

## Postcards from Falmouth Zoom Program Transcript

Recorded: September 23, 2020

Presenter: Tom Turkington

Host: Jill Erickson

Topic: *Before I Forget: A Boyhood of Little Drama*, by Tom Turkington

- Available from Falmouth Public Library under 920.71 Turkington

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

00:00	[Music]	
00:44	good morning everyone this is a big	
00:47	adventure	
00:48	for both uh Tom and I this is the first	
00:51	time	
00:52	that I've done such a large Zoom event	
00:55	with	
00:55	people that I don't necessarily know	
00:58	we've been doing a lot of	
00:59	Zoom staff meetings um but this is quite	
01:02	of a different level	
01:03	and um I've also been hoping that we	
01:06	could have Tom Turkington	
01:08	talk to us for some time and I'm glad	
01:11	that this this	
01:12	morning is finally the time that it can	
01:14	happen	
01:15	um it's really a delight uh to	
01:18	to be here and I'm glad that you're all	
01:21	here	
01:22	so let me just tell you a little bit	
01:24	about what	
01:25	what was the beginnings of this program	
01:28	and	
01:29	that is uh Postcards from Falmouth which	
01:32	was	
01:32	which is a special local history project	
01:35	of the Falmouth Public Library	#falmouthpubliclibrary  Hunt_Village_Bldg_009 through 012 Gunning_Village_Bldg_0258 through 0288

Falmouth Public Library – Postcards from Falmouth

01:37	that is based upon our historical	
01:39	postcard collection of noted buildings	
01:41	landmarks	
01:42	and locations within the town of	
01:44	Falmouth	
01:46	introduced in 1869 as a way of sending a	#1869
01:49	simple message	
01:50	postcards quickly evolved beyond their	
01:52	practical purpose	
01:54	to become the universal souvenir that	
01:57	brightens everyone's mailboxes	
01:59	and I have to say one of the things we	
02:01	did when we were closed we would send	
02:03	a lot of our patrons postcards which was	
02:06	people	
02:06	were delighted with um however postcards	
02:09	also provide us with rare glimpses into	
02:12	the past	
02:13	and serve as a way of documenting	
02:15	history	
02:16	that is why we jumped at the chance when	
02:18	we saw the opportunity	
02:20	for a grant to develop projects that use	
02:22	historical documents	
02:24	such as our historical postcard	
02:26	collection to discover unknown facts and	
02:28	stories about	
02:29	Falmouth during days gone by after all	
02:33	to collect preserve and share such	
02:35	resources	
02:36	is what the Falmouth Public Library has	
02:38	been doing since 1792	
02:41	Postcards from Falmouth has been made	
02:43	possible through a Library Services	
02:45	and Technology Act grant which is	
02:48	administered through the Massachusetts	
02:49	Board of Library Commissioners	
02:51	this series of talks is also made	
02:53	possible thanks to the Falmouth Public	
02:56	Library Trustees	
02:57	and of course FCTV and we hope by the	
03:01	end of this series	
03:02	that those of you listening will be	
03:04	inspired to look at our postcard	
03:07	collections	

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03:07	and share your memories of Falmouth and	
03:10	somebody who has	
03:12	a lot of memories of Falmouth is Tom	
03:15	Turkington	
03:15	and I have to say I I have been	
03:19	delighted um reading the book and I	
03:22	think you will be	
03:23	as well um Tom did write a memoir of his	
03:26	childhood	
03:27	in Falmouth which is a revelation in so	
03:29	many ways for those of us	
03:31	I've been here 30 years and I still	
03:33	learn lots of things from his book	
03:35	Before I Forget A Boyhood of Little	
03:38	Drama	
03:39	and there will be time for questions at	
03:41	the end which you can type	
03:42	into the chat so without further ado	
03:46	although I will say I particularly Tom	
03:48	liked	
03:49	all the information about Panis	#panis
03:51	silversmiths I have a Panis ring right	
03:53	here on my finger	
03:54	and um uh Matt Pearson with whom I live	
03:58	remembers this has many of the same	
03:59	memories you have of Panis so	
04:02	um a really uh a treat to read about	
04:05	Panis and	
04:05	and your relationship with Panis	
04:07	silversmiths um	
04:09	for those of you that don't know Panis	
04:11	read the book if he doesn't mention it	
04:12	this morning so I will now	
04:14	give over the screen to Tom Turkington	
04:20	thanks Jill for that nice introduction	
04:23	after a long	
04:24	awkward wait uh but that's Zoom for	
04:26	you um	
04:28	just myself I was born in Falmouth in	
04:30	1949	#1949
04:31	and spent most of the first 18 years of	
04:34	my life there	
04:36	uh I was there for another 15 years as a	
04:40	young adult I live in New Hampshire	
04:42	now	

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04:45	the book was my entry to this	
04:48	program but you got to understand the	
04:52	book	
04:53	is not there was no research	
04:57	everything in here um	
05:00	just I drew it from my memory bank and	
05:03	um	
05:05	surprisingly enough people have looked	
05:06	and said uh hey	
05:08	there's a lot of details that how do you	
05:10	remember those things	
05:11	uh and so accurately and I guess I just	
05:16	have a mind that that does that sort of	
05:18	thing	
05:20	it came about because I found as I was	
05:23	I actually wrote it four or five years	
05:25	ago I found as I was getting into my 50s	
05:28	and 60s that	
05:31	I sort of developed an interest in my	
05:34	parents'	
05:35	history my grandparents what were they	
05:37	like when their kids	
05:38	and what was the world like around them	
05:40	what did they do with their time	
05:42	and all that and of course they weren't	
05:45	around to tell me	
05:46	and it occurred to me that probably my	
05:49	kids someday would get into their 50s	
05:51	and 60s	
05:52	and they would begin to develop the same	
05:54	interest about me	
05:56	and I wouldn't be around to tell them so	
05:58	I put it down a book	
06:01	and my own kids in	
06:05	30 or 40 years can refer back and	
06:08	know a little bit more about where they	
06:09	came from	
06:11	uh it is a memoir	
06:15	so it's not about Falmouth per se	
06:18	it's about me uh memoirs are like that	
06:23	but of course because I was in Falmouth	
06:26	people places events things that were	
06:29	going on in Falmouth between	
06:31	in the 50s and 60s are scattered	
06:35	throughout the book	

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06:40	this project as Jill was saying sort of	
06:44	sprang forth from	
06:48	postcards old postcards and uh	
06:51	I don't have any postcards here as props	
06:54	but the way I'm going to approach this	
06:56	is to just sort of imagine what might be	
06:59	on a postcard	
07:00	and then ruminate a little bit about	
07:03	that thing that could have been on a	
07:04	postcard	
07:05	and uh and do some readings from the	
07:08	books that relate to it	
07:11	one of the uh one of the most	
07:14	photographed places in Falmouth	
07:16	is probably Main Street and uh when I'm	#mainstreet  Gunning_Village_Sts_0017 through 0041  Hunt_Village_Sts_155 through 166
07:19	back in Falmouth which I often am	
07:21	uh it's kind of fun to go down Main	
07:24	Street and	
07:24	look and of course there's been massive	
07:27	turnover	
07:28	as there always always has been but in	
07:32	some respects hasn't changed too much	
07:34	Main Street when I was a kid yeah you	
07:37	could	
07:38	you could get auto parts there you could	
07:41	get your photos developed at Ortin's	#ortinsphotosupply
07:43	photo shop	
07:45	you could uh yeah you could go to a	
07:48	movie	
07:48	there were two movie theaters on main	
07:50	street uh	
07:52	okay none of those are there anymore but	
07:54	pretty much what you have now	
07:56	is places to eat and places to buy	
07:59	clothes	
08:00	and gifts and really 50 years ago	
08:04	there were plenty of places to eat most	
08:06	of them were lunch counters at J.J.	#jjnewberrys
08:08	Newberry's	
08:09	and that at the Rexall Drugs	#rexall

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08:12	and at the Sandbar and you know all up	#sandbar
08:14	and down Main Street there were places	
08:16	to eat but they were	
08:18	fast food and it wasn't junk food it was	
08:21	fast because you'd go in you sit down	
08:23	Ralph Sullivan'd and come over say what do	
08:25	you want	
08:26	tell them a ham and cheese sandwich and	
08:27	two minutes later there it was in front	
08:29	of you	
08:30	uh so now we have high-end restaurants	
08:33	instead	
08:34	okay that says something about the	
08:35	economy	
08:37	um and one of the uh	
08:41	one of the other things that you used to	
08:42	do on Main Street that you don't do	
08:44	anymore is	
08:45	you go shopping for your food	
08:48	and there's a little something in my	
08:49	book about	
08:53	food shop	
08:57	one indicator of the growth and	
08:59	modernization of Falmouth has been the	
09:01	evolution of the food stores	
09:03	when I was little and we lived on Mill	#millroad  Gunning_Village_Sts_0001 through 0016 Hunt_Village_Sts_075 through 178
09:05	Road the closest thing to a supermarket	
09:07	in town was the A&P on Main Street	#a&p
09:10	it was right next to Town Hall which was	#townhall
09:12	razed in the 60s to make way for a	
09:14	parking lot in a nice little park	
09:17	that's Peg Noonan Park there were other	#pegnoonanpark
09:20	food stores besides the A&P	
09:22	S.S. Pierce for example but the A&P was	#sspierce
09:25	about it for general food shops	
09:28	it was a little bit larger though not	
09:30	nearly as neat and clean as the standard	
09:32	convenience store today	
09:34	there were maybe four or five aisles	
09:36	half the width and one-third the length	
09:38	of what we're used to now	

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09:41	if you were over by the butcher shop the	
09:42	smell all around was	
09:44	meat getting old by the checkout lines	
09:47	they kept the coffee grinders	
09:49	very large machines considering their	
09:51	simple function	
09:52	and that whole end of the store smelled	
09:54	of ground up eight o'clock coffee which	
09:56	never got swept up	
09:59	my lingering impression of a trip to the	
10:01	A&P with mom in my early years is one of	
10:04	having to deal with inconvenience	
10:06	no place to park hard walking on a badly	
10:09	ruptured sidewalk	
10:11	difficulty opening the door sticking	
10:13	wheels on the shopping cart	
10:15	traffic jams throughout the store piles	
10:18	of merchandise stacked in the way	
10:20	long waits in line but the reward was to	
10:24	watch	
10:24	hear and smell the coffee grinder at	
10:26	work	
10:31	oh this is more I'm talking about the	
10:34	evolution of Falmouth I'm not just	
10:36	reminiscing on going to the A&P when I	
10:38	was a kid	
10:39	now comes the evolution first National	#nationalstores
10:42	Stores was the first chain to offer	
10:44	shopping relief to the beleaguered	
10:46	Falmouth housewife	
10:48	they opened up a snazzy new supermarket	
10:50	at the foot of Shore Street	#shorestreet  Gunning_Village_Sts_0080 through 0083 Hunt_Village_Sts_171 and 172
10:52	either just before just after we moved	
10:54	back to town	
10:56	it had a parking lot automatic doors	
10:58	wide aisles new carts	
11:00	and sales and promotions of course it	
11:03	was an instant success	
11:05	which was noted by the Stop and Shop	#stopandshop
11:07	chain which acted quickly and	
11:09	radically they got away from Main Street	

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11:12	and onto some vacant eight acreage of	
11:14	Heights corner where they opened up the	#falmouthheights
11:16	store that was bigger yet	
11:17	and had a modernistic arched roof and a	
11:20	huge parking lot and a few other little	
11:22	stores attached	
11:23	and reachable by a covered walkway and	
11:26	they called it Falmouth Plaza	#falmouthplaza
11:29	trying not to be outdone but being	
11:31	outdone nonetheless the A&P	
11:33	put up a new store on a vacant lot just	
11:35	off Main Street	
11:37	it was a whole lot bigger cleaner and	
11:39	more amenable than their outworn old	
11:41	place which became a stationary store	
11:44	but not as much as the new Stop and Shop	
11:46	or even bigger supermarket that was	
11:48	later to come to the Jones Road	#jonesroad
11:49	intersection	
11:51	and most disastrous of all the fools	
11:54	built it on Scranton Avenue	#scrantonavenue
11:56	there it remained for decades poorly	
11:58	managed	
11:59	lightly patronized constantly emblematic	
12:02	of the decline of the great Atlantic and	
12:05	Pacific Tea Company	
12:14	well if you were to buy a modern day	
12:17	postcard	
12:18	you wouldn't have to look long to find	
12:20	one of Falmouth Harbor	#falmouthharbor  Hunt_Village_Har_103 through 120  Gunning_Heights_Har_1320 through 1334
12:22	now Falmouth Harbor was on	
12:28	was once Deacon's Pond and as I	#deaconspond  Gunning_Heights_Pnd_1311 through 1317
12:31	understand it Deacon's Pond was not open	
12:33	to the Sound	#vineyardsound
12:34	it was land locked and if you were	
12:37	driving down Clinton Avenue towards the	#clintonavenue
12:39	Heights	



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12:40	you get to where the Clam Shack is now	
12:42	and you just kept right on going	
12:44	and the next thing you know you were	
12:46	heading up into Falmouth Heights	
12:48	uh of course this was pretty much before	
12:51	automobiles existed	
12:54	and I'm not sure exactly how it happened	
12:56	but uh	
12:58	I would say the town realized that there	
13:00	were a lot of rich people now	
13:02	starting to move into town during the	
13:04	summer and they had	
13:05	pleasure craft and the Old Stone Dock at	#oldstonedock  Gunning_Village_Har_0173 through 0188 Hunt_Village_Bch_0089 through 0095
13:08	the	
13:09	foot of Shore Street was a was pretty	
13:12	much a failure	
13:13	and um so it's decided to	
13:17	open up Deacon's Pond dredge it and make	Gunning_Village_Har_0190
13:20	a harbor out of it	
13:22	at the time I lived there Scranton	
13:26	Avenue was	
13:28	practically a wasteland and I don't know	
13:30	why it was very close to the center of	
13:32	town	
13:33	but Scranton Avenue which paralleled	
13:35	right along the side of the harbor	
13:37	uh there was nothing there there was if	
13:39	you were heading up from Main Street	
13:41	towards the mouth of the harbor	
13:43	it was all field on your right there was	
13:45	a carnival there every summer could have	
13:48	had	
13:48	the Barnstable County Fair there there	#barnstablecountyfair
13:50	was that much open space	
13:52	uh you got to Queen Street still nothing	#queenstreet
13:54	still just feels	
13:56	um and then	
14:00	three quarters of the way down Scranton	
14:02	Avenue it was bing bing bing bing there	
14:04	were four or five	

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14:06	very modest kind of weather beaten homes	
14:08	um	
14:10	in a row and then again nothing until	
14:12	you got to the mouth of the harbor	
14:14	I'm not sure why Scranton Avenue was uh	
14:17	such a pariah in town but	
14:19	hardly anybody lived there um	
14:26	but there was there was something	
14:27	special about Scranton Avenue	
14:30	I'm going to tell you about it	
14:35	we moved there in	
14:38	June of '58.	
14:41	this was not the first time the	
14:42	Turkingtons took up residence on	
14:44	Scranton Avenue	
14:46	the uninhabited wasteland between us and	
14:49	Main Street	
14:49	had been for one brief shining moment in	
14:52	the late 40s	
14:53	most densely populated neighborhood in	
14:55	whole town whatever federal agency came	
14:59	into being for the purpose of providing	
15:01	cheap housing for returning veterans	
15:04	built a colony of concrete blocked	
15:06	road buildings dwellings	
15:09	when Mom and Dad and baby Eric first	
15:11	moved to town from upstate New York	
15:13	that's where they lived we did not	
15:16	coddle our young veterans	
15:18	life here was rather spare and the	
15:20	grateful residents moved out as soon as	
15:22	they could find something better	
15:24	which in our case was the house on	
15:26	Fairview Avenue	#fairviewavenue
15:27	just down the street my first home	
15:31	the block dwellings were demolished when	
15:33	the need for them passed but one	
15:34	dominant structure remains until the	
15:36	early 60s	
15:38	it consisted of one very large room with	
15:40	a couple of little ones at one end	
15:43	I'm guessing now but it may have served	
15:45	as a play and gathering place for the	
15:47	residents	
15:49	so here were rows of apartment-style	

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15:52	dwelling units	
15:53	with a community recreation building	
15:55	open space	
15:56	all around and an unobstructed view of	
15:59	the harbor	
16:01	dig it a rock bottom low budget	
16:03	disposable development for penniless	
16:06	veterans	
16:07	served as the model for the vacation	
16:09	communities for the bourgeoisie that now	
16:11	infests	
16:12	practically every harborfront site in	
16:14	New England	
16:22	any pictures taken of Surf Drive	#surfdrive #surfdrivebeach  Gunning_Village_Sts_085
16:26	um Surf Drive was my beach and um	
16:31	I think was was the first widely used	
16:33	public beach	
16:34	in Falmouth the first beach that was	
16:36	treated as such with	
16:37	parking lot and bath house and	
16:41	snack bar and lifeguards and all that	
16:46	I lived about a mile away and I used to	
16:48	go there quite regularly	
16:50	during the summer time um that's where	
16:53	the Old Stone Dock was	
16:55	you look at the Old Stone Dock now and	
16:57	it's it's just a	
16:58	pile of rocks that have been gradually	
17:02	settling into the into the sea but at	
17:05	one time it was	
17:06	um it was built to be kind of the	
17:09	original	
17:10	Falmouth Harbor um	
17:13	people would unload there and come in in	
17:16	little boats and unload on the dock and	
17:17	then	
17:18	ship the stuff down Shore Street to	
17:21	center it down	
17:21	and other stuff would get shipped back	
17:24	uh	
17:25	I I don't think it ever worked out very	
17:27	well just to look at it you see it just	
17:28	wasn't that big and uh certainly wasn't	

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17:32	that stable because it had to be rebuilt	
17:34	a couple of times	
17:36	but it was my beach and it was very	
17:39	popular beach in those days	
17:41	and one of its most popular features	
17:45	and enjoyable ones was the raft	
17:49	not there anymore hasn't been there in a	
17:50	long time	
17:53	I spent a lot of summer days hanging out	
17:55	at Surf Drive Beach which was a public	
17:57	beach a mile from home	
17:59	the town had a multi-faceted raft about	
18:02	50 yards offshore that offered all kinds	
18:04	of opportunities for fun	
18:07	it had a diving board just a few feet	
18:09	above the water	
18:10	a platform about six feet up and another	
18:12	about 10 feet up	
18:14	and it had a long slide with a shiny	
18:16	metal surface that had a couple of burrs	
18:19	on it that you had to watch out for	
18:21	or you'd rip your bathing suit on the	
18:23	way down if not your flesh	
18:26	floated on two massive pontoons which as	
18:29	long as they stayed watertight	
18:30	kept the raft a foot above the water	
18:34	this allowed daredevil boys to dive off	
18:36	the raft swim under a pontoon	
18:39	and come up for air under the raft we	
18:42	played a lot of tag on that raft	
18:44	there were all sorts of tricky extremely	
18:46	hazardous ways to tag someone if you	
18:49	were hit	
18:50	one was to jump off the high platform	
18:52	and tag a kid standing on the raft as	
18:54	you went by	
18:56	then swim under the pontoons and get	
18:58	away	
18:59	this meant that you'd be jumping from 10	
19:01	feet up missing the edge of the raft by	
19:04	inches	
19:05	then going underwater and not being seen	
19:07	again for a while	
19:09	the beach committee provided this raft	
19:11	for the amusement of their beachgoers	

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19:13	with never a thought for liability	
19:16	accidents that's what lifeguards were	
19:18	for	
19:23	now I it's hard to photograph	
19:26	Beebe's Woods but Beebe's Woods has uh	#beebewoods  Gunning_Village_Sts_0087 and 0087
19:30	um become if anything ever more	
19:33	important part of uh center of town	
19:37	uh there were two mansions up there uh	
19:40	there is one remaining and it's been uh	
19:44	grandly and uh oh	
19:47	beautifully overdone redone	
19:50	fixed up made into its original state	
19:53	that that would be Highfield	#highfieldhall
19:55	it was also Tanglewood and these were	#tanglewood  Gunning_Village_Bldg_0473
19:57	the mansions that were owned by the Beebes	#beebe
19:59	who uh bought	
20:04	really just about all the land between	
20:06	the railroad tracks	
20:07	the bike path and Sippewissett Road east to	#shiningseabikeway #sippewissettroad
20:11	west	
20:12	north to south pretty much Sippewissett Road	
20:16	almost down to um	
20:19	huge parcel of land uh	
20:22	in my time as as a kid uh	
20:26	some sections of that all Beebe's Woods	
20:29	were kind of	
20:30	sold off I think uh Greengate became	#greengate
20:33	one of them	
20:34	uh one development and Marvin	
20:37	Gardens Marvin Circle became another	#marvincircle
20:40	uh there's still a huge parcel of land	
20:42	out there that	
20:44	as of late 60s was about to be developed	
20:48	it was very close to being sold to	
20:50	some people who were going to just build	
20:53	more green gates	
20:55	uh and then J. K. Lilly great	#lilly
20:58	uh benefactor of Falmouth	
21:01	bought the whole place and gave	

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21:04	most of it to the town the town has	
21:07	since put in nice wide trails for	
21:09	walking	
21:10	and it's become a very popular place for	
21:14	walkers hikers joggers people with dogs	
21:18	uh it's a wonderful asset of course	
21:22	and the crown jewel in Beebe's Woods is the	
21:26	Punch Bowl	#punchbowl
21:27	which is a kettle hole a large pond kind	
21:30	of way out and	
21:31	you know back then it was out in the	
21:33	middle of nowhere I think a lot of	
21:35	uh most most	
21:38	growing boys in town knew where to find	
21:41	it could direct you to it but uh	
21:43	you know they're just little beaten	
21:45	paths i was very easy to get lost in	
21:48	there	
21:48	and uh but the Punch Bowl was um	
21:52	was a real attraction and I had an	
21:55	episode there I had many episodes there	
21:59	there was one episode in particular that	
22:01	stuck in my mind all these years later	
22:06	Mark Denman and I hiked up into Beebe's	
22:09	Woods fairly often	
22:10	not always with a trip to the Punch Bowl	
22:12	in mind but we usually wound up there at	
22:14	some point	
22:16	our main activities were skinny dipping	
22:18	smoking cigarettes when we could procure	
22:20	them	
22:21	catching and releasing bullfrogs	
22:23	throwing rocks making funny sounds and	
22:25	listening for the echoes	
22:28	one fine June afternoon we were swimming	
22:31	in the middle of the pond when we heard	
22:32	shouts from the little rocky landing at	
22:34	the foot of the trail	
22:36	Denman Turkington	
22:39	we looked over and saw Donnie Kudo and	
22:41	Jimmy Carey	
22:42	two kids a couple of years older than us	
22:44	standing on the rocks	
22:46	we've got your clothes and so they did	
22:51	by the time we got out of the water they	

Falmouth Public Library – Postcards from Falmouth

22:52	had a long head start and all of our	
22:54	duds	
22:55	shoes included we had that empty feeling	
22:57	that he falls all of us from time to	
22:59	time	
23:00	usually when we least expect it this	
23:03	time I'm really screwed	
23:05	walking on clothes through the woods	
23:07	wasn't the problem we were unlikely to	
23:09	encounter anybody there	
23:11	the problem was what happened when the	
23:13	woods end	
23:14	getting to mark's house was our only	
23:16	viable option as he lived pretty close	
23:18	to the edge of the woods	
23:20	trouble was once we were out in the open	
23:23	we would have to cross the railroad	
23:24	tracks	
23:26	run down a short unoccupied dirt road	
23:28	then get to the other side of palmer	
23:30	avenue	
23:31	which was route 28 which was the busiest	
23:33	road in town however we got through	
23:37	all that we then would have to cut	
23:38	through a neighbor's yard to get to the	
23:40	little wooded area surrounding the	
23:42	Denmans'	
23:43	and then what hi mom I'm home and I'm	
23:45	stark naked	
23:47	so is Tom well we had plenty of time to	
23:50	think all this through	
23:51	and what we came up with was we'd skulk	
23:54	through the backyards of some of the	
23:55	homes this side of Palmer Ave	#palmeravenue  Gunning_Village_Sts_0043 through 0052  Hunt_Village_Sts_167 through 170
23:57	looking for laundry we could steal from	
23:59	somebody's clothesline to cover	
24:01	ourselves up with	
24:03	we couldn't find any which we probably	
24:04	wouldn't we'd crouch in the bushes	
24:07	besides route 28	

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24:08	in broad daylight in a heavily populated	
24:11	section of town	
24:12	hoping to remain unseen until there was	
24:14	a break in the traffic	
24:16	then we'd streak across the road through	
24:18	the neighbor's yard to Mark's house	
24:20	get some clothes on and catch hell it	
24:23	wasn't much of a plan but it was the	
24:25	best we could do	
24:27	then just a while before the end of the	
24:29	trail we saw something up in the	
24:30	branches a pair of underpants	
24:33	and look over there a shirt and a pair	
24:36	of sneakers in the middle of the trail	
24:38	what good guys thanks Donnie thanks	
24:41	Jimmy	
24:42	sorry about all those awful things we	
24:44	said about you hiking back	
24:46	from the Punch Bowl it's truly amazing	
24:49	how in a distressing situation appears	
24:51	to be heading for the worst	
24:53	and for some reason the worst doesn't	
24:55	come to pass	
24:56	we not only are grateful for whatever	
24:58	prevented the worst from happening	
25:00	but wholly unresentful of whoever	
25:02	created the distressing situation in the	
25:04	first place	
25:06	relief is surely one of life's most	
25:08	rewarding feelings	
25:17	Falmouth managed to cluster all its	
25:19	schools right in the center of the	
25:21	village	
25:23	first there was Lawrence Academy then	#lawrenceacademy  Gunning_Village_Bldg_236 & 237
25:26	that became Lawrence High School	#lawrencehighschool  Gunning_Village_Bldg_0238 through 0257
25:28	next to the library right on Main Street	
25:32	and that got too big well right across	
25:36	what is now Bates Road from from the	#katharineleebatesroad
25:40	high school	
25:40	was the village school	



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25:43	elementary school now the Margaret A.	#mullenhallschool Gunning_Village_Bldg_0232
25:45	Mullen School right over there was a	
25:47	Hall School which was for fifth and	
25:49	sixth graders	
25:50	and then when it came time to build a	
25:52	new high school they just went across	
25:54	Shivericks Pond	#shiverickspond Gunning_Village_Pnd_0145
25:55	built a really fine new high school I	
25:59	think this was 1953.	#1953
26:02	and to my mind that building	
26:05	now called the Lawrence School and	#lawrencejuniorhighschool
26:09	Junior High School uh it's the best	
26:12	school building this town ever had	
26:13	and I hope it's there forever uh I spent	
26:17	six years there	
26:18	I was in the last uh the last class	
26:21	it was built as a 7 through 12	
26:25	and of course within not very many years	
26:28	after it was built	
26:29	it was overcrowded and	
26:33	so they built a middle school over on	#morsepondschool
26:36	Morse Pond	
26:38	um so I was the last in the last class	
26:41	that started in seventh grade and stayed	
26:43	there	
26:43	through twelfth grade	
26:46	um it's a very functional building very	
26:50	attractive building	
26:52	and I probably didn't feel so at the	
26:55	time but	
26:57	now that I look back on it I realized	
27:00	that	
27:01	most of my teachers there were really	
27:03	very good	
27:04	um I had one	
27:08	at least one real loser of a teacher and	
27:10	and uh	
27:11	that fellow is get some play in the in	
27:15	my book here	
27:16	um but uh most of them	
27:20	were really good um Miss Buchanan I	

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27:24	locked horns with her a lot but she was	
27:26	a fine teacher	
27:27	um Jim Kinney	
27:31	Earl Mills through the athletic	#earlmills
27:33	department and phys ed	
27:36	these are people I have a lot to say	
27:38	about	
27:42	and I can't help thinking back on Pat	
27:46	Moorman	
27:48	she was my sophomore year English	
27:50	teacher	
27:52	she was very much one of a kind craggy of	
27:55	feature and lean of build she had an	
27:57	outsized personality	
27:59	she was the tallest woman nay even the	
28:02	tallest person in the school	
28:04	her nickname among the kids was Moose	
28:07	she was close friends or perhaps shared	
28:10	a home with	
28:11	a secretarial teacher Miss Ogden who was	
28:14	the shortest	
28:15	together they looked like Mutt and Jeff	
28:18	like most staff members in the English	
28:20	department	
28:21	Miss Moorman had an undisguised love of	
28:23	the language in its greatest classic	
28:25	works	
28:26	her personal predilection was for	
28:28	grammar and syntax	
28:30	we spent quite a bit of time diagramming	
28:32	sentences in the classroom	
28:34	and if there was within a kid the	
28:36	slightest potential interest in this	
28:38	highly analytic activity	
28:40	as there was in me Miss Moorman could	
28:42	come to it	
28:44	she could get very animated trying to	
28:46	get across to us the subtleties of a	
28:48	complicated sentence	
28:51	what really distinguished Miss Moorman;s	
28:53	class aside from the total immersion	
28:55	and grammar was her readiness to put the	
28:57	lesson aside and expound upon subjects	
29:00	unrelated to our work	
29:02	prejudice politics human foibles life's	

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29:05	ironies	
29:07	she didn't so much engendered discussion	
29:09	as inform us of her views and passions	
29:12	she did so with vigor and then it was	
29:14	back to the lesson	
29:16	she was a tough grader and not very	
29:18	understanding of excuses	
29:20	but after many years at LHS she still	
29:22	got a kick out of the kids	
29:24	didn't hide that fact like most of our	
29:27	teachers	
29:27	she had her moments of cluelessness	
29:29	concerning the ways of fifteen-year-olds	
29:32	I wonder if there are any teachers left	
29:34	who still instruct a room full of silly	
29:37	boys	
29:37	that an abrupt exclamation is properly	
29:40	termed	
29:41	an ejaculation not many I bet	
29:45	together with my parents and a few	
29:47	others she was on the team that left me	
29:49	with a great appreciation for proper	
29:51	artful use of English	
29:53	low tolerance for those who care not to	
29:55	use it correctly	
29:57	when I'm confronted with a	
29:58	professionally butchered piece of	
30:00	writing	
30:01	as happens more and more frequently as I	
30:03	age	
30:04	I can't help thinking or saying this	
30:07	person	
30:08	just wasn't paying attention in English	
30:10	class	
30:11	it's Miss Moorman's class I think of them	
30:17	um another thing about Lawrence was	
30:20	um	
30:25	why was it Lawrence I mean it was	
30:28	Falmouth it was	
30:29	the public high school in Falmouth	
30:33	Barnstable High School Bourne High School	
30:36	Sandwich High School every time you go	
30:38	to	
30:39	town has a high school supports the high	
30:42	school	

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30:43	high school is named after that town	
30:46	except in Falmouth it was Lawrence and	
30:49	um	
30:51	I didn't really mind that but	
30:54	uh I was on an athletic team	
30:58	an athletic team that had an	
31:00	extraordinary amount of success	
31:03	go to big track meets and uh	
31:07	a lot of us performed high and placed	
31:09	very high in championship	
31:10	events well one third of the people	
31:14	watching	
31:14	would think that we're from the city of	
31:16	Lawrence oh no wonder they're good	
31:18	they're	
31:18	a big city they they got a lot of kids	
31:20	to drop draw from	
31:23	and about a third of the people thought	
31:24	we were some hot shot prep school	
31:26	downtown	
31:28	ah no wonder they're good they uh they	
31:30	can recruit from all over	
31:32	and then the rest of people knew that we	
31:34	were we were the public high school in	
31:36	town	
31:36	well we were we're proud of our town we	
31:38	were	
31:39	pleased to be from Falmouth and uh it	
31:42	kind of irked us	
31:42	that um most people thought we were	
31:47	not what we actually were um	
31:50	but this goes back to uh again correct	
31:54	me if I'm wrong hey	
31:55	nobody's out there to correct me so uh	
32:00	1840s maybe 1850s there was a Mr.	#shubaellawrence
32:03	Lawrence	
32:04	had a lot of money big man in town	
32:08	and uh offered the town a	
32:11	substantial piece of money to um	
32:15	build an academy uh sort of the first	
32:18	secondary school and Falmouth	
32:21	and um well thrifty Cape Cod is	
32:24	only too happy to take him up on his	
32:26	offer so	
32:28	the only obligation was they had to name	

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32:29	it after him	
32:31	so that was the first Lawrence Academy	
32:34	which I believe to be	
32:35	now the building that is the Chamber of	#falmouthchamberofcommerce
32:38	Commerce	
32:39	off of Main uh	
32:43	town grew number of high school kids	
32:46	kids going to	
32:48	high school grew so they built a new	
32:51	building but the name came with	
32:53	that building was bursting at the seams	
32:56	after a while so they built a new high	
32:57	school and the name came with it	
33:00	finally in I think it was 73	
33:03	uh they built that new high school out	
33:06	on Gifford Street	#giffordstreet
33:08	and decided to call it Falmouth High	#falmouthhighschool
33:10	School	
33:17	any true history of Falmouth	
33:21	any comprehensive history of Falmouth	
33:24	especially mid-century families	
33:26	would not be complete unless it had some	
33:29	material	
33:30	on the track teams	
33:33	at the high school um	
33:36	a little bit of self-interest here uh	
33:41	I was involved with uh running sports in	
33:44	two different ways	
33:45	one as a runner in high school very	
33:48	extremely dedicated and pretty	
33:50	successful one	
33:52	and then um as a coach I coached uh	
33:55	cross-country at Falmouth for 13 years	
33:57	later on	
33:59	and was successful and also	
34:04	lucky but	
34:07	there was from the through the 60s 70s	
34:10	80s um Falmouth	
34:13	running sports at the high school were	
34:16	were	
34:16	known statewide for excellence	
34:20	um it was Jim Kalperis	#jameskalperis
34:24	had the track teams in the 60s	
34:28	John Carroll started up the girls track	
34:31	and had	

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34:32	extraordinary success through the 70s I	
34:35	was coaching cross country in the 80s	
34:38	but it all started with Kalpe	
34:46	and I'd like to tell you a little bit	
34:49	about it	
34:51	now about Kalpe some new kids	
34:55	including myself at one time might call	
34:57	him Mr. Kalperis	
34:59	and there are a few ass kissers who'd	
35:01	call him Coach but to everyone else he	
35:03	was Kalpe	
35:05	he bore considerable resemblance to	
35:07	Groucho Marx	
35:08	from the hustling gait bent slightly at	
35:10	the waist	
35:11	to the mischievous dancing eyebrows to	
35:14	the ever-present cigar	
35:16	to the offhand commentary from the	
35:18	corner of the mouth	
35:19	to the vague but usually accurate sense	
35:21	you got when he talked to you	
35:23	that you were being caught you knew not	
35:26	he was an operator who saw more clearly	
35:29	than most	
35:30	that if everybody follows all the rules	
35:32	to the letter all the time	
35:34	nothing worthwhile will ever happen	
35:37	of course he was not all things to all	
35:39	people there were those who felt he came	
35:42	up and might	
35:43	in the teaching of science which was his	
35:45	primary job description	
35:47	he was probably an energetic	
35:49	knowledgeable instructor but he could be	
35:51	distracted with	
35:53	any is the time I'd wander off from a	
35:55	study hall or a lunch break or another	
35:58	class with a teammate to drop in on Kalpe	
36:02	seeing us at the door he would assign	
36:03	someone to monitor the class while we	
36:05	all went into the adjoining	
36:07	audio visual storage room to screw	
36:09	spikes into racing shoes or	
36:12	discuss the day's workout plot strategy	
36:14	for the Dartmouth meet	

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36:17	there was a rare enlivening mix of humor	
36:20	gravity	
36:20	and intensity of purpose in dealing with	
36:22	Kalpe and participating on his teams	
36:26	he became a coach of runners a year	
36:28	after the LHS cross country program was	
36:30	successfully begun under Don Jocelyn	
36:34	moved on after that inaugural 1960	
36:36	season	
36:38	the team was then made up largely of	
36:40	underprivileged black kids who so often	
36:42	went through four years of high school	
36:44	without ever tasting success in	
36:46	school-related endeavor	
36:48	the principal Mr. Marshall wanted to see	
36:51	the program continue after Jocelyn left	
36:54	and presently recognized Kalpe as a good	
36:57	man to take it over so he asked him if	
36:59	he would	
37:00	he did Kalpe knew nothing about distance	
37:03	running when he took over the	
37:04	cross-country team	
37:06	and nothing about track events when he	
37:08	subsequently took over the track teams	
37:10	but he started winning state titles	
37:12	right away	
37:14	as a coach he did not take an	
37:16	authoritarian stance to put it mildly	
37:19	I don't believe he ever took attendance	
37:21	why bother	
37:22	attendance was not required he never	
37:25	said he had to be there	
37:27	he established an atmosphere that made	
37:29	me want to do that	
37:31	he never made athletes do the work he	
37:33	made them want to do the work what a	
37:36	difference	
37:37	it wasn't possible to rebel against the	
37:39	requirements of team membership or the	
37:42	demands of the coach because there	
37:43	weren't any	
37:45	he gave people a whole lot of leeway and	
37:47	encouraged an atmosphere in which every	
37:49	kid	
37:50	felt he could be himself and achieve	

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37:52	respect for	
37:53	first from the coach and by extension	
37:55	from his teammates	
37:57	he was a master at reading an individual	
37:59	and figuring out what he was in it for	
38:02	and this applied to the adult world as	
38:04	well as the track team	
38:06	in later years when he was dealing with	
38:08	the broader spectrum than sports	
38:10	people often came to him asking for	
38:12	something	
38:13	his first inclination was to see to it	
38:15	that they got it	
38:17	that couldn't be done he tried to	
38:19	persuade them that they really didn't	
38:20	want	
38:22	that failed he convinced them that they	
38:24	already had it	
38:26	it didn't often need to go further than	
38:34	just looking at my watch here and uh huh	
38:38	I could go on by the way I ought to warn	
38:40	you	
38:41	if you have an interest in this book	
38:42	I'll tell you for one thing	
38:44	it's not out there on the bookshelves at	
38:46	the	
38:47	at the bookstores which aren't open	
38:49	anyway uh	
38:51	I believe it's still available on Amazon	
38:54	if you want to get a copy that's the	
38:57	place to go	
38:59	um most of the second half of the book	
39:05	I enter high school I enter Lawrence	
39:07	high school	
39:08	as a freshman about midway through the	
39:11	book	
39:12	and to be honest with you from then on	
39:16	the narrative is very heavy on the track	
39:19	the book's about me and	
39:23	track was very important to me all	
39:25	through high school I was extremely	
39:27	dedicated and	
39:28	it was my main focus so of course the	
39:31	book is	
39:32	the second half the book is full of	



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39:34	track stuff	
39:35	um I find a lot of my	
39:41	memories of track some some pathos	
39:45	some sorrow some joys some	
39:48	humor so you know the narrative	
39:52	continues but	
39:52	a lot of it's about traffic be warned	
39:56	but I also cover mentioned	
39:59	I mean Cuban Missile Crisis	
40:03	uh assassination of JFK uh	
40:06	you know just the	
40:10	you know nuclear test bans	
40:14	um all the cultural and	
40:17	world world impact	
40:21	events that were going on that I recall	
40:24	a lot of them are in here because I'm	
40:25	not just talking about because these	
40:27	things	
40:28	affected me these things gave me	
40:30	something to think about	
40:31	and to wonder about so it goes into my	
40:33	book	
40:35	there's one here that we can	
40:38	finish up with it has nothing to do with	
40:42	postcards	
40:44	very little to do with Falmouth um I	
40:47	have a pretty long	
40:48	uh section here about being a paperboy	
40:52	delivering the Falmouth Enterprise to my	#falmouthenterprise
40:54	customers	
40:57	but I closed it off with there was a	
41:00	curious little advertisement that	
41:02	regularly appeared in the quiet corner	
41:04	of the enterprise	
41:06	it read as follows are you having a	
41:09	problem with alcohol	
41:11	do you want to do something about it	
41:13	call KIA	
41:14	ding ding ding ding that was it	
41:18	I wasn't sure what to make of it and	
41:20	apparently worldlier minds than mine	
41:22	weren't even	
41:24	the New Yorker frequently lifted	#newyorker
41:26	published items or quotations that were	
41:28	considered so	

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41:29	peculiar or amusing that they merited	
41:32	reprinting as space fillers at the end	
41:34	of an article	
41:35	in that venerable weekly	
41:38	one day I ran across that familiar item	
41:41	from the Enterprise	
41:42	while leafing through the magazine in	
41:44	search of humor	
41:46	the notion of admitting to having a	
41:48	problem with alcohol	
41:50	and deciding to do something about it	
41:53	was a laughing matter	
41:54	to the editors of the New Yorker	
41:59	it's it's funny we we talk about history	
42:01	we talk about events of the past and	
42:05	very often it's just little items like	
42:09	that that you'd hardly	
42:10	hardly ever think of that	
42:14	really highlight major cultural changes	
42:18	from one generation to another from one	
42:20	decade to another	
42:22	and here back in back in 1960	
42:26	uh the idea of	
42:29	wanting to do something about drinking	
42:31	too much it was just	
42:33	who would do that but there it was	
42:39	so I'm going to call myself done here I	
42:41	uh boy I could keep going through this	
42:45	it's worth writing a book if for no	
42:48	other reason than that	
42:50	you'll love every word I can go back and	
42:53	reread this	
42:57	every month for the rest of my life and	
42:59	still enjoy it	
43:01	I wish I could do that with other books	
43:02	but I can't I'm gonna	
43:04	um close with a little bit of um	
43:12	a little bit of an observation that was	
43:13	originally uh it was past	
43:16	passed to me by my brother Eric	#ericturkington
43:20	um and I think this	
43:23	might warm the cockles of the heart of	
43:25	any librarian anywhere	
43:29	long after the clown has been hacked to	
43:31	death and our tweets and blogs and	

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43:33	postings and e-titles have vanished in	
43:36	obsolescence	
43:38	we'll still have the books	
43:41	thank you if you have any questions I	
43:43	should have mentioned this earlier if	
43:45	you have any	
43:46	questions or comments you'd like to make	
43:48	please I think you're in contact with	
43:50	Jill	
43:50	she will be in contact she is in contact	
43:53	with me	
43:54	and uh let her know	
43:58	thanks for joining in thank you so much	
44:01	tom that was	
44:02	great and so many great so many really	
44:05	delightful stories um if anybody does	
44:08	have a question that they'd like to ask	
44:10	Tom	
44:11	right now or a comment you can just open	
44:13	up your chat	
44:14	and I will read him the question if you	
44:16	have something	
44:18	um I want to also mention that I loved	
44:21	hearing the bit	
44:22	again about Clinton Avenue because I	
44:24	think about Clinton Avenue all the time	
44:25	and how it just	
44:26	ends and then picks up in Falmouth	
44:28	heights and how I would love to have	
44:31	like we should do something to make them	
44:33	connect again	
44:35	you know a bridge a bridge or we should	
44:38	have little	
44:38	boats to go across there or something	
44:42	seems like it must have been such a	
44:44	different town	
44:45	when Clinton Ave went right through and	
44:48	that the people who live downtown	
44:50	had would have had such great access to	
44:52	the Falmouth	
44:53	Heights beaches so except they would	
44:56	have had to go up Scranton Avenue and	
44:58	nobody went upstairs	
44:59	for any reason that too is really	
45:02	fascinating that Scranton Avenue	

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45:04	it was you know just not there was a	
45:07	place that wasn't there	
45:08	and the the stuff about the grocery	
45:10	stores is great I mean	
45:12	it's just so delightful to hear about	
45:16	what the town was like at that moment in	
45:19	time	
45:19	um and we're actually the the fellow	
45:22	that's going to be talking tomorrow as	
45:24	part of this series	
45:26	um Gus Widmayer um has written a book	
45:29	called the Belvidere	
45:30	Plain Revisited and he talks	Available from Falmouth Public Library under REF LocHist 974.492 WID
45:33	also about Clinton Ave and how things	
45:36	again	
45:36	sort of developed and it will be very	
45:40	interesting I think to hear that talk	
45:42	as well it does not look like anybody	
45:46	has	
45:46	any questions at this moment in time	
45:50	but I am uh really delighted	
45:53	to have had you finally come to the	
45:54	library if only virtually	
45:57	I hope next time in your when you're in	
45:59	found with you stop by the library and	
46:00	say hello	
46:01	we reopened the public yesterday so feel	
46:04	free	
46:05	to stop by um it was a real pleasure	
46:08	uh to have you talk about your memories	
46:11	of Falmouth	
46:12	and a great addition um to this series	
46:15	of talks that we're doing	
46:16	so and thank to all of you that um have	
46:20	shown up today for this we really	
46:22	appreciate it um	
46:23	and thank you to FCTV for making this	
46:26	all possible	
46:28	um in terms of making this this	
46:31	tv part the work the um	
46:34	it is again our first time doing quite	
46:37	something quite of this level so	

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46:39	we really look forward to it a pleasure	
46:41	tom	
46:42	to uh hear you talk and I	
46:46	hope that you all will take a look at	
46:48	his book and which of course the library	
46:50	has copies of	
46:51	as well as um the postcard collections	
46:55	so thanks so much well thank you thank	
46:58	you Jill so sorry to have uh	
47:00	put you on edge at 9 55 this morning	
47:02	when I wasn't	
47:03	down but uh I it worked out fine and uh	
47:08	this is fun for me too that's great it	
47:11	and it did indeed work out we're we're	
47:14	delighted	
47:14	thank you again and um we hope some of	
47:17	us who	
47:18	join you to that some of us some of you	
47:20	here will be able to join tomorrow	
47:22	for Gus Widmayer's talk um and then	
47:25	we have a third uh story third	
47:29	one coming up um on Thursday which is	
47:32	Mary L. Martin who is actually	
47:34	the author and owner of the world's	
47:36	largest postcard shop that has just come	
47:39	out	
47:39	with a new book about collecting	
47:41	postcards in fact she's written many	
47:43	many books about collecting postcards	
47:44	so that will be sort of a different	
47:46	angle of this week is the postcards	
47:48	angle	
47:49	um thank you so much for attending thank	
47:52	you Tom	
47:53	checking out thanks Jill	
48:06	[Music]	