

**Postcards from Falmouth Oral History Transcript**

Recorded: March 11, 2022

Oral Historian: James Kalperis, Otis Porter

Interviewer: Barbara Kanellopoulos

Topic: Falmouth Public Schools

Note: The right column references postcards by identifiers searchable in the Digital Commonwealth online collection.

0:00	[Music]	
0:45	hello and welcome to the Falmouth public library's program of oral history	
0:52	I am here today with two oral historians who will	
0:57	talk about the Falmouth library's collection of historic postcards that trigger memories	
1:04	of Falmouth's past it is March 11 2022	
1:11	and we are going to hear about what was going on in some of the early days of	
1:16	Falmouth welcome to the program and I'll let I'll let you introduce yourselves we	
1:23	have the oral historians go ahead thank you I'm Otis Porter	
1:29	from Falmouth lived here all my life and I was a teacher at Falmouth High School and before that	#falmouthhighschool #falmouthpublicschools
1:35	Lawrence School the junior high but I was also a student at the Mullen School which was then	#lawrenceschool #mullenschool
1:42	known as the Village School and the Hall School which was next door to it which has been torn down since yes	#villageschool #hallschool
1:49	and I arrived here in 1955 as a teacher science teacher	
1:55	and later on and as an administrator and I retired in 1994. yes and Jim	
2:02	Kalperis is well known as Kalpy his former students	
2:09	always had that affectionate term for him so welcome to the program let's begin by	

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2:16	looking at some of the earliest schools in Falmouth Otis you have some memories of that yes I do the first school we'll	
2:23	talk about or mention in brief is the current Chamber of Commerce building on Academy	#chamberofcommerce Gunning_Village_Bldg_0236 Gunning_Village_Bldg_0237
2:30	Lane and originally it was set up as Lawrence Academy after Shubael Lawrence around	#shubaellawrence
2:36	1842 donated ten thousand dollars to	
2:41	create this school it was a private academy at that point and a little bit later on the town of	
2:46	Falmouth petitioned the general court or the state supreme court	
2:52	to take the funds and use it for public school and it became known as Lawrence High	#lawrencehighschool
2:57	School and that was the genesis of the public school there in Falmouth	
3:03	I'm sure the early history of Falmouth town meeting would have records of the	
3:08	of the community coming together to make that to make that vote oh yes they	
3:14	probably do and the town records like in Town Hall with all those town meeting votes that's	
3:19	really interesting so now we're coming to the well before we talk about	
3:27	Jim your experience of the first of the first high school that was the Lawrence High	
3:34	School tell us about what happened to that high school on Main Street well that was	
3:40	part of a four building green campus I guess you could call it before Katharine Lee Bates Road was put in	
3:48	there and we'll mention about the elementary schools but the old high school	Gunning_Village_Bldg_0280 through 0287
3:53	went up around 1891 and that was where the library parking	
3:59	lot is currently and if you notice on Main Street across from the Indian restaurant and	
4:07	the breakfast restaurant there there's a sidewalk that goes up and that was	
4:12	originally the sidewalk to the Lawrence High School from 1891	
4:17	right interesting thing that I was telling Barbara and Jim when I was a boy	

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4:23	going to Hall School in grade six the old Lawrence High School was torn	
4:29	down and burned right there you saw the ashes I saw the ashes I saw	
4:36	the flames too of course we wouldn't do that now with a public building or any kind of a	
4:41	building just burn it right there but right it was right yeah very interesting	
4:47	so that Main Street high school got transferred to what is now the Lawrence School	
4:55	or the junior high and Jim you remember you were a teacher there when at the new	
5:02	high school at the where the Lawrence School is now yes and	
5:08	the stories I heard when this the new Lawrence High School	
5:15	and by the way the movie Lawrence of Arabia came out at the same time so it	
5:20	was you know when I was involved in some of the sports activities and so on and we used	
5:27	to go to some of the other schools here comes the Arabians they used to say to us really	
5:33	so it was it was fun but I do remember uh	
5:39	some of the teachers that were in both schools uh Ugo Tassinari and John	
5:47	Quick and some of these names that I'm sure some of these people listening to this	
5:52	program watching this program will remember they told me that the day the school	
5:59	opened the students all assembled in the old	
6:05	high school and whatever they could bring and carry by hand	
6:11	they all marched from that school	
6:16	over to the new Lawrence School it was quite an adventure I don't know Otis if you	
6:23	were part of that or not no I was the second uh group to go in in 1954 it opened in	
6:29	1953. well that seemed like a convenient way to get some some	
6:36	material transfer it certainly sounds a bit like New England frugality too	
6:41	instead of hiring movers that that's pretty amusing now you were	
6:47	a teacher at right I was a teacher and that was interesting at that time	

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6:53	because that high school was a six year high school	
7:00	six seven 9 10 11 and 12. and uh	
7:07	it was it was interesting from the point of view that	
7:13	we enjoy we could enjoy the younger people	
7:19	it was it was it was nice seeing young people and	
7:24	the difference oh yes there were certain	
7:30	I'm sure Otis remembers this too there are certain ways you could enter the school	
7:35	oh if you were a senior you were allowed to go through the front doors	
7:41	and up the stairs otherwise you entered on either one of the two wings of the school the uh	
7:49	let's call them the underclassmen the that's glorious the lower classmen yeah yes and the and	
7:56	the uh when the lunchtimes came the younger people ate first and then they cleaned up the cafeterias	
8:09	and then the older I would say the ninth graders and up yes	
8:16	went into the school into the cafeteria at that time what they did Barbara	
8:22	I was there for grade seven through seventh grade was on the lower floor	
8:28	eighth grade went up to the next floor but it was like on the wings and the rest of it was all high school	
8:35	and what Kalpy was just saying that center staircase was reserved for staff and seniors only yeah and you could	
8:43	never go up those center stairs unless you were escorted right and the funny part of that was that	
8:50	when the seniors graduated the juniors even though they were still	
8:55	juniors went up those stairs it was a lot of fun you mean it was a sort of rite of passage rite of passage exactly	
9:03	how interesting and everyone paid attention to it really yeah really they did and I'm I'm sure yes sir	

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9:10	but now were you a student there when it suddenly became very overcrowded yes I	
9:16	was a student there until 1960 when our graduating class	
9:22	happened and it was just starting to get overcrowded because a couple of years later they made the intermediate school	
9:29	which covered uh grade six seven and eight and I first started teaching there	
9:35	and then when the new high school the current one on Gifford Street opened up we all transferred in junior high	
9:43	to large school it was taken you know the name Lawrence High School was taken off and went to	
9:48	Falmouth High School yes and we kept that as Lawrence but there are some other things too we can	
9:55	talk about if you wish on the elementary schools yes let's get to that while we're still	
10:02	talking about this newly built high school from Main Street to where the Lawrence School is now	
10:09	there's something peculiar about the architecture because Jim uh wasn't it possible for some students	
10:16	to find secret passageways that's interesting in the fact that	
10:23	originally in the original plans there was an elevator scheduled for that school	
10:29	well for one reason or another it never got built but the space	
10:34	that was going to be needed ended up being in back of the lockers the lockers in that	
10:42	school were placed all in all the corridors	
10:48	both the with both wings even in some in the front isn't that the way it is today	
10:54	pretty much yes yeah so go on so uh well	
11:01	not at the high school I ever at Lawrence in Lawrence yeah but at the high school they were all down yeah	
11:08	we'll leave that alone so at the time when I was uh	
11:15	doing certain administrative work uh	
11:20	of which was disciplining youngsters and so forth once in a while not me though	

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11:25	no but once in a while somebody would escape	
11:31	and go running down the corridor and obviously I'd go galloping after them	
11:36	to see if I could corral them and when I get around the corner they disappeared	
11:43	and I couldn't understand what happened well after a while somebody	
11:48	ratted out on them and told us what was really happening is that	
11:54	if you knocked out the back of these uh	
11:59	lockers there was a big space there and that space allowed you	
12:04	to move from one end of the building to the other and not only that you were able to get	
12:10	up into the attic off the second floor to the	
12:16	attic and an interesting situation occurred that one year we were	
12:22	examining what was going on there and for some reason	
12:29	we got up into the attic and there was an airplane in there it had been built by	
12:36	young Teddy Tripp Dr. Tripp's son who was a magnificent brilliant young man	#tripp
12:43	and I don't know how he got all the stuff up there but you know the wingspan was at	
12:49	least 10 feet oh my gosh and yeah	
12:54	and I'm sure other things occurred up there I remember one youngster I was told	
13:00	fell through the ceiling oh good grief you know he stepped on the right wrong	
13:05	spot and his leg came down through the ceiling those are stories that	
13:11	history let's leave it at that well it sort of lets us know that students know how to make the best use of their time	
13:18	although some of that might have been class time that that's really interesting so let's	
13:24	go back then to the of the early we did have a grammar school yes we did	
13:30	the grammar school when they went to public education was on Main Street at the	
13:36	entrance to what's now Town Hall Square it later became known as the Community	#communitycenter

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13:41	Center they had a little courtroom in there too in some town offices before they tore it down in the 60s when the	
13:47	new town hall was built and my mother happened to be a teacher there for a couple of years	
13:53	then they transitioned to a brand new school called the Village School we know it now	
13:59	as Mullen School and that was no kindergarten in those days they had	
14:04	what they call a sub-primary and that was like a voluntary thing for parents to send their children to but it	
14:10	was grades one through five maybe six and junior high was the later	
14:19	building called the Hall School which is about where the parking lot for staff is at the Mullen School complex	
14:26	now interestingly enough I was telling Barbara and Jim when we were talking before	
14:31	Mullen School was named after the principal Margaret Mullen known as Peg Mullen right do you remember	#margaretmullen
14:38	red hat red hair and every day she had something purple	
14:43	every day and those of us who remember her as a principal	
14:48	remember that very well she happened to have lived down my street in Falmouth	
14:54	so on occasion when I would go to school walking to the elementary she'd pick me	
14:59	up and take me in and not too many people can say they came to school with the principal	
15:05	but we I found out from a neighbor Barbara that I had taken the school bus	
15:11	outside of our street on Locust Street and all of a sudden we weren't taking it	
15:17	anymore well a neighbor found out recently he was Googling my name came	
15:22	across an article in the old Enterprise our neighborhood and Pin Oak Way were	
15:27	kicked off the bus because we were within a mile yes of the school oh yes and a parent down off	

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15:34	Palmer Avenue had complained because she had wanted her daughter to ride the bus and said well why are these kids riding	
15:41	the bus so we were walkers but I never knew that story until last year	
15:48	I know and that's why it was quite it was quite common at that time not going in with the principal	
15:55	was right was not common right no but that school that we're- now the facade is still the same	
16:02	and you notice they had two wings and then the main section and up above it says learn to live and	Onscreen: Gunning_Village_Bldg_0233
16:08	live to learn were two mottos that we students you know had to	
16:14	learn to live with and there was a nice green campus there they had a large lunchroom	
16:22	and the Hall School which we were saying a lot of people think it was because of the had a big	
16:28	hall in the center but it was actually named after Henry Hall right who was the principal for the junior high	#henryhall
16:35	so you had the elementary school the Village School or Mullen you had the Hall School for seven and eight	
16:41	and you had the then new high school right where the library parking lot is	
16:46	and the other part of that whole campus was the Falmouth Public Library so it made a nice green yes kind of an	#falmouthpubliclibrary
16:54	educational campus right here on Main Street and we're fortunate to still have that pretty much the same except for the	
17:00	road intersecting police station was a little farther but it wasn't that yes it was behind the old	
17:07	town hall which is where Peg Noonan Park is and I recall that when the new high	
17:13	school got going it really did we talked about when it	
17:19	became overcrowded and then wasn't there a program to allow students to leave	



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17:25	and so kids were coming going in and out going to Main Street I had the I kind of imagined	
17:31	how difficult that was for keeping track of students I came I came to school on one day	
17:39	opening school and I next in and in fact I came in a little bit late the	
17:45	assembly had started already and Mr. Merson who was the superintendent of	#harrymerson
17:51	school said we're going to have a new director we're going to have a new program	
17:56	and that director is Jim Kalperis I had no idea what they were talking about	
18:02	or what I was supposed to do but the program was called the Open Campus Program	#opencampusprogram
18:08	in which there were three divisions you see the problem was we were so	
18:13	overcome crowded we went from a school that was built for 800 students	
18:19	to 1700 students and in order to get the classes	
18:26	the variety of classes and subjects that we needed	
18:32	we had we didn't we just didn't have room for it so	
18:37	what they came up with the idea of eliminating the study halls and using the study hall	
18:45	periods as classrooms and by the way do you know what the in setting up the	
18:53	curriculum and the way in which	
19:00	certain subjects would get priorities do you know what's as far as	
19:05	getting the students they needed to get into a particular class	
19:11	ability grading or something of that sort the first the first and	
19:18	Mr. Dick Jones was the one who was involved with this as well was interesting because the in order to	
19:25	do to get the people the first one was the band the band kids got the first	
19:33	they had to have all the band kids in for band practice	
19:38	at one time so that changed the whole curriculum around us with relation to	

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19:45	where they were going to these other kids were going to go and then you had the chemistry and then	
19:52	you know the A-1s or the whatever you had for different variety of classes	
19:58	and we at those years we had shop we had we had agriculture	
20:04	we had shop and automotive those	
20:11	courses were actively- and kids had to come in and it was a it	
20:17	was a very big task yes it sounds it sounds really complex and it occurs to	
20:22	me that we did not have computers no that would have helped with- made scheduling	
20:29	I'm sure it sounds to me as if scheduling must have been a nightmare well now it's making me want to because	
20:35	I was in the band so all these years I thought my classes were based upon my ability not because I	
20:41	was just in the band yeah you had to be available right yeah some of the other things that went on at that	
20:48	time was that which was nice that we when it came time to put the	
20:55	grades or master grades and put them	
21:00	so they would go into report cards we used to sit in teams of three	
21:05	that's that were for the same grade level ninth or eighth and so forth because we	
21:11	we were able to you know be involved	
21:17	when you had you had five preparations those years	
21:23	all different like eight-one or nine-one or nine-two or eight-six or	
21:29	whatever you want and so and what we did was we'd sit down in	
21:36	three of us and we say a name Otis Porter	
21:42	and I'd say well I'm going to give Otis an A because of he's in general science at this time	
21:49	and then there was a math teacher there and we compare so when we get to a	
21:55	certain youngster that there was	
22:01	we had B-pluses and A-minuses and so forth	
22:07	sometimes a youngster would go from a B to a B-plus only because	

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22:14	of what we heard and how that she or he were in that other class I see	
22:21	so those were that's the way that went on at that time it was kind of nice to sit back there of	
22:26	course we all we all wanted to do the best we could yes do you know	
22:32	that might be considered in modern pedagogy an innovation yes	
22:38	an interesting way to think about assessing a student sort of like the	
22:43	portfolio system so that's sometimes what's uh what	
22:49	what's new is really very old yes right it's true and so	
22:55	now we that school had a really remarkable	
23:00	principal I think his name was Russ Marshall much admired for his particular	#russellmarshall
23:06	talent as an administrator do you recall him I do and I unfortunately I	
23:12	never worked with him as a teacher when I came on doing practice teaching	
23:18	he and Peter Clark were co-principals in their last couple of years I guess or last	#peterclark
23:24	year you know when I started teaching at the junior high I had Henry Frank as a	#henryfrank
23:29	principal at the intermediate school but back to Mr. Marshall Mr. Marshall to me was a man of integrity	
23:37	he was quiet spoken I've I never heard him raise his voice	
23:42	he commanded respect just by his persona and I think every boy and girl	
23:49	grades 7 through 12 admired him very very much I can't say anything about how he was to	
23:56	work for it was interesting that you mentioned that occasionally he'd have a	
24:02	a meeting of all the students in the auditorium assemblies	
24:07	and he'd get up on that stage there and it usually was something serious	
24:13	somebody had done something in this case somebody had put in a skunk in a teacher's car	
24:20	and nobody knew who did it yet Russ Marshall	

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24:26	looked right down at one I know the boy I'm not even going to get involved in that but he looked right at him although	
24:33	he was speaking to the whole assembly he says that is a terrible thing	
24:40	you did and everybody knew at that time who that person was	
24:47	and as one of my one of my first functions as an administrator was to go and get the	
24:53	skunk out of the car above and beyond the call of duty	
25:00	When Kalpy mentioned the assemblies we would all gather in the auditorium quickly and he would come out on stage	
25:07	and everything calmed right down for the most part I mean there might be some whispering here there but	
25:12	he just had that persona of you know that gravitas that	
25:19	exuded confidence and respect yeah very nice yeah and you're you are	
25:25	very also quite surprised about what your duties were going to be I understand that	
25:33	so sometimes it came as a surprise for example walking into an assembly and finding out that you're going to be a	
25:40	director of - and so you	
25:45	became a baseball coach oh no I was oh yeah well that was I had the	
25:50	junior in 55 you see that	
25:55	I started at three thousand dollars as a teacher	
26:01	yeah and the reason I had I could have gone to Martha's Vineyard for \$3,200	
26:07	and I could have gone I forget where else that was for \$2,800	
26:13	my wife didn't want to go to the island she says I don't want to go back and	
26:18	forth and I said all right so we ended up in Falmouth at that time	
26:24	Mr. Merson was a great thinking man and he tried to	
26:30	diversify the academic population itself and he was always changing and	
26:38	looking for different types of experiences that he could bring to the	

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26:44	student body he was a wonderful man he was a man of all ages let's put it that way	
26:50	anyway I did coach a little bit	
26:57	but then we had a wonderful athletic director and his name- and Physical Ed. at that time	
27:04	there was just one job athletic director and physical	
27:09	education director and that was Earl Mills and he's a he is certainly a star of	#earlmills
27:16	stars in this in our minds yes he was in this community	
27:22	an outstanding individual just he there's nothing he couldn't do	
27:28	to help kids always so anyway	
27:33	we did	
27:39	with you I'll tell you the truth right now I lost	
27:45	I apologize but I just lost my train of thought well you were talking about	
27:50	the these schools and the we were asking about your duties	
28:00	I don't like to say too much about then I became track coach and I was very successful that there was	
28:06	a lot of young men and I would say that one of the things that helped us was	
28:12	that as a six-year high school we were able to use those youngsters to develop those	
28:18	youngsters that young seven eight and nine seventh grader could play	
28:24	with the varsity if you had somebody that was really outstanding then the	
28:31	varsity coaches would bring these youngsters up even as an eighth grader I remember one	
28:39	young man named John Souza who went on to be a	#johnsouza
28:45	it was a left-handed pitcher and became a great baseball player baseball pitcher	
28:52	and he was on my team as an eighth grader at that time because I had the junior	
28:59	high kids and the next thing I know Joe Elliot who	
29:05	was the baseball coach comes down and says no John Souza is going to come he's going	
29:12	to come and pitch the game he pitched the varsity game and he won it and wow	

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29:19	what a thrill yeah and I'll tell you another quick story about John Souza again as I was a	
29:25	baseball coach we had a big game coming up and John was supposed to pitch I said where's John	
29:32	he's in catechism I said catechism what's catechism	
29:38	and he said well where is he says he's over at Saint Anthony's Church	
29:43	okay so I got in my car and I go over to Saint Anthony's Church and I better think Father Avila was	
29:50	the priest at the time and I said "Father," I said, "I need John"	
29:57	he turned around and he says "God needs him more" and that was the end of	
30:02	John Souza pitching that day I see yes that's a great story a lot of what	
30:09	Kalpy is saying is strikes me after the war	
30:15	World War II and of course Korean War we saw a large influx of male teachers	
30:21	coming in oh yes and Kalpy has mentioned some of the names which makes me think back to the time	
30:27	you know being a student in the 1950s right and some of whom I might talk with	
30:32	later you know as I started to teach I wonder if the G.I. Bill	
30:39	which has was remarkable in changing American culture the	
30:44	fact that soldiers could then get a college education and many of them went into teaching I think you're right on that I	
30:51	think it's very true yes Kalpy might know more about that part of it but	
30:56	there really were I mean there were male teachers before don't get me wrong you know some of the older you know like	
31:02	yeah that was a good Mr. Barros from East Falmouth and Teaticket School and Henry	#eastfalmouth #teaticket school
31:07	Hall things like that but not as many as not as many and not as diversified as this group that were	
31:14	coming in oh yes you know they were taking over so you when you were a student then you	

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31:19	had lots of male teachers yes I did right yeah right starting incidentally at the old	
31:25	Village School we had Frank Verre V-E-R-R-E and he taught grade five and then there	
31:32	were a couple in the junior high at the Hall School for grade six but really	
31:38	once we got to the new Lawrence High School which is now Lawrence that was where we saw most of the new male	
31:44	teachers some of them went on to become principals that's great do you can you have some names or some	
31:51	principals of maybe the schools as we developed the Teaticket	
31:56	School and others there was a man who was a teacher	
32:02	in grade six at the Hall School [unintelligible] Mr. Berry B-E-R-R-Y and he became	
32:07	principal at one of the Barnstable school system one of those I'm not sure which one	
32:13	but some of the others moved up to a system principal like Paul Wasseth Paul Wasseth yeah he went here yeah and	
32:20	yeah and I remember teaching at Falmouth High School with Sydney Roberts was he one of	#sydneyroberts
32:26	your colleagues there was a fifth grade teacher at the Mull— at the Hall School	
32:32	I think and he became principal at	
32:40	at the he died he died young in fact there's a plaque for him and	
32:46	there's a monument there on the Cape Cod Country Club golf course	#capecodcountryclub
32:52	his name is on the tip of my tongue and I'm sorry I just can't remember him but Morway Morway was his name oh Paul	#paulmorway
33:00	Paul Morway and he was a teacher and then he became a principal yes up at North [unintelligible]	
33:06	right he was a teacher and then a principal but Sid Roberts I believe Mr. Roberts came earlier in	
33:13	that earlier group of men he was my teacher in high school for	
33:18	civics he was a dad advisor for DeMolay a boys' group he was my	#demolayinternational

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33:25	practice teacher when I was learning and I enjoyed working with him very much	
33:32	but he came I think in the 1930s or maybe in the 40s I don't think he was part of	
33:38	World War II well I do want to say something about Otis too yeah in the old days	
33:45	in that Lawrence High School there was the classrooms I had room 112	
33:53	and across the hall from my school was the principal's office I mean the	
33:59	superintendent's office oh the superintendent's office was in the school yeah that's interesting on the	
34:05	other side was room 108 but in the in the middle was a space	
34:11	and that space became the audiovisual center and guess who	
34:17	was working in the audio-visual center Otis with Stanley Eldridge these are	
34:23	these two young men and what they did was and I was in charge that a teacher needed a	
34:31	projector of either a film projector or a what do you call the	
34:37	applied projection slide projectors they'll they notified us and then the	
34:43	boys would come on there during their study hall periods their free periods	
34:49	and they'd work in there with me or in that room and then they would deliver those	
34:55	that equipment and pick it up at the end of the of that session as well	
35:02	was that something you enjoyed doing it was and I could see the movie or the slides	
35:07	right right whatever the teacher was offering right right yeah you're sort of your stint high tech of the 50s compared	
35:16	to now trying to do remotes and things like that right right so I'll	
35:21	tell you another interesting story was as when I was a track coach a new develop- a new	
35:30	eight pound shot put to be used indoors	
35:36	it was it had some kind of material on the inside and it was all	
35:42	plastic on the outside and of course we were throwing it in the gymnasium	



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35:48	which is by the way named after Russell Marshall so	
35:54	there was some there was a complaint or some some	
35:59	off the bat somebody else that said you know this might be dangerous I said oh no no no	
36:06	they guarantee this is going to be good and Russ Marshall came to me said listen he	
36:12	said we have a complaint here about damage that this is going to cost	
36:20	so I said well come on down Russ and I'll show you and then I had Bruce Morgado who was our	#brucemorgado
36:30	shot put really really competitor and so he's standing there	
36:37	and the dis- the width of the gymnasium is 50 feet that's the way	
36:44	so he launched one out and went high in the air and came down and broke the	
36:49	floor really that was the end	
36:54	no but I mean it wasn't supposed to happen but it must have been a weak spot	
36:59	in the floor itself another incident oh wait did that end the no	
37:06	no as a matter of fact but that's not Bruce was a student yes what grade	
37:12	he was probably at the time I believe Bruce was	
37:17	a sophomore I see yeah and then in the winter time	
37:23	we still had to compete and so we used to throw the shot put indoors	
37:31	and I brought in a former a coach from	
37:36	Wareham High School Allan Longhi was his name	
37:42	and he was an expert on the fundamentals of the shot put and I had	
37:50	the kids there to learn and Allan	
37:57	launched one up and it hit the corner of the glass backboard and shattered the	
38:02	glass backboard now I had to run to Russ	
38:07	because it was a game that night oh my goodness we had to have a ba- we were going to have a basketball we had no	
38:13	basket so but Russ with his magic however he did	

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38:18	it he got a glass backboard there and installed so they could play the game	
38:24	that night that very evening that's remarkable that's why they named that gym Marshall Gymnasium	
38:30	but this is a funny side story on that one of the L's fell down	
38:36	off his name that's up above oh so my wife and I were coming up I guess	
38:42	something at the school when I was a teacher there and she said who's Marsha L.	
38:48	so I said what do you mean and she said it says Marsha L. Gymnasium	
38:54	I said it's for Marshall right you know the L fell down that you had that	
39:00	shortly repaired yes Barbara you were going to talk about how things changed	
39:07	well first before we get into that I think we must say that there's something about your	
39:14	background was not in athletics but you became a	
39:19	a coach with many awards so there must be tell us about what your secret	
39:26	was with students you managed to turn out champion athletes	
39:31	and of baseball shot put well no baseball was a short year and it was all	
39:38	in the minors but the varsity end it was very I was very fortunate to be able to	
39:44	to corral youngsters that had never been involved that lived in	
39:51	on Sandwich Road and in Mashpee we had some tremendous athletes	
39:58	from Mashpee as well and for one reason or another they took a	
40:03	liking to me they were never they were always at the school but other	
40:10	than very few would ever be involved for some reason I was able to corral them	
40:16	and get them involved and we were very fortunate and I suspect that you built a personal	
40:23	relationship with them that you knew them you knew them and knowing one student	
40:29	well is critical you see let me tell you something as a teacher and as a coach	

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40:37	you have to understand one thing with kid kids make mistakes	
40:44	if they didn't make mistakes they don't need us that's the whole story that's the game	
40:50	and again when they make a mistake it's how you	
40:55	approach that situation and how you deal with that as	
41:01	an individual and some you know and that's how you get the	
41:06	different what he has said probably explains the genius of Russ Marshall	
41:14	knowing how to deal with somebody who's it's something I was mentioning to you before that I tried to do pretty much	
41:21	what Kalpy is talking about that you didn't fault the kid like he's an awful boy or you know	
41:27	not a nice girl or whatever you address whatever the action was that you didn't like their action you didn't	
41:34	you were ashamed of the language that they used you know that kind of thing yes and	
41:39	approach it from that way and I think Kalpy yes doing the same	
41:44	yeah I always thought of myself more of a cheerleader than a coach oh really	
41:50	really yeah that's bad it was it was passing in passing it's at	
41:56	all may I ask what some of those awards were oh	
42:01	in well I the award obviously we won I don't	
42:07	know I think one once	
42:12	stretch we had eight state championships right in a row	
42:17	and I and I really I do know that	
42:23	in I was elected to the high school Hall of Fame then I was elected to the state track	#mstca
42:31	Coaches' Hall of Fame in '91 I was	
42:38	elected to the United States high school coaches' Hall of Fame	#nfhs
42:44	and also in '91 I was selected	
42:50	as by the Massachusetts Principals Association	[the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals' Association, absorbed by the Massachusetts

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		School Administrators' Association in 2017]
42:56	as the outstanding principal for that year I mean	
43:01	they picked they picked a principal one year a superintendent	
43:07	an assistant principal another year in '91 they sent us out to	
43:12	to Chicago as part of a program where there was an	
43:18	assistant principal from each state	
43:23	and we sat there and we discussed problems	
43:29	of a much bigger nature with relation to education for a whole week	
43:36	so that was and oh and also in in '55	
43:42	'56 there was a program	
43:47	called Atoms for Peace and again that was in	#atomsforpeace
43:52	Chicago and	
43:58	I was elected the science teacher of the of the Cape	
44:05	and it was sent to that conference as well I see I was able to take my wife at the same time	
44:11	too and that's when you were teaching at Lawrence High School that's correct	
44:18	right yes yeah that was a busy and a	
44:23	fulfilling career well certainly you know it's well deserving yeah well	
44:30	thank you it grew it just grew for some reason it's probably interesting for you to	
44:37	meet people today who were your students who it's true we'll look back on a	
44:43	particular lesson or class that maybe you've forgotten but they haven't	
44:49	I was telling you a story once about a student I have who's involved in	
44:57	the town government now and he was talking oh I remember the time when we had chosen a certain stock I would I	
45:04	would have the kids at junior high actually buy stock we everyone contributed a dollar or	
45:11	something like that from several classes and I had forgotten all about that but	
45:16	it made quite an impression upon him you know following the stock he knew which stocks we bought	

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45:23	oh years later he remembered years later as an adult yeah he was telling me this	
45:28	when we had seen each other at a gathering and I thought that was kind of remarkable but you never knew	
45:34	what kind of an impression you'd have on some student yes you know earlier in life how true this is often said	
45:42	about teaching that you never really know what your influence is hopefully it's all good yes yes yes	
45:50	hopefully and so well now looking at the past	
45:55	we'll try I'll ask you first Jim what do you think then	
46:02	was very different from the way teaching might be now well	
46:08	the when we first started out zero	
46:14	the philosophy was to bring that youngster as far as you	
46:21	could in education in other words	
46:26	don't flunk them that was the whole story and if you flunk too many kids	
46:32	you got a you got a message to come and see the superintendent never mind the principal	
46:38	you had to see the superintendent also	
46:44	the feeling was that both discipline and education belonged	
46:49	in that classroom and when you close the two doors they	
46:55	felt the teacher was lord and master in that classroom and should take care of the discipline	
47:02	problems if for instance you sent too many kids to detention or to	
47:08	or actually kicked them out of class and sent them to the principal's office you got a visit from the principal saying	
47:16	stop that so take care of your own problems a good teacher was a good class	
47:21	manager right yeah I remember another situation where Russ Marshall and I had	
47:26	to go to court to testify on a youngster that was really and I forget what the	
47:33	incident was but it was bad enough so we had to go to court	

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47:38	and the judge turned around and looked right at Russ Marshall and said what are you doing here he said can't	
47:45	you take care of your own things at school that was poor man was embarrassed it was a	
47:51	terrible situation at that time we really we we we left with our tails hanging below	
47:58	right as we walked out that may not be too different from today where there's much emphasis on	
48:06	outcomes on student accomplishment and so teachers are	
48:12	accountable for the for that there's a lot of much more advancement of course with	
48:18	technology you know when you think that iPads the my grandchildren at the Mullen School	
48:25	and the intermediate you know Morse Pond School and the older ones	
48:31	have the tablets so during the COVID you know they can go on those	
48:36	tablets and work things like that we never thought of that before	
48:42	social media has made such a difference there and Jim mentioned about the operators club having the slide	
48:48	projectors I don't think any kid would know what a slide projector is today because any videos we see are shown	
48:56	on you know right differently yes so there's and we don't have blackboards we	
49:02	have the whiteboards now excellent to write on yes so a lot of technology has come into	
49:07	play even since he and I have left teaching yes	
49:12	right it really is quite quite different many different challenges some of the	
49:19	same challenges the kind that Jim mentioned that is class management and	
49:25	knowing knowing your students well but	
49:30	so that we've looked at the past and we've seen some similarities and some	
49:36	differences and I don't want to leave and without having some final stories that perhaps	
49:44	you we have not talked about anything else that you can think about that	
49:51	no not offhand without naming names yes Jim	

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49:56	well like I said it was a wonderful experience and I was a pre-med in college and	
50:05	quite frankly I was playing both basketball and baseball in college and you can't	
50:11	study for pre-med and play ball much to my father said grin but we	
50:17	will go into that so I got married	
50:22	and I had a child coming along so I had to do something in my senior year differently so I jumped out of that and	
50:29	got into education and I'm not sorry one bit I've been wonderful for the years you	
50:36	look back on a fulfilled career well I grew up in Falmouth went to Falmouth schools ended up teaching in	
50:42	Falmouth and you know have stayed here my entire life but I think teaching helps keep you	
50:48	young too and I don't mean necessarily physically but I mean that mental yes you know awareness	
50:56	right being around young people that's the key yeah that's really	
51:02	very important being around young people really picks you up yes yes I quite agree I	
51:08	quite agree well I want to thank you for being our oral historians and for	
51:15	telling us these stories and also for urging	
51:20	getting some of our viewers to check those postcards that are available on	
51:26	the website of Falmouth of the Falmouth Public Library a very	
51:31	remarkable collection of historic postcards and I so thank you very much for being	
51:38	with us and I'll turn to viewers and thank you very much for tuning in	
51:43	thank you again thank you our pleasure all right wonderful	
51:48	[Music]	