

Gary: welcome back to the sunday review  
conversation with Alan Donovan and Sam  
Nader continues today

Alan: good morning Gary  
and welcome again to kitchen table  
conversations I'm the host and very  
honored to be working with mark Simonson  
today we're going to continue our  
conversation with Sam Nader about his  
years of growing up in the river Street  
area

Gary: sounds great and again a fantastic  
kind of insight into the life of Sam  
Nader a basically a child of immigrants  
who came to the United States and

Alan: he has some wonderful stories about those days

Gary: he does and without further ado Alan  
Donovan with Sam Nader

Alan: tell me about the sports you played before you went to high school

Sam: all summer and Curt Smith when we can't  
eat wheat we learned how to play golf

Alan: Oneonta country club

Sam: oh yeah Oneonta  
country club right my brother  
Candide before me he's older and but for  
myself I started cat in the last year  
that it was a nine-hole course the golf  
pro was James Simpson Jim Simpson and  
the first guy i caddied for was gore  
Hickey and Dora Hickey is a great  
baseball player his people had the  
Atlantic gas station and Tom hickey's his  
son is his grandson no no no time he  
gives us it's his son right but he  
played for Yale but he was a left-hander  
and I was a left-handed and he was the  
first guy I can teach or was door Hickey  
and those people were very very good to

us they had a sense of social responsibility before the you know frequently used I mean they they would caddied 29 hold it caddy got 25 cents yeah invariably they give you a ten cent tip that was the that was when it was a nine-hole course next year like caddied year after Frank Riedel came he was the pro first year there was an 18-hole golf course and Frank griga was the pro but I remember when it was a nine-hole golf course right and in those days you know there aren't too many golfers golf was just for supposedly for the rich people and we wait on Chestnut Street by by by the diner there you hit the buy dock and you'd walk across across the by dock and wait over there or else take the trolley and a trolley went right past the golf course at that time and then later on we'd walk while we'd wait by its next diner now but it was Bob and dance and we'd wait there and the golfers would come by and then they'd see there were the caddies made to give us a ride to the country club

Alan: is the course changed that much since those things as the course changed that much as I can be  
Laura

Sam: the course has changed but the layout was pretty much the same the nine-hole course was he played well are you familiar with our

Alan: a little bit

Sam: a little bit well your plate one was right where it is two was right where it is number three was was where number nine is now he came to the that was by the parking lot right and number four was

number ten now  
and number five was over in the corner  
and went over this one I know of course  
number six is number sixteen he didn't  
they didn't have anything over on the  
other side of the creek  
and and then so that was 6 and number 7  
was halfway around on 17 there was a  
green there and then then you'd hit over  
a water he could there's number 8 and  
number 9 is the old to hold it directly  
straight and enough to almost curved

Alan: it's an amazing that you remember that  
that's incredible

Sam: I remember the first  
guy cared for Dorothy but but I was  
gonna say we had you turn in so many  
golf balls the players had their name  
stamped on there like not on Donovan and  
so on more subhead and so if you found  
it if you turned it in you got 10 cents  
or you can get points originally there  
get points you had so many points then  
you could have give a use club get a  
wooden shaft comes so first club that I  
had was a two-wire which is which is  
called middle wire and it was  
right-handed or left-handed and so I  
turned it around and and I would stroke  
that so my brother with all of my rest  
and listen he says if you're gonna play  
golf you might just as well learn how to  
play right-handed because sit right  
how many left-handed golfers were there  
probably two was the only on the Country  
Club one was one almost Harry Lee who  
had the star of the publish for the star  
and the other guy was an arrow the other  
guy that I remember was a guy by the  
name of Harry wheeler  
so anyway so I you

Alan: so you started  
playing golf as when you were candid

Sam: right yeah but I've my first club was I  
was admit our and we had some great  
people misses juror was that I can't it  
for missus door and Mrs. Gilbert sleeve  
this is Owen P Williams on P with us is  
a gated belt Franklin highway of a  
Franklin mom and Mrs. L P butts but but  
when I can defer Mrs. Boren she had a  
hole-in-one on number which is number 10  
know but she she dumped her drive anyway  
and there was a path you know there were  
no golf carts or or pull cars so they  
everybody carry the bag and it went down  
the path jumped over the trap 1/2 cup

Alan: how about high school you went off the  
high school there you go

Sam: yeah I went to  
Oneonta high school first I went to the  
junior high school and then he went  
through River Street school and the  
principal River Street school was Mrs.  
Patrick

Alan: where was the river street school

Sam: River Streetschools that got the apartments there  
right now that was the River Street  
school went from kindergarten to fifth  
grade then from sixth grade on we went  
to the Academy Street School okay and  
Miss Bert saw was the principal of  
a canap<sup>√</sup>© Street School  
and then you went to the high school  
which you join me building

Alan: now you  
couldn't finish high school because of  
World War two

Sam: no no no I finished high

school no I finished high school and and  
I went when you're in Hartwick my  
brother was a senior at heart if my  
father was unemployed you had six  
children you know but so I went one year  
to Harker when I transferred  
I played semi-pro baseball and I played  
and I get \$10 a game I played for four  
Bainbridge they were in you know  
southern southern New York League which  
was a pretty fast baseball when I was a  
senior in high school and

Alan: a position

Sam: I was a pitcher an outfielder yeah and I  
left he so so a guy that who was  
associated with the with the Bainbridge  
team told me about Bates College and I I  
looked up Bates College and I wanted to  
go to Bates College because number one  
speech was a must take speech and I knew  
and I wanted to be a lawyer and I  
figured if I you know if you're gonna be  
a lawyer darn well better know how to  
speak and we need that in high school  
and and I always fall at our high school  
for that from the guidance standpoint  
from the guidance standpoint instead of  
pushing those who needed help in that  
particular category those people that  
were encouraged with the speech programs  
were those that they wanted in a  
dramatic Club who needed to help the  
least you know and  
and so but but Bates gave as much money  
and scholarships were for their debating  
teams as they did for their sports  
teams and so anyway I had a working  
scholarship at Bates College for  
baseball and so I for one year at a  
heart rate guy I transferred and went to  
Bates College and I had probably the  
best speech instructor in the country  
there  
his name was Brooks Quimby and the

reason I say that is that your PA  
announcer for the New York Yankees  
anyway he's where he was the speech  
instructor at St. John's St. John's  
University and so I met him I not so I  
met him but I met him at one of the  
baseballs at banquets that the Yankees  
had and so on and nice designers  
understand your speech instructor and  
St. John's he says yes I said did you  
ever hear about man by name but Brooks  
Quimby  
he says Brooks Quimby yes he's how do  
you know how am I took the  
speech course from him and at Bates  
College he said he was absolutely the  
best Shepherd Bob Sheppard and so I went  
there but you know I didn't have any  
money you know so I had a working  
scholarship I had a place I had a place  
Ford I had to play baseball and they  
gave me I had a job I worked an immense  
Commons I watched pots and pans  
they gave me a job in the library  
dusting off books and things of that  
nature and I worked in the dorm and so  
on so when I got home got a vacation for  
a summer for the break  
I figured I worked a year and  
did enough money to go back to college  
you know

Alan: what year was this

Sam :be like 1939 1940 39 1940 right and  
then so my brother had got a job with  
scintilla and I'd summer ride down  
every day every day trying to get a job  
I need to have the cars they're fun like  
I got a job well it and so while I was  
35 cents an hour as an inspector  
scintilla then world war two came and  
the I was assigned to various jobs  
either subcontracting Department I  
was the quality representative for the

subcontract in the environment or for  
scintilla

Alan: yeah

Sam: and i had the bar  
typewriter company was one of my places  
in Weedsport New York and Auburn button  
works and so on those are those were my  
responsibilities so I kept getting  
deferments  
but then then I got drafted in the army  
yeah but so I never went back so I went  
so I had two years of college

Alan: so off you  
go to World War two and you  
were at the Battle of the Bulge

Sam: I was in  
the Polish right I I joined the 28th  
Infantry Division during the Battle of  
the Bulge and I was then three campaigns  
I was an infantryman yeah machine gunner  
I never was so cold my whole life never  
never so cold my whole life that was  
bitter cold that was I understand it was  
the coldest winter they've had in a  
hundred years

Alan: about this time of year

Sam: yeah oh yes right  
is this time of year right yeah yeah so  
I was I was in the Battle of balls I was  
and our downs I had three I had three  
battle stars and then  
came home after VE Day and we came home  
for recuperation for all and we're  
supposed to report to the Presidio San  
Francisco  
our division was going to be I've  
learned later was going to be on the  
first wave of the invasion of Japan well  
while I was home on a recuperation for

all VJ Day came we got the bomb I don't know how you feel about dropping the bomb but I think it was the greatest thing in the world

Alan: that was in August

Sam: yeah yeah and and so mad I think I was the first one in church so my order was got changed instead of going to the Presidio we had a report at Camp Shelby Mississippi so I went to cap Shelby and they didn't ought to do with the soldiers and so on but I remember when I was at Shelby and and George Patton maybe had a we had a regimental fall George Patton's killed these were possibly all infantrymen I hate to tell you they cheered it was not well but I think

Alan: that well though

Sam: so we'd work with patents out there but they the guys cheered also in my outfit and I when I was overseas but I died Eddie he was the only guy that was executed during war that's a Revolutionary War

Alan: he was in your office

Sam: he was a huge than my I didn't know it's all happened prior to the time I got there but but I was there when they executed them when they had a regimental fall there was quite a clamor and tell you this now I learnt Camp Swift Texas where they move this she'll be home two camps with Texas just outside of Austin Texas what do they do you know they have anything for us to do and so on I'm



machine gunner what the heck get and so  
on so they had a camp newspaper like  
can't Swift barren waiting to be  
discharged I'm going to be doing  
something beside but what I'm doing  
which is garbage duty have to time you  
know because I was goofing off so I went  
down with you  
Camp Swift parent office and I said you  
guys looking for a sports writer  
yeah it's right sports why you Fargo  
sources  
you know high school paper  
this who'd you ever work for I said I  
work for a gene ward  
did you ever hear gene ward but gene  
Ward was a columnist for the new york  
daily news and he was an Oneonta boy  
and his father had a group jewelry store  
the whole oneonta one time and on main  
street and he went to Colgate he was my  
brother's age I didn't I can't eat fries  
for gene Ward and I I said yeah you  
never hear gene warden yes absolutely  
were crammed like yes I don't work 40  
before I can do for him lovely Singh all  
right be cover cover a story what the  
hell I so so I became I became the  
sports editor of the kids with Baron but  
I told you about it later on  
because I had it for one of my banquets  
so on a couple of time we became pretty  
good friends that he he laughs like but  
I figured if they contacted him he would  
know my my brother at least you wouldn't  
let me down so that's how I became  
involved with writing sports and then I  
and I became a peer publicity writer for  
they I released as a public relations  
writer yeah so

Alan: so back to Oneoneta  
talked a little bit about Alice Nader

Sam: Alice Nader

Alan: Alice house Nader

Sam : Alice house Nader she she's in love of my life  
Alice smarter than the devil she she tolerated  
me she permitted me to run for public  
office and they get involved with  
baseball and and go to all the giant  
football games and and so on what  
happened I married my best friend's  
sister and Sunny Sunny and her  
father was dr. house and her mother was  
Alice Ford house and she was a for to  
Ford Avenue and was her her  
great-grandfather or her grandfather was  
before they made one of the first or  
village presidents and was involved with  
it with the bringing of the railroad  
didn't want me out on so forth so here  
I'm a little lower deck boy 11 e's boy  
but but anyway but so I remember I went  
up to see dr. house and my dad I was I  
was in my 30s and my dad kept he was on  
my back you know what are you gonna get  
married I was living the home with ache  
I had the best of all worlds I was the  
crown prince I was I was on the Common  
Council but anyway so finally one day I  
said okay I'm going I'm see the doctor  
what's the matter with you no I some  
don't see dr. house I'm gonna ask him  
you know Mary's daughter  
that girls gave me our time

Alan: What did he say

Sam: he says they lived the collar off you  
know they had like ten bathrooms so  
tired so so and he said do you think you  
can support her and the manner in which  
she's accustomed I don't like the act  
what they complete one thing I'm gonna  
work like hell you know they try to do  
it but they said what about religion I  
said well what about my really dumb  
Catholic and I guess they were Baptists

or whatever he was an Episcopalian and I say oh I know I'm not gonna change and she wants to change god bless her and but you know yeah but mrs. Howe sees that they're all Wow and she was very nice Sarah very very good to me yeah but my wife was she brought up two children woman if my children have turned out good Alice gets 95 percent of the credit she raised kids I was busy with other activities but he cannot a livin and making a living and between baseball and my politics and so i'ma tell she was a she Alice gone she was a born in Oneonta 1928 I was almost 10 years older than Alice she she went to Emma Willard for one year and then she went to she graduated from Elmira College she taught and when we got married she was teaching at Delhi but she had taught in Utica and so on but my wife was a jewel well

Alan: when will you marry

Sam: I got married on April 17 1954

Alan: you was the best man

Sam: my best man was my brother I see right right

Alan: and in the bridal party

Sam:huh?

Alan: and the bridal party you remember

Sam: the bridal party yeah my sister's her sisters so on them that they had the reception was held at at College product we were married to st.

Mary's Catholic Church at home now right  
yeah our first first night we were here  
we were driving to Florida and our first  
night we went as far as New Milford  
Pennsylvania  
and it was a Sunday I think it was  
palm Sun here maybe Easter Sunday  
and anyway so I could amass there and  
guess who was the priest at that church  
was our my army chaplain father comming  
he had saved my life  
father coming being fired upon and so on  
and so forth and I dove into a hole made  
by the bomb crater and he gave him along  
and he gave me kick he says get your ass  
out of there I said father  
I'm gonna get it I bent my just as well  
I was just bushed  
get out of there he said I thought good  
guys from Oneonta were tough guys and he  
he threw me chew tobacco I gave me  
another get out of there  
I'm sure if I had stayed there but isn't  
that ironical

Alan: oh yes did he recognize

Sam: you yeah yeah yeah

Gary: so part two of Sam Nader in Oneonta  
so next week part three

Alan: yeah we're  
excited about this one because this one  
deals with Sam Nader is a politician and  
as many of you may remember Sam was  
mayor as well as other elected posts in  
Oneonta in years past

Gaty: so another kitchen table conversation  
for Sunday review comes to a close

Alan: yes  
and we're looking forward to next week

when we talk about Sam and baseball in  
Oneonta

Gary: Allan thanks so much

Alan: thank you Gary

Gary: you're listening to the sunday  
review not only on a community radio