

ABOUT YOUR FAMILY...



1. From what country or countries did your family ancestors emigrate? When was this and where did they settle?

Ireland

*1850's - 60's New York City - in the
(Manhattan)*

2. What are your parents' names?

Mary and Hugh

3. When and where were they born?

*New York City - (Manhattan)
1875 - 76*

4. What was your mother's maiden name?

Mary Frances Sullivan

5. What do you remember most about your mother from your childhood?

She was a very stunning looking woman, with a queenly carriage, and beautiful pre-maturely white hair, fair skin and brown eyes, and was about 5'7" tall and straight.

6. What do you remember most about your father?

He was a fine looking man with a wonderful disposition, quick wit, kind, lovable, high morals, a loving husband and father.

7. What work did your parents do?

Mother was the housewife and mother.

Father, a salesman of wholesale stationery for a company now extinct whose buyers were - Tiffany, Mark Cross, Gordan, Cartier, Brentano, J. A. O. Schwarz - my brother, sister and I always profited by these contacts as you can imagine. Father was their favorite salesman, and they would pay him by sending beautiful gifts to us at Christmas.

8. What is your birthdate?

January 29, 1904

9. Where were you born?

Bronx, N.Y.


10. Was there anything unusual about the circumstances of your birth?

Yes, I was a breach birth!
(at home)
(That's upside down, you know, so,
"don't be surprised at some of my
"far out" ideas & actions, ok?!!)

11. Were you born in a hospital or at home?

at home!

12. What is your full name and how was it chosen? Does it have a special meaning?

Helen Mary Celestine! I was named
Helen for my grandmother who was Ellen (part of Helen
Mary at Confirmation, ^{for the Blessed Virgin} along with Celestine (Saint)
Sister Celestine brain washed the entire class ^{and} ^{and} ^{and}
me all took Celestine (which is a man's name)
I'm sure that is how we were all promoted that
June. I'm sure Celestine was a wonderful saint, but all
I ever saw of the name was a finger all of that time called
Celestine's Finger  I always use Mary, I love it.

13. Who in your family do you most look like?

My Mother

14. How many brothers and sisters did you have? (List them in the order they were born and include children who may have died early in life or at birth)

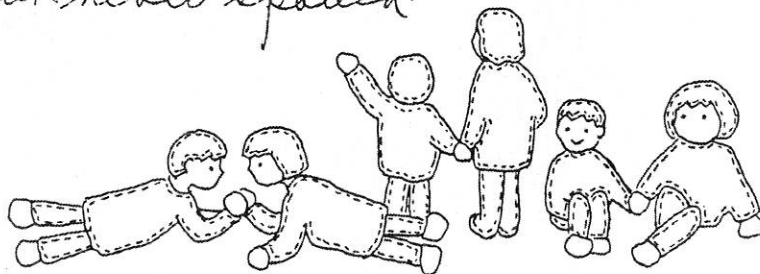
1 brother ————— May 22 - 1907

1 sister ————— January 6, 1917

In the intervening ten years, my mother had two miscarriages (which circumstance ^{was} only whispered!!! like it was a bad word! Why? who knows way back then!

15. Where did you fit among them?

I was number 1 child, loved by Mother, but idealized by Father but never spoiled.



16. To whom did you feel closest?

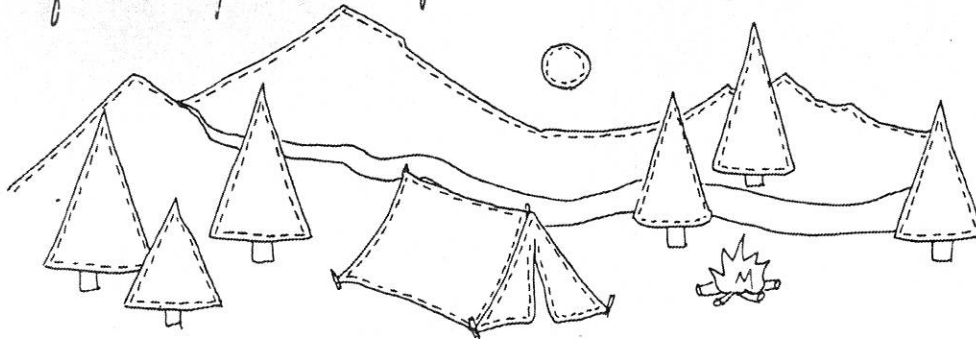
My Father

17. How did you spend your time together?

Visiting relatives, reading, being very close, having him teach me to love nature, birds especially and flowers which I still do.

18. Did you ever take trips or vacations with your family? Where did you go? Tell about a favorite one.

Not long trips, just to Rockaway Beach and Coney Island during Father's vacations when both places were really beautiful places, with mostly comfortable, middle class families, with their children, had wonderful days in the surf, and in the amusement parks when one had no fear of being held up or shot at as it is today. 1984



19. Was another language besides English spoken in your home? What was it?

no

20. Did your family attend a church or synagogue? Was religion an important part of your family life?

We were Roman Catholics, it had a very important place in our family life which it still does in my own.

21. Did your family have enough money? Was it ever a concern for you?

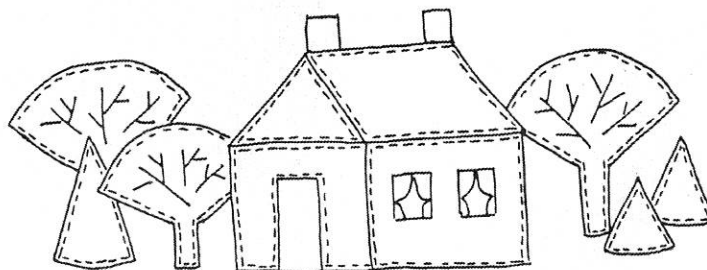
We were very comfortable always when I was growing up.

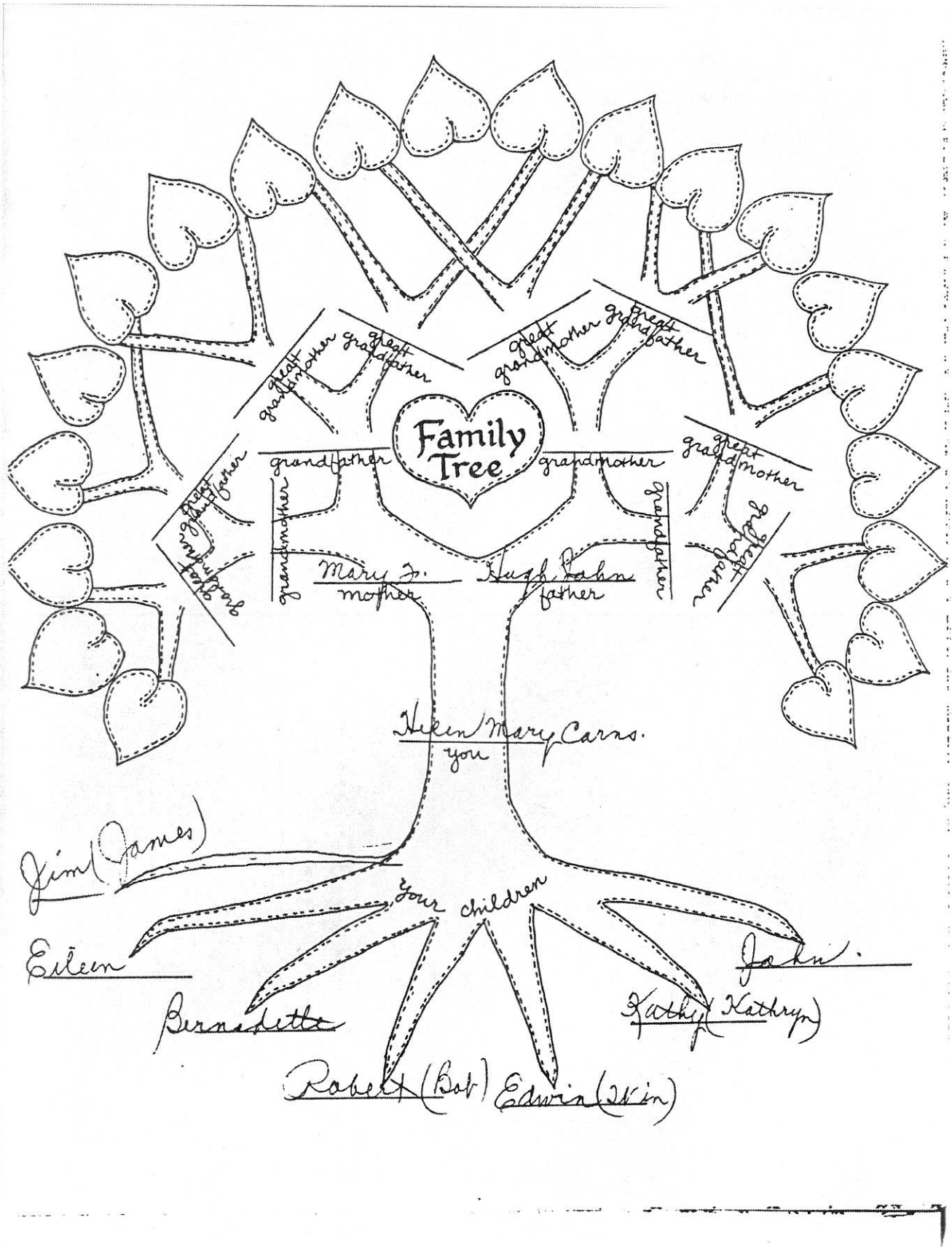
22. What were one or two of the worst times in your family like?

When my Grandmother (mother's mother) died, a year before I was married, ^{and} she did not know I had received my engagement ring, which she had been hoping for. Grandma lived with us so it was like having two mothers.

23. What were one or two of the best times like?

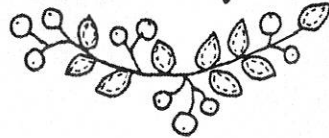
My years growing up, looking back, were always good times. We had a happy home, thank God, and I had a very happy teenage life especially.





WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE...

(2-12 yrs.)



1. What is your first memory going back as far as you can?

at 3 years of age, seeing my new born brother a few hours after his birth, and crying like mad, because he looked so awfully red and was screaming crying. Why wouldn't I cry, they awakened me at about 2 in the morning! May 22, 1907

2. Where did you live? What do you most remember about your home(s)?

First in the Tremont section of the Bronx and then in the Gardenham section. Always had a nice home.

3. Did you have any nicknames? What were they and did you like or dislike them?

No — except from my dear Father, who called me "Dolly" until I was about 16 when I asked him to please stop because others were beginning to do so.

4. Did you have any pets? Tell about them.

Imagine me now, at 80 being called "Dolly"? Like calling the "Queen Mary" a tug boat or should it be the other way around?

5. What did you do for fun? Describe your favorite toy or game.

Played War (Civil of course) Cowboys and Indian War (I always played an Indian of course), marbles, jump rope, mumble peg, roller skated, speed ice skating, later on skiing, horse back riding, track, softball.
 Whatever a girl didn't do in my day in sports!!

6. Were you ever really sick? !!

Not really. Just measles, whooping cough Chicken pox —

7. What do you remember about the grammar school you attended? How did you get there?

Our Lady of Mercy in the Fardham section. We walked what else, except a bad rain or snow then my brother and I got 10¢ each for return trip on Webster Ave trolley (5¢ each way)

8. Did you have any favorite books or stories?

Janhoe, Shakespeare, Count of Monte Christo, Tale of two Cities, — you name it, I loved to read. — Still do.

9. What did you want to be when you grew up?

To be married and have six children. I want one better, I had seven and loved every one, still do, though Jimmie left us in 1954 at age 24. Terrible loss. I shall never forget, but I think of him with pleasure always, and I'm sure he is happy in Heaven.



10. What did your parents want you to do or be?

To be a good Catholic woman and to be happy in my chosen future life.

11. Do you remember how much things cost?

Clothes - A really good expensive dress would be about \$50.00 in the '1920's!!!

Food - I can't remember much, just a few.
Loaf of bread 5¢ - Milk 5¢ qt. - eggs 25¢ dozen -

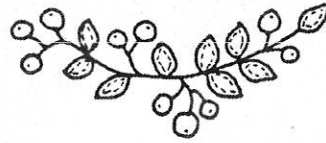
Movies - .05¢ - 10¢ (——— 50¢ a real spectacular) like "The Birth of a Nation" or "The Ten Commandments" or some such.

Toys - dolls, roller skates, jump ropes, marbles, doll carriages, rocking horses, toy trains (wind up, before electric trains were invented) tricycles, bicycles, sleds.

Gasoline - about 50¢ gal in the 1920's - 30's.

Stamps - 1 cent for a card
2 cents for a letter

WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP (12 to 20 yrs.)..



1. What household chores or jobs did you have to do?

None because Grandma lived with us and she and mother did everything.

2. Did you get an allowance? How did you usually spend it?

No allowance, just asked for something when we needed or wanted and got it if it was not something considered harmful.

3. What did you and your family use for transportation?

*Trolley cars, trains, boats or
"Shanks mare" - (walked)*

4. How many years of secondary school did you complete?

Grade School — 3 yrs High School

5. What parts of school did you like best? What parts did you like least?

Liked - All English, History, Civics (Social Studies)

Did not like Math, except for algebra
In high school - Physical Education

6. Did you play any sports in school?

Soft ball — pitcher
Basket ball — guard
and all Phys Ed.

7. Were you involved in any music or drama activities? Tell about them.

Only school or Church plays. and playing piano which I still love to do.

8. Did you receive any awards or prizes for achievements in athletics, scholarship, etc.?

No.

9. Were you a member of any clubs? What were they?

No

10. What songs and dances were popular?

Many of the old songs are still sung today. Like Charleston, Black Bottom, Jay Walk, Waltz, were the dances.

11. What kind of clothing did you wear? How is it different from clothes worn by young people today?

12. Who most influenced your thinking during this time and why?

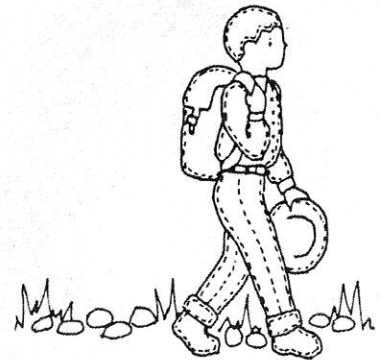
My Father & Mother always seemed to have the right answers for me, especially my Father.

13. As a teenager, how did you get along with your parents?

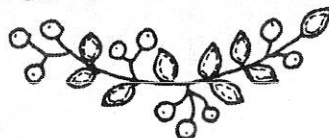
Very well.

14. At what point did you move away from home? Why and where did you go?

Not until I married at age 25, and then, had my own home, not far from my parents.



FAMILY TRADITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS...



1. Did you celebrate any special family or ethnic holidays at your house? Describe them.

Always our Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Graduation and of course, weddings

2. As a child, how did you usually celebrate your birthday?

Always with a beautiful Birthday cake with the candles, at home with my family, and sometimes had a Birthday party with friends and family.

3. What was the best gift you ever got when you were young?

a beautiful gold ring with my birth stone, garnet, for 16th Birthday.

4. What was the best gift you ever gave?

5. Were there any traditional or favorite recipes that were usually prepared for family gatherings?

The American traditional Thanksgiving dinner, Turkey with all the trimmings, and very similar dinners for family gatherings.

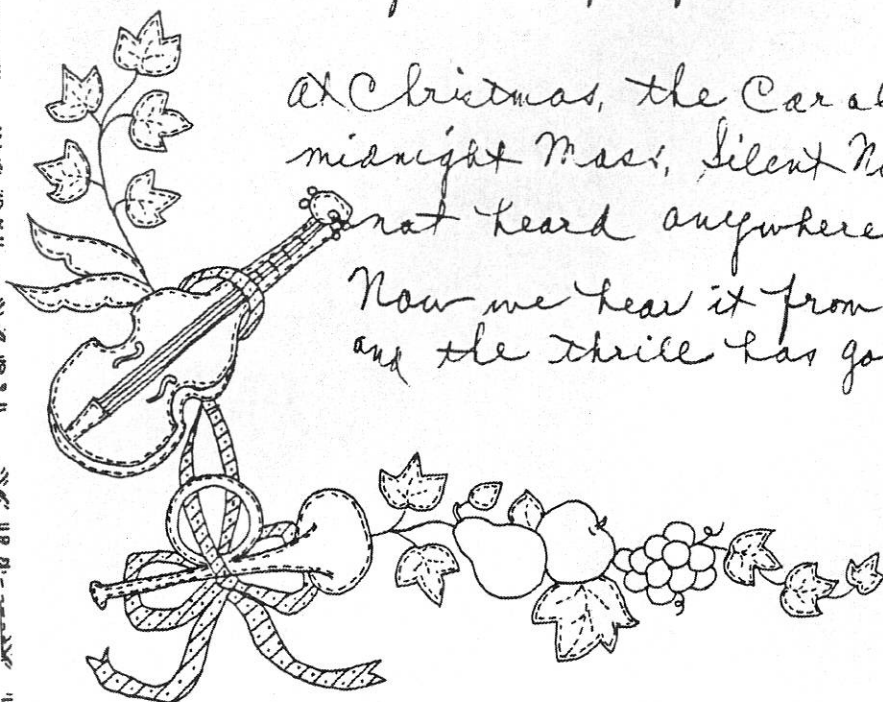
6. What religious holidays were celebrated in your home? Describe the family traditions associated with each, special foods served, favorite music and readings, etc.

Christmas and Easter

The Christmas tree, traditional Christmas gift exchanging, midnight Mass, and of course Christmas dinner.

Easter, the children all excited over the Easter Bunny gifts and for the adults, the joyous Easter Mass and its religious significance.

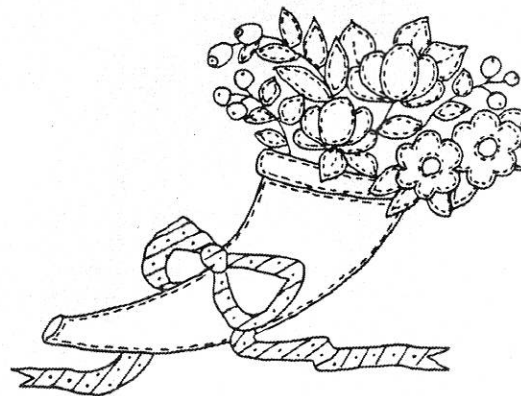
At Christmas, the Carols, and at midnight Mass, Silent Night, which was not heard anywhere till Christmas Eve. Now we hear it from Thanksgiving on, and the thrill has gone somewhat.



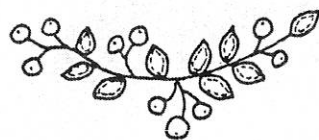
7. What family or holiday traditions have been the most meaningful to you?

The Christmas Tree and all its decorations.

Easter and Spring flowers, and the Birthday celebrations of all my children



WHEN YOU GOT MARRIED...



1. How did you meet grandpa/grandma?

*Through mutual friends at the beach
one summer day.*

2. How old were you when you met?

*16 when I met Jim, 18 when I met him again
and dated him for seven years. He was five years
older than I.*

3. What attracted you to each other?

*It was just a natural case of
love at first sight. No one else
meant a thing to me after my first
date with Jim Carroll, and it means the
same with him. I do think though that
the fact that I was very vivacious and
he was the quiet type, worked both ways.*

4. What do you remember most about the courtship?

Jimi's gentlemanly manner and his goodness and always being respectful, and loving.

5. When and where was the wedding?

Our Lady of Mercy Church in the Bronx.

6. What did you wear?

Traditional, white dress, veil, pearls.

7. What is your strongest memory from your wedding?

The deep happiness I felt, and the beautiful church wedding with all the trimmings. — Beautiful flowers and palms on the altar, five bridesmaids and my maid of honor, (whom I still see at least once a month in weather permitting, to date 1984 !! and we are still going strong at 86! The maid of honor I mean.

8. Who was there (in general)?

Many relatives and friends of both families.

9. Did you go on a honeymoon? Tell about it.

Three weeks, through all New England States, Canada, and all upstate New York, including, of course, Niagara Falls. In Canada, Quebec and Montreal (first marriage)

10. What was your adjustment to married life like? Were there any surprises?

Since we had dated for seven years, we knew each other pretty well, so we had no difficulty in adjusting. We were very much in love.

It was a happy but short marriage.

Jim died when we were married only five years. He had Jim Jr., Eileen and Bernice

who were 4-2 and 7 mo old when Jim died. He was only 35.



One nice surprise - Jim was made an assistant district attorney the second year we were married in the Bronx!

11. Tell a favorite story or two about grandpa/grandma.

12. Have you been married more than once? When and to whom?

Yes. In 1937 I married Earl ("Zeo") Graham a man Jim Carrall and I knew very well. I must have done something very good in my relatively short life (30 years) to have known two such very good men and married them. "Zeo" was a bachelor; married me with 3 young children - 6-4-3 then we had four, Bob, Win, Kathy and John, but to "Zeo" they were all his! What a man!

13. How times were different then...

Entertainment -

Toys -

Chores or Cleaning -

Shopping - Now everything is in one large shopping mall. Years ago there was - the Butcher - the Baker the Druggist, etc etc, and one covered several blocks walking from store to store, and quite a few hours were spent.



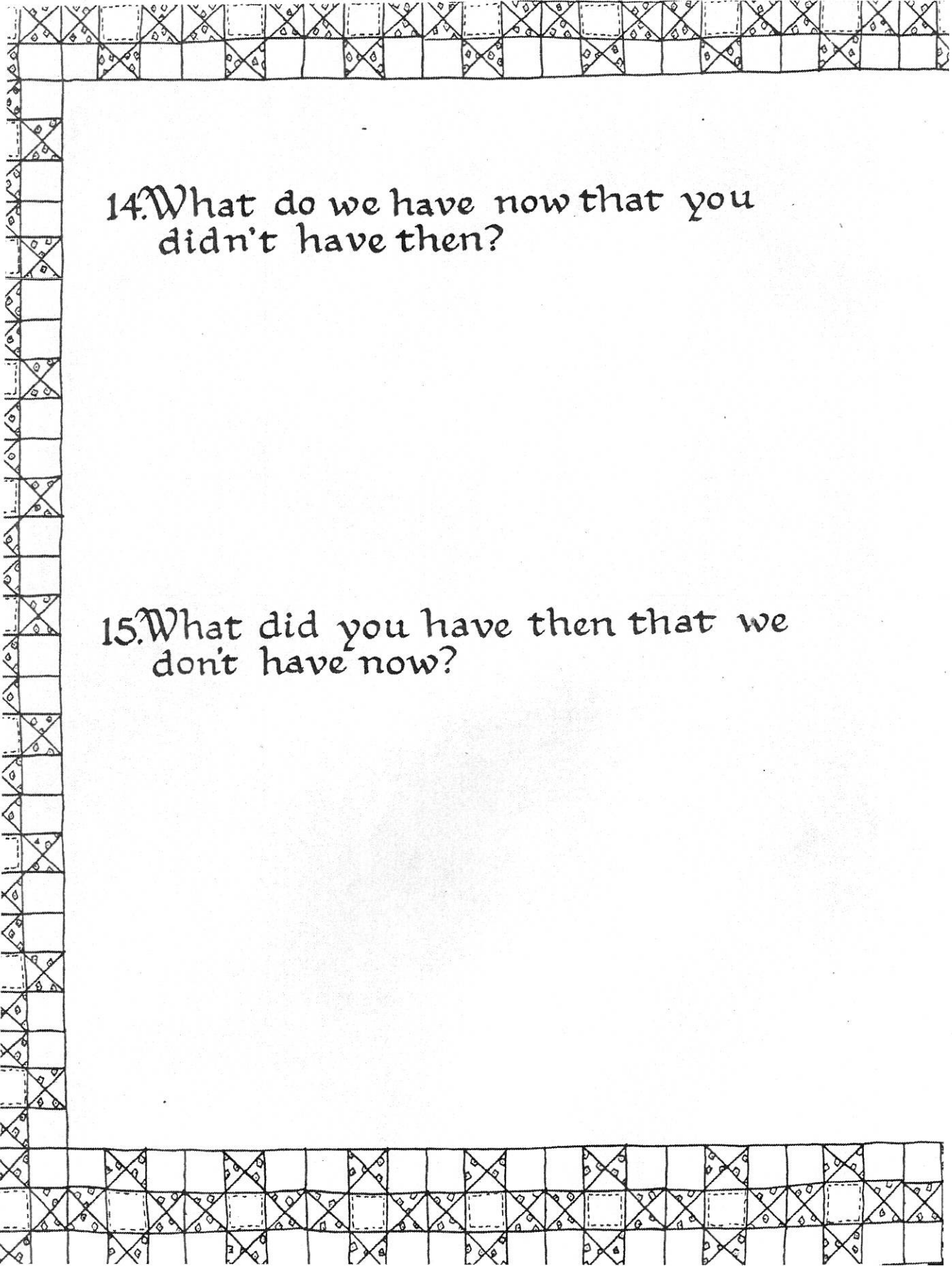
Transportation -

Money/Economy -

Working -

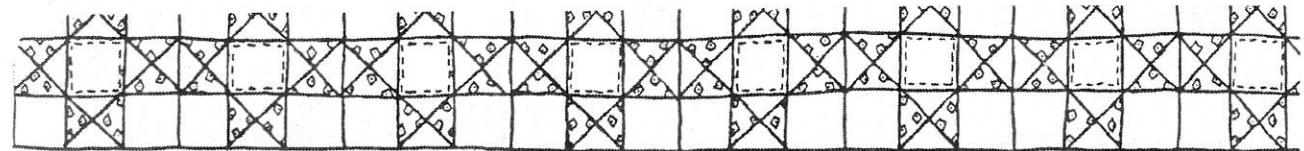
Cooking -

Raising a family -



14. What do we have now that you
didn't have then?

15. What did you have then that we
don't have now?



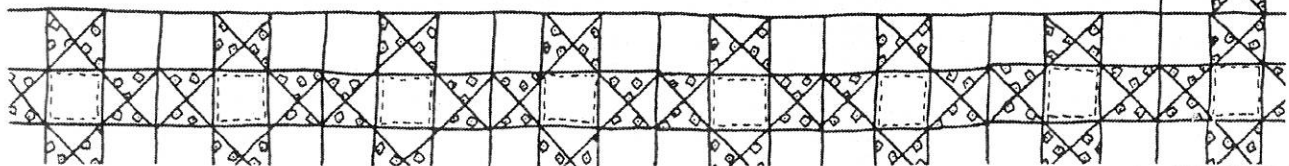
BIG EVENTS IN YOUR LIFE...



1. What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?

2. What was your proudest moment?
When I saw my first child.

3. Most embarrassing moment?



4. Saddest or most painful time?

It was my parents died and grandma died, but the most painful was Jimmie's death in 1954 at age 24. Jim Sr died at age 35 and it was a terrible shock, but, the death of a child is well I can't explain, one really never gets over.

5. Where have you lived as an adult? Where have you most enjoyed living and why? Bronx, Brooklyn and Long Island.

Long Island because of the beautiful sea shore and beaches, and the big old house that we more than filled.

6. What is the biggest trip you have ever taken? Where, when and with whom?

To the West Indies on my second honeymoon with "Grandpa" "Zev" in 1937 — (March 17th we were married)

7. Did you ever serve in the military or become involved in wartime service? When and where?

No to serve in the military
but gave blood whenever I could,
to be used for our service men who would
need it.

8. Did you receive any higher education beyond high school? Where?

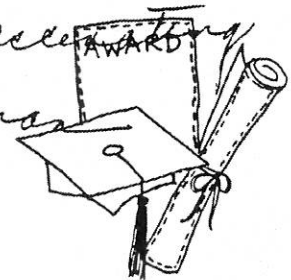
Secretarial school. A private
Business school — Bronx

9. What was your major course of study?

Always liked English and was
good in the subject.

10. What honors or educational degrees have you earned?

I was selected as a juror on a case
that lasted 3 months. It was a fascinating
experience and I was the only woman
juror!



11. Apart from school, what have been your most important learning experiences?

Just life, and living it from day to day and one does learn a great deal from just life itself.

12. To what organizations have you belonged?

(List only those that have been most important to you) My Rosary altar Society in every Parish in which I have lived.

The Ladies of Charity of New York.

The Cancer Guild in our Parish Our Lady of Lourdes ^{Malverne CA}

13. Have you ever been hospitalized? What for?

For seven wonderful children, a hysterectomy, neck and a slight heart condition.

14. What was your first full-time job?
How much did you earn and what
responsibilities did you have?

In the New York Life Insurance Company,
figuring agents Commissions. This was in
1922 before Social Security and I received
\$13.50 per week with full course lunch!

15. What kinds of work have you done?

For pay - Secretarial
Dental Assistant.

Volunteer -

Salesperson
Hostess - Vatican pavilion Worlds
Fair N.Y. 1964-65
worker in our Thrift and gift shop at Our Lady of Lourdes parish



16. What have been your favorite hobbies or pastimes?

Reading.
Playing piano

17. Do you have any collections (e.g. stamps, coins, rocks)?

Small coin collection, match book collection (never smoked in my life) and a number of books.

18. Are there any family heirlooms that have been passed from one generation to another?

Just a pair of brass candle sticks brought here by my great grand mother from Ireland in the 1850's.

19. Have you ever met anyone famous?

Met and married a famous athlete and met many famous personalities through him, (my second husband) who became Poppo or Grandpa to all my grandchildren and Daddy to all my children, "Ziv" Graham

20. What major inventions have been developed in your lifetime?

Everything from electric lighting, telephone, radio, television, sound movies, automobiles replacing horse and carriage, airplanes, refrigerators, you name anything my children and grandchildren have today, all come in since I was born in 1904 !!!

21. To what political party have you belonged?

Democratic Party.

22. Have you been actively involved in politics, either as a candidate or campaign supporter?

No, only as an elections inspector on the election board.



23. As you look back do you have any favorite years? What made them so special?

My years from age 30 till now, (age 80-1984) Having my children, living with them, teaching them, training them for future life as well as I could, and loving each and every one which I still do and always will.

24. What is the one time in your life you'd like to live over?

I have enjoyed every year of my life, single, married and re-married and especially as a mother so, if the remainder of my life is as full and happy I have nothing to wish to live over!



YOUR VIEWS AND FEELINGS...



1. What are some of the best books you have ever read?

Count of Monte Cristo, 20,000 leagues under the sea, Uncle Tom's Cabin, Gone with the Wind, Cyrano de Bergerac and many of the current best sellers too numerous to mention.

2. What is one of your favorite sayings?

"No one is indispensable."

3. What do you most value in a friend?

Sincerity

4. What issues or causes have you felt strongly about?

Divorce

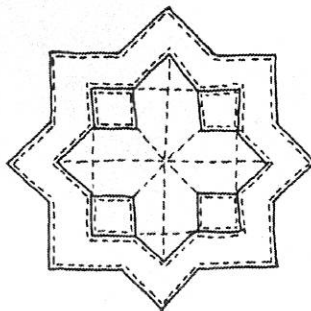
Adultery

Abortion

Religious persons -
priests & nuns - breaking
their vows, and becoming
involved in politics.

5. What values or religious beliefs do you hold dear?

My Catholic religion beliefs and values.



6. In times of trouble, who or what has helped pull you through?

My religion and prayer.

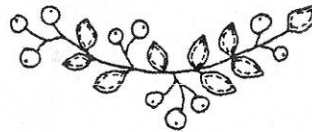
7. What major happenings in the world have affected your life most?

8. What's your best advice for your grandchildren?

First of all, love and respect your parents, and try to follow their rules and regulations to the best of your ability, and talk over your problems with them, if you differ drastically with their views.

Line up to your religious beliefs, which I think will be Catholic, and believe in prayers, they are powerful.

ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN...



1. What are your children's names and when were they born?

James 1930	Robert 1938
Eileen 1932	Edwin 1939
Bernadette 1934	Kathryn 1941
	John 1943

2. How did you choose their names? Have any of them been passed down through the family?

Jim was James Jr.
 Eileen - for my name
 Bernie - St Bernadette's 2/11
 Robert B - a scotish figure - Robert Bruce of the Clansrahan
 Edwin - after my brother
 Kathryn - "Zev's sister" and grand aunt.
 John - for a very dear priest friend of both Jim and "Zev"

3. What are some of your favorite recollections of your family life when your children were young?

all our days together, especially in the summer, our beach days and New Rochelle Club days at that beach. School days and school plays to watch their wonderful acting and singing! Such talent!!! ???

4. In what ways did you raise your children similarly to your parents?

To be good Catholics,
Love their American birthright,
and to be law-abiding American citizens.

5. In what ways did you raise them differently?

To be more independent
to show their love for us, and
for each other with natural
reactions, and not feel embarrassed
about it, and to even say "I love
you" if the occasion presented
itself.

(they still do to me)

6. What parts of being a parent have been most difficult or trying for you?

Trying to explain the
facts of life!

Today the schools make
it much easier for parents.



No one told us much in my day, and
I know now, that it was because
most of them didn't know much
either!!

7. What parts were easiest or most rewarding?

Teaching them basic manners at home, in other homes, and in restaurants, travel, with older people, relatives and seeing them carry out most of our lessons when opportunity arose.

They weren't perfect children but they tried and we loved each and everyone dearly -

8. How did you find out that you'd become a grandparent for the first time? How did you feel?

I was so happy and proud, when Eileen and Ed told me of the coming event, and my happiness was indescribable. "Zev" was thrilled too.

9. What part of being a grandparent do you like best?

It's the grandchildren (even though some are now adults) will say "I love you grandma" and they mean it!

