

### **Part 3**

#### **The Hinton, Espionage and the China Connections**

Several others from the Boston-Cambridge group led unusual lives after World War II. Especially important were those who, during the 1920s and 1930s, had ties to Cambridge's ultra-progressive Shady Hill School. In addition to the Clarks and the Fields were the Hinton. They and their friends became deeply involved in China's Communist Revolution as well in the American Party's struggles.

## Chapter 13

### The Hinton, Silvermaster, and Putney

#### An Unusual Woman and School

Carmelita Hinton arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1925 with more than her three young children, Jean, William, and Joan. She came with an intriguing past, with important connections to America's liberals, with grandiose ideas for the future of progressive education, and with unflagging energy.<sup>1</sup> Her children went beyond her liberalism, becoming three of the most adventurous and committed elite-background American communists, as well as leaders in a China version of Harold Ware's crusade to modernize Soviet agriculture.

Carmelita was born in the frontier city of Omaha, Nebraska in 1890. Her family was wealthy but progressive and politically active. Her grandfather was a famous and very influential lawyer, politician, and entrepreneur. He was a founder of the Republican Party, the Union Army's paymaster, the new state of Nebraska's first Attorney General, and the mayor of Omaha. Her university-educated father owned a stationery and bookstore, and published a local and several financial newspapers, including one in California. He was well acquainted with and well treated by capitalism. In return, he aided his community. He was consulted on political issues and was a trustee of the local college, private schools, and the state school for the blind. Carmelita's mother was a major contributor to Episcopalian causes and a member of Omaha's social circle, leading her to send Carmelita to the city's private Episcopalian school. Carmelita did well there and seemed destined to become part of Omaha's high society.

There were some hints she would not follow a conventional life, however. She paid more attention to athletics than academics, becoming the area's tennis champion and a leader of Girl Scout athletic competitions. Her growing non-conformity was shown in her college choice. Carmelita traveled to the expensive Bryn Mawr college, the elite Seven-Sister Quaker women's school outside of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. "Bryn" had a reputation of creating independent women and supporting progressive causes, especially the new "social work" that attended to the needs and problems of America's urban immigrants. Carmelita was a leader of the school's athletic program and was its champion shot-putter, a sport few women chose. She spent her last two undergraduate years in the school's experimentally oriented teacher-training program, then spent an additional year in its special course in educational theory that emphasized the ideas of the era's most progressive educators. The writings of the Unitarian philosopher William James and pragmatism's advocate John Dewey deeply influenced her, and she became determined to contribute to a fundamental redoing of American education and, thus, American society. Her next career steps followed the paths of social and educational reform laid-out by her college mentors, connecting her to the nation's influential liberal elite and internationalists.

In late 1913, after a four-month post-college European tour, she moved to Chicago, Illinois to serve as Jane Addams' assistant at Hull House where new migrants were aided--and exposed to and encouraged to adopt middle class culture. While in Chicago, Carmelita's attraction to liberalism and internationalism deepened as she absorbed the more radical ideas of Addams and her friends such as the Communist Anna Louise Strong, and as she studied the novel kindergarten education and playground movements<sup>2</sup> At Hull House, and later, Carmelita made many influential friends, including those involved with Addams' Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Carmelita seemed ready to become a professional reformer, but at twenty-five she fell in love with a bright, young, England-born, Princeton University educated Chicago lawyer. They married in 1916 at a “society” wedding in Chicago. Her husband Sebastian Hinton was a man-on-the-make and able to move his bride to Chicago’s fashionable Winnetka suburb where she bore him three children by 1921. Sebastian (Ted) seemed a wise choice for more than his financial success. His lineage was impressive, suggesting he would father exceptionally talented children. Sebastian was related to the distinguished English mathematician George Boole and the novelist E. L. Voynich. He was also linked to the family of the man who had surveyed India, Sir George Everest FRS (Fellow of the Royal Society); to the renowned Central American botanists George and James Hinton; and, to the great Twentieth Century physicist-mathematician Sir Geoffrey Ingram Taylor, FRS. Significantly, Taylor became a major contributor to the development of the atomic bomb and supersonic flight and a resource for the Hinton’s when they were in China. Sebastian also had family connections to the great scientists Pierre and Marie Curie. In addition, a member of the Everest-Taylor-Hinton line was one of England’s foremost advocates of homeopathic medicine. He transferred his beliefs to the Curie family. Sebastian’s father Charles also made a name for himself in England as a mathematician and author on the subject of the “fourth dimension.”

Carmelita may not have known of some disappointing facts about Charles--and about Sebastian. Charles had been forced from his university position in England because of bigamy. He moved to Japan, then eventually settled in the United States holding a series of short-term positions suggesting that he was not socially adept. He took a junior faculty job teaching mathematics at Princeton University, but left within three years. He then accepted a low-level faculty slot at the University of Minnesota, one he held for just three years. When near fifty

years old he moved his family to Washington, D.C. where he worked at the Naval Observatory for a short stint then took a position as a Second Assistant Patent Examiner. He kept that less than prestigious job until his death in 1907 at age sixty when he was attending a meeting of a local Washington, D. C. speculative social philosophy club.

Charles had been able to enroll his son Sebastian at Princeton University and Sebastian's older brother George helped with his expenses, but the young man's 1908 graduation came as his mother committed suicide--followed by Sebastian struggling with the tragedy just as he began to build a career. He had to take a job at the Patent Office in Washington, D.C. while he attended law school at the local George Washington University, taking four, not two, years for completion of its program. He did that while overcoming a severe mental breakdown. Sebastian preserved and by merging his patent experience with his law degree he found a position with a Boston law firm. By 1916 also was a member of a large Chicago practice. He was soon making a handsome income.

By 1921 Carmelita was carrying for three young children but she remained committed to the reform of early childhood education. That included developing playgrounds to ensure city children had exercise and making education, ala John Dewey, a sensual (materialist) experience. She taught at, then opened, a nursery school in Chicago and another when the family moved a few miles to the fashionable village of Winnetka. Sebastian joined in Carmelita's work, resulting in an additional source of income. In 1920 he invented, and cleverly patented, the Jungle Gym playground climber. Then he created other innovative schoolyard equipment, some of which his father had experimented with. Although Carmelita and Sebastian were political progressives, they did not hesitate to make their "Gym" a source of capitalistic reward. There were also wise investments in such companies as Wrigley Gum.

The marriage seemed a success with Carmelita becoming a vital part of the region's and the nation's social elite. The family had a lovely home as well as a summer cabin in New York's Catskill Mountains that Carmelita would turn into a rustic showplace. But there was stress. Sebastian's had more bouts with emotional instability and severe depression. He sought help, finally admitting himself into a private Massachusetts clinic. Carmelita had recently lost her father to a heart attack and was frightened. She had a supportive mother and friends, but they could not provide much help in 1923 when Sebastian took his life while in the sanatorium. Carmelita kept the suicide a secret from the children as she considered her future.

### **Another Part of the Shady Hill 'gang'**

The thirty-three-year-old Carmelita was a single parent raising three young children. Jean was six, William four, and Joan not quite two. Fortunately, Carmelita was not without financial resources. One of them was the just approved Jungle Gym patent. Sensing an opportunity for herself and her children when her friends from Bryn Mawr and the Hull House told her of the forward-looking educational work at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where the Clarks and Field children would be enrolled. Carmelita contacted the school. With the best social and educational recommendations, her employment application was quickly accepted. After taking the children on a trip to Europe to visit Sebastian's distinguished relatives she hired-on as a second-grade teacher.

Carmelita bought a substantial home on Cambridge's Avon Street near the Susan Clark and Field families, hired two servants, and enrolled the children in Shady Hill. She made a name for herself as an innovative and effective teacher--and as an exceptionally independent and unconventional woman. During one semester she convinced Shady Hill's principal to fund her second-grade students build a small village on school grounds with the help of a carpenter while

making their own ceramic dishes and cups, all in the name of direct, sensual learning. Carmelita often rode a horse accompanying her children as they galloped their ponies to school. She kept a range of animals in her backyard, led hockey teams, and continued being a tennis star. She was too busy to bring a new man into her life.

When Carmelita came to a deep belief that children should be raised close to nature and should learn to work cooperatively, as they had done in a supposed idyllic age of family farming, she decided the best urban settings, even Cambridge's, were inadequate. In 1931, concluding her large Cambridge house was too small for her family (at the time including her mother) and its horses, as well as some Shady Hill students she sometimes boarded, she bought a dilapidated farm in nearby semi-rural Weston where the Clarks had established their version of an estate--and where a new progressive co-educational high school was being constructed with the help of its students. Carmelita and Susan Clark agreed to share the commute to Shady Hill School, then Carmelita hired an architect, built a large house, a barn, and a tennis court. She hired a man to help with the farm. Carmelita could afford more than the helper and the farm. She took the children on more trips to Europe, summered with them at her Catskill cabin, and once had them horseback riding on a vacation throughout New England. She also had enough money to expect to be able to pay for the best college educations for her children.

There was another reason besides Carmelita's rural idealism for purchasing the Weston farm. She was so progressive she did not want her children to go to Cambridge's public Latin High School, despite its excellent national reputation as a college preparatory institution, or to the area's traditionally-oriented private schools. For Carmelita they all were institutions that drained creativity from students through fixed courses and old-fashioned teaching methods. In contrast was the new private ultra-progressive Cambridge School in Weston. It began in

Cambridge City in the late Nineteenth century as a rather traditional female preparatory school for Radcliffe College. In the 1920s a new administration decided to move it to Weston and to turn it into one of the most liberal co-ed high schools in the nation, although continuing to prepare its students for Ivy League colleges. Carmelita enrolled Jean, her oldest child, in the expensive school, then William and Joan when they finished their work at Shady Hill.

Unexplained, Carmelita did not become part of the Weston school's faculty and she soon declared she was dissatisfied with the education it provided.

She had been forming her own ideas about what a truly progressive high school should be. While taking her children on an adventure-filled, *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*-like trip to Mexico's mountains, where her brother-in-law and his sons were conducting their mining and botanical work, she began turning her educational visions into plans. By 1934, after taking twenty-five students (including the young Sargent Shriver who later married into the John F. Kennedy family) on an Experiment in International Living tour to Nazi Germany, Carmelita had refined her educational plans. She was ready to start a high-school for "moral training", cooperative, and sensually oriented education-- but one that would also prepare students like William and Joan and the offspring of other "forward-looking" parents for the best colleges. Carmelita was not focusing on the needs of poor urban students and her ideal school was nothing like the Communist Party-controlled labor colleges that served the working class with a mix of ideological and practical courses. She planned to focus her progressive teaching methods on nurturing well-prepared and creative students to ensure they would become cultural innovators.

Carmelita may have considered locating the school at her Chase family's farm in Kingston, New York, but after a trip to an international peace meeting in Woodstock, New York, then a



road trip through Vermont, Carmelita found the perfect site for what she believed would become a democratic and egalitarian educational beacon. She consulted her Hull House and Bryn Mawr friends, concluding there was a market for the kind of necessarily high-tuition school she envisioned. After her friends arranged a reduced price for the isolated 160-acre Elm Lea Farm near Putney, Vermont Carmelita mortgaged her Weston home and began building her Putney School for live-in students. She expanded the farm's dairy operation, hoping to gain income for the school, and soon began purchasing neighboring land. The farm soon had a full-time staff of five. Within a few years she started purchasing old farms at tax sales in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, later using them for rustic retreats for students and for family vacations.

### **Another School for the Very Liberal Left**

The tiny Putney village was in a bucolic rural area isolated from the distractions and temptations of urban centers. New England's industrial revolution had bypassed it, as had the flood of immigrants. And it was only eighteen miles from where Carmelita's heroes, William Kilpatrick, John Dewey, and Eleanor Roosevelt, were realizing their visions for a modern women's college. They were about to open Bennington College, their secularized and progressive version of an elite Seven Sister school. Bennington's creation was a deliberate revolt against both the old maternalistic women's college of the Nineteenth Century and the Carnegie-type research university of the Twentieth. It was where creativity, sensual-based learning, social commitment, and student self-direction were to replace what its founders saw as the barren intellectualism, the artificial divisions of knowledge, and the oppressive regimentation of typical university higher education.<sup>3</sup>

Meanwhile, Carmelita was using her social and political influence among well-to-do progressives on the East Coast to raise money and recruit students and faculty for her high

school. In 1935, she opened Putney with fifty-four students. Each, except her children, paying tuition that was the equivalent of a full year's salary of the average American worker. Such high tuition was a necessity, even with a faculty devoted enough to the progressive educational cause to live in remote Putney and work for low salaries. Few mentioned it, but progressive education was expensive. Whether at the grammar, high school, or college level it called for a high number of faculty, typically twice the number per student in typical public schools. Putney went further. By 1946 there was one adult on campus (and the farm) for every two students. So, without a significant endowment a Putney education had to be as expensive as Harvard University's. The Putney School began as, and continued to be, a small and liberal, if not left-oriented, stronghold. It attracted students from the nation's elite, including the sons of Alger Hiss and those of the Johns Hopkins professor and China-expert Owen Lattimore. Harvard University's president James Conant, the Kennedy family, the famed artist Alexander Calder, the folk singer Pete Seeger, and Robert Frost the poet also chose Putney for their offspring.<sup>4</sup>

In many ways, the school was like the kind of an ideal cooperative village liberals adored. In other ways, it was a leftist version of the old colleges that sought the total control of students' lives, something many of Putney's parents believed their children needed. The exceptionally low student-teacher ratio allowed both flexibility and control.<sup>5</sup> Putney was egalitarian, yet elitist. Students and teachers were required to spend some days helping build and maintain the school's structures, but under the supervision of "experts." They were also required to work on the school's farm and in its dairy--again under the direction of experts. There were no grades for the academic work revealed to the students and no fixed curricula, but there was structure. Students organized their studies around a vital interest. Instructors were to teach only what fascinated them and their students, and faculty and students were to negotiate a course of study.

Of importance, however, all activities and ideas were under the direction of Carmelita, the school's ultimate educational expert. She made sure that course selections and content fit the requirement of elite colleges, and her beliefs. Instead of religious services she substituted mandatory Sunday evening discussions of her social and political principles. There was more than such moral training, work, and study at Putney. There were grand field trips, horse-riding, tennis, and other athletics. Significant, Putney was a wonderful place for skiing, one of Carmelita's favorite sports. Carmelita led her students on moonlight cross-country ski trips and her children became champions, qualifying at the national level.

Carmelita was also busy with her leftist causes. In 1947, she took her new daughter-in-law and several children on a trip to Prague Czechoslovakia to attend the World Federation of Democratic Youth that hosted over 13,000 attendees. Own Lattimore's son was one of the children. Carmelita also led campaigns for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, the Southern Conference Education Fund and the National Council for the Arts and Sciences.

### **A Family Affair and A Liberal Bastion?**

Putney began and remained a Hinton operation. Carmelita's two younger children were among its first graduates. As well, after two decades in business her brother Philp began teaching at the school in 1938. He also founded a progressive grammar school for the faculty's children while becoming a force in state and local politics. He soon retired to the Chase family's heritage farm in Kingston, New York but continued advising Putney's students. Carmelita's son William spent many years working and living at Putney after his college graduation. Carmelita's other children, grandchildren, even her great grandchildren attended the school, served on its board, and used Putney as a homebase address into the Twenty First century.

Putney had parallels to what leftists were advocating for the reorganization of American life but there were barriers to Putney ever becoming what Carmelita had hoped for, a realistic model for a co-operative “people’s” high school. It was always too expensive. So was other ultra-liberal higher education. Bennington College charged more than Putney. But Carmelita was able to send her two daughters to that new college. William also had an expensive educational destination, but not a progressive one. He first went to costly and educationally traditional Harvard University where he led its ski team. But after two years he transferred to New York’s zero-tuition Cornell University’s Agricultural College that focused on practical applied science education.

### **Children of the True Left, Jean Hinton and Silvermaster**

Early-on, Carmelita gained a reputation as somewhat of a fellow traveler as she continued to support the left’s causes. In Cambridge she had close relations with Florence Luscomb and with Marxists including Dirk Struik, MIT’s mathematics professor who was linked to the Clark family. Carmelita’s leftist orientation was passed-on to her children-- they took it much further.

Jean, Carmelita’s oldest child, was the first to become involved with communism and Communists. Graduating from Bennington College in 1938, after a program in social-science and photography that included taking courses at the Unitarian-influenced, leftist-progressive Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and then attending Radcliffe College for a year she made her way into radical New Deal circles in Washington, D. C. <sup>6</sup> She worked for Rexford Tugwell’s agency that established cooperative camps for migratory farm workers and that founded America’s own version of communal farms.<sup>7</sup> Her immediate supervisor was Gregory Nathan Silvermaster, a government official at the Farm Security Agency (Resettlement Agency) and the War Production Board who was a Party member and important asset for Soviet intelligence. Jean

became connected to other American Marxists suspected of aiding the Soviets including Philip and Mary Jane Keeney, Duncan Lee, Laurence Duggan, and Edwin S. Smith.<sup>8</sup> Her work also led to friendships with the inheritors of Harold Ware's farm organization, such as Robert Coe and Archie Wright.

Silvermaster's Resettlement Administration was responsible for the famous photographs and films depicting pitiful lives of America's dust-bowl and migrant farmers. Jean, with her artistic talents honed by Bennington's emphasis on the arts and photography, made heart-wrenching documentaries about the exploitation of farm laborers. Although never becoming as famous as Dorothea Lange, another agency photographer, Jean's work was recognized as a contribution to the cause of the poor and powerless. She also became involved with Negro activists who "stormed" Washington, D.C.'s lunch counters demanding an end to racial segregation, and she was active in the Communist-influenced United Federal Workers of America union and its successor the United Public Workers of America. Those unions led a famous Lee Pressman-directed post-World War II legal battle against the Hatch Act's restrictions against federal workers participating in politics. That act threatened the jobs of Party members, as did related loyalty oath requirement for federal employees.

In 1942, Jean, despite her leftist commitments, married William Greene, a highly paid aeronautical engineer who was not a radical.<sup>9</sup> He was a 1937 graduate of New York University's prestigious Guggenheim School of Aeronautics. He immediately took a job in Riverdale Maryland with the Engineering and Research Corporation (ERCO) that just established a new facility next to the College Park Airport close to Washington D.C. The military was using the airport for experiments. ERCO, led by Henry Berliner, the son of the famed inventor Emile Berliner, engaged in advanced aero work including classified military operations. William and

Jean settled in nearby Washington, D.C., then its suburbs. But Jean did not morph into a housewife or mother. There were no children. She became more deeply entangled with the very radical Edwin S. Smith<sup>10</sup> and his Communist dominated union for federal employees and she continued her contacts with Silvermaster who was secretly leading an underground Soviet spy ring in Washington that reported to Jacob Golos through Elizabeth Bentley. In addition to the friendships with Silvermaster and Smith, Jean played hostess to representatives from the Soviet embassy, and she became more involved in more radical union work. Although she subscribed to the leading Communist publications, and gained a reputation as a devoted Marxist and social nonconformist, there is no proof that Jean joined the Party.

Peace in 1945 did not end Jean Hinton's connections to the left--something that led to a divorce, then her marriage to a true radical. Jean took full-time work with Smith's union in 1945 and gave more attention to left-wing political movements, alienating Greene.<sup>11</sup> Still childless, they grew apart and formalized their separation in 1947. The divorce was not the end of William's troubles. In 1951, his security clearance was summarily cancelled because of his past connections to Jean. As a result, he lost his \$200,000 a year job with ERCO and was unable to find work in any defense-related company. He had to take low-paying jobs as a draftsman. After several years he ran a concrete company then he established his own consulting firm..<sup>12</sup> It took eight years of court battles through lower courts up to the Supreme Court to regain his clearances and more years to win compensation for his lost wages. The decisions were major victories and forced the government to end its policy of arbitrarily withdrawing industrial security clearances.

### **Jean and Steven and Children, Beyond Liberalism**

Meanwhile, Jean continued her work for the left.<sup>13</sup> She and Carmelita were close to Paul Robeson and helped his appearances supporting Henry Wallace. Jean's radicalism soon led to an ironic situation. After an anti-Communist investigation by Congress, her union organizing mentor Edwin S. Smith, who had been a friend of many in Cambridge's liberal community such as the Cannon sisters, was out of work. Trying to help Smith, Jean recommended him to Carmelita who hired Edwin to teach history at the Putney School. Immediately, Edwin and Carmelita clashed over his traditional teaching methods. Then, Smith became the leader of a large faculty-staff faction that was frustrated by low wages and poor working conditions at the school--and by Carmelita's autocratic rule. He organized the discontented into a New York City spin-off of the radical union that Jean had worked for. He then led a 1949 strike that nearly shut-down the Putney School. Carmelita was shocked, finding it difficult to believe anyone would be dissatisfied with her and her progressive policies, and dismayed that "her" people would want to unionize.<sup>14</sup> As soon as possible, she fired the offending faculty members who had not resigned.

### **Jean and Her Friends' New Lives**

In 1949, as Carmelita was battling Edwin Smith and as William Hinton was beginning a China adventure, Jean Hinton began a new life. She married Solomon Steven Rosner, a Jewish man she first met in the early 1940s when he worked at Washington, D.C.'s Cooperative Bookshop. The store and its subscription service catered to the left. It was headed by a Communist leader of the Federal Workers Union and by David Wahl who was suspected of being a Soviet agent. Helen and Gregory Silvermaster were among the store's initial supporters.<sup>15</sup> Solomon, who later became known as S. Steven Rosner, was the son of Romanian immigrants who came to the United States in 1907 with many children, then had more after they settled in New York City,

then Philadelphia where they ran a candy factory.<sup>16</sup> The family was never affluent and became worse-off when the father died. But Solomon overcame a polio attack and managed to complete high school (with accomplishments in newspaper writing). He could not find permanent work, even as a substitute postal carrier, but earned enough money to begin college. In 1938, he finished the humanities and elementary education teacher's program at Temple University, Philadelphia's version of a workingman's college. He led the school's chapter of the American Student Union, and joined the Young Communist League. He may not have been a Red Diaper Baby, but his uncle was a major figure in Philadelphia's Party and his sister and brothers were members. Although having a college degree and having the aid of his Party contacts, Solomon could not find a job. He enrolled in a teacher's course at the university of Pennsylvania while gaining some money from a short-term federal Works Project job and some substitute teaching. He remained active in the Party, enough so that he was arrested in Philadelphia while giving a street corner speech in defense of the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

Because of a limp caused by his polio Solomon was 4F and could not serve in the military. He was frustrated and bitter because of that and because of his unemployment. Then, his Party friends pointed him to an attractive job that served the Cause. Solomon took the position of assistant manager of Washington D.C.'s leftist Washington Cooperative Bookshop in October 1940.<sup>17</sup> He only earned the equivalent of an average worker's income, but the job and his work with the allied Federal Workers Union brought him in contact with a wide range of important people in the New Deal's left-wing. The job had another benefit: He married a co-worker. Joyce Stone Fenmore also was a young, devoted Party member.

Despite the job's benefits Solomon wanted more. His was anxious to use his writing skills. On the advice of friends in mid-1942 he applied for a job with the Office of War Information



(OWI) that served as the nation's central propaganda agency. On his application he stressed what he called a special talent for writing advertising copy. Indicating how deeply involved with the left he was he gave a list of references that contained the names of important government employees later thought to be involved with the Party and espionage. Philp Keeney of the Library of Congress and the Office of Strategic Services was on top of one of Solomon's lists. Another was George Shaw Wheeler an economist with the War Production Board who, when under investigation, defected to Czechoslovakia in 1947.<sup>18</sup>

Solomon, like so many others, including the communist philosopher and Paul Massing's colleague Herbert Marcuse, did not undergo a check for Communist ties before he was hired, but his short tenure at OWI may have been due to a later investigation, not because of what he claimed was his department's dissolution. His wife losing her clerical job with the Maritime Commission may also have been because of a security check. Both were out of work in mid-1943. Luckily, Solomon found an assistant editor's job with a Washington weekly newspaper that reported on activities in the federal bureaucracies. Joyce found more clerical work then began a Public Health Service program in Philadelphia to train Nursing Cadets.

Although both now had incomes they were unhappy with their jobs and were reported to be constantly fighting. Then, a career and family boost came in September 1944 when Party contacts led Solomon to a union publicity job in St. Louis, Missouri with the Communist and IWW influenced United Electrical Works Union (UEW), one of the nation's largest unions. It worried the government because its members worked in important defense plants. Solomon did well at his job and with Missouri's Party. He became so important to the Party the FBI put him on its Key Figures list of those to be detained in a national emergency. Joyce was busy with Party activities and with a baby girl who she proudly showed to Ella Reeve Bloor when Joyce

had Ella to her home. Solomon kept advancing in the UEW and the Party. He was assigned to editorial and organizing duties in Kansas City, Missouri, then Philadelphia, then Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 1946 Pittsburgh assignment was a special honor, as it was one of the UEW's most active branches and was arguably the union's most radical. He also helped with a critical UEW strike in Lynn, Massachusetts. Solomon remained on the Key Figures list partly because of that.

Solomon's career success did not guarantee family harmony. There was a separation then a divorce by the end of 1946. Joyce took the baby and struggled for years working low paid clerical jobs. Solomon was not lonely, however. By 1946 he had already begun a relationship with Jean Hinton and her family. He stayed with her and William at the Hinton's Cape Breton camp, then married Jean in March, 1947 as soon as her divorce was finalized.

Solomon was doing more than in-house writing-lobbying for the UEW and his Party work. In 1946, he was arrested for his aggressive role in a major strike.<sup>19</sup> His numerous articles applauding Soviet policies and his and Jean's support for the Progressive Party and the Civil Rights Congress heightened the government's concerns about them, more so after Solomon became front page news in 1948 when he was arrested during a riot at a UEW meeting. The Pittsburgh union's Communist faction battled its non-communists with fists and chairs. The internal conflict continued, with the Communists and Solomon losing.

#### The Rosners Adrift

The thirty-two-year-old was ousted from the union and his job in 1949---without prospects. Jean's job with her radical federal workers union had also ended. With both their unions being expelled from the CIO, with most of the nation's other unions unwilling to hire known leftists, and with the government launching Smith Act prosecutions against Party members, the Rosners

faced great challenges. The Party did not rescue them as it would Edwin Smith when it arranged to have him become the United States representative of Soviet movies and photographs. As well, none of the remaining radical unions came forward. Carmelita may have provided some help, but although not penniless Jean and Steven were under financial pressure to find new jobs---just as Jean gave birth to a child, the first of four within seven years.

There was a stop in Connecticut in 1949-50 where Steven listed himself as an independent publicist, then the couple moved to Revere, Massachusetts five miles from Boston. While Steven was deciding on a new career path Jean travelled to New York City and recontacted Silvermaster.<sup>20</sup> The visit was unproductive as Silvermaster was having severe problems because of the government's investigation of his Soviet ties. A telegram sent from his house led the government's investigators to pay more attention to Jean. Fortunately, the authorities did not act against her or Steven, despite so many of those in their lives, such as Edwin Smith, William Greene, and William Hinton, her brother, being called before Congressional hearings. The couple protected themselves for a decade by keeping a low political profile. They seem to have cut any formal ties to the Party by the time they moved to Revere, Massachusetts. (The FBI took them off its priority lists by 1955).

### **New Lives as Middle Class Activist Liberals**

Backing away from activism allowed Steven to successfully change careers. In 1952 he, Jean, and their boy Edward and their newest baby Marni moved a few miles to Cambridge, Jean's old hometown. This time she did not live in a large home near faculty row. Jean, who had some savings<sup>21</sup>, bought an old home that had been divided into tiny apartments.<sup>22</sup> The Garden Street building was close to Harvard but in one of the town's working-class districts. The family was on a strict budget when Steven enrolled as a part time student in Harvard University's School of

Public Health's Master's Degree program, specializing in health education. He also worked part-time raising money for the local Heart Association. Although the family was financially stressed, Jean decided her children would, as she had, attend private schools, such as the Shady Hill School.

Because of his intelligence, his skilled writing, his organizational experience, and his pleasant personality Steven did well, impressing his instructors. They helped him gain a promotion. In 1954, he went from a part-time worker to the director of Massachusetts's chapter of the nonprofit (charitable) American Heart Association-- just after Jean gave birth to Sara, her third child. On his new job Steven lobbied for funds for research, authored articles to promote awareness of heart health issues, and helped write legislation. He gained a solid reputation in the nonprofit field and found a better job with another charitable organization. By 1959, now with a fourth child, Peter, the family moved into to an old but large single-family home in the wealthy Haverford suburb of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as Steven took charge of the state's chapter of the Mental Health America Association.<sup>23</sup> The association had been advocating for the reform of mental care and attitudes toward the insane since its founding in 1909 by the wealthy ex-psychiatric patient Clifford W. Beers and the philosopher William James.<sup>24</sup>

Jean was happy in Haverford because it had a private academy where she could teach and because it was just fifty miles from Carmelita's and her brother William's new Pennsylvania farm, and a few miles from William's Philadelphia apartment. Solomon, now calling himself S. Steven Rosner, worked at home helping with the children because he had to go to his city office only two or three times a month. Beside fund raising for the association, he was becoming a Mental Health subject matter expert-- and a skilled grant writer. His Ford Foundation award would have taken him to India for two years but the FBI, still a bit worried about his loyalty

pulled his passport. Jean also gained a bit of attention when she reengaged in desegregation protests.

Steven did so well at the association he was promoted to its Maryland chapter, then to its important Boston, Massachusetts office. He continued to do more than lobby and raise funds. He became a noted writer on mental health institutions and care, with articles appearing in the field's major journals. The family was soon able to move to the quaint, rich Concord suburb and into a home that was valued at more than \$2,000,000 in 2020. Steven continued with the mental health association while working with new organizations for the disabled. His income was more than enough to support frequent vacations to Europe, including Eastern Europe, and a trip to China to survey its mental health programs, ones he declared better than America's.<sup>25</sup>

Meanwhile, Jean had been helping with family finances by more than teaching in private schools. Since the early 1940s she had followed her mother's lead and had been buying old, abandoned farms on the coast of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, using the beautiful site for rustic summer vacations and family reunions while advocating for the creation of a nature conservancy. She soon had more than 900 acres close to Carmelita's holdings. By the later 1950s, Jean had turned the vacations into an income source. Advertising in elite magazines such as the *Saturday Review* and publishing a book on children and nature she conducted a vacation school for a limited number of children, charging each more than a thousand dollars a week, less, of course, for her brother William's children. The school shared much with Carmelita's philosophy for her Putney School's vacation trips. The day began with a work routine then guided nature walks.

In addition to running the camp and raising her children the high-energy Jean continued teaching school. She had a short stay at the public Gavin School in South Boston's Irish neighborhood instructing disabled children, but she was usually found at elite private schools,

ones like Putney that were as expensive as Harvard University. She did not teach at her alma-mater Shady Hill, but at other prestigious private schools in Pennsylvania and in Boston and its suburbs. Later, she became a long-term faculty member in Concord's private schools. She was active in more than education. When in the Boston area Jean quietly renewed her family's relations with some of the area's famous leftist, such as Dirk Struik. She also reconnected with her family. There were vacations with Carmelita and William, all her children attended Carmelita's Putney School, and Jean became one its trustees.

In the early 1960s, probably not realizing the FBI had renewed its interest in them because of her sister's and brother's activities in China, Jean and Steven felt safe enough to demonstrate their leftist beliefs. Unlike Jean's brother William, they did not join any radical party, nor declare themselves part of the New Left, but Jean became a very public liberal, Steven a bit less so.<sup>26</sup> Jean led another lunch-counter desegregation demonstration, and was an energetic opponent of nuclear testing, the Korean and Vietnam wars, and capitalistic "globalization." She travelled to Alabama to join Martin Luther King's great 1965 Selma march where she encountered Sali Lieberman, her Shady Hill friend Jean Clark's husband.

By then, Jean had become a recognized left-leaning liberal "activist." She spent more than twenty years as a leader of the left-faction of her area's Democratic Party. Jean also led anti-pollution and anti-animal trap groups. In contrast, she was less public about her continued faith in Marxism and her support for the radical policies of Mao in China, the North Vietnamese, and the Communists in Central and South America. She quietly led China tours for young radicals in the 1970s, visited Cuba and Nicaragua, allowed her children to go to China in 1971 to sample communal living for a few months, and supported William and Carmelita's pro-China organizations in the United States. During the 1980s she devoted her time to opposing Ronald

Reagan's economic policies. Later, although in her eighties, she participated in the great 1999 protest during the World Bank's meeting in Seattle, an ironic protest as her son was one of the bank's economists. She was also a recognized conservationist, deeding much of her lovely Cape Breton shore-front property to a nature reserve so she and the public could always enjoy the area's untouched beauty. All her activities and her historical consciousness led Harvard University's archive to accepted hundreds of boxes of her records, holding them sealed for fifty years.<sup>27</sup>

### **After Khrushchev**

Jean had stood by her early strict Marxism beliefs, less willing than some of her children to accommodate to the Soviet's retreat from revolutionary Marxism, China's post- Mao "capitalistic" policies, or Viet Nam's softening of its anti-Americanism. Sara, Jean's younger daughter was more flexible than Jean. After leaving Putney she moved to Montreal Canada, where Audrey Schirmer had settled, to teach and marry a Viet Nam man who helped her with a 1979 visit to Viet Nam and Cambodia. On her return she made it very public that she supported Viet Nam's strict communistic internal policies and its invasion of Cambodia. But she soon fell silent, never publishing criticisms of Viet Nam's own turn to capitalism. Peter, Jean's youngest son, built a career as a development economist for the World Bank and the American government's foreign aid agencies. His work on Indonesian development policies was certainly not communistic.<sup>28</sup>

Edward (Ted) was more of a rebel. He became part of the New Left and the New Communism. He took a post high school trip to Europe on his own, went to China with Carmelita, then returned to college to join the Students for a Democratic Society, his uncle William's radical Progressive Labor Party and Revolutionary Union, and the Vencermous

Brigade that went to Cuba. He drifted after that, finally aiming at a law degree, but died while swimming at the family Cape Breton retreat just before he reached thirty-years-old.<sup>29</sup>

### **Marni and the New China**

Marni, Jean's oldest daughter was also part of the New Left generation, but she had a surprising major shift of attitude after China's turning away from economic Marxism. In her late teens Marni went to China as part of the 1971's months long tour for selected leftists and radicals who were expected to return to America to salute communism and a peace-loving China. Among the Americans invited were some of the radical Black Panthers and members of the Revolutionary Union (RU), a far-left break-away from the American Communist Party.<sup>30</sup> Bob Avakian, a student activist, was a member of the RU's delegation headed by the very radical Leibel Bergman. Marni's uncle William Hinton attended and received special treatment because of his famous book on China's Long Bow village life in 1948. He was treated as a celebrity, meeting several times with the nation's leaders. William had been asked to help form the 1971 tour group and as a reward was allowed to bring his wife and children, given a tour of the country, and was supported during the months he revisited Long Bow village that had become a commune. He was disappointed that Log Bow was beginning to drift away from egalitarianism as new government policies led to a version of private ownership (long term leases and owner-directed planting and marketing) to encourage increased production. Although William Hinton was still declaring the voluntary commune system a triumph those changes were prompted by the government's recognition that agricultural productivity had stalled despite all the investments in mechanization and scientific farming-- and that the peasants were regretting joining communes.<sup>31</sup>



Carmelita, eighty-one, who retired from the Putney School in 1955, had insisted on William arranging another China visit for her.<sup>32</sup> She had tried to enter China through India in 1955 but was not successful until 1963 when on a tour to the Soviet Union she secretly crossed the border into China to stay with her daughter Joan for a year. She returned to America to join various China advocacy groups and gave many lectures on China's triumphs. In 1971, she urged William to gain permission for her to lead a new version of her 1930's student tours. This time she decided the tour had to include some Black youths. All her students were to gain firsthand knowledge of communism in action by working in factories and farms. Using her and William's connections the Chinese government was persuaded to finance a visit by Carmelita and some sixteen young people she was to select. Her group included Joan and her four children. The trip was a success although her students became ill and Carmelita suffered a stroke and was hospitalized.<sup>33</sup> That did not deter her or William from persuading many leftists to form the United States-China Peoples Friendship Association that, with the help of the Chinese government, became an important part of China's newest attempt to gain world-wide acceptance.

During the 1971 trip Marni Rosner worked in communes for several months, and visited the Dazhai show-piece commune. Although Dazhai only had eighty households during the 1940s Mao had declared it a marvel of self-reliant agricultural reform. The government made it into somewhat of a shrine with a hotel and restaurant. There were guided tours of the land the peasants had terraced and of the comfortable caves they still lived in. Marni also visited her aunt Joan and other American expatriates, some of whom had worked with Silvermaster's group, such as Frank Coe and Solomon Adler. Marni returned to the United States to attend college in Massachusetts and to lecture on the wonders of true communist living, even saluting

Mao's 1950's Great Leap Forward and 1960s' Cultural Revolution—both later infamous as brutal disasters causing the death of millions of Chinese.

Marni gave several of her mid-1970s talks alongside Carl Crook, a British citizen who grew up in China and who, along with his parents, was a Cultural Revolution victim. Marni may have met Carl whose parents were friends of her uncle William Hinton while she was in China in 1971, but their meeting probably came during the mid-1970s after Carl left China to study in England and the United States.

<sup>1</sup> Census, family history. The major secondary sources for Carmelita's early years were: Burke, "Information and," *Op cit.*; Wallace, Christopher, "Carmelita Hinton from Putney to Peking," *Boston Globe* 11-26 1972; *Notable American Women*; Sadovnik, Alan R. And Susan F. Stemel, *Founding Mothers and Others, Women Educational Leaders During the Progressive Era* (NY: Palgrave, 2002); Strom, Sharon Hartman, *Political Woman: Florence Luscomb and the Legacy of Radical Reform* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001.).

<sup>2</sup> Burke, *Information Op cit.*; Sadovnik, Alan R. & Susan F. Stemel, *ibid* Strom, Sharon Hartman, *ibid*.

<sup>3</sup> Beinkere, John A., *There Were Giants In The Land, The Life of William Heard Kilpatrick* (NY: Peter Land, 1998)..

<sup>4</sup> See for example: David, Lester, *Ethel; the Story of Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy*; *Freedman . Jean R., Peggy Seeger: A Life in Music ( Urbana: University of Illinois Pres, 2017). (NY: World Pub., 1971).*

<sup>5</sup> Lloyd, Susan McIntosh, *The Putney School: A Progressive Experiment* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1987).

<sup>6</sup> Major sources for Jean were: Census, family history, national newspapers; FBI FOIA, j rosner, s rosner; <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/alt.obituaries/fgnWdeSehv0/CkCbso3vPqsJ>; <http://www.zoominfo.com/p/Jean-Rosner/198781502>; "Interlocking subversion in Government Departments. Hearing before the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and Other Internal Security Laws of the Committee on the Judiciary, United States Senate, Eighty-third Congress,;" *Boston Globe*, 5-23-2006".

<sup>7</sup> On the farm programs and politics: Rasmussen, "The New Deal Farm Programs,," *Op cit.*; Hamilton, " *From New Day to New Deal*," *Op cit.*; Conkin. " *Tomorrow a New World*," "... *Op cit.*.; Sternsher, " *Rexford Tugwell*," *Op cit.*

<sup>8</sup> Useful overviews of the Silvermaster and other groups are: Haynes, John Earl and Harvey Klehr, *Early Cold War Spies: The Espionage Trials That Shaped American Politics* : (NY: Cambridge University Press, 2006); Haynes, "Venona," *Op. cit.*.

<sup>9</sup> On Greene: Census, family history; FBI FOIA, j and s rosner ; and, for example *WP* 12 19 1987, *NYT* 4 1 1958.

<sup>10</sup> Guide to the Edwin S. Smith Papers Collection Number: 5,49 Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives, Cornell University Library, has an informative biography. FBI FOIA, j and s rosner. Smith became the sole agent for Soviet photos and films, *NYT* 11-30-1976.

<sup>11</sup> Called before investigative committees, Greene testified about Jean's connections to Silvermaster.

<sup>12</sup> For example, *WP* 12-19-1987; *NYT* 7 25 54, 2 19 64.

<sup>14</sup> On Smith: [http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/tamwag/tam\\_375/bioghist.html](http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/tamwag/tam_375/bioghist.html); <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/EAD/htmldocs/KCL05549.html>; *NYT*, 11-3-1976; *NYT* 3-30-1949.

<sup>16</sup> The major sources for Steve Rosner were: Family history, census; FBI FOIA, s rosner, j rosner; national and local newspapers.

<sup>17</sup> On the bookstore: Williams, Selma R., *Red-listed : Haunted by the Washington Witch Hunt* (Reading, MA: Addison-Wesley, 1993).

<sup>18</sup> See, McReynolds, Rosalee and Louise S. Robbins, *The Librarian Spies: Philip and Mary Jane Keeney and Cold War Espionage* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2009).

<sup>19</sup> For example, on his union activities:, *Pittsburgh Press*, 3 29-19409, 8 29 1949..

<sup>20</sup> The FBI FOIAs and many short newspapers articles helped trace their movements ; FBI . Silvermaster file on line.

<sup>21</sup> Harvard publications.

<sup>22</sup> City directories.

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<sup>23</sup> Steven soon became a public figure because of lobbying and testimony at hearings on health and mental health issues. See local PA, MD, and MA newspapers.

<sup>24</sup> Morrissey, Joseph P. and Howard H. Goldman. "Care and Treatment of the Mentally Ill in the United States: Historical Developments and Reforms," *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* ,484 (Mar. 1986): 12-27.

<sup>25</sup>“” Mental Health in China,” cited in, *Science Digest* 80 5 11-01-976.

<sup>26</sup> Byerly, Victoria Morris. *Hard Times: Cotton Mill Girls: Personal Histories of Womanhood and Poverty in the South* ( Ithaca, N.Y. : ILR Press, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, 1986).

<sup>27</sup> On Jean and Steven during their years in Concord, *Concord Journal, Lowell Sun, passim*

<sup>28</sup> Family history, obituaries for Jean and Steven.

<sup>29</sup> *Boston Globe* 9-8-1979, 9-20-1979.

<sup>30</sup> Insights into these radical groups are found in: “America's Maoists: the Revolutionary Union, the Venceremos Organization; report.” United States. Congress. House. Committee on Internal Security, 1972; Gallagher, Conor A. , *Heavy Radicals :the FBI's Secret War on America's Maoists : the Revolutionary Union/Revolutionary Communist Party 1968-1980* (Washington: Zero Books, 2014).

<sup>31</sup> See details in Chapters 14 and 17.

<sup>32</sup> FBI FOIA, carmelita hinton.

<sup>33</sup> CIA CREST reports, 1971.