

Speaker 1 0:00

was between, like 170/3 and 74th was 170/5 Street, only a couple of blocks away from where I lived, was to walk to that pool.

Speaker 2 0:11

Okay, so I have the recording going, grandpa. So just to recap, we will you just recap your recollections of Crotona Park and the Works Progress Administration work that you got to take advantage of.

Speaker 1 0:23

Yes. Okay. So, as I told you, I was about seven, I think it was that that year, but it could have been the following year, I don't remember if I was seven or eight. And in the summertime, the pool was no, if it was opened during school days, it was probably only open up in July and August. And it opened, I guess, around 10 o'clock in the morning, but I probably I don't remember going and spending the day there. So I probably went there in the afternoon, I'm assuming, because you didn't eat there. They had no eating facilities. And I as I said, I would walk from my apartment, which was 107 years. And there was some very long blocks in between, including another block that didn't have a street number that didn't walk or something like that. And my mother let me walk by myself. I crossing a major Claremont Claremont Parkway was a major in East West intersection that cut through the park and walked up to the pool. And you got online there, boys and girls. I think it was a dime. But that sounds like a lot of money for that time in 1936. But I don't remember it might have been less, but I think it was a dime. And all I had with me was a bathing suit and a towel. And you went into this lodge lodge room. The boy's room was open. You didn't have any privacy. You check. It seems me. Did you ask me something?

Unknown Speaker 2:11

Oh, no, no, I didn't.

Speaker 1 2:13

Alright, so I remember was a big open room with benches, and you change your clothes, you put it into a little box, which you brought up to the attendant and they put it on a shelf and gave you a tag, which you put around your wrist with the number of the box so that when you came back, you would get your own box. And I went by myself. I didn't have any of my friends with me. I don't remember ever and just played in the pool. I couldn't swim. But water was, you know, very shallow, and spent many summer days at the pool.

Speaker 2 2:54

That's great. How far was that walk again, Grandpa from your apartment. Oh,

Speaker 1 2:58

I was on 170/8 Street, the end of the park there, which started when

they tore through that park and separated it into two different parks for the Cross Bronx Expressway many years later. And I think that street that they crossed was 170/5. But the pool was south of it. So it could have been like between 170/4 and 170/5 street, but it was more than four blocks because there was one big block that didn't have a number, St Paul's place that was in between the numbered streets. But it was like a 10 minute walk. If I remember.

Speaker 2 3:43

So that's in Crotona Park and then this was so you started going to yard open Grandpa 1936 It sounds like

Speaker 1 3:49

I'm not sure it could have been could have been 37 Right? I don't remember. Cool. Cool grandpa. I was a kid. Thank you. I bought my mother let me go by myself. Today wouldn't nobody would do that.

Speaker 2 4:06

Were there any other pools grandpa that you would be able to go to before this or did it really help like in the summer

Speaker 1 4:11

warmer weather pools? That was a very, very big pool. There were pools later on right? There was one near grandma that was yeah, it was you could you could pay to get in wasn't free. But there was right by the l wasn't as pretty as this. This was in the middle of a park right. One south of the Yankee Stadium. That grandma night. When I met her that summer, we we went swimming there with Javi and his fiancée, I remember so that was a nice pool. And then there were pools near the sound. East you know toys They sound the I forgot the name of the pool, Castle Hill Castle little pools, something like that, which was also people rented there for the summer. There was a club there, but not too many pools. No. It wasn't. We used to go to Orchard Beach to go swimming really when I was older. Because I had a beach right? Took two buses. I'm telling you all this has nothing to do with

Speaker 2 5:30

do you? Um, so do you have any other WPI or memories, any art or posters or anything you remember?

Speaker 1 5:37

Well, nothing like that. Nobody our area works in WPA because? Well, not. Yeah, nobody worked at that pool. My parents, you know, they were involved with others. Well, my father with his. And my Uncle Jack was too young to be working at that point. So there were no other no other males that would have been involved with WPA. But no, I knew about WPA basically, being brought up then and in school. We learned about the WPA Tennessee Valley I think association or something? Yeah, they. What do you call it? Water? dams. Yeah. For electricity. Yeah. That was just structure. Yeah, that was Roosevelt. He did do all that.

President Roseville. Yeah.

Unknown Speaker 6:36  
Cool. You

Speaker 1 6:38  
know what? It was depression. Nobody had work. Yeah. So we're trying to, you know, make work for these people. And if you were lucky, you got a job. Who had no work at all? It was terrible. But my father had you know, there's a little store and we never we never wanted for anything. Not that we were rich or anything but we had an income.

Speaker 2 7:01  
Right. Thank you, grandpa. So my boss is probably going to like do like a for the her. WPA posters archive like social media account. She'll probably do like a birthday post for you with like, context about like your WPA memories. Does that sound cool? Are you down? Do you? I have Okay, I have this memory of you, grandpa. Like a photo of you as a kid in Crotona Park, but is that like, do you have that photo?

Speaker 1 7:31  
Yes, I have that photo. I remember. Harvey took it my best friend. And he had me picturing a shooting a basket. But that was all around that was all the way on the the clock. Not that it makes any difference to you. I live on that's when

Unknown Speaker 7:48  
you were older.

Speaker 1 7:50  
Yes, I was older. I was about 15 or so. Okay. 16 If you want I'll get that picture for you.

Speaker 2 7:56  
It might be in the book and I'd be the one mom that you are you wearing like a white sweater know

Speaker 1 8:01  
that? That why? Boy, you got a memory earlier? It was at a field day in one of the parks in the Bronx, but not.

Unknown Speaker 8:14  
And I don't want

Speaker 3 8:15  
any pictures of yourself. Were like as a seven year olds doing anything by water swimming or at a park or anything at a park

Unknown Speaker 8:23

in general. If you do, yeah, Sunday,

Speaker 1 8:27

was probably at that age at a park with my parents. Yeah, we're picnicking. That would be Oh, yeah,

Unknown Speaker 8:35

I might be close enough. Well, I'll look and

Unknown Speaker 8:37

see if I could find

Speaker 2 8:38

you know how to take a photo with your phone and texted grandpa.

Speaker 1 8:42

That's so funny. You should ask me because I had a problem with my email account this week. And the guy asked me to take a photo with them and I couldn't do it.

Speaker 2 8:55

Straight No, it's okay. Maybe we can look at it before we hop off the Zoom today. What do you want me to do? We maybe we can troubleshoot it together like on the Zoom? I can we can do a practice run and see if we can figure out okay, well, thank you so much grandpa. highchair

Speaker 1 9:14

was fun. Jeremy. There you are.

Unknown Speaker 9:17

Explain to Jeremy why you were asking those questions.

Unknown Speaker 9:20

Yeah, so do you

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Unknown Speaker 0:00

Remember Okay, so one more time grandpa your story about Indian pond.

Speaker 1 0:06

Well, Indian pond was in another part of the park. And we used to all the Jewish people from all around that, that that park that pond was surrounded by hundreds and hundreds of people celebrating Rosh HaShana, where one of the traditions is to throw your sins into the water your sin and say a prayer. And I never forget I took grandma who had just gotten married. And it was the holiday was at that particular time. And she couldn't believe all the people there. And sure enough, we met my cousin Morty. He was living on the other side of the park. They were all the Jewish people were there. He wanted to meet any friends you wanted to touch with Indian like during Rosh HaShana. That is so cool. That's a WPA project.

Speaker 2 1:04

According to this, I mean it says the project type lakes and ponds record Indian pod

Speaker 1 1:11

for that Indian Lake Yeah, where did you throw away your sins before? 1934 I didn't have any

Unknown Speaker 1:22

you didn't have any Yeah.

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