Jackie Kellogg lived on Callender Avenue on Peoria’s West Bluff when she was growing up. She was a classmate of Betty Friedan’s at both Whittier Elementary School and Peoria High School. She recalled Betty’s friendship with Bob Easton (who later became a Peoria doctor) in grade school. At some point Betty dated him. Art Szold (he went on to own a department store) also was in their class at Whittier. Betty was part of a group in grade school and a leader in many ways. They had parties called “spreads.” Friday nights were big – a “spread” and a movie.

Once they went to high school, things were different for Betty, who was no longer a member of the “in group.” This was because high schools had sororities with about 25 members. Betty asked to join one but was refused. She was not permitted to be a member because she was Jewish; there were no Jewish girls in the sororities.

Betty did have good friends in high school: Betty Ottenheimer, Howie Heller, Art Szold, Harriet Vance Parkhurst. Harriet went on to Smith College with Betty Friedan, and they remained friends until Harriet died. Betty was very much involved with a new publication at Peoria High called Tide. They interviewed teachers and others involved in the school and wrote serious articles. The war was brewing, and they had a lot to write about. About 40 classmates joined up to serve after they graduated. Betty was one of the valedictorians for graduation.