

ROSE TREE MEDIA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Springton Lake Middle School

Name _____ Date _____

OLDEST PERSON IN FAMILY INTERVIEW - Name June Doyle Wroath

1. How old are you? 74 When and where were you born?

Dec. 8, 1916 in New Hartford, N.Y. I was born at home - not hospital

2. Describe your family.

3. Describe your childhood.

4. When and how long did you attend school?

I graduated from High School in 1934, took a one year Post Graduate course and went to State University at Buffalo for a B.S. degree in Home Economics

5. When and from where did your family or ancestors come to America?

My father's parents came here from Ireland.
Mother's parents were English

6. Did you work? What was your first job? Did you have an occupation?

OLDEST PERSON IN FAMILY INTERVIEW (continued)

7. Do you have any famous relatives or ancestors?

Not really, but my grandmother had ten children and should have received an award for that.

8. Are you a veteran?

No

9. What was a day like for you as a teenager? What did you do for fun?

10. What was life like during:

World War I?

I was too young to remember WWI, but my Uncle Charlie fought in the trenches in France and regaled us with his experiences upon his return.

The Depression?

World War II?

11. What changes have you seen over your lifetime?

I remember our first radio, TV, colored TV, frozen foods, copy machines, sliced bread, car phones, Telephone answering machines, Fax machines, electric refrigerators instead of ice boxes, dishwashers, clothes dryers, snow mobiles, computers, coal furnaces to oil and gas furnaces, colored movies

2. I was born in New Hartford, a suburb of Utica, N. Y. and lived there until I went to college. At first my family consisted of my mother, a younger sister and myself. Our father, Frank Doyle was in the U.S. Navy, where he died when I was three. I have no memory of him. Mother eventually remarried and when she contracted Diabetes (Insulin hadn't been developed yet) my sister and I were cared for by her sister and her husband. When Mother died soon after my 6th birthday, our Aunt and Uncle adopted us. Our extended family consisted of five aunts and uncles and their families who lived in the same area.

3. Since my Uncle was a hard working railroad man, we had all of the necessities but not many luxuries. We had a coal burning furnace and sometimes a coal stove in the kitchen where we dressed on chilly mornings. Our ice box kept food for a short time, but provided no ice cubes or ice cream. The pan under the ice box was emptied daily. Advantages of living in a small town meant that we knew everyone and could walk to school, church, stores and friends' homes.

6. During college, I clerked in Department Stores and waited table at an Adirondack summer hotel. After college, I taught Home Economics for two years, was married and raised three children. When the last one was in high school, I did substitute teaching for twelve years and worked as a school librarian.

9. Besides classes, I enjoyed Basketball Practice and Friday night games. We had a girls' varsity team and won the championship three consecutive years. There was also chorus, school plays, choir rehearsal, Methodist Youth Fellowships, movie dates and dances after the games. We always helped with household chores, played games, read books and listened to the radio.

10 - The Depression: We didn't have a car or even bicycles, but so many people were in the same boat we didn't feel deprived. Economize was the word. Some people sold apples for a living and there were Soup Kitchens for many who were out of work.

WW II: This was also a time to economize and make do.

Rationing was introduced. Travel was almost impossible since trains and even planes were crowded with GIs being sent from ^{one} base to another. Gasoline was allowed only for work-related travel. Women went to work in great numbers to supply clothing and supplies for our soldiers and also to take care of their families. Radios and papers supplied us with war news several days after it happened.

WWII from a wife's point of view:

Pap and I were married just eight months before Pearl Harbor — the beginning of WWII. Almost immediately we felt the effects. Ration books were issued for meat, sugar, shoes, gasoline and other necessities, and there were shortages of these products as well as butter, candy bars, clothing, cooking utensils and tires. Just because you had Ration stamps didn't mean you could find the food you needed. It sometimes meant going from store to store. Most factories converted from producing civilian goods to war goods.

At first I went to work at Rome Air Depot teaching Stock Records to civilians, many of whom were service wives who were suddenly heads of their households. We supplied plane parts to Air Bases at home and overseas.

A few months after my husband went into the service, I joined him in Miami Beach, Fl. where he was training. Actually, I rented a room, found a job and saw him whenever I could. Eventually, he was sent from Florida to South Dakota, to Tennessee and then Louisiana. In Alexandria, La. our first baby was born. When she was fourteen months old, we followed Dad to Montgomery, Alabama, to Ohio and then California where he was discharged in March 1946. Apartments and even rooms were very difficult to find, but it was important to us both that we stay together as long as possible. It was great to return to New York State and start to lead normal lives.

My favorite things at 14 were basketball, clothing (sewing), music, reading, picnics, boys and yakking with my girl friends. Tennis was also fun.