

MAY 18, 2007

From the Desk of



- - - To The Friends of Pope Park - - -

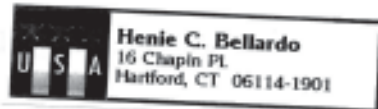
BORN in 1921 - - I came to America from Denmark in 1927 - - in the 1930's - - we lived on Sisson Avenue - near the corner of Capitol Avenue, in a six family brick apartment house - - we lived on the third floor. - - I was about twelve years old at that time. - - below us - on the first floor lived Ed Begley - - a talented, up and coming actor, with his sickly wife and son Tom Begley - - The Begleys were instrumental in helping us adjust to our new home - America - -

Tom Begley was a few years older than I - - on many occasions - and hot summer days - - Tom Begley walked me to Pope Park to enjoy the swimming pool on top of the Hill. - - with a nickle each - we purchased Cheesetidbits - and shared them on the long walk home - -

Tom was a great swimmer - and was instructed not to let me go near the deep end of the pool - - obediently - I stayed in the three feet area - while Tom went to the deep end to swim and play with his friends - - on one of these memorable days - - it seemed to me - it was passed the time

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we should be on our way home -- Bravely.
I walked up to the forbidden deep end to find Tom
and tell him -- Boys chasing each other around
the pool -- accidentally pushed me into the water --
I felt my body sinking till my feet touched the
cement bottom -- I thought I was going to die --
I did not panic -- then I felt myself magically
rising to the surface -- I frantically "dog paddled"
to the pool's edge, where Tom and his friends
stood ready to pull me out! -- that day I learned
I was unsinkable -- swimming came easy to me
after that experience.

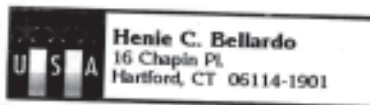
Ed Begley's wife died -- He went on to Hollywood
and became a great actor -- He remarried and
had another son Ed Begley Jr. -- also an actor --
I don't know what ever became of Tom Begley, his
first son -- My first boy friend --

Ahhh -- The good old summer of the 30s!
cheese tidbits -- bought at the pool concession --
long walks -- fire works -- Parties -- Picnics and
learning to swim are all my treasured memories
of Pope Park in the 1930s --

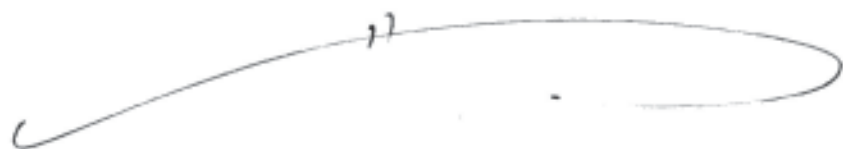
If Tom Begley should read this -- it would be
interesting to share the memories of so long ago!

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From the Desk of



I was the little Danish girl named
Henry Martensen -- Now I am
HENIE (MARTENSEN) Bellardo -- an
85½ year old Senior Citizen



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