

NOBODY EVER GAVE ME AN OLD COMPUTER!

PRESENTED IN MEMORIAM

My [Mother](#)¹ wrote her autobiography when she was in her seventy-first year. She went on to live another twenty-eight years. [Mom](#) died January 26, 2024, thirteen days after her 98th birthday on January 13th. What she writes here is a snapshot of history. She lived with and without electricity and indoor plumbing and with what these things entail. She lived through the [Second World War](#) and the [Great Depression](#).² When it came to the literal means of writing, Mom wrote this in chapter three of the forthcoming text, entitled, *Getting Educated*.

We used to dip a pen into the inkwell in order to write. It was a tedious process, so we used a pencil. The fountain pen was much simpler to use. You would dip the point into the ink, pull out a little strip of metal on the side, and the bladder would fill with ink. Script even sold ink in a little bottle with a well on the upper side. You would tip the bottle to fill the well, take the lid off, and conveniently fill your pen. It was a far cry from the ballpoint pen, but it was modern for that time.

Before dementia took hold, she sat in front of a desktop computer. This autobiography was written on a Word Processor. She had taught herself to type on a manual typewriter in the summer of 1943, the year she graduated from the [original Doylestown High School](#),³ [Doylestown Borough, Bucks County, Pennsylvania](#). Sadly, this stately building was destroyed by fire in 1973.

Mom was born in the former Abington Memorial Hospital, [Abington Township, Montgomery County, PA](#). (This hospital is now called [Jefferson Abington Hospital](#) and remains at 1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001.) Mom died at [St. Luke's Hospital - Upper Bucks Campus](#), located at [3000 St. Luke's Drive](#) (Route 663 and [Portzer Road](#)) [Quakertown, PA 18951](#) in Bucks County PA.) In between she spent sixty-eight years at Singerlea Farm(s) on [Township Road, Pleasant Valley, Springfield Township, Bucks County, PA](#). This was my home for 60 of my 64 years. Before my Dad, [Webster Singer Jr.](#) died on September 23, 2007, she was the other *very*

¹ This is Mom's Find a Grave® entry. Here you can read her obituary. It also gives you a chance to read about many of the people in Mom's family. Just click or tap on her parents' Find a Grave® memorials to read about them and/or Mom's aunts and uncles. Go backwards again to read about her grandparents. I have added to some these individual web pages, which is what these entries are. Look for any biographical information listed on each page. These pages are kept by individuals. They are fluid as the living find information and the time to post it.

² These two links come from Wikipedia and were retrieved May 25, 2024.

³ [Doylestown Historical Society](#) and retrieved May 25, 2025

real half of the dairy and crop farm. Without Mom, there would not have been a Singerlea Farm(s)!! Also, Dad would not have been able to do many of the things he did. (Please take a few minutes to read Dad's obituary found at the link above.) The dairy has been gone for some time, but the land is still farmed.

ELSEWHERE, I write this.

Memories are fleeting and fragile and need to be preserved. As the Chinese proverb says, "The faintest ink is more powerful than the strongest memory." Once more, at any one time, we are the sum of our present circumstances and our individual and corporate doings and memories. At the same time, we also stand on the shoulders of our individual and corporate forbearers and their lives

Returning to Mom's 1996 memoir, I have done my best to reformat this autobiography to be more user friendly, and perhaps even more accessible, for 2025 digital America. As Mom wrote this nearly 30 years ago, the internet was definitely not part of our everyday lives. Today it is. As such I am including hyperlinks to place names and other items. Most of the place names come from one database.

That database is [Mapcarta](#). In mid-2024, the home page gave us this description. "Explore the world with Mapcarta, the open map. Discover open knowledge from Open Street Map, Wikipedia and more. Your world is without borders." In early 2025, the wording was changed to this, "Explore the world with Mapcarta. The open map that unites the world, with the collective knowledge of OpenStreetMap, Wikipedia, Wikidata and other open projects." Indeed, the site lives up to this billing. Here is a graphic from the mid-2024 home page. The screen shot was taken on a mobile device.



Mapcarta



The Open Map

Explore the world with Mapcarta, the open map. Discover open knowledge from OpenStreetMap, Wikipedia and more. Your world is without borders.



Map



Directions



Satellite



Photo Map



Tap on the map to travel



mapbox

Another source, which is sadly no longer available to me, is [Living Places](#). It is hosted by The Gombach Group. “The Gombach Group, publisher of [Living Places.com](#), provides content and marketing services to residential real estate owners, brokers and related businesses.” This sounds like this database would be a purely commercial concern. It is not! From the home page, we find these tantalizing facts.

- Living Places U.S. Neighborhoods from historic to contemporary
- Under the heading *Site Indexes* we read this. “Category lists for visitors to narrow and focus their browsing of Livingplaces pages by State, County, Town, Neighborhood and other areas of interest.”

Their information is well researched and presented in a readable and interesting manner. (Alas, the internet provider at my nursing home have deemed this site as “Malicious.” It is not!! Sometimes I can browse and learn. Most of the time, I cannot. When I happily found this website in January 2024, I had no problems. I can say that it is not a secure site.) If a place about which you will read grabs your interest, I encourage the reader to research that location through [Living Places](#).

Another must-have resource for the history buff or the curious is [Place names in Bucks County, Pennsylvania : alphabetically arranged in an historical narrative](#). It was compiled by George MacReynolds and published in 1942 by the Doylestown, Pa. : Bucks County Historical Society. I have not read this 474 page volume, but I have searched it for desired information. It is available to search and/or download at the [Internet Archive](#), also known as the [Internet Archive | Wayback Machine](#). [There is a 1955 edition available here](#). I am using the 1942 edition. I will site it as Place Names.

With these resources at the ready, you can't go wrong!

These various links, no matter their source, will give the reader a chance to further explore Mom's life and history in the making. I am also including additional explanatory or clarifying information set off in **bright red** brackets or with **bright red** horizontal lines, etc. I have found it necessary to change page numbering. However, the original content remains unchanged, except for the changes that come with time.

Going back to the internet. As time progressed, Mom could be found conversing with friends and family via e-mail or searching the internet for needed information. YouTube™ was a favorite past time.

Additionally, Mom digitized many of her photos, family history and even this autobiography. 😊 Glenn has access to actual photograph albums. Between all of our resources, this gave Glenn and myself ample material to prepare for her April 20, 2024 memorial service.

Any story is enhanced with pictures. I am including pictures which match the text. Glenn has resources that I do not. This is why some pictures are dressed-up.

For those of you who are reading this digitally, here is a [link](#) to the slide show I assembled for the memorial. It is just shy of a half hour. I did my best to arrange them in a chronological order.

In the original print version, Mom included comics. I have come into possession of them, and of course I am including them. They are laid out differently. Thanks to the wonders of technology, they are bigger and easier to read. 😊 (Mom printed out several copies of her story and put them in plastic loose leaf binders. She did this so that she could share it with her friends. They gave it a five-star review.) In the Addendum she writes:

On the last page of the first chapter I mention my father's work with the W.P.A. This photo was taken at one of his work projects, and shows how those people had to work for a small remuneration. Dad is pictured on the left front.

(Deleted picture as it takes up the space on the disk).

I encourage you to brew a cup of coffee or steep a cup of tea, find a comfortable chair, and begin a trip back in time.

I am Carol Singer, and I present to you in memoriam, Nancy Diehl Singer in her own words as recorded in NOBODY EVER GAVE ME AN OLD COMPUTER!

Carol Singer, b. May 17, 1961
Nancy Diehl Singer,
© December 31, 1996

Note: April 2024: I found that picture and two more. I will do my best to place them in what I believe to be the right spot.

Before you begin to read, here is a item of import for those who will read this digitally.

Some of the links you will encounter are what are called open share links. Hopefully, if I have formatted them correctly, you can reach the material whether or not you have that particular cloud account/service. These links open to Mom's personal files or my own. Obviously, I want people to reach the material at hand. If I have not done my job correctly and you really want to see the anticipated file or picture/pictures, please contact me at Preciousone517@msn.com.

Do you have that cup of coffee or tea? Let's begin.