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Shirley Spork, Oral History Interview, 2021, part 1

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Oral History Interview with Shirley Spork (SS), Part 1 of 2

Conducted by EMU Lecturer Matt Jones (MJ)

Transcribed by EMU Lecturer Matt Jones

Recorded 2021, November 19 via telephone from Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan

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golf, play, LPGA, Michigan, spork, dorm, golf course, college, Michigan state, national collegiate, gave, campus, Detroit, club, study, sports, lady, reading, walk, world war, Michigan state normal college, eastern Michigan university, EMU, Bingo Brown, Augusta Harris, godson hall,

SS: Good morning.

MJ: Hi Shirley. This is Matt from EMU.

SS: Okay.

MJ: How's the house in Palm Springs right now?

SS: Well, it is sunny and everybody who can drive here is here. All of the snow bunnies are have arrived from the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest and all the golf courses are reopened and receding to winter rye grass and when I get through with this call I'm going to my club, Monterey Country Club to join the nine-hole Nifty Niners. Everything is looking good for turkey day; they still have them in the stores. Everybody's hoarding everything [laughter].

MJ: Well I have been reading your book and reading a lot of stuff about you just everywhere I can find it. I've come up with a lot of questions for today and I was hoping if it's okay with you, if we split this interview into two parts.

SS: Well, I have I'll tell you one thing: I have just one hour and I have to be at another reading.

MJ: Okay. Well, let's see what we can do in an hour.

SS: I want to mention that when you write your article, you can tell the magazine, you can tell them that my book is in the library there. Okay. It's also available on amazon.com.

MJ: Oh, okay. All right. I was really happy to get it in the mail, especially with your signature in it. That was really great.

SS: Oh good!

MJ: Okay, well, let's see what we can do in an hour. And then maybe we can schedule another time to get together because this this interview is not for an article. This is just for our historical record here.

SS: Put it in the building there or they have a drawer and you punch a button and they can play it and such.

MJ: Well, it'll be up online too. So, people can read it and listen to it. But I just have an introduction that I'm going to read first, and then I'll start in with some questions.

SS: Okay, fine.

MJ: Well, it is Friday, November 19 2021. This is EMU Archives lecturer Matt Jones and today I'm speaking with Michigan State Normal College alum and co-founder of the LPGA Shirley Spork, a 1949 graduate of the Normal College. Spork has led a life uniquely her own, balancing her love of the game of golf with her passion for teaching and leaving the game of better place for those who come after her. Despite the lack of a competitive women's golf program in the 1940s, Michigan State Normal saw Spork emerge as the brightest star of the game as she won the 1947 Women's National Collegiate Golf Championship, and was Tam o' Shanter All American Amateur Champion in 1948. She was runner up in the National Collegiate Golf Championship, and won the Michigan State Women's Amateur title. Spork was one of the top ten Money winners of 1951 and toured Europe as the first LPGA pro to conduct clinics in foreign countries. Following the whirlwind tours of the early LPGA, Spork became widely recognized as a teaching professional and it was written that Spork's "gregarious grin and golf know-how made her exceptionally effective in nurturing the potential in junior golfers. Spork has been awarded the Joe Graffis Award for Outstanding contributions to the teaching of golf, the LPGA Teacher of the Year Award and was inducted into the Michigan Athletic Hall of Fame in 1968, and the EMU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1981. I could go on and on and just the reading of your achievements could fill two hours. So, in the interest of the interview, I'm gonna let you talk about anything we've missed. But I want to start way back at the beginning; your book paints such a fantastic picture of Detroit in the 1950s 1930s and 1940s. But where and when were you born?

SS: I was born on Central Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, on the kitchen table.

MJ: I didn't expect that. Okay, I was trying to think of what hospitals were on Central Avenue in Detroit. That is something. Was there a doctor in attendance?

SS: Yeah.

MJ: Okay. Okay. Well, in those years before moving to the house next to the Bonnie Brook golf course, who lived in the house with you, what family was there?

SS: The house I went to live in?

MJ: Well, before you made the move to Bonnie Brook golf course.

SS: Oh, where did we live. In the Detroit area I was in grade school. And for some reason, my mother couldn't figure out why I didn't want to go to school on Wednesdays. And she had to, I always had an excuse that I didn't feel well or something. And so, she went to the school to find out what subjects I had [on Wednesdays]. And on that day, I had dance and tumbling, and I would get very dizzy. So, I had an inner air balance problem. So, that's where they found out my problem, and when I turn to this day, if I turn too fast or I'm in a small private plane and it zooms around, I get very dizzy so I'm not a great dancer because of that [laughter].

MJ: I read your later accounts of having to take tap dance lessons and having to make your own shoes. That must have been a problem.

SS: The thing at school, I was studying to be a physical education teacher. All sports we had to take, and learn how to teach, and one was in dance; it was folk dance, ballroom dancing, tap dancing. This is just after World War Two. And when I went to college, I had to take my ration book with me because I lived in the new Goodison Hall, the brand new Goodison residential hall. I had to take my ration book because I ate my meals there. Also, in the ration book was one stamp per year for a pair of shoes. Well, to teach and learning bowling, you could rent shoes. But for tap, I had to take an old pair of shoes and put taps on them. But we didn't have a stamp to buy a pair for tap. Well, it has a stamp for one pair per year. But that was used for my gym shoes. And then gym shoes, in those days, to be a PE teacher, you must have white gym shoes. And you had to wear a white uniform and white shoes and you're expected to make sure they're clean on Monday for the week. During that time, I was somewhat defiant and I went out and found a pair of red tennis shoes that I didn't have to have a stamp for and I wore them to class and they said "you can't wear those shoes you'll have to go barefoot today." Yeah. So that's a good true story.

MJ: Yeah, I love that. I love that. I have a lot of questions about your time at Michigan State Normal College. I want to get a couple more questions about your very early life like I really liked the

stories about your mother; how you would go to the park on her days off. Can you tell me more about her? Was she interested in sports? Did she share your competitive spirit?

SS: My parents were both blue collar workers when we moved to this golf course, and when I found the golf club and I bought my first club. I was busy, that kept me busy. And when I started to compete with the lady Publinx golfers, I came home and my mother would say, "Well, how did you do today?" And I said, "Well, today I won," or "today I was second." And she said "now for dinner, we're going to have..." and that was it. We never discussed golf. We never discussed sports. My parents both worked and we had good food on the table. We had an acre garden. When we moved to that area, my father was out of work and there was a house there that we could live in for free as he was the caretaker. And then after a year or two we were doing fine again. He was an electrical engineer at Great Lakes Engineering, they make freighters and they do great, great engineering; it was near Ecorse and they built and they've been in business since World War One making ships so in my era, I was able to see my father launch two 580-foot freighters. You see, upper Michigan is the iron and all that ore came from up in the Upper Peninsula and was shipped to the foundry at the Ford Motor plant. They had their own foundry, their own dock. And all those freighters had to be 580-feet, and no longer because that was linked to the locks that brought the toll. They ore was used to make Ford cars.

MJ: Okay. Was there an expectation for you to go to college when you were young?

SS: Well, no. When I was in high school, the WPGA, the Women's Professional Golf Tour had been established and it had a very few members, six or seven I believe. And they had some tournaments. And they were functioning in 1945, 46, and 47. Then they ran out of money and that was the end of it, but I was in high school. I was going to turn pro and join the WPGA. Well at that time, we were living with... we left the Bonnie Brook area. And we're living back in the center of Detroit in a four unit apartment building. And upstairs a lady's daughter went to Michigan State Normal and convinced my parents that I should go to college. So unbeknownst to me, but I understand my parents. My mother got a loan on the furniture in our house to use as my entry fee to go to school. So, they wanted me to get an education, and I couldn't turn pro. In school I read a lot about, in encyclopedia, about a lady whose name was Babe Didrikson, and of course she had shown the world in the 1932 the Olympics. She did many sports. And I thought well if she did all those sports, maybe I could do one sport. So, we took the newspaper and the only articles that were ever written were about Patty Berg., because she was very instrumental in both the WPGA and the beginning of the LPGA down the road, so she became my mentor. We both had red hair; we're both built the same. And sometimes when we played in major tournaments, they'd follow me along because they thought I was Patty Berg. No, so.

MJ: Okay, well, when you were in high school, when you were still kind of thinking about joining the WPGA. Where were you getting your information about professional golf? Were there golf publications? Was it a popular sport?

SS: Show me a PGA WPA friend of the magazine? It once a month, you know? So that's where I learned about that. You know, there was no further information on the WPGA to my knowledge. The only golf that we you know, we've had radio here no television yet, I don't think. You know, so again, as I started to compete in the Detroit system of competition, I went to the Publinx women and they allowed me to play with them when I was in the seventh and eighth grade. And my father took me, as he was on his way to work, he would take me to school. The ladies would pick me up there and I'd go play and then when we were done, they'd bring me back to school so I could take the bus to go home. So, it was these ladies that allowed me to begin to compete and talk about golf. There was no junior golf. I had no, you know, I had no instruction except the PGA of that section of the PGA gave a free golf clinic sponsored by the Detroit Free Press. And I went to that clinic. It was once a week for four weeks at Redford Golf Course, which was a couple of miles from where we live. And I rode my bicycle down there. And, the PGA lined us up; they didn't have a driving range. So, they just lined us up on a line and we hit balls, and they walked up and down the line. And the first week, they said "yeah that's a bad grip," and they just kept walking. And the next guy came along and said, "Yeah she has a bad grip," and he kept walking. So, the second week, when I went, I thought, well, I'm going to stop one of those guys and say, "Now, I know I have a bad grip. What do I do about it?" So that's what I did. And then I found that if you ask questions, you get good information. So, that was a learning experience. And it was four weeks and after four weeks, they judged who improved the most and I won a prize. And the prize was a gift certificate for the McGregor Golf Company- \$15.00. And I went to their warehouse or wherever it was, and I got my very first ever distance club, a driver, and it was a [brand of club]. It was black. I remember that and I wish I still had that. I was so excited. You know, I had a driver and a putter. So, I had both ends of the game. Then I got lucky, chasing me off the golf course there where we lived and so the pro who worked there, the ranger, said, "there's this little redheaded girl she just keeps going up the hill and down the hill playing number 17 and 18 and I chased her off" because it was a daily fee golf course. Oh, he found me came in found me out there and he said, "Well, I got some old clubs I'll give you" So, he gave me a size of 3, 5, 7, 9 irons. And the only problem with the clubs was they were a trade in or you know, someone bought a new set, but the grips had been wound leather, someone had wound it on, and in between each inch was cork. So, it was leather, cork, leather, cork, leather, cork leather, cork. But, where the hands sit, the cork areas were all chewed off. So, I was gripping the club that had something nothing, something nothing, something nothing. That was probably why I had a bad group in the game of golf if you don't have a proper grip, that's the most important thing in the game of golf is to hold the object correctly and with the right amount of grip pressure. So that's one thing that I basically always emphasize- the importance of their grip on the golf club.

MJ: One of my favorite photos I've seen of you is in your book on page 13. And it's a photo of you when you're 14. And yeah, it looks like a professional shot. Like you look intimidating.

SS: Yes, well yes, that was that was my first photograph. That was 13 or 14. I don't know how I got such a good shoulder turn. I guess I'm right brained- I'm creative by looking at something. I can copy something rather than read it. I'm not the brightest person and I'm not the best speller in the world. And when I write, thank goodness, I can use my phone and make sure I spell everything the right way.

MJ: Well, um, when you made the decision to come to Michigan State Normal College or rather it sounds like your parents did...

SS: Well, they actually packed my bag that off we went. I wasn't too excited about it. Once I got there, I was signed up to stay in the Goodison Hall and it was new, it was brand new. And it was three stories, the basement area was a recreation area and the cafeteria. And, then there were two stories of you know, resident rooms. And the way it was set up is each room had two rooms. Each person was assigned a two-room. It had a study room, and it had a bedroom. And it was built to have two people. So, it had two desks in the study room and in the bedroom, it had two closets and four drawers. But when I went there because of the overhaul after World War Two, it had double bunks and we each had one drawer and to study we went to the library.

MJ: Which library was that?

SS: No wonder what that was? It's a new one that you have that was donated by a wonderful gentleman who started Discount Tire.

MJ: Bruce Halle.

SS: Yes. His assistant that he brought into the business is my second cousin. He's retired and Bruce died a year ago and Bruce followed me by a year or two at Eastern Michigan. He started his business between its between Ypsi and Ann Arbor, changing flat tires, and putting inner tubes in your tires. Because during World War Two, no one was ever allowed to buy a new tire because all our rubber was used for the World War Two. So, my cousin was a little boy; he was 13 years old and his father died of cancer. So, he rode his bicycle three or four miles and started helping the man- Bruce. This is a great story because he took him in his as his son because his father died. And so, he brought him into the business and he became the vice president. Just retired. It was a great story and Bruce was a very kind-hearted person that helped in their business. They bring people from the bottom and build them up to become managers. And Bruce wanted, before he passed away, he wanted to reach 100 stores and he did reach the 100 stores throughout our

country before he passed away, I think two years ago. He donated that whole, full block, that marvelous, marvelous library.

MJ: I'm sitting in it right now!

SS: I don't think you know that story about Bruce.

MJ: I'm sitting in that building right now. That's where my office is. Your cousin is not Bob Holman is he?

SS: He remarried and has a stepson..

MJ: Okay. Okay. But that's not your cousin. Right? Robert Holman?

SS: No. Van Brunt. Gary Van Brunt, two words. V, a, n, b, r, u, n, t. Van Brunt. Gary is spelled G A R Y.

MJ: Okay. Well, that's an amazing story. I didn't know that.

SS: So, every day you learned something?

MJ: Oh, I sure do. I've learned a lot about golf in the last few days.

SS: So, you're not a golfer.

MJ: I've tried. I'll take some credit for trying. But, man, what a hard game that is.

SS: You playing tennis?

MJ: A little bit, here and there. I'm a musician. I play the guitar. I'm a songwriter. So, I write songs. And I spent a lot of my life just touring the United States. Yep.

SS: How did you get to EMU?

MJ: I got to be 37 years old as a musician. And I just thought to myself, I really need some stability. So, I came back to school and it was the best decision I ever made.

SS: Wow!

MJ: I love what I do. Now. I couldn't be luckier so and I get to meet people like you and just talk about your life.

SS: Wow, wonderful. Getting back to getting to Goodison.

MJ: I'd love to hear everything you can tell me about Goodison because it's no longer here.

SS: Really?

MJ: Yeah, it's gone. They put another big building in its place.

SS: Wow. That was that was the newest thing when I went there. So also, you know, being the war was over, the GI Bill came into effect. And, all the men that came to school were on the GI Bill, which was free education. And they were two years older than we were two to three years. So, all men were older than we were at school. And also, at Goodison Hall, I was able to find and purchase for \$200, a 1935 Dodge car. And I had the only car. I parked it under a big tree right by the beginning of Goodison Hall. And we named it Pearl. And everybody knew Pearl and they would watch Pearl. Nobody's to hurt Pearl. And I used it so that I could make spending money. I got my national rating in basketball, and I had to go to get to the Dean of Women to get permission to leave campus and go in the winter, in a snowstorm to little towns and referee basketball games and come home to the dorm after hours because you couldn't go out of the dorm after 10 o'clock at night you had to be inside the dorm. I had to check in and check out so they know nobody was missing or whatever. So that was... then I had to ring the doorbell and wake up the housemother and she didn't like that very much. Because I'd be coming home, you know, 1130, 12 o'clock at night from refereeing basketball games, and I made me a lot of money. I made tremendous money. That was like \$15- that was a lot of money! So, I had plenty of spending money. The car was 1935, it was 10 years old. And it used more oil and gas. So, I was always carrying a can of oil. So, do that for a while and that's up, so put some more oil in it because it needed a ring job. It blew blue smoke going down the road. Used that car; we had a basketball team and we used to pack five kids and two basketballs and our uniforms and off we went to play, you know, to play basketball. So, I was competing in basketball as a team. But the main problem in Goodison? Well, a thing just happened was that where Goodison was, or whatever is there now, you used to walk across the campus to a little soda fountain called Ted's I think. All right. And then we went there to have a Coke or a soda, and you had to walk all the way across the campus. So, I had been [really good at] selling pop and golf balls as a kid. And I thought, well, we should have a Coke machine in the dorm. And then we wouldn't have to go all the way over there. So, I went to President Munson to ask permission for us to get a Coke machine. And I said, "the reason for this is- we'll stay in the dorm and study and we won't have to walk all the way over across to Ted's. And it won't cost you anything because they're gonna

deliver the machine free, and you paid an extra, let's say 50 cents on the case. And that paid for the use of the machine. Yeah, I got the very first Coke machine in a dorm on campus.

MJ: What a great story. What was Munson like? What was he like as a person?

SS: An old grump. He was grumpy. He was not too friendly. But I got through a secretary and I got to see him. He wanted to know why I was there. I said "I'm here to get a Coke machine." Along with that, I became a very good friend with Dean Bingo Brown who was at that time the head of men's, oh, I don't know what you call them. Dean of Men. In Physical Education, one of the subjects that was fun that we had to have to graduate was organic chemistry. And we all would talk about "what do we need chemistry for?" So, what I did, what we all did, we'd say "oh it's going to be out of the curriculum this year," next year, the next year. And we all waited till we're seniors and it's still in the curriculum. So, now we have to take it or we're not gonna graduate. And I'm not doing very well on it because I hated that. If I didn't like the subject I didn't work on it. I go to Bingo Brown, and I'm talking to him about you know, "I don't think I'm gonna pass it. if I don't pass this..." And, you know, he said, "Shirley you go to play a golf tournament, and you hit a ball and it's kind of buried in the sand. How do you get it out?" He said, "You study it and you think about it and you get it out." He said "you go back home and study- you'll pass it." That was his answer. He, I have letters somewhere that he wrote to me the first three or four years that I was out on the tour. We were pretty good friends. Also, also all because I was so severely interested in golf and not studying to play in a Detroit district tournament. It came final time, I was able to get the professor of Biology to come at 6:15 in the morning, so I could take my blue book final test so I could get in the car and go play and win the tournament at Oakland Hills. So, my mind was not really on studying. It was on golf and having a car they gave me an entree into free practice in golf at Washtenaw Country Club. I don't know if it's still that name, but it's now run by a management company; it was a private club then. And in between classes, if I had an extra hour, I would buzz out there and play three holes or hit some balls and then buzz back and go to the next class. In the winter time, I would walk across campus with my golf clubs in a snowdrift to the water tower, the old gymnasium that we did everything in and go into a small wrestling room that has maps and hook them on the wall and hit golf balls. So, you know my mind was not on studying. Those are stories that relate back to campus.

MJ: Yeah. Do you remember any of your physical education instructors?

SS: Do I what?

MJ: Do you remember any of them?

SS: Yes. The head of the department, her name was Bufner. "Boofy" they called her. Augusta Harris was a dance Teacher The problem, the basic problem with golf is in that time sequence, we were

not to participate in individual sport, period. So, to play in the National Collegiate tournaments, we had a substitute teacher who I said "I need this entry form signed. It's got to get in the mail." And so, she just signed it; she didn't read it. So, I paid my own way to go to play in the National Collegiate at Ohio State and I won it. That's the only national championship man or women in that year, 1947. If you look the records up, because I didn't know that myself, I don't remember but someone who was in history looked at up. And she and her husband started an endowment for me. And that's why I have a Shirley G. Spork Women's Golf Endowment. That's how it started. But anyhow, going into the tournament, and winning and coming back, and getting absolutely no recognition from the Women's Physical Education Department. The men awarded me a jacket, not a letter- a jacket that said Michigan State Normal College National Golf Champion. And at their men's award ceremony, they gave it to me on stage in the old auditorium. And that's the only honor I received ever from this. And two years ago, I believe I got my letter E for effort. It took 60 years to get it.

MJ: I would like to send you a from the time period I'd like to send you a Michigan State Normal College M if that's okay with you.

SS: I have one now. I went to you know, I go to all -not all- but I try to go once a year to the Women's Golf stuff that goes on because I keep contributing money to them. But here is the plaque on the wall it says "Shirley Spork, Michigan State Normal College, Athletic Hall of Fame." Inside is the E and on each side are pictures of me with golf, you know, golf clubs and stuff. So, they finally gave me 60 years later.

MJ: So, they gave you they gave you the E for EMU- do you have an M for Michigan State Normal College?

SS: No, I had one I gave to some museum. It's an it's in the Michigan... It was a little teeny little thing. And I gave it says Michigan State Normal College.

MJ: Michigan State Normal College.

SS: Michigan State Normal College. It was about a half a dollar size. No half of size of a \$1. I gave it to the Michigan State Hall of Fame; that's Harris college now.

MJ: Well, I can't believe you were taking 25 hours a semester. That

SS: We all took fifteen academic and ten, no, yeah, ten no-credits and 15 academic credits. So, we were taking 25 while other people were only taking 15. So, every sport that we had to take a say was five credits, I guess. You went five days a week. And you studied as I said, one was for dance, all kinds of dance and one was refereeing I have my refereeing for volleyball, basketball

and field hockey. So, you had to learn all the rules, and then you had to referee the games and then he had to be observed before doing it and then you passed or failed and you had to try to pass not fail of course. And that was that was a five. So, there were three things you were taking each time: it was semesters; it wasn't quarters. Yeah, we were on the semester system. So, we took three different ones and three more. So, we had 6 in one year, we get 5, 10, 15 I can't escape and 30 credits, you know. So, in PE and a lot of the girls that were studying in physical education also were working to pay for their living in the dorm. They worked in the cafeteria. Serving the food. So, there were ways to help pay for your tuition.

MJ: Okay. You mentioned this woman a second ago, but I was wondering if you could tell me about Gussie Harris. Gussie Harris.

SS: A U G U S T A; It's Augusta. Harris. She was in charge of all of dance programs. When she retired, she moved to Sun City in Arizona. So, I communicated with her you know, over the years and she was very outgoing and she would take her dance groups to Flint Michigan. Flint- where they had, what's the name of the apple juice? Mott? So, yeah, that's has to do with Flint, doesn't it? Or the university or something. Anyhow, I used to travel and conduct ballroom dancing and put on plays and stuff like that. And then in the Physical Education Department, men and women's, we always had a circus. Like a real circus, and we did some tumbling, acrobatics, and, you know, people came to that old gym, you know, the old gym was the men's and then the ladies, it was two gyms and we got the little one, of course, and there was only one pool. So, our locker room they cut a hole in the brick wall and we walked on a plank board to get from our locker room to the pool. And this great big boiler, we had to walk and suck in our stomachs and walk by this great big huge boiler that was hot, to get into the pool area. So, we were kind of, you know, leftover. The boys got the best gym. The best, you know, that was the era, you know, that's the way life was. I performed with the stunts and tumbling part, [] people off and stuff like that. We had a very small gymnastic thing where you know, you use the horse to just get up and swing your legs and Michigan, University of Michigan, which is only six to eight miles down the road, they had a terrific program in you know, when they perform indoors. Yeah- gymnastics. We had a very small gymnastics team...we didn't- the men had a good one, you know, they did some, like, 10% of what University of Michigan was doing. The nice thing about being so close to Michigan, one of our group in our ladies' program, her daddy was in charge of equipment at the University of Michigan and they lived across the street from the stadium. So, we got free tickets. He had a free ticket so we saw all the UoM games and that was when Tom Harmer was the star; he had come back from World War Two. Tom Harmer. You can remember that name; he was the quarterback. But, you know, cold in the winter, you went there and you stomped your feet all the time to keep your feet warm, and anything you did in the winter time- it was difficult.

MJ: Mott, yes. Sure. Well one thing that kept popping into my mind reading your book was that you're in college and you're seemingly winning competitions left and right that are, you know, off campus; were you getting recognition? Did people know who you were on the campus here?

SS: On campus?

MJ: Yes. Were people aware of how serious and how good you were?

SS: No, no, no, just the people- friends, they knew. Oh no. Bingo Brown knew who I was. A professor of biology, and you know, people that I contacted knew. See, it was written up in the newspapers. Nothing was ever said. Well they had a men's golf game, no women's, no we don't have any women's because that was the era "Do not do individual sports," which were tennis, golf and bowling.

MJ: So, they really kind of they really did sort of shun that kind of behavior even when you were really successful.

SS: They all thought I was kind of nuts, kooky, because I played golf. My association was that golfers recognized who I was, so they recognize what I wanted to do and if it weren't for them, I wouldn't have done anything because it cost money to do all that and men would say "you come with me and we'll go play on Sunday and, and you're gonna be my surprise partner." And then they found out that I could play and then I started playing and winning. And even in high school I was written up in the newspaper. So, I skipped school to play the tournament. And the next day the paper said you just want a tournament. The teachers knew why I wasn't there. But I was, you know, I want to just grade school in the last four rooms. Last four-room elementary school in the city of Detroit. It was called Dubois, D U B O I S Dubois. And in the first and second grades, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth. And I was in the seventh and eighth and 7th is two rows, and eighth was two rows, and the teacher taught the seventh two rows and then she taught the next two rows and there were eight of us that graduated from grade school. Went from there to Redford High School in a group of 600 in my class. Now to go from eight where teacher is teaching two groups, seventh and eighth grade in Monroe, to 600 in a high school, which had two times to go to school. If you were the first two years. First, are you a sophomore? The four things- what are the four things? Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Okay. If you're a freshman, sophomore, you went to school 12 to 4. If you were a junior or senior you went 8 to 12. So, the 8 to 12 could get a job. Where, we went out for sports and I played field hockey and basketball. We would go to the library. The city library is not there anymore, or the high school isn't there anymore. Gone. We would go in the morning to do our homework at the library. And then then after our 12 to 4, we had our sports. So, it was divided up. It was 600 in a class in the class, so let's say 300 were in the morning and 300 in the afternoon. That about sort of makes sense. You didn't really know anybody but when I started playing on the golf tour, people would say, "Oh, I

went to school with you, do you remember me?" and I say "No, I don't remember you- I never saw you!" You know, you don't see those people! You go from this teeny thing to this great big mass. You're just a number! I used to get tutored in algebra. I thought, "What do I want the algebra for? A, b, and c and all this stuff?" I had to get tutored. So, we raised chickens and ducks and I would take the chicken and dress it and I'd take it and give it to the lady and that was how I paid her to tutor me to get through algebra.

MJ: How much how much would that have gone for?

SS: Oh, probably \$1. No, not even that much. Maybe. Maybe \$1.

MJ: Well, I know you don't have a whole lot of time left here. It's 12:55. But I wanted to just make a comment. It sounds like though you didn't want to go to college. It sounds like you turned out having a pretty okay time.

SS: Well, yeah. I finally was able to make contact to get a scholarship at Stetson University in Florida but that was when I was going to be a senior and I would lose a few credits, and I would have had to stay two years, so I turned it down. This is before any scholarships were available except in private colleges in Florida like Rollins and Stetson in places like that that had golf teams. So that didn't work out.

MJ: I hope that we can schedule another conversation because I have another 10 pages of questions for you.

SS: I'm looking at December.

MJ: Yeah, maybe even January. Well, no, December should be fine. Do you check your email often? Do you want me to just email you some possible dates and you can pick one?

SS: Yes, that's fine. Okay. That's great. Okay, what's the weather there today?

MJ: Oh, it's about 33 degrees it's sunny. There's about a half inch of snow on the ground. I ride my bike every day.

SS: Great. What kind of bike?

MJ: I have an Ebike. It's got a little electric motor that kicks in.

SS: We have a lot a lot of those around here. Oh, I love it. Seniors drive them down the highway here.

MJ: Yeah, it's really fun. I live about a 20 minute ride from campus. So much fun.

SS: One time I had, when I taught at Indian Hills Country Club- my first house I ever owned. I used to ride my bike to work and home. I used to use it a lot. I don't know. At 94 if I got on I might fall off. So, I'm off to the Nifty Niners now. Okay, and you have a nice holiday.

MJ: You're a fantastic storyteller and I can't wait to talk to you again.

SS: Okay, have a good holiday and eat lots of good turkey. Bye.

MJ: Ok! Bye bye!