

The Best of Both Worlds

Summers and winter vacations on Wyman Lake in Maine with my grandparents in Maine. Winters with my parents in Nashua New Hampshire in southern NH.

The best of both worlds. My grandmother got me interested in botanicals and herbal medicine. We would walk along the trails. Grams would pick herbs and tell me about them, and their constituents. She would tell me about how my father had cancer as a baby and could not walk, because of it. She speculated that it happened as a result of a dog jumping up on her when she was pregnant and hurting my father as a fetus.

My grandmother took my father to Boston Children's Hospital, his life was saved with the experimental use of radium. And when he was a little older, he developed a streptococcus infection that landed in his kidneys. It was before Alexander Fleming had discovered penicillin. I would read about Fleming, a great explorer, researcher. I would learn about the herbs, and had books on their constituents.

My parents got me interested in the sciences and more on botanicals, chemistry, and the identification of animals and plants. We had a library that was a wall in the dining room. Multiple shelves. My guinea pig was in a box on a stand next to them. She would climb out of her box during the day, when I was in grade school and eat some of the bindings on the books.

Sassafras was her name. She was house broken. So usually she go the run of the house. I remember my mom having a neighbor over for coffee. The guinea pig came running out from under the couch and she startled the neighbor. My mom saying, "oh that's Otto's guinea pig and she is house broken."

Nashua was home to Sanders Associates, a defense/intelligence center, north of 128 which wraps around Boston. It was rolling hills that were turned into roaming neighborhoods, houses all unique and to fit the hillsides. The waves of veterans and their families from

Massachusetts and high technology universities came into the area, and brought along the aspies. At that time we were referred to as the 'free spirits,' the 'out of the box,' thinkers and when not allowed to be 'free spirits,' developed into ADHD, hyperactivity and became aggressive. Neurodivergent, unique, not drugged as an economy. Parents bought their kids sports equipment, musical equipment, and the sciences. My folks bought me things for scientific exploration. I had microscopes, slides, a little chemistry set, and then another chemistry set. I had oodles of chemicals of all sorts. Science is fun.

Nashua was an area of the high IQ's. The schools promoted the sciences and also the history of the revolution as standard, every year. We were groomed for exploration. The space race, focused on greater exploration. The microscopes zoomed us in on the microcosm and space into the macrocosm. Chemistry and biology the framework of matter and life itself. All of these, are the maps of the universe and life, the true maps of matrix of God for us to study and investigate. We would learn about everything, there was not greater nation than the United States, we were free to think, to speculate, to express ourselves to explore.

Thousands of defense workers came into the area. Old abandoned factories and buildings from the age of fabric mills, shoe mills and sweat shops were restored, transferred into the new age of technology. The owners of the area, practiced fair business practices. The merger of the intelligence and the residents was smooth and cohesive, everyone prospered. Sanders was the largest employer in the area. The company paid for the schooling of employees, and many took the exploration to the next level of discovery. Kick starting the personal computer with a computer code that was used in all computer games. Sanders filed law suits against all the first companies that used it.

The support systems for the defense industry sprang into other businesses and created a vast economic boom, that put Nashua as the fastest growing city in the nation. One man, Roydan Sanders, with his vision and his team, working with him, created empires that are still felt today. All working together with other great minds, each



making one step, each working together to create the technological revolution that we are just beginning today. Ralph H. Baer, the “Father of Video Games” came from the environment of free spirits, explorers.

Nashua is a biotech hub. Grace and

Hampshire Organics produced tons of chemicals used in industry and home for many decades. Scientific minds were allowed to explore.

Even back in the 19th century, the famous Londonderry Lithia Spring Water and Co. of Nashua, NH was selling bottles of lithium carbonate containing waters. Physicians prescribed it. Today, lithium is prescribed for the treatment of bipolar disorders. Natives and tourists to the area could collect water from a small spring until a decade ago.



Allen Shepard, was the first person on the planet to pilot a space vehicle in space. He was from Derry, next door to the Nashua technology hub. To all us, he was a great adventurer, an explorer, a hero to the nation. Companies in the area created the components for NASA. Guidance systems, and electronic weapons systems to protect us as we explored the infinite. We live in a free democracy.

Another great activist for equal rights, Jonathan Daniels, came from Keene NH. He was shot and killed in Alabama in 1965 for coming to the aid of a black coworker during the civil rights movement. I remember going to various marches in the 70's and standing on the side lines. People want to be acknowledged and treated fairly with respect. It's important that we stand with them. This is the very foundation of our revolutionary democracy. Every day, we are challenged with discrimination in many forms. We need to stand together and stand up for others. We are all evolving life forms, in genetics, in our social norms, in the ways we think, in law itself.