Interview with Margaret Doty

Margaret Doty: I started ...

Chris Klose: Oh you started in '49?

Margaret Doty: ... In '49. Worked for 5 years.

Speaker 3: 5 years? Really?

Margaret Doty: Then I moved over to Empire Market, became their bookkeeper.

Speaker 3: Is that what happened?

Margaret Doty: Right.

Chris Klose: So you must have cut Taylor his checks because he used to bag groceries at the Empire.

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah. You pitched in and did everything. I'm sorry we ever lost that hotel, aren't you?

Chris Klose: Yeah, we'll get to that. That's part of what I want to ask you about. I think what we want to do ... and we're set.

Speaker 3: Are we set?

Chris Klose: I think so. They take a voice dub and all. All we do is talk back and forth like this.

Margaret Doty: Okay.

Speaker 3: I think we're ... We've started rolling, but hold tight. I didn't know that you were ...

Chris Klose: No we were just ...

Speaker 3: For future reference.

Chris Klose: No, right. We're going to start it now officially. As most television interviews go, we have to start with your name, rank, and serial number, so if you'll just tell me, Margaret, in a sentence your name and when you were born, and how long you've been in Red Hook, and then we'll go from there.

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Margaret Doty: Okay so I was born ...

Chris Klose: Tell me your name. Say I am Margaret ...

Margaret Doty: Okay. I am Margaret Doty.

Chris Klose: [crosstalk 00:01:50]

Margaret Doty: Margaret Doty. Most people know me as Margaret Doty. I was born in Rhinebeck Hospital in 1930, November 21st, 1930, but I've lived in Red Hook all my life.

Chris Klose: You went to Red Hook Central School?

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah. First I started off in a one room schoolhouse out on Yance road.

Chris Klose: Oh Yance road?

Margaret Doty: We had to walk to school. In the summertime we crossed lots, you know, and over the hills.

Chris Klose: Yes I do.

Margaret Doty: IN the wintertime, of course, you walked on the road. In 1939 when they built the school I came down here, I was in third grade.

Chris Klose: Who was your teacher?

Margaret Doty: Miss Losey was out in the school.

Chris Klose: Tell us a little bit about the flavor of going to a one room school. Was that the Frailey school? So cold out there?

Margaret Doty: I think it was because we were right near the Frailey farm. It was very good because you learned more that way than you realized, because you paid attention to other grades. As she was teaching, she taught you for a while and then she taught somebody else.

Speaker 3: How many kids were in the school, do you recall?

Margaret Doty: Not very many. 15 maybe.

Chris Klose: From all ages?

Margaret Doty: Yes, up to 8th grade.

Chris Klose: Up to 8th grade. So you came into Red Hook Central?

Margaret Doty: Yes, 1939, when they opened.

Chris Klose: That was a very modern ...

Margaret Doty: Oh yes.

Chris Klose: How was it different for you then? Did you have to get on a school bus? Did they have school buses?

Margaret Doty: Yes, what we did is we had a small school bus at first, a little wagon. Then what happened is Wesley started to grow then he would let us off at the end of Norton road, and we'd get on a big bus and go to school. He would go on to another place.

Speaker 3: Hey Margaret can I ask you a favor?

Margaret Doty: Sure.

Speaker 3: When you're speaking, if you remember, if you could repeat Chris' question back in your answer ...

Chris Klose: Oh I'm sorry.

Speaker 3: That's okay. So if Chris says, what's your favorite color ... Instead of you just saying blue, say my favorite color is blue.

Margaret Doty: All right.

Chris Klose: Margaret's favorite color is not blue.

Speaker 3: It's probably red.

Margaret Doty: Actually it's blue.

Chris Klose: She has a sense of ... she [inaudible 00:05:09].

Speaker 3: If you can remember. IT's a sign of intelligence to forget.

Chris Klose: SO how would you get from the house on Norton road to the bus? Could you tell us about that?

Margaret Doty: Well, we lived in a long lane, as you recall, and we got the bus at the top of the lane and he would take us to the end of the road, which was Norton road, and we would get on a big bus. I think, at that time, [inaudible 00:06:00] was the bus driver.

Chris Klose: He was married to my kindergarten teacher.

Margaret Doty: Yes, Fran. He was married to Fran.

Chris Klose: How many kids would be on the bus when you came in?

Margaret Doty: Oh there would be a large number, because Lynn would have already picked up people from Rock City and along the way there. We usually had a good bus load. Maybe 30 or 40 kids.

Chris Klose: You would ride to school. You were in 3rd grade, so you were 8 years of age? 7 or 8?

Margaret Doty: Yes, I probably was. I started school when I was 7. My mother didn't believe in sending us out too early because we had a 2 mile walk.

Chris Klose: From the house to the road?

Margaret Doty: From the house to the school on Yance road.

Chris Klose: Oh towards Yance road?

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: Oh I see. Your father kept horses.

Margaret Doty: Yes, my father did have horses.

Chris Klose: You loved horses.

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: Would he take a team and drive you?

Margaret Doty: To school?

Chris Klose: Yes.

Margaret Doty: No. No because he had another job he went to, so I went with the neighbors. That was Moore ... Wise now owns the property. At that time there was a family known as Moore. They were Moore, that was their name. I used to go with them.

Chris Klose: Then they would ... When you came into, now the Lyndon Ave Middle school, but the school then ... It was still all dirt roads, wasn't it, in Red Hook?

Margaret Doty: Yes it was. Very narrow dirt roads.

Chris Klose: So you went to school during the war?

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: Could you tell us what that was like? What Red Hook was like during the war?

Margaret Doty: I think there was always talk about the war. The people really felt bad about all this that was going on. We didn't have, my family, didn't have radios and stuff. We just said whatever knowledge you got was when you went to school and the teacher or somebody told you what happened, and all that. When we were kids, my brother and I, we didn't have a radio or anything.

Chris Klose: But you kept a garden?

Margaret Doty: Oh yes. My father always had a big garden. The whole back of the house was a garden because mother canned everything. She had to prepare for winter.

Speaker 3: What was winter like in those days?

Margaret Doty: Oh winter was ... We always went outside to play, skied, did everything ... Ice Skates. I think the winter was pretty much like it is today. My father made his own plow with the horse so he could plow us out.

Chris Klose: Did you learn to drive a horse?

Margaret Doty: Oh definitely could drive a horse, yeah. Giddy-up.

Chris Klose: You came of age really during the war, in the 1940's ... Tell us about your years at the Red Hook hotel. What was that like? Tell us about who the people were and what you did.

Margaret Doty: Well when I graduated from high school in 1949, I went to the Red Hook hotel and applied for a job. It was Howard and Olive Lathe that were proprietors at that time, and they gave me a job and trained me how to be a waitress. Then they sold the place. Satorus, I believe the name was.

Chris Klose: Give me kind of a snapshot, if you will, of the comings and goings and what it was like for the village to have that hotel there.

Margaret Doty: When the Lathes had it, it was more or less ... Can I say elite? It was a different class of people that came. When the new owners took over, they were putting in [inaudible 00:11:39] parkway.

Chris Klose: And that ...

Margaret Doty: That stopped at Lafayette out there, so all the traffic came through Red Hook.

Chris Klose: You must have been very busy.

Margaret Doty: We did a terrific job.

Chris Klose: Very busy.

Margaret Doty: Very busy.

Chris Klose: What was the food like?

Margaret Doty: The food was good. People came back all the time, they enjoyed it. Steve did a lot of his own cooking.

Chris Klose: How many of you were on staff?

Margaret Doty: There was three waitresses.

Chris Klose: You must have been very busy.

Margaret Doty: Yes. I believe they hired some others after a while because it got too busy. Marge used to pitch in, that was the owner's wife. Everybody pitched in when it got really busy, it was something else.

Chris Klose: Do you recall how much you were paid?

Margaret Doty: It wasn't much. I think $1.60 an hour.

Chris Klose: Plus tips?

Margaret Doty: Plus you got your own tips, yeah.

Chris Klose: Who were some of your favorite customers?

Margaret Doty: Who were some of the customers?

Chris Klose: Yeah, who were some of the people you liked to wait on most? Were they local people?

Margaret Doty: Yeah, not local so much as the out-of-towners that came, you know, passing through. You had some local people. I remember Carl Stockenburg, and Honey. They were always there.

Chris Klose: I think Carl liked the Elbow Room too.

Margaret Doty: Yes he did, yeah.

Chris Klose: Tell us about the Elbow Room , it's world famous.

Margaret Doty: The Elbow Room was just a place where they could go and have their drinks.

Chris Klose: Then come to you?

Margaret Doty: If they wished to eat they would sit down for dinner or order it and have it at their ... They also served in the Elbow Room , with the big booths.

Chris Klose: People stayed at the hotel, yes?

Margaret Doty: Yes. Yeah they had rooms to rent. I can't tell you how often they were there, but there were rooms for rent.

Chris Klose: So you worked there for 5 years.

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: Tell us what you did after that.

Margaret Doty: After I worked at the hotel for 5 years, I wanted to be more at home with my husband. I had married and I wanted to spend the evenings at home so I took a job at Empire Market as their bookkeeper and cashier.

Chris Klose: How long did that last?

Margaret Doty: I think that was 5 years too, yes.

Chris Klose: Bill was ...

Margaret Doty: He was the first letter carrier in the village of Red Hook. He worked for the post office for 35 years.

Chris Klose: How did you two meet?

Margaret Doty: My cousin introduced me. I met him through my cousin. They lived in the city and I used to go down to the city all the time to visit my aunt. She was very good to us. We had vacation time and we used to go down and visit her. That's how I met him.

Chris Klose: Aunt Mamie?

Margaret Doty: No, Aunt Sarah.

Chris Klose: Aunt Sarah.

Margaret Doty: Yeah. Aunt Mamie had her own family and she lived in New Jersey.

Chris Klose: I can remember, many years ago as a little boy, you would all get together down at the house with Anna, and Harry, and Aunt Mamie, and Bertie.

Margaret Doty: Yes. Yes.

Chris Klose: Tell us about that, that you remember.

Margaret Doty: It was a family get together. You didn't meet at my mother's, you would meet at my sister's and we always had a lot of fun. All summer long we walked over to my sister's and we went swimming in the creek and enjoyed it. That was a good creek, we did go. I bet you've been there too.

Chris Klose: Oh I've spent my life there too. IT's the only place to be on a hot day.

Margaret Doty: Right.

Chris Klose: You had a long and successful career as the town clerk.

Margaret Doty: Yes I was the town clerk for the town of Red Hook for 27 years.

Chris Klose: Longer than anybody else.

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: When did you start? You were elected?

Margaret Doty: You were elected to the position, yes.

Chris Klose: So tell us about your interest in politics. What sparked you to get involved in politics?

Margaret Doty: I was asked if I would like to run as tax collector, that's how I started out. Eventually I took over for Jean Bradley, remember Jean?

Chris Klose: Yes I do, Bob and Jean.

Margaret Doty: Yes. She taught me what she knew and all. I started that, and I think about 35 years I did that.

Chris Klose: Wow.

Margaret Doty: Of course I still continued to be tax collector along with town clerk.

Chris Klose: You did?

Margaret Doty: Yes. Which they do today too.

Chris Klose: Mm-hmm (affirmative). So you span the era of Red Hook from before the Kingston-Rhinecliff bridge to well after.

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: Could you tell us about what Red Hook was like and the transition, if you remember? Did it get faster and all of that kinds of stuff? When the bridge went in, we suddenly changed from a small and rural village into a bedroom community.

Margaret Doty: Right, we did. Before that we used to go all the way up to the catksill bridge and go down through to Kingston, or they came from the Poughkeepsie bridge and crossed over and went into Kingston. It was really a lifesaver to have the Kingston-Rhinecliff bridge completed and all. I think most people really were happy to have that.

Chris Klose: What were the major changes that you recall before and after the bridge?

Margaret Doty: There wasn't really major changes, I don't think. You know had access and you could travel more. I think that's basically what it was. Instead of just shopping and all locally, we used to go to Poughkeepsie.

Chris Klose: That was a journey.

Margaret Doty: Oh yes.

Chris Klose: Did you go on the Twilight bus lines?

Margaret Doty: Yes we did.

Chris Klose: Yell us about that, what was it like?

Margaret Doty: Well you've got the bus just like you've got any other bus. You went to Poughkeepsie and then you had to know when he was going back home again and you made it your business to be there to come back home again.

Chris Klose: You knew everybody on the route, no doubt. Or a little bit.

Margaret Doty: Yes, you know a lot of people over the years.

Chris Klose: You practically knew everybody though, you were the tax collector.

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah. I always took their money.

Chris Klose: As tax collector, yes. He's going to change the card here. So you're on the bus and you know everybody as tax collector. You knew everybody.

Margaret Doty: Well, yes you got to know everybody. Really I enjoyed it. I enjoyed meeting people, talking to people. That's what I miss the most today. When you're not town clerk, you miss the people. You don't miss the work but you miss the people.

Chris Klose: What about the secrets that you would know as tax collector?

Margaret Doty: No, I don't know any secrets.

Chris Klose: What have been the major changes in Red Hook in your time? Tell us about that.

Margaret Doty: I think the biggest change in Red Hook, in my time, was the population increase. Before that, we were just a small community. You know everybody. Then you started to grow, which is only natural right?

Chris Klose: We lost some things that we should still have I think, right? The Empire Market ...

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah, we lost the Empire Market. We lost the Red Hook Hotel, which I think was a big loss. People, at that time, didn't save things or didn't try to like we did for the [inaudible 00:22:07].

Chris Klose: Do you remember the fire at the hotel?

Margaret Doty: Yes. I wasn't there, but I remember that it'd happen. It was in the kitchen and I was sorry they didn't preserve the hotel and just repair the kitchen, but that's the way it goes.

Chris Klose: You helped save the [inaudible 00:22:35].

Margaret Doty: Well, I became a member if that's a way to help.

Chris Klose: If I may, let me ask you to just speculate. Red hook in 20 years ... What will we be as a community? What do you feel? What do you see about changes and what the future holds for Red Hook?

Margaret Doty: I don't know. I really don't know. I don't think you see too much changes in 20 years. I haven't seen too much changes in 20 years, so I don't know. If we could have more ... Keep our young people here, maybe it would help.

Chris Klose: Jobs?

Margaret Doty: Jobs. There just are no jobs and I don't foresee anything coming in that would create jobs.

Chris Klose: What about the schools though? People still come to Red Hook because of the schools.

Margaret Doty: Yes they do. People come to Red Hook for the schools, definitely.

Chris Klose: What about the library too? They've done a great job.

Margaret Doty: The library has certainly grown over the years. It really has. Yeah.

Chris Klose: What, may I ask, do you miss most of all about the old days?

Margaret Doty: I don't miss the old days Chris.

Chris Klose: Good. We live across the creek from the farm. It's wonderful that you still have what looks like the farm there, with the barns and the house. I miss the family being there.

Margaret Doty: Oh definitely. Well we all grow old, right? We all grow up.

Chris Klose: Mm-hmm (affirmative), yeah. Who were your favorite people from then? Do you have any favorite people from the old days that you recall? Characters? Village characters?

Margaret Doty: No. No I don't. I wouldn't say that I miss characters. People come and people go.

Chris Klose: How do you feel about having spent your life here in Red Hook?

Margaret Doty: I'm happy to be here in Red Hook. I wouldn't want to be any place else. I've done some traveling and I'm always glad to get home to Red Hook. I think it's because of the people. Yeah.

Chris Klose: Year after year, yeah. What about the natural beauty of Red Hook too? The farms and the village ...

Margaret Doty: Oh yes. In Red Hook anymore you don't have too many farms, but there's still some out there.

Chris Klose: Do you remember Irving Frailey?

Margaret Doty: Oh I remember Irv Frailey. Definitely, yes. I certainly do. I remember the father, and the mother, and Irv.

Chris Klose: I remember them too. I remember your father and I have an 8mm photo ... Dad used to take a lot of 8mm. I have your father and your brother Charles coming through the gate at the farm on a buckboard behind the horses. I'm trying to get it out so we can get it. I will try to get it out so we can give it to you in a digital ...

Margaret Doty: That's how we traveled Chris, in the buckboard.

Chris Klose: What was that like?

Margaret Doty: That was our transportation, was to get behind the horse. Get in a horse and wagon for quite a while until my brother got old enough to drive.

Chris Klose: When was that?

Margaret Doty: Well, he was probably around 17.

Chris Klose: He was younger?

Margaret Doty: Yes, he's 18 months younger than I am.

Chris Klose: What was his first car?

Margaret Doty: A truck. It was a Chevrolet truck. A small truck.

Chris Klose: I remember Pepper. Do you remember Pepper?

Margaret Doty: That was our dog, Pepper. Black.

Chris Klose: One night I think, I recall ...

Margaret Doty: Yeah we really enjoyed having Pepper. He was quite a companion.

Chris Klose: Then there was Whoopy and Ginger at the farm.

Margaret Doty: Oh yes.

Chris Klose: What about all of your cousins and brothers and sisters? Where are the girls? Leonna and Jane and everybody?

Margaret Doty: Jane lives in Red Hook. Maryanne is in Texas. Betty is in Ohio. Lee is across the river in Island.

Chris Klose: Do you keep in touch?

Margaret Doty: Oh yes, yeah. Especially around the holidays we talk to each other.

Chris Klose: Everybody is well?

Margaret Doty: Everybody is well. So that's good.

Chris Klose: How are you feeling?

Margaret Doty: I'm fine, thanks.

Chris Klose: Terrific.

Margaret Doty: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about Red Hook, about you, about life here?

Chris Klose: I think we covered quite a bit. Yeah.

Speaker 3: We have more time. I would love to hear more about the hotel, I'm bursting ...

Chris Klose: Steph just moved here.

Speaker 3: ... and that experience. Would you mind me asking some questions? I could ask them [inaudible 00:29:28] she could answer to you?

Chris Klose: Sure. Fire away.

Speaker 3: Is that okay? I wanted to ask you some questions because I'm really fascinated by the hotel. I can't imagine what the town was like back then. All I see is a gas station.

Margaret Doty: Right.

Speaker 3: So I'm wondering if you could just answer to Chris, but if you could really paint the picture for those of us who didn't get to see it ... What was it like if you were standing in front of it? What did it look like? What was it like to be there?

Margaret Doty: Well the hotel itself was big. It took up the whole corner. The Elbow Room was connected to it. It was historic. Just to me it was a historic building.

Speaker 3: Were you proud to work there? How did it feel to work there? Was it, wow I'm working at this hotel or was it just like another job?

Margaret Doty: Oh no, I was proud to work there yes. It was a privilege to work there.

Speaker 3: A privilege?

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Speaker 3: What made you feel like it was a privilege?

Margaret Doty: Well they trained me to be a waitress. Everybody was always so good to me. When I first started I couldn't serve drinks because I wasn't old enough. I would take the order and Howard Lathe would serve the drinks.

Speaker 3: Did it change the town? Was the town different because the hotel was there?

Margaret Doty: I don't think it changed the town.

Speaker 3: Do you remember that you heard ... This is a long shot. Do you remember the moment that you heard that there had been a fire?

Margaret Doty: Did I hear that there was a fire? Yes.

Speaker 3: Do you remember the actual moment when someone said to you, you're not going to believe this there was a fire.

Margaret Doty: I remember and I remember feeling very very disappointed that this was happening here in our village.

Speaker 3: Actually can you do me a favor and tell Chris what happened to the hotel?

Chris Klose: What happened, do you recall? In the fire.

Margaret Doty: After the fire?

Chris Klose: Well the fire and after it too.

Speaker 3: Can you actually tell us ...

Chris Klose: Tell us a story.

Margaret Doty: After the fire I heard that it was sold. The woman who owned it, at that time, I don't even recall her name. She sold the hotel. She sold it and they tore it down.

Chris Klose: Was there a big fight about that?

Margaret Doty: I don't think so. I don't recall being too much argument about it.

Chris Klose: Then it just ...

Margaret Doty: Yes. It was an owner that didn't want it anymore. She sold the property. She sold it. I think that's when the gas station took over.

Speaker 3: How did you feel about all that?

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah, you feel disappointed that this is not going to be here anymore.

Chris Klose: It really changed the village didn't it?

Margaret Doty: Yes, definitely. Many people did not like the idea of a gas station.

Chris Klose: To this day.

Margaret Doty: No doubt.

Speaker 3: Just like the atmosphere, you said it was sort of like elite? The clientele was upper class or something?

Chris Klose: You said they were travelers, and people with money came to the hotel a lot rather than just local people.

Margaret Doty: Yes.

Chris Klose: So what were they like and where did they come from? Do you know? Do you remember?

Margaret Doty: In the early times ... No I think Poughkeepsie or some place. They would come up to have dinner at the hotel. I know a number of couples that did.

Chris Klose: Instead of the [inaudible 00:34:30] Arms?

Margaret Doty: Yeah. Well, they had their choice right?

Chris Klose: They chose the Red Hook Hotel. What was a favorite dinner? Was there a specialty that the hotel was famous for?

Margaret Doty: No I don't think so.

Chris Klose: Was it a big dining room?

Margaret Doty: Yes. It was a good size dining room. As I said, we used to serve in the Elbow Room too with the booths. It could seat quite a few people.

Chris Klose: What were some of the busiest days? When was it busiest?

Margaret Doty: Probably on the weekends.

Chris Klose: When the memorial day parade came by the hotel, tell us about that if you recall.

Margaret Doty: If we were there we would just stand outside and watch them. Watch the parade go by.

Speaker 3: Actually, could you use the memorial day parade in a sentence? Just say, when the memorial day parade went by you would ...

Chris Klose: ... all come out and watch.

Margaret Doty: That's it, everybody would come out and watch.

Chris Klose: Watch what?

Margaret Doty: The parade.

Chris Klose: Just say, we loved watching the memorial day parade in front of the hotel.

Margaret Doty: Oh yes.

Speaker 3: Can you repeat that as a sentence back? I want to make sure we get you saying ...

Margaret Doty: We enjoyed watching the memorial day parade in front of the hotel.

Chris Klose: Did you ever go upstairs to watch it from the balcony upstairs?

Margaret Doty: No, I never did. I never went from the balcony but I'm sure that the house guests did.

Speaker 3: Anything else you can think about that experience, working at that hotel? It didn't have music did it? There wasn't live music there or ...

Margaret Doty: No. We had the jukebox.

Speaker 3: Oh.

Margaret Doty: We had a jukebox, I remember. I was playing one song so often that Mrs. Lathe said, do you think you can play another tune?

Chris Klose: What was the song? It was probably rock and roll.

Margaret Doty: No, there was no rock and roll in those days.

Speaker 3: Do you remember what the song was, or what the music was at least that you would play?

Margaret Doty: No.

Speaker 3: What kind of music, was it jazz?

Margaret Doty: No, it wasn't jazz. It was just a regular song that someone was singing.

Chris Klose: Did you have a favorite singer? Sinatra? Rosemary Clooney?

Speaker 3: What year was this that you were working at the hotel? What time frame was this?

Chris Klose: Tell us when you started, the year you started at the hotel.

Margaret Doty: Oh I started in ... I graduated in June of 1949 and started there in July of 1949.

Chris Klose: Then you had 5 years?

Margaret Doty: 5 years, yeah.

Speaker 3: Anyone else you remember from that time that you worked with? Any other people that you recall, waitresses?

Margaret Doty: That worked with me? No. I had two other women that worked with me. Marge and [inaudible 00:38:21] and we called her [inaudible 0:38:26]. They have since passed on.

Speaker 3: You're the sole survivor who worked in the hotel?

Margaret Doty: The sole survivor? I doubt it.

Chris Klose: We hope not.

Speaker 3: In terms of people who worked in the hotel, there's no one else around who worked in the hotel. Is that accurate?

Margaret Doty: I think there's people that came after me.

Speaker 3: That's right, because it was standing for quite a while.

Chris Klose: Yeah, it was another 10 years, 11 years. 9 years, it burned in '63. It was torn down in '65. Tell me about your husband Bill. I see him walking through the village in the summer in his shorts with his leather bag ... Tell me about him.

Margaret Doty: Let's see. As I said, he did it for 35 years. He was the first letter carrier in the village of Red Hook. He walked 15 miles a day. He enjoyed it. He enjoyed the people too.

Chris Klose: He did indeed. I remember very well.

Margaret Doty: A lot of them still tell me that they remember him.

Chris Klose: Where was the post office when he started?

Margaret Doty: Where the restaurant is now.

Chris Klose: The Indian Curry house.

Margaret Doty: Yes, that's where it was.

Chris Klose: Do you remember when the rural free delivery began?

Margaret Doty: No, no. Oh goodness that would have been quite a while ago because Mike Odeck was our mail carrier. Yes, I remember that. Used to go up and get the mail, walk to get the mail.

Chris Klose: Do you remember sleigh riding as a kid?

Margaret Doty: Sleigh riding, oh definitely. You always sleigh ride.

Chris Klose: Where?

Margaret Doty: We did all the hills.

Chris Klose: Where would you skate?

Margaret Doty: We'd skate out in the front. My father always kept that all mowed down and all. Today you wouldn't recognize it, but then that's where we did our ice skating and stuff.

Chris Klose: I remember very well, your father keeping the horse ... Then there was a great big hay. He had a pile of hay right there. You came down the lane, there was a little bridge ...

Margaret Doty: Yes a bridge.

Chris Klose: Then the hay.

Margaret Doty: Yes. The willow trees.

Chris Klose: The willow trees. Do you have any photos from those days?

Margaret Doty: Probably so, yes.

Chris Klose: I would like to ... The next time you all get together, you and Leonna, Jane, and Betty, and Maryanne ... I'd love to get as many photos and what ever remembrances of the farm from Harry, from Bob, from Cora. Anything and everything, we would love it.

Margaret Doty: I'll tell them.

Chris Klose: Yeah, please.

Margaret, would you like some water or anything?

Margaret Doty: No thanks.

Chris Klose: Here we go. I'm going to pick out a classic. Here we go. That's you again.

Margaret Doty: Yeah they are classics.

Speaker 3: When you look at that, what do you see?

Margaret Doty: What I see is the waitresses. There's four of us here, who's the other one? Besides Tooti and Marge.

Chris Klose: Hilda Akin.

Margaret Doty: Oh yes, Hilda used to do the dishes. Wash and do the dishes.

Chris Klose: Hilda Akin was the teacher.

Margaret Doty: Yes, very good teacher.

Chris Klose: My teacher.

Margaret Doty: Yeah, social studies.

Chris Klose: Social studies.

Margaret Doty: She was a very good teacher.

Chris Klose: Her sister ...

Margaret Doty: Yes. Her sister was ... English. English teacher.

Chris Klose: Ruby.

Margaret Doty: Ruby, right, Akin.

Chris Klose: We knew everybody didn't we?

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah. Do you know the name [inaudible 00:44:11]?

Chris Klose: Yes.

Margaret Doty: Maim used to do dishes too in the hotel.

Chris Klose: How did they do dishes?

Margaret Doty: In the sink until they got their dishwasher.

Chris Klose: That's a lot of dishes.

Margaret Doty: Oh yeah. That's why they hired someone special to do it.

Speaker 3: Did you say one of the waitresses became a teacher, I guess?

Chris Klose: Tell me about Ruby and Hilda Akin.

Margaret Doty: Well, Hilda Akin was a teacher and so was Ruby, when they first came here. Here, Hilda had taken a job in the hotel and that job was to wash and dry dishes.

Chris Klose: To make extra money ...

Margaret Doty: I'm sure. They lived with Mrs. Frailey on Frailey street.

Speaker 3: [inaudible 0045:06].

Margaret Doty: Yes. She had a boarding house.

Chris Klose: What was that like?

Margaret Doty: Just rooms I guess. You got your meals and you lived there.

Speaker 3: What kind of person were you back then? What were you like?

Margaret Doty: Was who?

Speaker 3: What kind of person were you?

Margaret Doty: What kind of a person was I?

Speaker 3: Yeah, what were you like back then?

Margaret Doty: I have no idea. I probably ... I know I was not, how can I say, [inaudible 00:45:46]. They had to show me everything.

Chris Klose: I think there were more than a few suitors.

Speaker 3: That was fun. That's fun. That was great. Amazing.

Chris Klose: I have one question.

Speaker 3: Yeah, go ahead.

Chris Klose: Tell me about your parents. When did they meet and marry?

Margaret Doty: My father was coming to New York City, and my mother lived in New York City. He was dating her friend. Then he started dating my mother, and that materialized.

Chris Klose: When were they married?

Margaret Doty: 1928 I think.

Chris Klose: '28? So then you came to Red Hook.

Margaret Doty: Well, yes.

Chris Klose: So he was here.

Margaret Doty: He was from Mile and he lived on a farm out there with his mother and father. Yeah with his mother and father.

Chris Klose: So they bought the place on Norton road ...

Margaret Doty: ... and built the house.

Chris Klose: He built the house?

Margaret Doty: He built the house. Or, had people that he knew build the house, yes.

Chris Klose: Tell us about growing up there.

Margaret Doty: Growing up, it's like any other home you have I guess. You didn't have what you have today to work with. You just ... How can I say, your mother said to you, you had to help around the house which we did. My brother's chores were with the farm and my father had all kinds of animals. Always had animals. You had to learn to chop wood. You did all the stuff that you were supposed to do and you did it, it didn't hurt any of us.

Chris Klose: What did you do for fun?

Margaret Doty: Well we had skating, sledding, [inaudible 00:48:15], all this stuff. In the summertime we used to, as I said, we would go swimming. Sometimes Anna would take us to Spring Lake. That was a popular place and we would go to Spring Lake maybe once a week or something and swim. We learned how to swim.

Chris Klose: Have a picnic?

Margaret Doty: Oh definitely picnics. [inaudible 00:48:40] used to bring the food. Yeah.