

June 5th 2007

Oral history of Doris Newell, her memories of family, friends and the changes in Newbury.

Doris begins:

One of my favorite memories is the train ride to school each morning, this was about 1949. Martha Blake used to pick up everyone and take us to the train station. We usually went to the station in Newbury but if we were late we would go the station in Bradford. The kids were Martha's girls, Betty Rich, now Betty Cragie and myself. While we were on the train we did our homework, hopefully get done before we got to Warner.

We started the Choir at the South Newbury Church about 1949 too. We had an old pump organ then.

The school house in South Newbury was next to the Church, now known as the Friendship House. Harold (my husband) went to school there for 8 years. The school house became the Friendship House about 52 years ago. Harold and I were the first to be married in the Friendship House. Harold's initials are carved in a beam in the room now know as the Pastors study.

Harold and I were married in 1955. Some of the people who attended were Jim Newell and his wife, Ken Bouchard who used to live in Newbury, Chet Merrill, Kathy Tilton from Warner and Ginny Cragie were bridesmaids.

Some of the organists at the South Newbury Church over the years have been Sandy Michell Gove, Patty Chaffee Charpentier, Susan Wyeth.

Some us joined the Grange when we were fourteen. The Grange continues even now.

At one time or another we all worked in Mrs. Jim's lunch it was located right across from the old town hall. It was where the old post office was, before it moved up to Perkins House.

The town has changed so much, when I started helping with the voters check list we had about 300 voters! I don't remember how many years ago.

Harold's mother taught school in Sutton. She went to school in a school house on Newell road where Marty Newell lives now.

Earnest Sherman felt that my father-in-law Milford Newell had done so much for the town, he petitioned the town to name Newell road after him. He used to take of the cemeteries and the town buildings for a lot of years. He always started the wood fires in the wood furnace in the town hall a couple of days before meetings and Christmas parties, things like that.

In 1974 Some of the parents of Bradford and Newbury got together and started the Bradford kindergarten in the Bradford kindergarten. I was the 1st president of the kindergarten.

Over the years I have belong to many committees and groups. We need to keep the town going forward.