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## Betty Griffiths.

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INTERVIEW  
WITH

BETTY (HAMPEL) GRIFFITHS (KEN)  
"BETSY"

Betsy was born in Fort Atkinson in the house just South of the Hoard Residence (now the Hoard Museum) at 415 Whitewater Ave.

In 1940 - 1944 Betsy attended Rockford College for Women (an off-shoot of Mount Holyok College for Women in Mass.) and graduated from there.

After acquiring a master's degree in Public Relations from Columbia Univ. she returned home to be with her parents for a period of time in about 1957.

At this time she volunteered at the Hospital Gift Shop where she met the "Cleaning Lady", Lorine Niedecker.

Betsy states that she willingly moved about the gift shop area to facilitate Lorine's cleaning and that started conversation between them.

When Lorine heard that Betsy had attended Rockford College, the flood gates were opened!

Betsy states that Lorine was very knowledgeable re. the college and even inquired about the well known Poetry Professor, ABIGAL FINDLAY POTTS who taught there.

Betsy invited Lorine to join her for lunch at the K and F Tea Room on North Main St. so they could visit more readily. And they did!

At the Tea Room Betsy told Lorine of the well-remembered ACORN story as used by Prof. Potts - Namely, she had the class close their eyes and she then placed an acorn in the palm of their hand and when opening their eyes asked each to comment as to what significance such a simple object meant to them and how could they embellish on it, either in a fanciful or fictitious way and write about it.

Betsy also offered Lorine her copy of "Modern American and British Poets" to read if she so wished.

Interviewed by Marilla E. Fuge  
4/28/01 at Betsy's residence.