

Well this was in the latter part of '63, the first part of 64. And there was quite an epidemic around the country. And I was in my second trimester and when I was diagnosed with it. The doctors assured me I was far enough along so I would be fine. The baby would be fine. I had a normal pregnancy.

Mark was born in June of 1964. He had a bit of jaundice when he was born, but that was gone ever so quickly. The doctors assured me he was absolutely fine.

I didn't have a pediatrician. I went to a G.P. for years and took Mark to him, the kids to him, and he assured me Mark was fine. But I noticed as he got older, he wasn't grasping a lot of what we said or participating in things like the kids normally would and I suspected something was wrong.

He was about two. I went to my G.P. and he said, "No, no, he is just fine." But I made an appointment with a speech therapist, hearing person. Mark was tested and he was considered profoundly deaf as a result of the German measles.

Unfortunately, Mark had to go out of town to school. He went to the New York State School for the Deaf in Rome, New York. He went there for kindergarten through 12th grade and he was at the top of his class throughout school. He played soccer, he played basketball at school. At home during the summer, he played baseball for the town where we lived and so he had quite a normal growing up period.

He graduated from the New York School for the Deaf. And then he went to Gallaudet University in Washington and he graduated there with a bachelors in computers. And then he went to school classes to become a CPA and he is a CPA.

Well I broke out like I like to see people with measles, you know, which took me completely by surprise. So I picked it up someplace and, you know, of course back 50 years ago, they didn't check for hearing, you know, when they were born like they do today. And, unfortunately, they weren't looking for that, you know. And the doctors assured me that Mark was just fine and that nothing was wrong.