

Pioneers Day (2003) — Heritage Village

Summary

This video records a Heritage Village "Pioneers Day" gathering held in 2003 in Southbury, Connecticut, honoring the earliest residents of the active-adult community. The program opens with remarks from the community's developer, Robert Paparazzo, who recounts how he conceived and built Heritage Village some 35-40 years earlier as one of the first retirement communities in the Northeast, and credits the original "pioneer" residents with making it a true village. The civic association portion follows, in which Lori thanks the meeting's organizers, notes that outgoing president Sydney Held will remain an ex-officio board member alongside incoming president Freda Denmark, and presents the pioneers with lifetime memberships in the civic association. Sydney Held reads the alphabetical roll of pioneers as Lori and Stan distribute calligraphy certificates made by Charlotte Chamberlain.

The second half, coordinated by Frances Vos, features pioneers sharing reminiscences of the early days: Eloise Jasser on her daughter's 1970 wedding at the meeting house; Virginia Morgan on moving into Connecticut's first condominium in 1967 while under the age limit; Eleanor McLelen on the bazaar opening with a horse and buggy and an early LPGA tournament; Audrey Namowitz on the art, camera, and travel clubs; Marian Parker on furnishing the Woman's Club and early cluster friendships; and Sylvia Roberts on buying her unit in 1973 (closing with a poem by Nixon Waterman). Audience members add memories, including Bobby DeRosa (the Aqua Belles swim show), Janet (Pomperaug High School scholarships), Jerry Ivers (Southbury's centennial, bowling and the ambulance association), and Anne Bartface (early roads and the civic association ride service); another resident remembers pianist Lou Traferi. Centenarian pioneers Max Berland and Dr. Cooper (96) are recognized, and an unidentified speaker closes the business meeting with a note about archive materials. Millicent Charles, Magdalene Chusta, Freda Denmark and Bill Wallace are also named among helpers and participants.

Transcript

Robert Paparazzo: Building the village, and there's none left. Well, thank you for inviting me today. This is a pleasant get-together, to in a sense, I guess, honor some of the pioneers of the village. And pioneers, it's amazing how important they were to the village. As a young man many years ago, I guess, you know, 35, 40 years ago almost, we came about the idea of building a Heritage Village-type community, active adult, which hadn't been done in this part of the country. And we just, we felt like it could be done and it should be done, and we wanted to get into it and so forth. So we got the land. The land was a beautiful piece of land, and we were trying to think of what to do with it and how to utilize it and so forth. So we developed the idea of an active adult community, retirement community, which as I say hadn't been done in this part of the country, in the Northeast. There wasn't any of it done at the time. The thinking was, well, everybody that wanted this kind of a development would move to the South, to Del Webb's programs and into California and so forth. And there were some surveys done that indicated that a lot of people that were looking for this kind of an environment would like to remain in the areas of the country where they lived all their lives. Apparently it was something like 80% of people would rather stay around where they'd grown up, where their families were and so forth. And so we bit into that and said, well, let's try to build one here on this wonderful piece of land. And we brought together a lot of, trying to get the right people together to really do a development like what we wanted to do and not spoil this very beautiful piece of land. And we actually had made a number of trips to other communities, other parts of the country, and I

probably stole a lot of ideas from California. And we brought together a pretty good team and everything to put it together and build it and so forth. And there were plenty of problems here and there, but we kept trudging ahead. So we started the development, but the real important part of it was, we could do the physical parts. Okay, we have little problems here and there certainly, but the truth of the matter is, it doesn't really become a village, it doesn't really become a real place to live until people enter the picture, because they are what makes it a village. The physical part helps and so forth, but people make it a village, and you are the people that make this a village. This is a great place for people to live. I'm very proud to be part of it. So when we first started, as I said, we could do all the physical things, and we had all the noises going on out there, and we started trying to attract people, attract people who wanted to, you know, venture into this thing, because it was really pioneering for this part of the country. It was. And those people, those early people that came in, were what we refer to as the pioneers now. And they really were pioneers. They were what really made this place click. I mean, if I had had the privilege to go out and say, "I want you and I want you and I want you to move in," I couldn't have done better than what actually happened. So these early people that came in, they bought into the deal. They wanted to work. They participated. We had a lot of sessions, you know, and they had demands, but they were big contributors, not even in just moving in, but in making it work, and they were really the basis of establishing what the village is. And I think that just propelled itself onward as the community developed. So we're very appreciative of these so-called pioneers and all those early people, and especially appreciative because I really feel that that's what makes the village. It's the people we have here. And once you set the stage, which they did early, that's what continues. You just continue to get that kind of people involved and so forth. So we're happy to have been part of it, and we're happy that you guys were all part of it.

Host: I certainly appreciate, most of you must have recognized this gentleman. Perhaps he looks a little bit older than the first time you saw him, which was perhaps 30-some odd years ago. But I think he still keeps a very young spirit, as all of you do. Lori, would you step up next?

Lori: I just wanted to add a footnote to the nominating committee report, and that is that Sydney Held as outgoing president will be an ex-officio member of our board. So we'll continue to have his advice, and I'm sure we will benefit from it in the coming year. I also would like to thank the people who helped to make this meeting possible. In addition to Sydney and Freda Denmark, our next president, Millicent Charles, who's also our secretary, Charlotte Chamberlain is the one who made all those lovely name tags, and Frances Vos and Magdalene Chusta were other people who helped. And thank you to all of you. And we're now going to give all our pioneers a life membership in the civic association. And again, when you see it, there's beautiful calligraphy on it which Charlotte Chamberlain is responsible for, and we thank her. And what, Sydney is going to call out the names, and if I could get somebody else up here to help me hand them out. Stan, could you help? We'll hand them to the people. I had asked all the pioneers to sit towards the front so that we can get your certificates to you.

Sydney Held: Thank you, Lori. Pioneers, listen up. In alphabetical order: Anne Barfy, Max Berland. I'll ask you please if you'll hold your applause until we finish, otherwise we'll be here for two hours. Marian Ber, Harry Blum, are you here? Raise your hand. Harry, not here. Caroline Briggs and Don Briggs, Helen Co, Wesley Co. Okay. William Cooper, Dr. Cooper. No. Bobby DeRosa, I saw you coming in, Bobby. Mildred Engelberg, Al Fishman, Amy Fishman, Lois Florian, good girl, Lois, Elizabeth Harris, not here. Pat Hurles, she's a Virginia Harrian. Okay. Janet Ignatovich and Peter Ignatovich. Jerry Ivers, are you here? Yes. Okay. Eloise Jasser. The I's and J's are both down there. Florence Jones, Louise Kilduff, Elmer Crest, not here. Mary Crest, Anna Lee, Ann Lee, Coleman Lee, F. A. Learner and Michael Learner, Janet Man. Where are you, Janet? Okay. Eleanor Marshand, are you here? Yes. Janette Matskin. Eleanor

McLelen. Keeping you running today, Lori. Irene Meyers. Meyers? No. Betty Meyers. Audrey Namowitz, Marian Parker, Marian is in the back. Ruth Pepperstand, Ruth Pepper over on the left. Sylvia Roberts. Sylvia. Okay. Come on, Lori, step on it. Marian Schlppy, Margaret Silver, Betty Stewart, way in the back. Stand. Well, should we make Lori do it, or Bill Wallace? There he is. Well, we'll get these. These are lifetime memberships, people. Saving you 20 bucks a year. Yes. Yes, we can. We had gotten the names and made up the list, but it seems, as much as you try to get everyone, there's always one or two that you miss that come up at the last minute.

Lori: Why didn't you come forward and let us know you were around? Why wait until the last minute?

Audience Member: It was my fault.

Lori: Oh, okay. The runner guilty. The runner made a mistake. Okay, we'll have one for you. Charlotte, is there one? We can make one up now. She's making it as we speak.

Host: As we speak. Okay. Thank you. Thank you one and all. Thank you, Lori and Stan. Okay. And now we're getting to the part where we're actually going to hear from the pioneers. Frances Vos will coordinate this part of the program, and I'm going to ask the people who volunteered to tell us little stories of what it was like in the early days to come forward and start us off on the program. After they've spoken, anybody in the audience who would like to share a reminiscence with us will be able to do so. But Audrey Namowitz, Eleanor McLelen, don't make such a face. Sylvia Roberts, Eloise Jasser, and Marian Parker, would you come and have a seat in the front if you're talking?

Frances Vos: She said volunteer. The fact is, why I came here is for this. I'll show you. All right. Now we're going to hear the interesting stories of what happened when it first opened, and we have these people whom Lori just introduced to you. I will go through their names again. Eloise Jasser, in alphabetical order, Eleanor McLelen, Audrey Namowitz, Marian Parker, Sylvia Roberts, and they all have a very interesting story to tell you. As I introduce each one, I'll tell you their main subject, but I understand they might embroider it a little with a few other little stories that they have to tell. So we'll start off with Eloise Jasser. Eloise is going to tell us about her daughter's wedding at the meeting house. Eloise, five minutes.

Eloise Jasser: Say it. Is this on? Yeah. Oh, okay. When we first came here, which was July 1970, we weren't here a very short time when my daughter proceeded to tell me she was getting married. And we had come from Wilton, where we knew everyone and knew everything, how to do it. But here we were in a strange place with nothing whatsoever. The meeting house was wonderful. It had bedrooms upstairs and it was very well put together. It was a charming place which we rented for about \$50, I think, for the whole thing. And we had the bedrooms because his family came up and they used the bedrooms, and we had a beautiful and lovely wedding here. And that was my first thing that I ever did here in Heritage Village. I've been active in the town and on boards in the village for many, many years. In fact, I was the first female president of Heritage Village Master Association. It took them until, it took them till 1990 to put in a woman. But since then there have been a few. So, I don't know anything else to say. I didn't come prepared. I didn't expect to be called.

Frances Vos: Thank you, Eloise.

Eloise Jasser: You're welcome.

Frances Vos: Virginia Morgan was not on my list, and Lori just told me that she's going to speak, and she's going to tell you a big secret, how she got into the village underage.

Virginia Morgan: Oh, you had a good husband. Well, it's not really a secret, and I've been telling this story to everyone that would listen to me for 37 years, because I moved in here in September of 1967 into condo one. And I wanted to buy a condominium. I didn't really want to buy into a senior citizens community, but I wanted to buy a condominium. This was the first condominium in the state of Connecticut. I was working in Waterbury. I said to Henry, "I'm not 50," because that's what it was at the time. And he said, "Well, we might stretch it a little bit." So I moved in. I was 43 at the time. I haven't told many people that. Really stretched? Yeah, he really stretched it. Yeah. And at my closing, the lawyer said, "You understand the age restriction?" And I said, "Yes, I do." So I moved in, and it was a great investment. I'm very happy I did it. Thank you.

Frances Vos: Now, Eleanor McLelen is going to tell us about going to a meeting at the Village Green in a buggy.

Eleanor McLelen: No less, a buggy. I'm not sure they can hear you. You can just tip it up so you're speaking. Is it working? Some of them have switches. No, no, there's a little switch. Okay, switch on the top. One of the highlights that I remember very vividly is when the bazaar was opened, and that was something that we didn't expect quite the way it turned out, because it was all open and you went from store to store. And for the opening of the bazaar, Mr. Paparazzo had rented a horse and buggy, and he also rented old-fashioned outfits for some of the ladies, myself included, and we paraded around on the green in front of the bazaar with our parasols. And then we would take our turn riding in the horse and buggy, which was very, very nice. If I may, I would like to say one more thing. Mr. Paparazzo was very enterprising, because about almost 30 years ago, he had an LPGA up here, Ladies Golf Association. And the first prize, believe it or not, was \$2,500. When you think of what the golfers are making today, and \$2,500 33 years ago, or 30 years ago, was quite a bit of money. And it was really fun to do because it was handled by all volunteers. And we did not have caddies on our golf courses here, and in the golf tournament they had to use caddies. So my late husband and Walter Nielsen had to scurry around to all the clubs to try to gather up enough caddies so that they could continue. And I believe Sandra Palmer won the tournament that year. Thank you.

Frances Vos: I think one of the things that we're most pleased about and look forward to when we move into the village are our large assortment of organizations. We have, you know, over a hundred now. Some of them, how were they founded, who thought of doing this, who did the work? So Audrey Namowitz is going to tell us about some of them, and then Marian Parker will tell us about some other ones. To Audrey.

Audrey Namowitz: I'm not going to tell you how they were founded. I will tell you how we found them. When we moved here, the village was seven years old when my husband and I moved here in October 1974. And I said to him, we were moving up here, you know, to play golf and tennis and hike. I said, "They're not going to get me to join those silly activities." Little did I know. I knew that I would join the Russian Pencil Club, despite the fact that I didn't like the name. I thought that was a kind of silly name too. But art had been my profession and my lifelong interest, so I did join it. At that time, the club had almost 300 members, and I'm giving you numbers because I want you to see how they've gone down through the years, something I don't like. Anyway, it was great. I met all kinds of wonderful people. Then, reading the bulletin carefully, as we knew we were supposed to do as good citizens of Heritage Village, we saw the camera club, and we thought, well, we like to take pictures. My husband had just scolded me for directing him, saying, "Take this, take that, take that." And he said, "Get your own darn camera." So I bought a little, not an, the Kodak Instamatic, which came before the point-and-shoot cameras, and I had a good time taking pictures. And believe me, when you win your first ribbon in the camera club, that's when you get hooked. And I see all our newer members back there, and some of them have been hooked already, and I'm glad to see that. But the activities were so

great. These were diverse people, and wonderful activities besides just taking pictures. There were trips, the almost monthly competitions, and it was always fun to see everybody else's pictures. And the first time you saw your slide on that big 12-foot screen up there, wow, that really gets you. So I have to tell you, years later, I have a drawer full of ribbons, and you will too. Then the next thing that attracted us was the travel club. We had traveled a good deal before we moved here, and we saw that there was an ongoing club where people created shows out of their own travel slides. It really should be called a travel slide club. We don't arrange trips, that you do yourself, and we hope you come back with lots of slides out of which you can create a show. We had, listen to this one, 800 members at the time I joined the club. Today we have a little under 300 members. Those 800 members were wonderful. Now they didn't all give shows, but they were participants. At that time, we had to do two shows every night, one at 7 o'clock, one at nine o'clock. And we did that all through the year except December. Never had a show in December. But in the winter months, we had two shows every last Wednesday of the month. Then after a while we realized that there were people who did not like to drive at night, especially in the winter months, and so we decided to have afternoon shows in January, February and March. Of course then we had the complaints from people who said, "But you always had it at night, why are you switching to the daytime?" Well, we wanted to consider those other people. And now we have great trouble getting people to do shows. And the question is why? Many of the newcomers don't travel. It seems people, we have to consider money nowadays. People don't care to spend money on travel or film. Also, video and digital cameras have cut into the business of slideshows, but they can be done. So at this point I would like to urge any of you who have slides for shows to come forward. We've always urged people all these years. Oh, by the way, our original dues were \$1 a year, now it's \$2 a year. So I personally have done, I know it's over 28 travel shows, and let me tell you, I got great pleasure out of doing each one. I relived my trips, and it's a creative process to put these slides together, to look at your old maps, read your old travel brochures. So let me encourage you newcomers to do that too and get the pleasure I have gotten out of it. Thanks.

Frances Vos: We heard about some of the activities that are a pleasure, but I think one of the things that we take great pride in in the village are the services that we render. You heard from Mr. Held the services that the civic association does give to the village, but we have others, such as the ambulance. And Marian Parker, who's been a long and staunch worker, is going to tell us about some of those organizations. Marian.

Marian Parker: Well, I didn't think I was going to talk about the services. I just wanted to give you an idea of what it was like to move in as a new person in a new area. At the time I moved in, a friend, a college friend of mine, was looking for a place to move, and I was in the same mind, and we traveled all over New Jersey, looked on Long Island where I lived, and one weekend friends of mine in Danbury invited me up to their home for a weekend. And I had no sooner walked in the house when they said to me, "If you don't mind driving a little further, we'd like to take you to see something." "Oh, sure, I can drive some more." So they brought me to Heritage Village. And this was either late '69 or early '70. And after my friend Helen and I had seen all of the places on Long Island and half a dozen places in Jersey, we came here and we decided that nothing compared with Heritage Village. And I have one up on Eloise. Helen and I stayed in the meeting house overnight, and it was beautiful. But we both moved into the same cluster, each in her own house. And in that case, it's a very large cluster. There are 24 units in it. And of those 24, there were nine women living alone. And of course at that time couples that moved in looked for couples to be friends with, and all the women who were alone had to look for other women who were alone. And in the first, I would say, three or four months I was here, I think I was entertained by all the people in my cluster, of the single women who were together, by more than half of those nine people. We were in each other's homes all the time. And I want to say too that when you went out and took a walk and you came over here to the activities

building, every single person spoke to you and you spoke to every single person. Now I walk through the activities building and people look at me as though I was from Mars. And that's one of the big differences. We were all new, of course, we were all looking for friends, we all felt that every single person in Heritage Village was a friend, whether we had been introduced to that person or not. And that, of course, can never be repeated, because it will never be all new people again. But that is probably one of the biggest differences between 30 years ago. We finally moved in in '71. But I would like to say just one thing about one activity I got very much involved in, the woman's club. And in connection with that, in the first weekend that I was here in the village, people that I had known from Long Island invited me to their home. Well, they had had a beautiful home in Long Island, and they brought every last one of their treasures to Heritage Village. So when I walked in their living room, I thought I was in a furniture display case, because you could have hardly threaded your way around in between all the pieces of furniture. Well, a lot of other people did the same thing. When Mr. Paparazzo gave the woman's club to the village, it was beautifully furnished, all the furniture, decorations, draperies, all that sort of thing, pictures, all the major appliances. But there were no facilities, no coffee urns, no silver, no dishes, no tea kettles, no nothing. So what did the women do? Well, we had a big tag sale, many tag sales, in the bazaar upstairs in one of the big rooms that was empty, and people donated their extra furniture that they didn't need. And also some of them decided they weren't going to entertain anymore at big dinner parties, so I guess they gave some of their dinnerware too. But anyway, that's how they raised the money. And with the money that they raised, they bought silver and dishes and all the things that were needed in the kitchen. And for that matter, that has gone on through the years. The women are still providing all of the things that are not actually the furniture. They have reupholstered the furniture, they've bought new carpet twice, they've gotten drapes twice, and many other things, but it's all been done through the donations that the women have made to the club, and that's why they're protecting it. But the fun of starting the club and getting all of those things together was one way that the women who worked together became good friends and enjoyed themselves. And that's how you get acquainted and have fun in Heritage Village, by taking part in the things that are going on. Thank you.

Frances Vos: Our last speaker will be Sylvia Roberts, whom I was told was going to speak about the physical condition of the village when she moved in. Sylvia.

Sylvia Roberts: Okay. I'm going to talk about the year 1973. In the month of August '73, my husband and I came to Southbury to spend a weekend at the Harrison Inn, which is now known today as Dolce Heritage. At that time, the inn was just one year on the village scene. It served as conference headquarters for more than one half of the Fortune 500 companies. That weekend, we learned that a unique community called Heritage Village was being built within a short distance of the hotel. I was born in Manhattan and I grew up in New York City. My husband Stanley was a country boy, having been born on Long Island and having grown up there. He was so excited by the design and the tree-studded look of the condominiums already built within this lovely community, and those units being built, that our entire weekend was spent at the Heritage Village realty office offering these units for sale to the public. At this time, condominium homes had been developed for the model area and were fully furnished, because the building workers had developed them during the year 1966. We had the opportunity of viewing these furnished model homes located in the model area. We learned that the building operations, excuse me, had started in the condo 18-23 area of the village on New Wheeler Road next to the wildlife preserve. And when we walked into the realty office, we were shown a large map on the wall with colored stick pins on it indicating which condos were available and which had been sold, as noted by their color code. Into the microphone. Oh, thanks. Thank you. At this time also, it was pointed out to us that one resident of a unit had to be at least 50 years old, and that any second resident, spouse, friend, or child had to be at least 18 years old. Fortunately for us,

we both fit this condition. Within minutes of talking to one of the realtors, my husband grabbed a large set of keys from the realtor, with the number of the condo unit etched on each key. Many other visitors also were grabbing sets of keys and jumping into their cars to look at those units still open for sale. Excitement was in the air. I can still remember it, so long ago. It was similar to an auction without the auctioneers hustling us to buy. Amazingly, the realtors did not accompany us to inspect the available units. We drove up New Wheeler Road, because that was the area my husband had picked out on the map. Within less than a half hour, we fell in love with our unit, a unit we purchased called the Sherman, located a small distance from pool 4. We had to decide quickly because we were concerned that someone else might try to put a deposit on that unit before us. So down we drove back through, to the realty corporation located across the street at that time from where it's currently located. We put down the required deposit, a sum of \$500. It was a very hot day in August, and my husband was so excited and happy with his commitment. I will never forget how we went into the farm shop, which is now Friendly's Restaurant, and without hesitation, he ordered a banana split with five scoops of ice cream, something he had never done before and never did again. In the farm shop, we met many other excited couples who also had taken sets of keys from the realtors. In many ways, it was just like the gold rush in California in the 1800s. Instead of gold, many had staked their claims on new homes that they had chosen in this new gold rush community, Heritage Village, a lovely place built for people who enjoy people. On October 23rd, 1973, we moved to the town of Southbury, Connecticut, and the charm of Heritage Village. During that year, we residents were delighted to learn that the master association had appointed its first general manager to take care of village operations. As the years have gone by since that day in October, I am grateful to live in this lovely community, to enjoy the peaceful privacy of the clusters and the good neighbors and friends I have made over the years. I'll close now, but before I do, I'd like to read this short poem by Nixon Waterman entitled "Far From the Madding Crowd" that expresses my special feelings about Heritage Village. "It seems to me I'd like to go where bells don't ring nor whistles blow, nor clocks don't strike, nor gongs sound, and I'd have stillness all around. Not real stillness, but just the trees' low whispering, or the hum of bees, or brooks' faint babbling over stones in strangely, softly tangled tones. Or maybe a cricket or a katydid, or the songs of birds in the hedges hid. If 'twere not for sight and sound and smell, I'd like the city pretty well. Sometimes it seems to me I must just quit the city's din and dust and get out where the sky is blue. And say, now, how does that sound to you?" Thank you.

Frances Vos: Thank you, Sylvia. Before we open it up to the public for your remembrances, we would like to say a special honor to a couple of people. I know one is in our audience, I don't know if they both are. Pioneer Max Berland is sitting right here in the front, and he is a hundred years old. I don't know if Dr. Blum came in or not. I wasn't sure that was he, but he is way over a hundred. Is he in the audience? No. Okay. Now, we will open it up to those pioneers in the audience who will share their memories with us. I was just informed that Dr. Cooper has joined the meeting, and he's 96. Dr. Cooper, will you stand? He also is way over. No, no, no, he's 96. Okay. Freda Denmark, our new president, is going to come around with the mic so that you can be heard when you speak. So if you're willing to share a memory, please raise your hand. Anybody want to share a memory with us? Bobby DeRosa. That's Bobby DeRosa. Okay. Give your name, please.

Bobby DeRosa: DeRosa. Stan, I just thought maybe I'd say, maybe somebody here might be interested in some of the things that are happening at the swimming pool. Are you interested at all? Sure. Put the microphone. Okay, can you hear me better? I was swimming earlier. I'm going to be back in this pool today, tomorrow, until it's closed. One of the things you might be interested in is that some of us acted like we were in the Olympics, and our leader was Eloise Jasser. And a few years ago, in 1978, we called ourselves the Aqua Belles, and we put on a show. We did circles and kicked up our legs and we were just great. We thought about 300

people came to the activities building pool and watched us swim and do all kinds of fancy things under the direction of Eloise Jasser, who was not president of the master association at that particular time. But we had a lovely time, and we're still, that was in 1978. Mahank and I had moved here in 1969, but about 13 years after we, the Aqua Belles put on their big show, we did another one, 13 years later, and several of you here were in that show. It was a lot of fun. Millie Engelberg was my partner. I don't see Millie here today, but we swam, we had partners. We dove off, one at a time, and we all wore the same color suits. And people were surprised that we didn't sink, but we didn't, and we're still alive, and we'd love to have you come swim with us. The pool is lovely, it's 81 degrees, and we have a lovely time there. Not many people coming swimming lately, but we hope you will join us. That's all I have to say. But, you know, the swimming pool was one of the big things that got my husband and me to move here, and there weren't four at that time, but it was a big motivation, and it still is.

Frances Vos: Thank you, Bobby. Maybe you can get the Aqua Belles together again for next year. That will be quite a scene. Do we have anybody else who wants to share their memories here? It's a stand up. I'd like you to give your name.

Janet: I'm Janet. Been in the village since 1971. Talk into the mic. I've been in the village since 1971. What I'd like to tell you is, back when Mr. Paparazzo started selling the first units, the Southbury-ites were not too happy with Mr. Paparazzo building here. True. So Mr. Paparazzo gave a scholarship to one child from Pomperaug High School, and the second year he did the same thing again. And then he turned it over to the women's club, and they handled it for many years. But that organization is still going on today, and it's a village organization, and we still give scholarships to Pomperaug High School, and give as many as 11, as we did this last year.

Frances Vos: Anyone else? Jerry. Jerry, here for you. Face the audience, Jerry.

Jerry Ivers: There were several things that I recall that took place, and some of you may recall, if you came here before 1972. At that time, Southbury was having its centenary celebration, and they called on Heritage Village to participate in it, and we had two very talented people from the village acting as coaches. One was the late Lou Traferi, and the other was Eloise Jasser. And Eloise Jasser was such an astute judge of talent that she had me shot in the first skirmish. But we practiced for a month, and then over on what is now Community Park, we put on a week's show, and at the conclusion of it, they decided in the town to have a big dinner over at the Amber Room in Danbury, and I think at least 90% of the people from Heritage Village at that time went over to the Amber Room, and we had a great time to conclude that. A second thing that Audrey mentioned, and it also recalls a memory: when I first came here and joined the bowling league, we had 40 teams of five members each. That's 200 bowlers. I understand now it's down to about 100. The second thing was that along with Marian Parker, I was one, and Wesley Co, sitting right here, we had a very vigorous ambulance association. We had so many volunteers for the ambulance, they never had to ask for volunteers. There was always somebody there to do that. So, as Audrey said, things are changing in the village, and I don't know why, because it's a wonderful place to live in. There are many activities, and I hope all of you who have come here to hear the old-timers will enjoy it as much as we did.

Frances Vos: Anybody else? Be sure you give your name and face the audience, please. Turn around and face the audience.

Anne Bartface: My name is Anne Bartface. We came in 1972. In 1973, my husband had a friend from Columbia University visiting us, and he wanted directions how to get to Heritage Village. So my husband told him there were no signs, no red lights, nothing in Southbury. So he said, "How do I find you?" So my husband says, "There's a landmark. It's called the Southbury Playhouse on the corner." And that was the only place that was there. So we met him at the Playhouse. As we were going towards condo 5, we came across the sign, and he said, "Stop,

let's see the sign." And the sign said, "Deer crossing." So he said, "You live in the woods." My husband says, "You'll see." So we got further, and we came to a one-way bridge. That was a second payoff. He said, "You go through this every day?" My husband says, "Yes, every day." He said, "Aren't you afraid?" But anyhow, later on they came to visit, much, much later, and it was much different. In 1974, the civic association just got started. I was on the ground floor. We didn't have any meeting houses. We met at each other's homes, and we had a great big notebook where people signed in their names as volunteers. And somebody had to be a dispatcher to call these people up to make arrangements for people who needed rides. And I was a dispatcher for five years.

Frances Vos: Any more? There's got to be more stories.

Audience Member: I'd like to say one thing. I hope everybody remembers Lou Traferi, who used to be our piano player everywhere, in restaurants here, in homes. No matter where we went, we always had a sing fest with Lou Traferi, and I just want to remember him.

Frances Vos: Well, thanks to our panel, and thanks to all of you who shared. I will now turn the meeting over to Mr. Held, who will close our meeting.

Speaker: I just like to make— He's not Mr. Held. No, I'm not Mr. Held. I just like to make one announcement. We have a table in the back of pictures, magazines, and other things from the early days of the village, as well as some things on a bulletin board, which I hope you will stop to look at. If any of you brought material that you want to take home, please remember to take it. I will take everything else and add it to the archives of the village. So if you don't pick it up, it's gone. All right. This is even better. Thank you all for coming, and since this was a business meeting initially which we opened, I will officially close it now. Thanks again. Enjoy yourselves in the back. Refreshments are in the back. She wants pictures. Come on, Sylvia.