Marian Monser

These are notes from Pat Kenny’s August 2013 interview with Marian Lackland Monser, a classmate and friend of Betty Friedan’s. Marian was 92 at the time. Pat interviewed her in her Peoria, Illinois, home.

Marian Monser grew up at 911 N. Rebecca in Peoria and went to Whittier Grade School and Peoria High School with Betty Friedan. She was one year behind Betty and stayed on at Whittier while Betty went to Peoria High ahead of her. Her best recollection of Betty is that her mother dressed her beautifully in grade school. Marian used to go to dinner at the Friedans’ home on Farmington Road. She remembers Betty’s mother as an extremely attractive woman.