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Ellen Robinson Epstein '69-Carol Farley Munson '69

Ellen Epstein

Carol Munson

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Ellen Robinson Epstein: So I would like to begin by saying that I'm here interviewing

Carol Farley Munson: Carol Farley Munson

EE: and I am Ellen Robinson Epstein and we are both members of the class of 1969 and this is our fiftieth reunion. So, I would like to ask you first, Carol, why did you decide to come to Connecticut College?

CM: That is a good question. So, I am from a northern suburb of Chicago and it was my parents' desire–strong desire–that I go to a coeducational college in the Midwest, that I marry somebody of their exact same political persuasion, and I join a country club, and be well taken care of by my husband. And that was the goal for my life and I was academically achieved in high school, a large–5,000 student–coeducational high school in a Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, and my counselor suggested that I look at Eastern women's colleges and that seemed like a delightful alternative to my parents' plan for me. So, out we came, looked at several. I felt that they felt very intimidating and it was just a whole new adventure. When I saw the Connecticut College campus and spoke to people here and especially saw the green looking out on the Sound, I was like, "Yeah, this is me. This is where I belong. Not there, but here." It was the exact opposite of everything that I had experienced in high school. So, I convinced my parents I should apply and I did and the rest is history. I was on my way to a sorority tea and my parents were out of town, the day that I got my acceptance letter. And the sorority tea of course would have been for one of those schools that I was accepted to in the Midwest. And my parents didn't know I had received the acceptance letter. A friend was taking me to this Pi Phi- it was a Pi Phi tea, with white gloves, etc. And I called my mother's friend and said, "I won't be going to the sorority tea. I will be going to Connecticut College." And then I had to convince my parents that this was a good plan. They resisted and they yielded, thankfully. So here I came.

EE: And they resisted just because you weren't following in their footsteps or they were worried you were going to become a left-wing liberal at an Eastern effete school with ...

CM: All of the above, all of the above, all of the above. So it was with great gratitude to my parents who have since passed that they actually sent me here and paid the bill, which of course was an astounding $5,000 a year which was ...

EE: I just told somebody that it was 5,000 and I remember my father paying and it was a lot of money. I don't think it was the equivalent of $68,000 now though, do you?

CM: I don't think so. I think it's- everything I read and experience it's- it's- college prices have gone way up. But I never looked back. I will say that I came home for Thanksgiving with torn jeans, which are now in style again, a hockey stick of my new Wesleyan boyfriend, and smoking, and some swear words that I had become accustomed to. So they were like, "Wait a minute. We sent you to this Eastern women's college." They thought I was going to come back with a teacup or something, but, no it was 1965, so, you know the history.

EE: Absolutely.

CM: It was a great choice, a great choice.

EE: So you were happy here all four years?

CM: I- I- yes, mostly. I mean, right, so Connecticut was a challenge for me academically. I all of a sudden was, like many women or men at other colleges, was at the top of my high school class and of course that was not my experience here. I managed to fail biology first-, I guess first quarter, and had to do a retake and I got an A on the retake. I was scared to death I was going to flunk out, but they could only give me a B I think. But, anyway, so I was always just a little bit on the edge academically, not that, my grades were decent, but I always felt like I was in this- in this pool of very academically gifted women and I was a fish in a small but really amazing sea. So, that was a- a challenging edge. Of course the dating scene, because I'd been in this big coed high school I wanted to get away from and find out who I was, but then the travel to men's colleges and the mixers–those were a little challenging. You know, you dance with somebody wonderful, that was great, but there were also so many bummer kind of things, nothing major. And then my senior year I became quite ill, quite ill. I wound up in the college infirmary.

EE: What did you have?

CM: I had what turned out to be appendicitis, but I, you know, I just made it from the dorm in the middle of the night to the college infirmary and finally to the hospital, Thames Hospital in New London, and by then my appendix had ruptured, I had peritonitis. I came very close to not living. Nancy Rockmaker, who was in our class, was in that same hospital exactly one floor below me and she did not live and ...

EE: She had meningitis, though, right?

CM: No, she had encephalitis. She had been bitten by a fly. She worked the summer of- summer of '68 in- on a farm or a ranch, somewhere in New Jersey in the country and she was bitten by a fly that carried the disease. It was encephalitis. So I was in very desperate straits medically, very. And the doctors had run out of options and the antibiotics didn't work for quite a while and my

mother was frantic and they were planning to- to transfer me somewhere else, to a bigger city, and the doctor said they won't be able to do anything more. And I just had this miraculous turnaround one evening and obviously lived. I was in the hospital for two or three weeks and in the infirmary for two or three weeks, so I missed five weeks of classes my senior year, which, again, I just thought, "I may not graduate." It was a really lot of work to do.

EE: Did your parents fly here to be with you? Were they here?

CM: My mom did. My dad did. My mom stayed with me until I was discharged from the hospital. Yeah, yeah, and then once I was back in the infirmary recuperating and then in the dorms, still pretty ill. I remember everybody left for Thanksgiving. I don't remember if I made it home for Christmas, I probably did, but definitely not for Thanksgiving. And it was a really lonely, cold moment. My classmates were wonderful, teachers were fantastic, but five weeks senior year is a really lot of school to miss and it was a pretty scary time. That was my most difficult time at Conn, for sure, for sure.

EE: What was your major?

CM: Government. I loved it, yeah, I loved it. It was great. Miss Dilley, I just loved everything about it.

EE: Right. It's funny, I took Government classes, but I never had her but I know who she was, she was a legend.

CM: She was definitely a legend, yeah.

EE: Marjorie Dilley?

CM: Marjorie Dilley, yeah. She was a Dilley.

EE: Okay, were there other professors that you remember who were so outstanding?

CM: Oh my goodness gracious, George- George Romoser. He was a- I think he was Government. I worked for him actually. I did research. He was studying- he was studying the institution of marriage. This is- this is coming back to me as you ask the question. And he was wonderful. Minor Myers. I don't think- do you remember him? He was ...

EE: Absolutely. Well, he married Ellen …

CM: Ellen Akin, right. I had a little crush on him my senior year. I think quite a few of us did and, yeah, so I liked him a lot and he was just, what, two or three years older than many- many of us, so and he was just as kind as could be in terms of my making up work and all of that, so … Yeah, that was a memory. I don't remember a lot of my other professors. It's a little bit of a wash. I remember Dean Shain. I remember Barrie Shepherd in the chapel. The chapel was meaningful to me.

EE: Why was that, because I- I was surprised how people were talking about Barrie Shepherd with such emotions, when he- I knew who he was but …

CM: Yeah. What it was was, I don't know if it was so much him personally, but it was the way the chapel was, as I remember it, was organized. I was in the choir first year, which was really sweet. I can't sing a note, but I can follow people who can sing like our president, oh my gosh. Anyway, there were visiting ministers, rabbis, priests, so we had quite a collection of people coming to speak with us on Sunday night and there was a particular sermon by Reverend William Sloane Coffin. Of course, he was very active in the antiwar, the peace movement. And that changed my life. Absolutely.

EE: Tell me a little more about …

CM: Changed my life. I write about it in the- I recorded it in the Koine Gold. His sermon was Bloody Truths. It was based on a passage, which I found out later out of the Gospel of Luke, and basically the gist is to whom much has been given, much is expected. And I felt for the first time hearing that, I kind of vaguely knew how privileged I was, I was so grateful for my parents to send me to a school they didn't want me to go to. So, I knew that, but I didn't- I didn't fully understand the significance of the privilege and the debt that it created emotionally and spritually for me and Bloody Truths, that's a powerful name for a sermon.

EE: Sure.

CM: And I- it was delivered, as Sloane Coffin did, very powerfully but not- not in a guilt-, you know, ridden kind of finger-pointing way, but really kind of to all of us who had been given the gifts of health and education and privilege and that just defined my life. I knew I'd be of service some way. Didn't know the specifics, but it ...

EE: How did that manifest itself after you left school?

CM: Well, three careers: social work for a few years and with a BA in Government back then, so early- late '60s/early '70s I managed to get a wonderful job with Catholic Charities in Cambridge-Somerville, eventually as a foster and adoption home coordinator. With a BA in

Government that would never happen today. And then as a lawyer, nine years after I graduated, I applied to law school and my crafty mother said, "Well, if there's a way to be a poor lawyer," she knew I was going to be all about social service, "you'll find it." Sure enough, sure enough, I after graduation, I became a public defender. I think my first salary was $18,000 a year in 1981. Yup, so there I went, right fulfilling the dreams. And so, I practiced criminal law for five years and I was just in love with the Sixth Amendment, which provides legal- competent legal counsel- effective legal counsel to people who are indigent. And I just became a driving force. And then my husband and I moved to Oregon and I worked for what I thought, jokingly, was the enemy at the time, the State of Oregon, kind of the other side, because I was defending the little guy, now I'm working for the state. But I moved into that job with a fair amount of skepticism, but I ended up loving it because there was a lot of power in that position and I could exercise kindness, justice, fairness and still be an effective advocate for the state but never, never against the legitimate interests of someone in a weaker position. I really enjoyed my work. It also manifested probably in my primary call. My husband and I talked about adopting before we got married, before we talked about marriage. And we kind of had this idea because we were–we met at a peace march, so we are all about peace; if it as the word peace we are on it–one kid at a time. So we became birth parents of three children, but in between them, those births, we became parents of eventually four adopted children, older children.

EE: So, seven children altogether?

CM: Seven children, we also fostered, between six weeks and four years, varying lengths of time, five or six foster children, so we were all about that, what we naively thought was like a mini United Nations, like world peace, but what it turned out to be was a lot of time and money invested in family therapy. So …

EE: For your biological children or the adopted or everybody?

CM: Everybody, everybody at one point or another. Our biological children pretty much got it and they did a little bit of personal work around it, and they're still reflecting to me now as grown adults how that was for them. The- our adopted children came, two from orphanages, one from Korea, one from Vietnam with zero English and then two who were very- those children suffered trauma, grief loss. But they also experienced love in their early years, so they had pretty firm emotional foundation, suffering that huge loss and cultural- loss of culture. Our two adopted children, both boys from the state, one Pennsylvania, one Oregon, no, both Oregon, scratch that, both Oregon foster care system were very damaged by birth parents, by experiences in foster homes. One of our kids, sons, came to us at age ten. He had been in at least ten foster homes and a failed adoption, so he was a pretty troubled kid.

EE: How old are they now?

CM: He is 43. Of all of our kids, he is the least productive in terms of his citizenship and contributing to society. All of our other kids have managed to have very productive lives in various- it helped me to be open-minded. So, our birth kids have advanced degrees, they have incredible jobs like most of our classmates. Our adopted kids, yeah, they're just- they're different. One of them's been very stably employed as a dishwasher beginning at age 15. So he graduated high school, which was not in the cards for him. He's biracial. All of our kids, our adopted kids, are nonwhite. He's been- Anthony's been a dishwasher in a very beautiful Jewish nursing home in Portland, since 19- since 2006. Thirteen years he has zero upward mobility. So you can imagine what a challenge it is for someone who went to the school we went to. My husband's a Yale graduate. We're all about the power and beauty and freedom, and you know, life-opening opportunities of education and you know, we- we have a son who isn't in that groove, so we've had to change a lot ourselves. Those kids have been our teachers. Those kids have been our teachers. We have a son who is a- our Korean son just celebrated his 45th birthday a week ago today. He is- he is the kind of kid we couldn't produce biologically. He's extremely active. He's a EMT, paramedic, firefighter, and he- he just became a special tech water rescue-certified person, instructor actually, and he got his boat pilot license. So he has a skill set that's like it's in Korean, not us, oh my goodness, so he's been on the exciting side of teaching for us. So we've had to accept the limits that our kids have had, but we also experienced our kids with wildly different skills.

EE: Did your parents live long enough to see any of the positives?

CM: Well, they sort of were not too excited when I met my husband, because he was very left-wing and we had, you know, we were all about what I just talked about. So they were less than excited about that prospect of that marriage. And my mother made amends later. She could see it was ok. And she was very wonderful, yes, she did experience, let's see, two, she lived long enough to know about our two older sons and was extremely kind. My mother–racist is a very strong word, but I think it pretty well fits who–kind of, you know, her shadow side. She had many good qualities, but accepting people from different cultures was not one of her strong points and she was very kind to our children, so, yeah, that was good.

EE: That's pretty amazing.

CM: It wasn't easy. Grateful.

EE: Wow. So, the campus climate that when you were here probably fit in with a lot of what your parents were okay with, though. I mean it was primarily, you know, white

CM: Yup.

EE: Protestant

CM: Yup

EE: You know, comfortable families. There- there were some people who were richer or poorer, some who were, you know, pretty much ...

CM: Yeah, my mother had a little bit of a thing on–I don't need to give her too much airtime here, but–she liked movie stars. You know, she'd read People Mag- she liked prestige and money and things like that. So the fact that I went to an Eastern women's college, even though what I've said is true about them really wanting me to follow more in their footsteps, she was kind of proud of the fact that I was here, that I was doing something different. And, yes, the college climate, yeah, was fine.

EE: I mean, it wasn't bra-burning women in those days.

CM: No it, wasn't and I was kind of asleep. That sermon that I heard, which I said was life-changing truly. You know, I was kind of asleep before then, I really was. Part of my earlier history in grammar school and high school, I was a classmate in very young years, third- third to sixth grade, Hillary Rodham Clinton was my best friend and she talks of course, has talked often, publicly, about going with our church youth group to Civil Rights demonstrations in Chicago and all of these things that our youth minister had us do. Well, somehow my mother and dad, I don't know when that- I mean, I know that it happened, I know that it's true, but I was very shielded and I kind of brought that into Conn. So, my senior year and then like I, I think I said earlier in the talk by Professor Borelli, the seed was planted here. It didn't really germinate until after I left, but the seed was definitely planted. But I was also asleep, and this college campus, its beauty and its secl- it's not secluded-secluded, but it's- it's

EE: [unclear]

CM: Yeah, I was- I was kind of asleep.

EE: I use the word naive.

CM: Naive?

EE: I just …

CM: Yes, yeah.

EE: I don't know if you heard me say this morning, about the senior girl who I thought was abusing the ...

CM: Yes, the freshman girl, yeah.

EE: So, somebody came up to me who said she's a lesbian and said maybe they were in love, which might have been true too, but none of it occurred to me. None of it occurred that she was a lesbian or she was being abused. I just thought the senior was being so nice. I didn't know anyone who was that nice because the freshman girl was a sad person, unattractive, you know, hurting and- and we weren't that generous to be taking her under our wing.

CM: Totally agree with you. I didn't know the word lesbian when I got here. There was a rumor in my town, Park Ridge, that one of the Congregational ministers was gay, so I kind of peripherally understood the horror of course at the time, but I didn't know that. I- naive is not too strong a word. So, I was asleep in other areas, Civil Rights. I was the one who said the only protest I was in at Conn was when they didn't have snacks during Study Week. I mean that's ...

EE: Was that you?

CM: That was me. I'm a little bit embarrassed about that and the seed was planted and I've had a lot of years since Conn where, yeah … Oh, I had a varied career. I went back and got my master's in applied theology when I was 56. I left 25 years of practicing law and went back to graduate school in theology.

EE: What is applied theology?

CM: Applied theology is really cool because of the word applied. So, it's not like you have to wind up in a church being a minister. You can go out, you're equipped I guess, I hope, anyway, to do other things, so it- it wasn't sort of church accreditation or, whatever you call it, ordination. There was- there was an ordination track for those who chose it, but that wasn't what the program was about. It was interfaith, Catholic university, interfaith, 17 people, men and women, in my cohort, so really small, twelve different religious traditions. It was wild. We had Buddhists. We had- I was raised Methodist, but by that time I had- was a convinced Quaker, they had UCCs, they had two gay, outed Baptist men, two Wiccans, I mean, five Catholics, it was ... A Jew. It was great. It was awesome. Anyway, so then I- after that I not knowing what to do with my degree but knowing not church ministry, no, I'd been through too many politics at church, so, anyway, I became a spiritual counselor at a residential drug and alcohol treatment center, Hazleton …

EE: Oh, my goodness.

CM: Which was twelve years of complete joy and I took two years, my husband and I went in the Peace Corps. I took several years in Hazelton and then my husband and I–my husband had been a former Peace Corps volunteer–so he went on his second tour and ...

EE: Where did you go on- on the second tour?

CM: His second tour, my first, to Botswana.

EE: Wow.

CM: Yeah. And so we served in the life skills program, all focused, which all the focus in Botswana Peace Corps is on HIV/AIDS prevention.

EE: Right.

CM: Yeah, so then I went back to Hazleton.

EE: But your children were old enough that you could leave them then? Is that ...

CM: Yes. They were all adults. We returned from the Peace Corps in 2012. Our last child left home in February of 2006 and I had no local grandkids. That's the pivotal thing. If I had had local grandkids at the time, that never, never would have happened.

EE: And where are your grandchildren now?

CM: They're spread between Burlington, Vermont; Madison, Wisconsin; a twenty-year old in Atchison, Kansas, so he's grown. And then, let's see if I missed any ...

EE: You don't know.

CM: Portland. But the Portland ones were born in 2014 and 2016.

EE: So are the non-biological children married with grandchildren?

CM: Let's see. My Korean son has two children who are half Korean. They live thirty minutes from us, right over the border in Washington. Grayson, our- is Native American, he was the one who was in ten foster homes, he was, eventually–very rugged marriage, divorce, wife, his current ex-wife is currently in prison in Missouri–and between the two of them they managed to semi-

adequately parent two children and it fell apart. So, our grandson went to a family of his half sibling and our granddaughter, who's now sixteen, went into the care, guardianship, or our oldest birth daughter who lives in Burlington, Vermont. So, she's raising her niece and three biological sons. So she got a daughter and it's been difficult. So that's our non-biological kids. Jody is from Vietnam. She's very- well, she very- she came very close to dying last autumn and ...

EE: From illness, or …

CM: Yeah, auto-immune, she had auto-immune disorder, lupus, that's kind of the background and then she just developed interstitial lung disease. She was intubated twice in the hospital for two months. We had a surprise trip to Washington DC for what I thought would be three or four days and we ended up being there two months, my husband and I. It was really scary. She's married to a wonderful young man who's half-Japanese, half-Irish, and whose mother is named Yoko O'Brien, so we're pretty multi-cultural. Anyway, it's fabulous. Anyway …

EE: You get the prize.

CM: I get the prize. He- they do not have children and I took a courageous step and asked her, now that she's, she's not healthy, but she's definitely out of the scary zone. She said, "Maybe. Maybe they'll adopt." Her health has to be more stabilized. She's 32 so she has- she has a few more years. We'll see. So, yeah.

EE: Could any of this- could you have imagined any of this when you came to Conn? Or are we giving William Sloane Coffin all the credit?

CM: Let's give Conn and William Sloane Coffin the credit.

EE: Okay, agree.

CM: I found out who I was, unfettered by the pressures of a huge public high school, huge. I had over 1,000 students in my graduating class. There was just so much social pressure and club pressure and coed pressure and football pressure. Just too much and …

EE: But your parents thrived on that.

CM: They- they thrived on the Midwest, you know, until they retired to Florida. They just were, you know, it was who they were.

EE: And all this you see nature/nurture. What is it that …

CM: Boy, the adoption. I used to think, very naively, nurture is it, nurture is it. What I see is it's definitely plays a dance between the two. I am a totally convinced that the first, I don't know, those early years are so formative. You hear it theoretically and I experience it now, because I see, so my birth daughter, one of my birth daughters, the third one lives in Portland, I helped nanny her three-year old and four-year old boy- sons. And I see all of the love that's poured into them, all the stability, all the education, you know? Counting, blocks, jigsaw puzzles, everything that's poured into those two little boys, whether they're- it's precognitive or they'll remember it. And I know that every single one of my adoptive kids was way older than that when their lives fell apart and they were already falling apart by that time. So, what I've become firmly convinced is early childhood, I think that a lot of that can be mitigated. For our adoptive kids especially the kids in the US foster care system, I feel like they're paddling upstream, just barely holding it. Our two kids from foreign lands, Korea and Vietnam, very different, very different. They- they must have been loved. We don't know a lot about their early years, but I know it included stability and love because I see how they are. They're just incredible. They're just incredible stable, loving, connected adults. So, go figure, yeah.

EE: Well, I always say, and you remember the original computer cards they were big, they had little holes punched?

CM: Yes, yes.

EE: Do you remember what it said on the bottom of the card?

CM: I do not.

EE: It said, "Do not fold, spindle, or mutilate." Because you couldn't put it on the thing and I- I have only biological children, but I have five of them.

CM: You do?

EE: And they are–I would agree with you 1000% what you just said, because I- I now believe, which I had never believed before I had my own children is that they each have their little card and the holes are punched in different places …

CM: Exactly, that's a great metaphor.

EE: And you can teach them please and thank you or French and Spanish or whatever, but basically their personality is formed and it's not that you can't augment it or change it but the one who is always happy and funny and chipper was born that way.

CM: Yes.

EE: It's not because she was read 32 books and the other one got 25 books, you know, it's just she has a personality that's different. My other child who's perfectly successful and got in early decision to Harvard, but if you say, you know, well, "I like your green shirt," he'll say, "Well, it's not really green. What are you asking me?"

CM: Yes.

EE: He- he's- argumentation is built into everything with him.

CM: Do you see–I know I'm not interviewing you but–do you see that in the gene pool? I mean, somewhere in your family do you see that he picked that up?

EE: That's another ...

CM: We won't go there?

EE: Okay.

CM: Do you see grandchildren being raised? Or not yet?

EE: I have 15 grandchildren about to be 16.

CM: You- you beat me. You're the one who beat me. I have twelve. I think we're- I- I don't think anybody's ahead of you.

EE: You have more children than I have.

CM: Yes, I counted. I looked at Koine Gold and I counted. Oh, five kids, 15 grandkids and you have a picture right there.

EE: One more in July. My- and that daughter says she's going to have one more but she's already 37 and her husband's 50, but that's a whole other story. Anyhow ...

CM: It makes me tired.

EE: But it's interesting to hear what you say.

CM: And I have to say that, and I can say this with some authority, giving birth and watching an airplane land, which was our- how our Korean son came to us in 1981 or going to Vietnam to the orphanage and meeting our daughter for the first time are very different experiences, but no less powerful one from the other. I am- the bonding between those- those two kids, who, like I say, were healthier emotionally to begin with is, it's equal to birth kids. In fact, I'm not- I'm kind of- I was trying to mitigate the pain of almost having our Vietnamese daughter die and I tried to kind of convince myself, well, I don't know if you want to record this but, "I didn't know her for the first eight years, she's Vietnamese, she's adopted." I tried to mitigate the pain of losing her and it didn't work. It just did not work. We're as attached to those kids as our birth kids. It's just bizarre. When you look at them, we don't look alike.

EE: The foster kids, did they ever want to find their biological parents?

CM: That's a good question. Our son Grayson, who's Creek Indian, probably, you know, it was a complicated adoption because he did not go to the tribe, there were no resources. That's a longer story than I want to get into. I met his biological mother who was a heroin addict. His father was incarcerated for long-term in a federal prison. He had a good-bye visit with his biological mother and he'd had a failed adoption. So, he was coming into our home to be adopted. It was actually a friend through the Quaker meeting of our older son, our Korean son. They were buddies at church, basically. So I met his biological mother who was supposed to, the agency said, come to closure with him, wish him well, and send him on his way. How tough is that? She did nothing appropriate. Nothing. And so, you know, it became a very awkward for him closure. In fact, she announced to him that all the time he thought his father was Mexican, his true father was Creek Indian. So, he left that last interview, his meeting with his bio-mom totally confused. She said, "Your name is not Mario Duarte. Your name is Grayson Wolf Billie." So this ten-year-, he was probably eleven at the time, I mean, talk about a mind mess. So, I said to him, what-, we had called him Mario, that's what we thought his name was, and I said, "What- what do you want to do with that? How are you with that?" He just looked at me and he said, "I'll be both." So, yeah, it was- it was a hard time. You can see why we had to do a lot of therapy. He's not in jail. We're not supporting him. I think he is being supported by a girlfriend in Kansas. I mean, he had a better life than his birth parents. And his kids, I do believe, will have a better- more successful life than he. But, he went through just too much, too much.

EE: I must say that I am willing to bet that you are the only graduate of Connecticut College who has a story like this. No, I'm serious. This is a pretty extraordinary story.

CM: We were called. We were just like, this is crazy, this is crazy to do this. But my husband …

EE: Grew up in a family like you?

CM: Yeah, his parents were more liberal. I adored his parents. Finally, I- I- 100% conditional- unconditional, just, I was the first daughter, three brothers. He was a smartie guy. He got into Yale from Tacoma, Washington and his parents were super intelligent and pretty liberal, but his mother was a little bit … You know she thought maybe Korea was giving damaged goods to us. You know, why would they give a kid away? So, she was skeptical. She didn't tell us til later. But they were very- they were amazing people. They were a lot like my parents. They played bridge, they smoked, they drank, they belonged to a country club. They were really different. It was so crazy. They loved each other because they had all those things in common.

EE: That's interesting. Well. Well, you have done an amazing job here and we have gone ten minutes over, but I didn't want to cut you off. Is there anything that you would like to say as sort of a closing statement about ...

CM: I want to say something about Connecticut College, because of everything I've told you and our life has been about looking at the margins and I've just decided that being a very poor donor to Connecticut College over the years because our resources, our energy, our money just has been going to what I have just described and as I've approached this fiftieth reunion, I have really reflected, you know we wrote for Koine Gold, been thinking about coming here, you know it's all been up, right? And- and I had just been flooded with this new gratitude for Connecticut College that put me on the path that became my life, and, you know, I've given my first, for me, fairly, comparatively not significant, but for me a significant donation, I will be including Conn in my will, trust, with a bequest. I have belatedly, very belatedly, come to this just incredible appreciation for this school setting me on this path that, like I said, became my life. So that, I hope, you will include in this history.

EE: Well, thank you very much. That is a magnificent way to end this. Thank you.

CM: You're welcome.