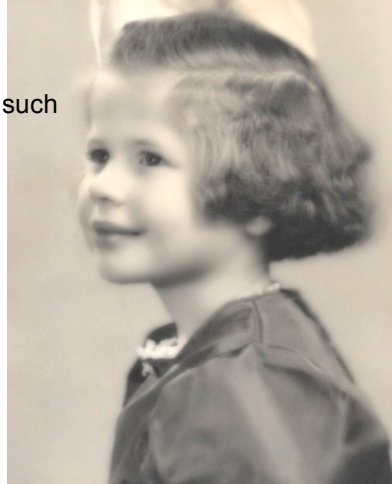


Memories – An Interview with Elsie Schultz Bills Moll

By Dawn Russell

Elsie Schultz was born on June 18, 1934, at home, 1000 Walworth-Penfield Road, across from Carey Lake (which was a cow pasture then.) Her parents were Clara and Carl Schultz. Elsie had three older brothers: Charles, Harold and Richard. She was the youngest and was told that her brothers spoiled her. They nicknamed her Dolly, and the neighbors called her that also. **See photo of Elsie as a young girl in the next paragraph.**



Her mother helped work the fields and the farm with her father. Elsie's father was a dairy farmer and also grew crops. She remembers helping out on the farm by cultivating corn, but she didn't like picking tomatoes. She had many animal pets as kittens, rabbits, a goat and a fox. Her mom raised chickens; Elsie didn't like the chickens. One day her brother, Harold, was plowing and came upon a fox den. Elsie acquired one of the babies. She put it in a doll bed behind the kitchen stove and named it Stinky. For a short time Stinky was allowed to stay in the house until her mom said she must take it out of the house because it smelled up the place.

Elsie said that Christmas time was always special to her. The tree would be placed in the front parlor which wasn't heated except on special occasions. The bedroom windows would have bits of snow on the inside. She remembers getting dressed in front of the kerosene stove in the dining room due to the cold. She was told of a time when she was still in a baby carriage and her brothers took her for a stroll. They tipped over the carriage and out came Elsie. They scooped her up quickly; she was fine. Her oldest brother, Charles, took the blame.

She enjoys reading. Her first memorable books were Nancy Drew mysteries and she still loves reading mysteries. Elsie started babysitting when she was 10 years old for her nieces and nephews. She attended grade school in West Walworth District #3, a two-room building, for eight years. Sometimes on nice days she would walk to grade school, but her mom drove her a lot. Then she went to Walworth High School for a year until it centralized with Ontario and became Wayne Central. She was in the third graduating class of Wayne Central in the year 1952.

Her best friends were Beverly Johncox and Bethany Bulterman. They would go to one another's houses and "hang-out." She remembers when her brothers would attend the dances in Walworth. She was too young to attend but would sit by her window with her chin in her hands and watch as the cars drove by towards the dance hall.

Elsie was friends with Chuck Bills while growing up. She and Chuck married in 1955, a year before she finished college and before the Army sent him to France. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics from SUNY Albany. They both taught in Westmoreland, NY for two years. The plan was for her to teach in Syracuse and for him to get his Master's Degree. While on vacation in Canada, Chuck had a diving accident which paralyzed him. He spent months in different hospitals while Elsie did some teaching. At this point she realized she was pregnant and rules didn't permit her to teach long thereafter. Their daughter, Debbie, was born in April of 1959, two hospitals away from where Chuck was. At this time Elsie moved back to Walworth with their daughter until Chuck was able to return home. Two of their brothers built a house for them with special accommodations for Chuck's disability. Charlie Pembroke installed an elevator inside the house. Elsie continued to teach at Webster and Wayne Central Schools. Later she and Chuck had a tax business in their home. By this time they had added two more daughters to their family, Kara and Katrina.



Chuck and Elsie parted ways in 1978. She still lives in the house on Canandaigua Road in Walworth and is married to Jim Moll. He is retired from Xerox and builds many birdhouses. Elsie continued the tax business for a total of 45 years, with over 500 clients annually, retiring in 2012. She misses the social aspect of the business. Now she enjoys her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loves to read, bird watch, and garden.

She attends West Walworth Zion United Methodist Church. Elsie enjoys knitting and has made over 200 Christmas stockings throughout the years. She keeps saying she can't make any more, but then finds herself knitting another. She likes making people happy. What she remembers most about growing up in Walworth is the kindness, knowing everyone, and the small community family atmosphere.

Photo left is of Elsie Schultz Bills Moll as she is today.