

Dr. Norman and Jinny Loomis Interview By Bob Mogray

The Walworth Historical Society wishes to thank Dr. Norman Loomis and Jinny Loomis for their time and efforts granting us this interview.

Dr. Norman Loomis: Dr. Loomis lived his early life in the Forest Hills/Queens area of Long Island. His father was a foundation contractor, a Superintendent of Parks, in Queens and died when Norman was eleven years old. His mother was a homemaker.

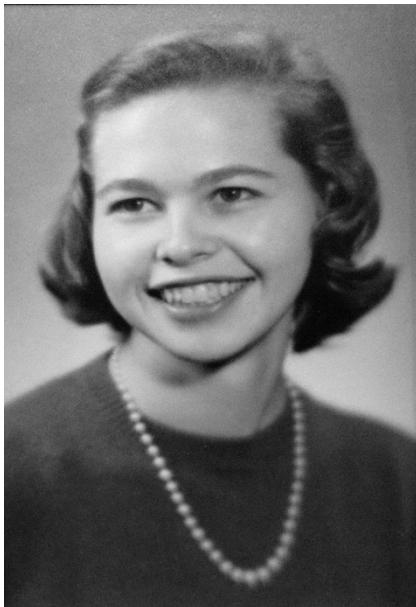


As a young boy he sold the Saturday Evening Post and made a whopping 1.5 cents per copy. From the age of seven he knew that he wanted to be a doctor. Some of his interests in his early life included photography, stamp collecting, Boy Scouts, and playing the violin. Every day he walked to Public School 144. Norman finished high school at Forest Hills High.

At 16 years old he entered Oberlin College but was drafted into the Navy while still in school. Later he used the GI Bill to attend Syracuse Medical School. Norman interned for two years in general practice at the Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn. He received his medical degree from New York Upstate Medical University. Dr. Loomis moved to this area in 1954 and lived in a house at the end of Furnace Road. He opened up a practice on Knickerbocker Road, just north of Ridge Road in Ontario.

Norman Loomis Navy photo

Jinny Loomis: Jinny lived her early life in Canandaigua, New York. Her father was a science teacher and her mother was an English teacher. In 1949 she graduated from Westminster College and earned a Master's Degree in Education at the University of Rochester. Some of her early interests were playing the french horn, music, swimming and basketball. Later in life she became a skiing enthusiast. It is interesting that Jinny's grandfather was Dr. Ruben Reeves and in 1904 he was charging about \$1.50 for an office call in Macedon.



Early in her married life she tended to the home and raised their three kids (Jane, Lynne, and Richard) but later she was involved in many community activities and organizations. She was a member of the Ontario Town Board in the 1970's. She has served on the Wayne Central School Board and worked for the Four Counties School Board for seven years. Jinny was on the Ontario Planning Board in the 1980's and a member of the Girl Scout Council. She worked with the Wayne County Community Endowment organization and was active in the Presbyterian Church. Jinny volunteered for the Heritage Square Museum and was involved with moving an entire train station to Heritage Square.

Jinny Loomis teenage photo

In 1955 friends of Dr. Loomis suggested that it might be time for him to look for a girlfriend. Since he did not know too many people in the area he asked them for help with this matter. He went about this in a scientific manner. They showed him a yearbook and he picked out three prospective candidates from their photos. The first choice was Jinny. He took her to the circus and they hit it off very well. He never dated the other two. They were married in 1956 and lived for awhile in his bachelor pad at the end of Furnace Road. In 1959 he and Jinny moved into a cobblestone home near the nuclear power plant on Lake Road in Ontario.



1956 Norman and Jinny Loomis wedding photo

In 1958 Dr. Loomis moved his practice to a new office on the Walworth-Ontario Road. With partners Dr. Neal Smith, Dr. Terry Goff and Dr. Dan Koretz. He saw many patients in the Walworth and Ontario area including me and my family. Norman retired in 1997. Over the years Dr. Loomis has been Chief of Staff at Meyers Hospital in Sodus, Chief of Department of Family Practice at Rochester General Hospital, on the board of RGH, President of New York State Academy of Family Physicians, Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Rochester, and a member of Wayne County Medical Society. He helped start the Ontario Volunteer Emergency Squad in the late 1960's and did school physicals in Ontario and Walworth. Norman and Jinny now reside on Tamarack Lane in Ontario.



2019 Norman and Jinny Loomis



Dr. Loomis' original office on Knickerbocker Road in Ontario



In 1958 Dr. Loomis moved his office to this building on Walworth-Ontario Road in Ontario.