

A Young Woman

I was on the basketball team in high school for about five years. Really enjoyed that. Then I got into swimming. Maybe I was six or seven or eight when I was introduced to the Thames Valley swimming pool.

Eventually my friends and I would walk there from our house; it would be about a 20-minute walk to the pool. We'd get there and we'd play and swim and watch the teams and their swimmers and I admired the way they swam. Those girls were so clever. I decided that I could be like that. I worked hard and enjoyed every minute of it and became a good swimmer. I still am.

I taught young Jackie and Erica, I think, respect for water and how to have a lot of fun in it. And yes, I was a good athlete. I was always busy with something; some kind of swimming, some kind of athletic endeavour.

I played tennis in school. And after school Helen and I used to take our racquets, go down to Thames Park, stand in line, wait for a court to be empty and then we'd play. I wasn't excellent at tennis, but I really enjoyed it.

Badminton I enjoyed as I became a teen-

age and a working gal. I joined the badminton club at the church and I can even tell you the exact date: October the 31st 1939. I started with my first job and the badminton group at the church on the same day. From then on I was never without a boyfriend, never without a game to play. I had lots of fun things to do during those teenage years.

A lot of the girls then in high school had boyfriends, because they lived in an area where boys in the area went to the high school, and they probably walked together and got to know each other. Helen and I lived on the far side of Dundas Street. We did not go to school with any boys from our area because they were not in our school. They were in a technical program in another school. So we had no contact with boys for a long time. I would say not until our late teens.

This is very different from nowadays. But once I got to know the guys at the church and the young people's group and at the badminton club, I certainly had a happy time. I was never without a boyfriend! There was always somebody to call me up and go someplace with, like go out to movies.

