Helen E. (Magin) Simpson

This interview was conducted by two Brockport middle school brothers, Mateo and Tiago who were introduced to Helen E. Simpson by Jim Fallon. —editor

Jim Fallon: All right boys, why don't you begin by saying your names?

Mateo: I'm Mateo and my brother, Tiago.

Helen: And I'm Helen Simpson and pleased to meet the both of you.

Mateo: So what year were you born?

Helen: Oh, my goodness. I didn't know I would have to tell this. I just had my 80th birthday, so can you figure that out? May 3, 1934 in the back seat of my mom and dad's car. I'm named after both my mother and father. My mother's name was **Helen** and my dad's was **Earline Magin** so my name was Helen Earline. I always wanted to keep my middle initial so I used Helen E. Simpson. And in the studio my title was Helen E. Simpson, Photographic Artist.

Mateo: Do you remember where you grew up and what street you lived on?

Helen: I was born here, but I lived in Irondequoit until I was seven. When I was seven in second grade I started school in the Campus School which was then part of the college. Our teachers were what they called student cadets and they would come and spend a few months with the children there. When we moved here we lived on Gordon Street in Brockport. We were there probably about five years and then we moved to Brockway Place and after that Utica Street

Mateo: What do you remember about your teacher? Did you have favorite teachers?

Helen: I did. One was named **Erica Sykes**, she was my teacher, and she was an American Indian. I just loved her and respected her a great deal. She also directed plays and when we were in fourth grade we did the Shakespearian Play, *Mid Summer's Night Dream* and I was in that, I was Light. I don't know if you're familiar with that but it was very advanced that fourth graders were doing Shakespeare, she was an amazing lady. Years after, when I had the studio, I had always admired her and wanted to do her portrait and I asked her one day and she said, "No. I'm too old and wrinkled and I have liver spots." And she didn't want me to do it. In my studio, my mother helped me in the background with the phone and talking to customers, and one day, maybe six months later, when I talked to her she called me and I was in the back, I did my own processing and negative enlargements and did oil painting. Mother called me on the intercom and said **Erica** is on the phone and she wants to talk with you. I said, "How are you?" She said, "If you will come and get me, I've been thinking about that portrait and if you will come and get me now I will sit for you." That was the last thing I wanted to do at that moment because I was busy with other things but I knew if I didn't get her then, I would probably never do it again. That was mine and I hung it in the window at the studio and a Morgan Manning group came in and they wanted to buy it and I said, "No." That was mine but I would do another one. So I did another one which was at the Morgan Manning for several years. Now it's at the Alumni House because they're always part of the old Normal School at the college and so it's kind of a circle and before **George Rich** passed away, he asked me about this and I said it's at the Morgan Manning and he said he was going to change that. I said it's back home, it's back at the Alumni House. That story I loved. When I was young she used to come in with a paper bag and a paring knife and she'd tap a few of us girls and there was a playground on the far side of the campus school and we would have to dig dandelions and she would take them home and eat them. Well, one day we did it and she wondered if we had ever had any dandelions, have you ever had dandelions?

Mateo: No.

Helen: Well, we didn't want to hurt her feelings, she wanted to cook them. I tell you, you wouldn't like them. Oh, my gosh, they were so bitter I remember. Well, she thought it was a delicacy. The moment she came in and we saw the bag and paring knife we knew what she wanted. And **Dorothy Foster** was a teacher, I remember many of my teachers at the Campus School. There was **Ora VanSlyke** and if she was probably five feet tall, she wasn't any taller than that. She wasn't boisterous but she was vibrant and she was like a magnet. She was a sponge and everything that she talked about was positive, she was remarkable. I think she liked me because she would tell me things and compliment me and I just thought it was wonderful. When you respect them like that and they pay you attention, especially when you're young, it makes a mark.

Mateo: When you were a kid were there stores you went to?

Helen: Oh, yes. This is an old copy that I did years ago. Today

you can put them on a computer and you just pop them out. We didn't do that. I would take a picture of a picture and develop it. This is an old postcard and I would make a negative of it and then print it. This is an old postcard of downtown Brockport. I don't know if you recognize this or not but I believe it's the north side and west and we sold those. We had specials, sidewalk sales and things. You know, the things I remember as a little girl things were different. In the fall we always raked leaves, my parents, myself, neighborhood children we raked and raked and then after that we would rake them out to the road. and we would have bonfires and it was a block, the aroma in the village, it was just beautiful. Now with the laws you can't do that. We had a Quaker Maid canning factory, A&P and that was at the end of Fair Street. In the fall, after the tomatoes were harvested, the trucks, the farmers would come in with these truck loads of tomatoes and as they would go up Fair Street, they would round the corner and the tomatoes would fall to the ground. The good ones, if they didn't get smashed, we would pick those up and when you drove into the village of Brockport you could smell the tomatoes, the ketchup, the chili sauce. You boys are probably too young, but to me that was a memory and I never had a hot dog or a hamburg without ketchup or mustard or chili sauce that I don't think of that. When I was a young girl, maybe just before high school, maybe eighth grade, when they had what they called a quarter club that was at a church, and it was a clean nice place for kids to go and parents would chaperone, two or three sets of parents, mothers and fathers, and we had a committee that would cook hamburgs and hot dogs and you could buy bags of chips and popcorn. They had shuffleboard, and they had ping-pong and they had a jukebox. It was very low key, nothing big, served pop. I think it was from 8:00 to 12:00 and I think it was a quarter. I was thinking about that the other day. You know, some of the things that I remember are so small.

Mateo: So you went to high school in Brockport right?

Helen: Un huh.

Mateo: What do you remember about that?

Helen: Well, they had a new stadium skating rink, where we learned to skate, which they don't have now. Our high school was where the Middle School is and they had a huge hill, that's another thing I was thinking about. I don't think it's there anymore, but I'll tell you we would get a group together and start at the top. It was on the west side and it was lots of fun.

Mateo: What about siblings? Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Helen: Yes. I have a sister and her name is **Mary Jane**. She isn't the oldest, she is 75, going to be. I had a brother, **Carl**.

Mateo: **Mary Jane** was the youngest?

Helen: No, **Carl** was the youngest. I'm the oldest. **Carl** was born in 1940 and **Mary Jane** was born in 1938 and she's not well.

Mateo: What did you do for a job?

Helen: Well, I did several things. I loved to decorate windows and there was a lady who had a dress shop. The studio was opened in 1959 so that was pretty much my job. I was a very young mother and my job was taking care of my children.

Mateo: How many children do you have?

Helen: Three.

Mateo: And your children. Did they all go to Brockport?

Helen: Yes, they did. My oldest daughter went to Brockport and she is a optician. She has a business in Brockport and she reads prescriptions from doctors and sells frames in her shop. She is located right across from Dunn's Home Furnishings and has a very nice shop. Then I have a son, **Scott**, and he worked at Kodak. He's retired now and then I have another daughter, **Kelly**, and she works at the college in the area of the café. Kelly helped me in the studio actually. My mother and dad weren't photographically talented but they did errands for me. My mother loved people and would talk on the phone and make appointments and she loved to sell my frames.

Mateo: Were your parents born in Brockport?

Helen: My mother was born in Mount Morris, but she came to Brockport when she was seven and her father had a men's and boy's clothing store in downtown Brockport and in Holley. So we were pretty much a retail family. My mother and daddy took over the store in Holley and after the depression, things didn't do well. That was another thing, I want to back track, my Dad had a victory garden after the war and he worked so hard, as did my mother. He would hand cultivate. I can still see perspiration running down him. He told me I could get my little red cart, wash the vegetables, clean them up and I could have whatever money I could make. One day I made five dollars and you would have thought I had make a hundred. My mother canned a lot of vegetables. Things were harder in those times but I never felt that times were hard but now that I've gotten older and realize the struggles that people had, they were really tough. I was sick a lot and I had rheumatic fever. I had a vascular valve leak and that was after the vascular leak and I was out of school for six months. That's how I began, I think again that God played a part. But

Helen E. (Magin) Simpson

that was how I would get after I played a part and the doctor said I needed something to stimulate me. I loved to sketch and draw and that's when I started. Back then they rested the heart, but today they exercise the heart and get that heart working. I had bed rest and that started the beginning of my artwork. I loved Walt Disney, Donald Duck and Mickey Mouse and I sketched, I copied. (am I boring you?)

Mateo: Oh, no! not at all. What about your parents? What did they do for a job?

Helen: Well, my mother managed a dress shop, and she was always very nicely dressed, always had her hair done and her makeup—very particular about her looks and managed a very nice ladies dress shop in downtown Brockport. She was there for 25 years and then she worked after that at the college bookstore. My dad went to college to become a pharmacist but he didn't pass his Latin and he decided he didn't want to do that. He went to work at Rochester Products, Delco, General Motors but they were wonderful people. My mother taught Sunday school at the Methodist Church and she was also a MYF leader at the Methodist Youth Fellowship and when you were ten, eleven, twelve you would go on Sunday night and you would meet all the kids from surrounding churches and the kids would sit down together and do a little bit of spiritual talking. but it was also fun. She was also director of junior choir at the Methodist Church and my dad was on the church board, so I had a little bit of background there too. At a young age you think that was all good teaching and good stepping-stones.

Mateo: Are your parents still alive?

No, my dad died in 1987 and my mother in 1995 she continued working at the studio. Well, I shouldn't say working. She was behind the counter and she loved it, she loved people and that's what was hard after she retired. She retired in 2007. The Special Olympics, I don't know if you're too young to remember, but they were here in 1979 and **Dr. Brown** was President at the college and he called and wanted to know if I would like to be the official photographer from here to cover the Special Olympics. I was thrilled and it was truly special children and adults. They had a contest downtown and I had a special window decorated pertaining to the Special Olympics. So I did, along with everybody else, and **Dr. Brown** along with **Susan James**, she was in a sit-com on television. I went to the bank to make a deposit and when I came back **Dr. Brown** and **Susan** were in the studio talking to my mom. I always had a little clown face with a head and I had lollipops in it and it was on the counter and she said, "Could I have one of those lollipops?" and I said, "sure". She was so nice. I had just met her that day and when I went up to the tent to do some photography work, she was there and called me by name and said, "Oh, you're here to do some photography." I was so impressed because I had just met her and she remembered and identified me by name. That was a special time. **Muhammed Ali** was here and he helped right the carriage (referring to a photograph) and it was nice. I photographed all the people. Then there was **Ted Kennedy**, who was being photographed, yeah, right over there, second man. There was **Governor Carey**, **Senator Moynihan** and **Dr. Brown** was the one on the far right. **Kennedy** was a Senator and I enlarged his picture to a 16x20" and I sent him two copies in Washington and said would you please autograph them and return them and he never did. But he sent a nice letter saying how much he appreciated them and that it was one of his favorite photographs. So that was an interesting story, too. And then this man, I don't know if you care about him, but he's still alive and he lives in the county, **Archie Webber**. He went only to third grade and he will tell you this. I asked him to come in and sit and he's a character and he talks. He has more stories. I told him to sit on the stool in my camera room and I got him in front of the camera and he sits down and he's crying. I said Archie, what's the matter and he said no one has ever done anything like this for me before. Well, I had to get behind the camera because I was tearing up. And that man over there is German and he had a barber shop in downtown Brockport. The Post Office is where Darlene's Bittersweet is now and that's where our Post Office was. The one in the middle is a copy too of the old postman. I don't know the year that was taken but you can see it's pretty old. There was an RG&E there before and we paid our RG&E bills there before we were there and before there was a post office. The one in the middle **Donna Raven** from General Electric. You can see in the middle that little girl. She was representing General Electric Theatre, which was a weekly show. They're in front of the Roxbury Inn.

Mateo: What did you say that was?

Helen: That's the Roxbury Inn. It's an apartment complex now. I think it's students now. It was a beautiful restaurant. They had linen tablecloths and a spiral staircase when you walked in. It was elegant. Just beautiful!

My grandmother's house had one. This lady here, she lived on the corner of Park Avenue and Spring Street and it was purchased by a college professor. You know the **Raleigh's**? **Mr. Raleigh**, He was a kind, old man and he did the electrical work at my

Helen E. (Magin) Simpson

studio and that's how he came to me. I wanted to photograph him and **Archie** and they both wanted to go home and get cleaned up and I said, "No". I wanted them just the way they were. And back then he rolled his own cigarette. I can see him now, he would put the tobacco in it and roll it and then lick it. It isn't good for you but back then, that's what they did.

Helen: (Showing a photograph) she says: That's **Lloyd Butterfield**, an attorney. He was out of Brockport and he was an attorney for New York Central Railroad and he never drove. He always took the bus and he had an office here and in Rochester. And he was bald as a cue ball and he always wore a straw hat. He came to the studio, by my request, and he put his hat down and his briefcase down and I said, "No, Lloyd, I want your hat on and I want you holding your briefcase." He said, "You want my hat on?" I said, "yes". Well let me go home, I have a lot of hats I like you to choose a hat and he came back with ten hats and guess what? The first one was the one I liked the best. It was a cream colored straw hat with a black band and it just had that look. He said it looked like a Norman Rockwell picture. That lady was an elderly lady and that was actually sent to the State Convention and I called it the "Evening of Light." She was very, very old and had funny hair so I took it right around it so it looked kind of covered, the hair. I loved to do old people and babies when I was doing my portrait work. They were my favorites. Older people are so full of ideas and they have beautiful stories and babies are so candid and they could care less so they're fun to work with too. They were my favorites. Many of the high school graduates came in, I don't have the contracts, but they came in to do the portraits. Here, in Holley, Albion and around.

Mateo: When you went to school, how did you get to school?

Helen: Walked.

Mateo: Walked. They didn't have buses to school?

Helen: No. We also roller skated. We used to roller-skate in the road. Today they don't do that. We played hopscotch, we had kickball and baseball at night with the street lights on and then I was young, and this is terrible, but my dad had a beautiful toboggan and the streets were never clear. The plows would come through but you had a crusty top on the road. We had a beautiful toboggan and daddy would hook the toboggan to the back of the car with a heavy rope and pull us down the street. He would just do the streets in Brockport so we weren't out on the highway. We always did that several times in the winter. I was thinking about another thing in Brockport, we had milk delivered when I was younger, and they were bottles, the milkman would come in trucks and we would get the non-homogenized milk and the cream would be on top, it wasn't mixed, and then the rest of the milk would be on the bottom. We had a little cupboard off the porch and the milkman would come and put the bottles in there, but in the winter that cream would freeze and pop right up out of the top. The cap would pop up and all the cream would be on top, it was like ice cream frozen solid. Believe it or not, my brother and I would eat it like ice cream. Mother didn't like it very well but we did it anyway. Kind of crazy!

Mateo: We have a freezer in our basement and we keep it at 10 degrees below "0". We've kept a snowball in there for six years

Mateo: When you were sick, were you in the Brockport hospital?

Helen: No, I was in bed. I had a doctor, a specialist. Back then there was nothing they could do for rheumatic fever. They thought I might have had unpasteurized milk or water that was contaminated, but mother couldn't remember any of that. I had a high fever, terrible leg pain and they couldn't do anything for that. I would go to bed and cradle my leg with pain. There was nothing they could do but give me something. But I still say that's where I started my artistic thought. When something is bad you always want to look to the brighter side and what I got out of it was wonderful; my career. I'm grateful and I loved everything. Many people go to work today and say, "Oh, I hate my job, I don't want to do this." I never felt that way. Oh, there were problems. Each day was a challenge but there were many more rewards. When I started opening my business I was so wrapped in doing bridals and I loved every bit of it. When I closed I was doing those brides' grandchildren so it was a great repeat business. It gave me a good feeling. And then another little boy from Churchville, I met his mother in the grocery store, and she said, "I want to get his portrait done but he has lost his two front teeth and I want to wait until they come back in." I said, "Don't wait, that's the most beautiful time, you do it! Do it now." Well, she took me up on it and when that boy was in college I saw her and she said she was so glad she had it because that was a time that will never be repeated. There are lots of stories that way. Another story was this lady came in and said her mom was in her 90's, very, very old and elderly and she wanted her portrait done. She said the only thing is her hands are very crippled and she won't want you to show them, because of arthritis. She won't want you to but I would like you to. I usually take several poses and lightings and then they could proof them and select which ones their choice would be. She said, "Be sure you get one showing her hands." So, okay, the mother comes in, the daughter brought her in, and we

get in the camera room, and the mother said I don't care what you do but I don't want you to show my hands because they're crippled with arthritis. So I thought what was I going to do. I was honest with her. I said, "Let me tell you something. You're telling me not to show your hands, your daughter is telling me to show your hands. She knows you wouldn't like it but she remembers you always sewing, baking, working with your hands and she wants to show your hands. They mean so much to her. Doesn't that take away the feeling?" She was shocked but she said, "Okay, but I don't like the way these hands look." Anything else?

Mateo: How many places and photographs have you taken:

Helen: Oh, gosh, I don't know. The first painting, I wasn't educated per se, and that was all brought on by myself, trial and error. Years ago, Kodak would make a print for professional photographers and there was a convention every year in New York State and they were all given the same print. Well, I didn't think I was qualified, but another photographer well known in Rochester, whom I had met, and he went to Kodak and got it and brought it out so I painted it. It was a lady and she was just seated there on a bench. The convention was in Albany, I get choked when I tell this stuff, I had no clue but I walked into the convention in the lobby and it was a beautiful hotel and this man came up and he said, "You know what? You've got a blue ribbon on your painting." and I stood there and cried. I couldn't believe it. There's a point system and you're been given and I got the highest points in the blue ribbon. I don't mean to brag but these are things that mean so much to me.

Mateo: Are there teachers that you remember and look up to?

Helen: **Jean Pepper**, she was a teacher. Her husband was **Don Pepper** and he was a coach at Brockport High School. I used to babysit for her. I think sometimes when you're a child, or you're growing up, you don't always have an idea what you'd like to be or you think you're not, whatever. She always complimented my style. She was such a beautiful lady. She was a professional model for Kodak. There was a slide of her in Grand Central Station for several years. And my parents, I always looked up to, they were wonderful. Lots of times, at the time, you don't want to hear but then as you age and mature, you realize that their teachings were to help you, not to criticize.

Mateo: Did you have any education in photographing or were you just self-taught?

Helen: Un huh, self-taught. Lots of mistakes but you learn from them and once you do it once or twice, you don't do it a third time. That's true of life. You go through life and you think afterwards, I shouldn't have done that. Life is a good teacher. None of us is perfect. My dad used to say, "The only perfect person is up in heaven.."

Mateo: Now, you've been living in Brockport a long time and I'm guessing a lot of places have changed. What specific places do you remember?

Helen: Oh, gosh, well, Quaker Maid, that I've talked to you about, that's a disaster, the A&P. Someone has tried to take that over and it's pathetic. And as you mentioned, some of the housing. We have beautiful structures and many old buildings. I'd love to see them kept and not torn down. That sometimes annoys me. I think it's nice that someone keeps them up renovates them in keeping with the time. My grandmother's house was beautiful, the woodwork was like this and that lady, my mother's mother lived on Park Avenue and Spring Street on the corner and my brother and I went in there, I think it was a college professor that bought it from the college and tore everything down and put paneling up just to make additional rooms. That made me sick because that was real personal to me. My parents had sold it and they had moved from there but we went back, my brother and me just to see what it looked like. It was really sad.

Mateo: There's a house two houses down from us that's really trashed, a college house.

Helen: Un huh. You know there was downtown and they had, they used to call it the Sweet Shoppe and I think it was about where the Laundromat is now, and they had another place, I think in Spencerport, and we would go there after school and get a hamburg and some fries, and I remember back then cherry coke and lemon coke and you would sit down after school and some would do their homework and some would just chit chat. We would go there often, it was a nice clean parlor. They also had a pool shoppe, which wasn't so nice. There was a trolley, that's no longer there. My mother used to take that trolley into business school; she went to business school in Rochester and lived in Brockport. She'd go to the city every day on the trolley.

Mateo: What about friends? Did you have a best friend or people that you kept?

Helen: Yes, and the funny part is I still have those friends. I have one lady, **Ann Butler**, who lives on Centennial Avenue and she's living in her mom and dad's home and we started our friendship in second grade and we still see each other and go to dinner every few nights and we do things together. Then there's **Marge Studier**, we weren't in school together, she's from Rochester, but we've been friends for way over fifty years, I have a

Helen E. (Magin) Simpson

lot of them. And many friends from Rochester and the Methodist Church, I don't know if you know but there was Gearings Fruit Stand in Adams Basin, but they've passed, they died, but we have lots of good friends, the **Fowler** twins, from the Fowler Funeral Home, which is no longer owned by Fowlers but they've kept that name. But the two girls, they were my friends. My mother used to have a saying about friends, some are silver and some are gold. Friends can be a bad influence or a good influence. You can pretty much judge yourself whether your friends are good or bad.

Mateo: What about activities that you do when you were a kid?

Helen: I was sick most of the time and I wasn't able to do gym most of the time. I never was athletic, I did a little dancing, which I loved, toe dancing when I was seven or eight and I wanted to continue, but mother said when I was old I couldn't get up on my tippy toes but I could always tickle the ivories, so she wanted me to play the piano so I ended up taking piano lessons but I'd much rather dance. That was before I was sick. I wasn't much into athletics.

Mateo: My mother was a dancer.

Helen: She must be quite a lady too.

Mateo: She worked for Disney, the Disney show, and she danced.

Helen: Really, how neat. Can she still dance? Does she do it publicly or just for fun?

Mateo: No. She does it sometimes for fun but she got celiac disease and rheumatoid arthritis. I think that was the same year that dad got the farm. She was in a wheelchair for several years.

Helen: Is she still in a wheelchair?

Mateo: No, she's much better now. She doesn't suffer that much.

Helen: Oh, that's good. That's great.

Jim: She has her own business now doesn't she?

Mateo: Yes, she used to but now she works for the Wegman's Family. She works with people who sit in an office five days a week. She does physical therapy.

Helen: It's nice, probably rewarding, that she can help someone, right? She sounds like a very nice lady.

Mateo: When did you move into this house?

Helen: Last year. I had a house in Spencerport and I sold that in 2013, October, and moved here and I'm loving it. It's very much down sized and I must tell you this chair, it's **A. D. Oliver's** auction chair and when he had the auction and I was working for the people and I went up there on my lunch hour and I loved the chair so I bought it. I love antiques and I was going to have it covered. **Fran Sansocie** came several years ago and I said I wanted to cover it and she said, "Don't you dare cover that, that's authentic." So I didn't. I thought that was interesting that I had **A. D. Oliver's** office chair from the school, you know A. D. Oliver School. And Tuttle North, at the college, **Tom Tuttle** was my very dear friend at the Campus School and his son who was a cardiologist in New York and **Ernie Tuttle** was his dad. I did a portrait of him. I had done the past presidents, photographed some and reproduced others and painted them and they're at the alumni house at the college. If you're ever up there, you can look at them.

Mateo: When you were a teen-ager or child, what was it like growing up?

Helen: Well, my dad was an air raid warden, I remember that, when we lived on Utica Street. The fear was terrible because you just thought they were going to come over here and it was just terrible. But my daddy would go out at night and they would have the siren going and he would have his jacket and flashlight and we would all have to turn off all the lights be very quiet and he would walk up and down the street and they were called an air raid wardens and daddy loved that. And then when the war was over it was like a circus. There were some kids who lived on State Street and their mom and dad were good friends of mine and we went to the store and got crepe paper, red, white and blue, and we would put it all over, The war is over! The war is over! Kids like that. In some ways the things that we did were back to basics, can I say it's easy yet times were bad. It's something you'll never forget and times were scary.

Mateo: My grandpa's neighbor was a POW in World War II.

Helen: Oh, really?

Mateo: He was jumping out of an airplane, and landed on a German barn. The man who owned the barn had a pitchfork and kept him up there until the Nazis came. He was in there (as a prisoner) for something like eight years.

Helen: No kidding. You hear these terrible things, I don't know and even today the way things are going it's scary.

Helen: I had an uncle Don and an uncle Ralph who were both in the Army. Don was my mother's brother and he was a sergeant in the Army and my uncle Ralph was my dad's brother and he was a captain when he got out.

Mateo: What about the depression? Do you remember that?

Helen: Not an awful lot. I think my parents tried to keep that. You know things were a struggle for many people but I think if your parents told you then you would worry so they tried to keep

Helen E. (Magin) Simpson

things from you and I never felt that I was without anything. I remember my mother, during the war, she would wear nylon stockings and garters, not panty hose. She couldn't buy those so I can see her now in the bathtub shaving her legs and putting leg makeup on. I guess they do that today but it was more prevalent then because you couldn't buy the silk stockings because they were using the silk for the parachutes, making parachutes for the war. We had, I think they were stamps, too. I've kinda have forgotten, for meat. Meat was rationed and I had an aunt and uncle, well, it was my mother's aunt and uncle, it was my great, and daddy had the garden and so he would give them groceries and they would come out and give us the stamps. That was the trade off. And another thing you couldn't have butter. They had a thing called oleo margarine and it would come in a white plastic bag and in the middle was this big yellow thing like a pill and you kept this white pack in the refrigerator and it would get quite hard but you would put it out at room temperature and we used to argue who would do it, and my brother would break that pill and mix it with the oleo margarine and my brother would work it with his hands and you had to keep kneading it, working the color through until the color turned yellow. Are you about through? Any other questions?

Mateo: No, I think that's about it. Thank you.

Helen: It was my pleasure. You boys are very nice.

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