Uh, you know, the one that ran Johnsonville. What was his name?

Ken Simon (35:38):

Oh, Schmidt. [Ray Schmidt.

Sophie Blaschik (35:38):

No.

Ken Simon (35:41):

No?

Sophie Blaschik (35:44):

It wasn't Schmidt?

Ken Simon (35:45):

Ran Johnsonville?

Sophie Blaschik (35:46):

Yeah, yeah, yeah. He's the one that renovated Johnsonville.

Ken Simon (35:49):

It was Ray Schmidt, I think.

Sophie Blaschik (35:52):

What was his last name?

Ken Simon (35:53):

Raymond Schmidt.

Sophie Blaschik (35:54):

Was it Raymond Schmidt?

Ken Simon (35:55):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (35:56):

Oh, okay, yeah, yeah. See, he's the one that started all of that. He-he's the one to blame because he didn't like, yeah. He didn't like what was, he thought all the sewage was coming down.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon (36:10):

Oh coming down his way through, yeah, yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (36:14):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (36:15):

So he started complaining.

Sophie Blaschik (36:16):

Yeah, he's the one, yeah.

Ken Simon (36:18):

Really? Yeah. Wow. Um, do you remember the Pear brothers?

Sophie Blaschik (36:23):

The who?

Ken Simon (36:23):

Sam Pear and Joe Pear?

Sophie Blaschik (36:25):

Oh yes, Sam Pear, he's the one that straightened out our town. Our town was in a mess and it was Sam Pear that came and straightened our town. And he was first elect man for a long time.

Ken Simon (36:39):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (36:40):

Yes, he was. Yeah, that-that was after Pop Smith.

Ken Simon (36:44):

Okay, so he followed-

Sophie Blaschik (36:46):

Yeah. He-he did.

Ken Simon (36:48):

How-how did he straightened after-

Sophie Blaschik (36:50):

Say, that-that's the year that I was in high school. Say, yeah.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon (36:54):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). How did he straightened out the town, how did Sam Pear straighten the town?

Sophie Blaschik (36:58):

Well, well, as far as as politics, he-he whatever happened, he did. He straightened that out then he had that store and he had every little thing that everybody needed, you know.

Ken Simon (37:15):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (37:16):

Yeah, he did. Sam Pear was, yeah, he was a good guy. Yeah.

Ken Simon (37:20):

Yeah, do you remember him standing outside the store,

Sophie Blaschik (37:23):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (37:23):

Smoking a cigar.

Sophie Blaschik (37:25):

Yeah, oh yeah.

Ken Simon (37:26):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (37:27):

And, and he was all, he was all... and you're always welcome, you know.

Ken Simon (37:32):

Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah they sold everything. Just about.

Sophie Blaschik (37:34):

Yeah, [inaudible 00:37:34] Sam Pear straightened out our town, he did. It was in a mess.

Ken Simon (37:39):

Yeah, yeah. And his brother, A-Abby, A-Albert...

Sophie Blaschik (37:44):

Abby had (laughs) and he, and he was a good guy, too.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([37:49](#)):

Yeah?

Sophie Blaschik ([37:49](#)):

Yeah, he was a good guy.

Ken Simon ([37:51](#)):

Yeah, did you go to his store and meat market?

Sophie Blaschik ([37:55](#)):

Yeah, yeah, you need meat, you go there.

Ken Simon ([37:57](#)):

Yeah, yeah. And then his brother Joe worked with him, Joe Pear.

Sophie Blaschik ([38:02](#)):

Yeah, yeah. No-

Ken Simon ([38:04](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([38:05](#)):

Np, they were good.

Ken Simon ([38:07](#)):

Yeah, Do you remember Ray McMullen?

Sophie Blaschik ([38:09](#)):

Ray was a good guy, too, yeah.

Ken Simon ([38:11](#)):

Yeah?

Sophie Blaschik ([38:11](#)):

Yeah, yeah. See, Ray lived where I live now. Ray lived just across the street. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([38:19](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah, so, uh, when you were growing up on, um, Neptune, there were a lot of mill workers that lived there, right?

Sophie Blaschik ([38:29](#)):

You know what, I'll tell you this, Leesville Road, is a new road. Originally, that, there was never, no Leesville road.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Ken Simon ([38:40](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([38:41](#)):

It was always, they, you would have to go, uh, uh, through where the church is, uh, Moodus Leesville Road, to go down Johnsonville. Say you, to go down Johnsonville, you would have to go Moodus Leesville Road, and, and, and go down the hill and cross it. Say now, I remember them building that road...

Ken Simon ([39:07](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sophie Blaschik ([39:09](#)):

Where I live now, Leesville Road. I remember buil... they're building that because, because some of the men boarded in my, in our house. I remember that, too.

Ken Simon ([39:19](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([39:19](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([39:21](#)):

Yeah, um, so when you were growing up, um, what... how did people get along from a different ethnic groups, you know, you had the, the Yankees...

Sophie Blaschik ([39:34](#)):

The Yankees didn't like Pollacks (laughs).

Ken Simon ([39:36](#)):

No?

Sophie Blaschik ([39:39](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([39:39](#)):

Yeah? So, h-how, how-

Sophie Blaschik ([39:44](#)):

You know, it didn't bother me. I did everything.

Ken Simon ([39:48](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Yeah, a lot of Yankees own the mills, I think, right? Most, many of the mills were owned by old Yankee families...

Sophie Blaschik ([39:55](#)):

Yeah, yeah.

Ken Simon ([39:56](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([39:58](#)):

Yeah, yeah. Yeah, see the mills were all, yeah.

Ken Simon ([40:00](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([40:01](#)):

They were.

Ken Simon ([40:02](#)):

And that Polish workers in the mills.

Sophie Blaschik ([40:03](#)):

Yeah, I remember them, I remember all of the mills burning, too.

Ken Simon ([40:08](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([40:08](#)):

But they were so filled with oil.

Ken Simon ([40:12](#)):

Yeah, yeah. On the floors, and...

Sophie Blaschik ([40:15](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([40:17](#)):

Um, so, like I did with Moodus Center, I'm gonna ask you for your first thoughts that come to your mind, some of the things we talked about. Um, growing up in Moodus, I-I want you to complete the sentence or repeat the sentence, "Growing up in Moodus, in the 20s, 30s, 40s was...". So you s-start it out like that. Growing up in Moodus...

Sophie Blaschik ([40:50](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Growing up... yeah, you know, growing up in Moodus, yeah, I remember in those days, all you did was a lot of walking. We had no cars. So everywhere you wanna go, that's where you went, you walked.

Ken Simon ([41:09](#)):

Yeah, yeah. A lot of walking to the whole Moodus Theater?

Sophie Blaschik ([41:12](#)):

All the time. Yeah. Oh, you never rode. We walked. We walked all the time.

Ken Simon ([41:19](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([41:20](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([41:21](#)):

What was your favorite-

Sophie Blaschik ([41:22](#)):

We walked to school, I walked to school. Today, the bus picks them up.

Ken Simon ([41:27](#)):

Yeah, yeah. I had the same thing. I lived at the of Banner Road,

Sophie Blaschik ([41:31](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([41:31](#)):

We used, we used to walk all the way down, all the way up. Now the bus goes up the road.

Sophie Blaschik ([41:36](#)):

Yeah, yeah. I know.

Ken Simon ([41:38](#)):

(laughs). Um, what was your favorite thing?

Sophie Blaschik ([41:43](#)):

My what?

Ken Simon ([41:44](#)):

Your favorite thing about growing up here?

Sophie Blaschik ([41:49](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

My favorite thing about... Gee, I don't know. I don't know cause I... from a little kid, right up to high school, you know, I was... graduated and then I, I did so many jobs but every, all the money, I had to give my mother, every penny till I... When I turned 21, I said to her I'm paying board, she said she doesn't take boarders, but I gave, I didn't care. Yeah.

Ken Simon ([42:27](#)):

Yeah? Yeah. And you didn't move out until you were married?

Sophie Blaschik ([42:29](#)):

The what?

Ken Simon ([42:29](#)):

You didn't move out of your parents' house until you were married?

Sophie Blaschik ([42:34](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([42:35](#)):

Yeah. That's what people did in those days, I guess, right?

Sophie Blaschik ([42:40](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Ken Simon ([42:41](#)):

So, um...

Sophie Blaschik ([42:43](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([42:44](#)):

Yeah, um-

Sophie Blaschik ([42:46](#)):

So, nowadays, people get married, they have a lot of money. When I got married, I had nothing.

Ken Simon ([42:51](#)):

Right, right. So are you happy you grew up here?

Sophie Blaschik ([42:55](#)):

Am I happy? Yes.

Ken Simon ([42:57](#)):

That you, that you grew up in town?

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([42:59](#)):

Yeah. Oh yeah, I really am. I mean, I-I'd like to, I wish I could go back, you know, the way it used to be, so I could walk up the hill and first was the post office, I'd do, you know, every store and then I work at Billy's so then, and get to, get to know people, you know.

Ken Simon ([43:25](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([43:25](#)):

Yeah and I graduated, you know, high school.

Ken Simon ([43:30](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([43:31](#)):

About 12 of us that graduated, yeah.

Ken Simon ([43:34](#)):

Yeah, it's a small class.

Sophie Blaschik ([43:36](#)):

Yeah (laughs). Oh I know, yeah.

Ken Simon ([43:40](#)):

I thought my class was small. There were 57 kids in my class.

Sophie Blaschik ([43:44](#)):

57?

Ken Simon ([43:45](#)):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik ([43:45](#)):

That's, that's a good [inaudible 00:43:47].

Ken Simon ([43:48](#)):

Well, yeah, at the time.

Sophie Blaschik ([43:48](#)):

Yeah, because look, 12 of us.

Ken Simon ([43:51](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Yeah. Wow. Um, who were your friends when you were growing up, do you remember any of your friends-

Sophie Blaschik ([43:58](#)):

Oh yeah, I had...

Ken Simon ([43:58](#)):

And and talk about them a little bit?

Sophie Blaschik ([43:59](#)):

I had a Sidney [Catroza (sp)] was my dancing partner, you . But, uh, yeah, I, [Helen Lodascik (sp

Sophie Blaschik ([44:28](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([44:28](#)):

Yeah, so, um, you were married at what age? Twenty... When were you first married?

Sophie Blaschik ([44:36](#)):

I ma... I married a Middletown fella.

Ken Simon ([44:40](#)):

Uh-huh. How did you meet him?

Sophie Blaschik ([44:42](#)):

That was okay, but he drank. So that's why I divorced him because he drank.

Ken Simon ([44:46](#)):

Oh, but ho-how did you meet?

Sophie Blaschik ([44:48](#)):

Oh, so let me tell you. So I, so I got a divorce and I stood out there and I said, "I'll never get married again. Next year, I was married.

Ken Simon ([45:00](#)):

(laughs).

Sophie Blaschik ([45:03](#)):

(laughs). Oh, wow. Well I, Phil Blaschik. He helped build my house.

Ken Simon ([45:13](#)):

So how, how was, you know, I know Johnny Blaschik, I Johnny Blaschik,

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik (45:18):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (45:18):

Who was First Selectman. How is he related to your husband?

Sophie Blaschik (45:22):

Johnny Blaschik? Young John?

Ken Simon (45:25):

Young John.

Sophie Blaschik (45:25):

Oh young John would be my nephew.

Ken Simon (45:27):

Oh okay, okay.

Sophie Blaschik (45:28):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (45:30):

Yeah, he's now in a monastery.

Sophie Blaschik (45:32):

Yeah, they say he's got a beard down to here.

Ken Simon (45:34):

He does. I've seen, I've seen pictures.

Sophie Blaschik (45:36):

You ?

Ken Simon (45:37):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (45:38):

[inaudible].

Ken Simon (45:38):

(laughs). Well he seems good, you know, he, he will, you know, on Facebook and other places...

Sophie Blaschik (45:46):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Has he been on? Oh yeah.

Ken Simon ([45:48](#)):

Yeah, yeah. He posts every now and then.

Sophie Blaschik ([45:49](#)):

Oh is that right?

Ken Simon ([45:50](#)):

Yeah, yeah. So, um, what did we miss that you would like to talk about? Is there anything that you would like to share that we-we haven't talked about?

Sophie Blaschik ([46:06](#)):

Uh, no. See, you know, I became a hairdresser. Oh god, 1956 I think I started. I-I was working, uh, I was working in East Hampton. Oh I was working in Pratt & Whitney, you know, as a time keeper. Oh yeah.

Ken Simon ([46:31](#)):

Wow.

Sophie Blaschik ([46:32](#)):

And then, from there, oh, from, oh, there, oh, they went on strike. They went on strike, I was married to my first husband, they went on strike. And I said to myself, "What am I doing here?". So I-I applied to the hairdresser and I got it and I went hair dress. I used to work, oh then I worked nights. In days, I would go to the school and I became a hairdresser. Then I worked to the East Hampton and in those days, you had a state inspector coming around. She said to me, "Why don't you open up a beauty parlor in Moodus?" So I built on and I did. I did that until, til the 80s. I was a hairdresser a long, long time.

Ken Simon ([47:30](#)):

What was your name? What was-

Sophie Blaschik ([47:32](#)):

Sophie's Beauty Salon. I got pictures of it.

Ken Simon ([47:34](#)):

Oh great.

Sophie Blaschik ([47:35](#)):

I brought it with me, yeah.

Ken Simon ([47:36](#)):

Good, yeah. Um, so, um, I don't know. Uh, I wanna make sure that, you know, you shared everything that-

Sophie Blaschik ([47:48](#)):

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

I guess we did, didn't we?

Ken Simon (47:50):

It sounds like we did.

Sophie Blaschik (47:52):

Doesn't it?

Ken Simon (47:52):

Yeah. Um-

Sophie Blaschik (47:54):

It's all down there?

Ken Simon (47:55):

I hope so (laughs).

Sophie Blaschik (47:56):

(laughs).

Ken Simon (47:59):

Um, what would you say to the, you know, people growing up in town today?

Sophie Blaschik (48:05):

Oh, you know what, they're missing out on awful lot, an awful lot. I think we were much closer to one another, you know? We were much friendly, too. I think they're missing an awful lot. Yeah.

Ken Simon (48:22):

Yeah? So what's your message to them?

Sophie Blaschik (48:26):

Oh, you know, the message to them is to uh, you know, be-be sociable, be-be kind, you know. Don't snob people, you know, help people if you can.

Ken Simon (48:43):

Yeah.

Sophie Blaschik (48:45):

Yeah.

Ken Simon (48:47):

Yeah, that's good words to end with.

SOPHIE BLASCHIK – Verbatim Transcript (- :10 TC offset)

Sophie Blaschik ([48:49](#)):

Yeah.

Ken Simon ([48:50](#)):

Yeah, yeah.