

Stories of the College Experience Melissa Penovich

Evoke

About the Ethnographer

I would like to write about the situation between Fish and Sal. I'm not quite sure if I would like to do it from Fish's perspective, Sal's or possibly a combination of the two. It would be interesting to explore how a person like Fish has been influenced by other people his whole life; being an heir to a father's fortune and company has its constraints on an only son. This could lead to his decision about what to do with Sal. We also know that Fish was class president, but it was Beau who did a lot to get him there. A man like Fish has not had to try very hard to get things in life- they have just been handed to him. From Sal's viewpoint, we have seen her yearn to be gazed at with love the way Lucia was, so we know she has had her eye on Fish quite seriously for a while. We see Jerry and Bab saying that Sal isn't the right kind of person for Lucia to hang around with, but what do they really base it on before the incident? Bab said she just didn't like Sal, but before she said Sal only came to 'join a sorority and collect a husband'(129). We have talked in class how some women went to college to be better wives, and in those times if you were over college aged you were considered a spinster if not married, so what was really wrong with Sal wanting to marry Fish? All these things can be taken into account when writing a "hidden" chapter for Co-Ed.

Explore

Question

This is what I had posted on the group page on Monday:

I have been having problems looking in the U of I archives for the town Phil could have grown up in, probably because Rockford doesn't have that much to do with the U of I. I found out there was a Galesburg, Il campus for the U of I in the mid-forties and I was pretty excited because I thought it was close to Rockford. It isn't. It's about 2 hours away. More on Galesburg later. Then I remembered that one of my old college roommates was from a smaller town outside of Rockford, and her parents have a decent amount of land and a few horses, so I thought it would be good to check it out. The town is Belvidere, Il. It has been around since the 1830's so it could have been a slightly established farming town around the time Phil was born. Here is the website I found:

<http://www.ci.belvidere.il.us/bodyframeset.htm>.

What I found on Galesburg said there are student handbooks from 1947-1949 that show some student life aspects like organizations and things, but then there are music concert programs from around the same time. This would not be when Phil and Lucia were just married, but when they were older, say like mid-forties or so. My thoughts on this were that possibly Lucia could have wanted to become involved in teaching music or English at the University since she was so interested in those subjects in college. I have emailed the archives people because it was impossible to look any further into it without doing so. Hopefully I will hear back soon to see if we can use these to make our chapter a sort of

glimpse of a few important things in Phil and Lucia's lives after the novel ended.

I also just found a webpage for the ida public library in Belvidere. It was founded in 1913, so it definitely would have been there by the time Lucia and Phil married and moved into the new house Phil built for them. Lucia loved reading so she could have spent time at the library.

<http://www.idapubliclibrary.org/>

i've been searching the library webpage for an email address to contact someone at the library to try to find pictures or newspaper articles about homes built in Belvidere in the late 1920's, but I was denied access to it.

Plan

After emailing the archives about the Galesburg campus, Chris Prom emailed me back letting me know that the Galesburg campus didn't exist before WWII, but also included papers on George Fell, who grew up in Rockford around the 1920's:

<http://web.library.uiuc.edu/ahx/archon/controlcard.php?id=5586>

There was a ton of information listed on this page, but I ended up just using things from Box one because it would have been when Lucia and Phil were around there.

I ended up copying some pages from George Fell's botany workbook that showed different trees and flowers he found and had to study in Rockford. I thought this would be very helpful to me since we decided I was going to write a part of the chapter detailing where Phil was from and what the town was like when he and Lucia moved there. Since Phil was so interested in nature, in my part of the chapter when he brings Lucia to the town for the first time he is telling her about what he likes about it and she is giving her opinions also.

After looking through a lot of the box I decided it was best to really just narrow it down to that and use the information I found on Belvidere and the public library there. A lot of the things in the box were very interesting- like trips Fell took and records of all different sorts; I also thought I might find a lot of interesting things in Fell's childhood records, but nothing seemed pertinent to my chapter.

Observe

Botox paper

Files:

[botox paper.doc](#) (Tue 05/01/2007 9:17)

Discuss

Here's my part of the chapter

Files:

[coedchap.doc](#) (Tue 02/27/2007 8:44)