

Told by: Bill Hohenstein

My grandfather was the youngest of 13 kids. And he was really really, interesting guy. I think he only made it through 8th grade and worked as a lineman. and was pretty rough and tumble. He was not a big guy, but because he was the youngest of 13, his nickname was babe and they called him babe for his whole life. And like most people his age, he smoked. And ultimately he got colon cancer and from that lung cancer. And so he died when I was going into my sophomore year of college, no my junior year of college. The day that I was leaving for college. I was supposed to go, and he had been really sick. He had been in and out of the hospital and he died right before I left to go to college so I put it off. But that's not what I wanted to tell you about. I mean there were so many things that were interesting about him. The fact that he instilled so much into my dad, and his brothers. I think you can see it, sort of the sense of right and wrong, the sense of honor and how you live your life and you could definitely see that in them. But he was a lot of fun too. They used to have keg parties at my grandmother's house. They had a pool table in the basement. And he would always yell at the kids, but you know he never meant it. And so he would always have his friends over in the basement to shoot pool, we weren't allowed to stomp around because basically the lights shook, but there were 6 kids living in his house for 6 months and it was almost impossible not to stomp around and so he would pretend to be mean and gruff, but really wasn't. And there were things I found out about him after he died. Like in the 20s they would go to the beach and you know none of them went even through high school, let alone college. But they sort of made up these sororities and fraternities. Like mock fraternities for the beach. And there's a picture of my grandfather with my grandmother and they're in their 20s or maybe late teens and he's got this shirt that says "Shy guy" and like it's so funny to look at a picture like that. Because you don't, I never thought of him being young, but he was.

Told by: Cathy Hohenstein

I would say, one of the things I remember the most is that every sunday we went to my dad's parents house, my Grandmom's, we called it Grandmom's even though grandpop lived there and my great aunts lived there. It wasn't until middle school that I even realized that not everybody did this. I thought everybody went to their grandparent's and knew there cousins and ate dinner with them every sunday. And because of that, when I think of sundays I think of sitting around the table. I think of the fact that every month we had a birthday to sing happy birthday and we'd have the cake and we'd have the cupcakes with it. We'd be doing dishes in the kitchen afterwards. And just that that was like a second home, and what's interesting is now I live in Asheville which is in North Carolina in the mountains and I have come across families down there that do similar things. The grandmother and her kids and her grandchildren, they'll eat dinners together and they'll do things together. And now I have that table in my house and so the stories that would be a reflection or a remembrance of just a simple sunday where we'll all sitting on the couches and we're watching tv and we're watching tv, we're watching a football game, or we're watching MASH afterwards. And setting up the card table in the living room for the kids to eat on. My Uncle Jerry sitting in the middle section, in the

middle seat and he was the passer of all the food back and forth at that table. And I would say that would be one my strongest memories of my family.

Told by: Alana Hohenstein

With Christmas dinner and New Years, everyone came for all of those big family events. And people came up for most of winter break, instead of one or two days. And how Christmas used to be bigger and we'd have more people here and I remember Ellie and Tyler never really came up for Christmas dinner. And I remember the one year that they did I had asked my parents if I could stay for Christmas dinner instead of going to my dad's side of the family for dinner and my one reason was "Ellie is finally here to have dinner with us." And how people are growing up and leaving for college and people are wanting to hang out with their friends more than their family. Like whenever I come up to Philadelphia the one thing I want to do is be with my cousins, and I remember we used to just go up to Rachel and Riley's and build a fort in their living room and now Riley is always going away with her friends and her boyfriend.