Clesson Eurich/TC1992.0019
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck
CE Clesson Eurich
FE Florence Eurich
Place Waitsfield, Vermont
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JB [Introductions] And you are originally from Warren. (FE: And I'm from Waitsfield.)

CE I was born up in where Sugarbush is now, above the radio station in Warren. We had a big farm, 500 acres. Went to school clear down on Route 100, 2 1/2 miles each way each day, and we walked most all the time. And of course back then it we had to be in school half past 8 every morning, and it went until 4 o'clock at night before school was out. So then we had to walk the 2 1/2 miles back home. It was my older brother Ed and my older sister Marian. And later on it was my twin brother and sister Madeline and Roger. [1:19] We had everything to do, we had work to do. And sometimes we were kind of late getting home, because we fooled on the way over or something like that. And then of course after a long time, when we were married, 55 years ago, we had a chance to buy the farm up there,

the 500 acres for $3,500. But nobody let you have the money. And of course there was no lights up there, no telephone. We had to maintain our own telephone. So we just decided we didn't want it. It wasn't long afterwards that it was sold for $100,000 and some, and the last I knew it was almost a million dollars they sold the farm for. And it's all split up now of course. [2:13] Sugarbush Inn still owns part of it I think.

JB The Sugarbush Inn was built on part of your land.

CE No, they were right in the corner of our land. That was built on Patterson, the one where the Common Man is, all owned that piece of land where that was built on. But back then you couldn't get the money, that's all. My grandfather would of signed a note for us, all he wanted was $3,500, but we didn't want to tie ourselves back up in there, with no way to get out or anything. Of course had to maintain your own road in the winter.

JB When was that? That must of been in the late 40's.

CE No, it was before that, in the 30's. [3:03] '37, we were married. And it was about that time, '37, '38, '39 and

'40 they still had no power. There was no power line up there or anything. We had what they called carbide lights in the house. It was a good life. And of course Sugarbush come along quite a few years later. Of course Mad River come in first. And when Mad River was there, I worked up there for quite a few years. It was a different group than what come into Sugarbush all together. Because most of those that come into Mad River built their own homes up there and they had their own homes, and everyone knew everyone else that skied there at the time. [4:04] Of course I know progress has to be. A lot of them built just over the mountain too, Starksboro and through there, an awful lot people, that still have homes over there, they come ski Mad River and their children. On the whole the biggest share of the skiers that come in there are not that bad. They aren't our ways, but it's just like Waitsfield the same as Warren, exactly as far as that goes. I think there's just one native on the whole selectmen board in the town of Waitsfield and Warren both, David DeFreest is the only one in Warren that was original, a native I call him. And the school boards and everything else. And of course they have different ideas

of people that moving in here about. [5:08] And they spend a lot of money that ordinary local folks don't care too much about. They're voted down because there's too many outside voters. And the local people just aren't staying there, the younger folks and all are moving out because they just can't afford the living. It's very expensive to live in the valley if you have your own home. Taxes are terrible. Warren isn't so bad, but Waitsfield is very high in taxes very high. No, my grandfather came over here from Germany in 1858 I think it was. [6:00] He settled up there after years. I told him, back then when he come into New York City they had a big bulletin board like it was in the railroad station, where people would sign up for wanting help. And they had this fellow up in Fayston had the sign up that he wanted someone to work on the farm. Of course my grandfather couldn't speak a bit of English at all, nothing whatsoever. He signed up anyway and they met him in Middlesex, he came to Middlesex on the train. Mr. Kew met him down there at the train and took him up to work on the farm, which is in Fayston. Then 2 years later, he hadn't heard anything from anyone over in Germany at all.

2 years later his brother came and signed up, this Mr. Kew had another ad in there for another helper. [7:18] In the meantime my grandfather had gone from Mr. Kew's over the hill into Warren to work for Mr. Tucker on the farm. And so great uncle Fred come up and he went to work for Mr. Kew. And then in the spring, the one I like to tell the best is they had company fence at that time, like you'd send your hired man over or you'd come, and I'd send mine and then they'd have this stretch of fence they had to fix between the 2 farms. And so my grandfather went up to what they call the gate. He said that Mr. Tucker told him Mr. Kew's going to have his hired man is going to be over. My grandfather got over there, we still know it as the gate, and my grandfather got over there and he was waiting, he looked up this old road that comes through there. He looked up and this man was coming down through, and he says my god, you'd think that was Fred coming, but I know it isn't. After he got down closer it was his own brother. [8:27]

JB That's incredible, and he had no idea.

CE No idea, neither one knew the other one, and they'd been there for a year at the 2 places. Neither one knew the

other was there. So then they went over and they bought the farm over where my, for $550 I think it says in the deed. They bought the 500 acres. Of course they lived there till 1940, my great uncle died, then the folks moved to the village 1942, '43, in along there they moved down to the village and sold the farm, my father was working for the highway department, State of Vermont. [9:12] Farming was getting old of course. My grandfather was 90. So they left the farm. But it was interesting. Back then of course there was nothing but farms on the hill, there was 6 or 7 of them there where Sugarbush was, was nothing but a great big forest. Middlebury College owned it.

JB How did they?

CE Middlebury College owned that for years and years.

JB Was that through Battell?

CE Yes. There was a piece, I don't know what I was reading in just the other night about it, probably in the book or something. [10:00] Back then you see they had what they called this church land. And if you had church land you didn't have to pay taxes on it. And apparently Middlebury got a hold of this somehow through a grant or something

of some kind. They owned part of Granville woods, and was traded when they divided off to have different counties, way back when the states were having trouble. A part of this was to go to New York and a part was going to New Hampshire. And that's how Middlebury College owned almost that whole mountain. My father used to work for them every once and awhile, he'd go up and log off for them some. Of course when Sugarbush bought it, he knew, so did we kids as far as that goes, we knew about every tree that was up in there, because we hunted and fished. And he's the one that took them around and showed them where the different lines were when Sugarbush, of course at first didn't buy it, they just leased it from Middlebury College.[11:04] Well then Middlebury college sold it, or swapped with the state or something and got land somewhere else, and this went to the government, because that's who they leased from was the government. Middlebury College owned that whole place up in there at one time, clear through to Lincoln Mountain, the whole thing.

JB And you say there were about 6 farms up in there?

CE Oh gosh, there was 6.

JB Who had them?

CE There was the Patterson farm, and the Cooper farm, Brooks farm, Merrill _____ farm, Richard Buzzel farm, and way down where the Christmas Tree Lodge is, that was a farm but he didn't farm, he was a newspaper editor, fellow by the name of Abraham Rocky from Warren, Pennsylvania. And he used to use it for a summer home. But the farmers all hayed it for him and everything else, he wanted to keep it clean down so they did. It was a good size farm. [12:10] He never had cattle on it, but the rest of them all had, sugar place then back everyone had a sugar house, every one there was. You could stand up there old farmer at one time and see anywhere 35 to 40 sugar houses all boiling. Of course over in Warren and over in East Warren you could see and some in Waitsfield, you could look right over and see the steam coming up the spring.

JB So it was all pretty clear.

CE Oh ya, clear I guess it was, up where Sugarbush village is, that was another. Of course that was over on the other side, but that was all South Village they call it,

that was a great ungodly big farm. That was all clear and the whole thing was all meadow land, not a tree in there. You could look right over from our place, and of course the golf course was down where the Corliss place is now there. [13:10] And that was all open land, every bit of it. In fact some of the old foundations are up in South Village where the old building used to be way back when I was a kid, why you could look right over there and see the people haying and everything else in the summertime. But they just kept, like I say, moving in and offering bigger prices. Of course then somebody offered you $1,000 for a farm you thought it was a big price. Nobody realized then it was too late except for Roy Long. Roy Long caught on quick, and he bought up most of them up in there, and that's where he made his setting on money, that's where Roy started in to begin with. Like he had a gravel pit there right opposite where our old turn used to go up. Howard _____ bought the place, it was the Brooks place, and Howard bought it for $1,000. Of course he was a young fellow, he was about my age then. He just come out of the service. He bought the thing and he had it and had to pay taxes on it and he was getting kind of

worried. So on the right hand side of the road as you go up he sold his sugar place part to these folks from Connecticut, and he broke even on the farm, sold it for $1,000. [14:32] So then it was on the other side of the road he wanted to get rid of that because it was nothing but a pasture and a gravel pit. And Roy Long offered him $500 and boy he took it right up quick and sold it to Roy Long. 15 years later Roy sold $47,000 worth of gravel out of the pit alone. But no one know, that's what I saw. I we had known when we were married, we could of bought that whole up there for less than $10,000, the whole thing, every farm there was up there and everything else. But we just didn't realize what was coming. [15:21] We had a good life. We had a big family up there. My grandfather and grandmother lived and my father and mother, we all lived together, 6 of we children. She can tell about the ones from Waitsfield. This Mr. Strong her father was a great character. I've told this one before a good many times. [16:00] He was a potato grower. And of course back then with her father used to be the same, he had potatoes, they'd get together and dig them in the fall of the year. Mr. Strong went to the telephone one

morning, tried was going to call up somebody and he couldn't get them on the phone. These two women hearing him talking about cooking, making cookies. So he went back quite awhile later, still busy. It was Thelma Ricketts mother was on the phone, she was one of them. I can't think, I think it was Harriet Neal on the other one, anyway, it doesn't matter. He went back again later and he couldn't get the phone. And finally he come back in, and he put the receiver up to his ear, of course that was the old telephone. He said [sniffs] "By, god, I can smell somebody's cookies burning!" The receivers went down! [17:07] Of course that's the way communication was then. That's the only way you got it. You didn't have radio, when the telephone rang, everybody was on it!

JB The Braggs had some letters written by his great grandmother to some family out West, in Missouri. They talk about the first telephones. It's fascinating.

CE Her folks, they had a radio. And that was made by Eleanor Haskins, her father made it.

JB Kind of a crystals, [Tells Florence to go ahead.] You started to tell me before I turned on the machine about your family, the Bairds. I guess it was your great

grandfather that first settled and bought the farm, and the interrelation between the other side of your family as well. [18:23]

FE The farm where I was born and brought up was first owned, when they first settled Waitsfield by a Matt Jones which was from the first settlers. He sold it to Patrick Moriarty. That was my great great grandfather. And then Michael Moriarty, his son, no, Patrick sold it to John Baird. Later, a few years later my grandfather had 5 sons, and one of his sons was Earl. He met my mother, who was a granddaughter of Michael Moriarty, and they were married. And they lived on the farm from the time that they were married until about 1964. I was born there and my two sisters were born there. [19:31]

JB Did you find that you had comparable lives growing up? Did you have electricity?

FE No, we didn't not in the early years. After, I don't know how many years, my father had a Delco plant put in. We had lights. And of course when the battery went we didn't have lights. If they had the money then they could get a new battery. So that was quite exciting. We were about one of the first I think that had it. Later on of course

the electricity went through.

JB How large a farm did you have? [20:18]

FE It was about 300. (CE: 400 acres.)

CE Because both of you grew up on quite large farms for that time.

FE My father had a big sugar orchard, he sugared in the spring. It was quite a big farm. He raised potatoes.

JB How many cows?

FE There were always 40 milking cows.

CE When we were married they had I think 42, 43 milking cows. Then of course they had about equal amount, 20, 25 youngstock. He had a good sized farm. [21:10]

FE My younger sister was the tom boy in the family. She was the one that learned to milk. So she was doing that sort of thing more than I was. We'd play in the barn, dumping the hay. It was a good life.

JB That's what everybody has said.

CE It was a healthy life.

FE We had to make our fun. And I think, looking back, and I've told my children the things we used to do, and they love to have me tell them what I used to do, because it sound like we had so much fun. (JB: Tell me!) [22:00] On

rainy days or in the winter we'd play in the barn. In the summertime on a rainy day, there was one loft over the horse barn where the way it was made it was like a stage only it was a little higher. And we'd string a rope across the put some blankets on it, and we'd have plays. And we'd have the hired woman and hired man and my mother and father down, and they'd sit and watch us put on our play. Jump in the hay in the summer, play with the calves. Such simple things, they sound like simple things now. And sliding out in the winter.

JB Did you ride a jack jumper?

CE Oh gosh, yes, most every kid had a jack jumper.

JB I heard that took a lot of skill.

FE I don't think I very good at that one either.

CE Once you got on it though, when you got the hang of it to get your balance, oh you could go, I'm telling you on one of those things. [23:10] But that was another thing. Back when we were kids, the fence, you didn't know there was a fence around because it was covered with snow.

FE The snow was so deep them. It had this crust, and when it was a crust we'd go right over the top of the fences.

CE I can remember, my brother Ed and Sterling Livingston and

all of those. Sterling of course was at our house most of the time. He worked for years there. We used to get on the traverse sleds at night. We had a big long set. We could put 16 on it. But usually we put 8 or 10, whatever it was up there because And we could get on to our house, there's no house there now because they burned it down. But come right down across over 4 fences, 4 strand barbwire fences, and come out to where the Blue Tooth is, and slide clear to the foot to route 100 now. [24:20] We had an old horse, and sometimes one of us would walk the old horse down to the sled. That was a long ways up dragging it back up those hills.

JB It must of been a couple of miles.

CE 2 1/2 miles from our house to down by the school house. So we'd have the old horse pull it back for us. Then if we went down again we'd leave the sled down there, Earl Fullers or someplace. When my father'd go down he'd hook over it, bring it back for us. Even when we was in high school, we used to go way up almost to the round barn and get on sleds up there, high school students. And we'd slide right into Waitsfield village. [25:04] Of course there was no cars on the road. You wouldn't see a car all

night long then. And then here to Waitsfield I had under the covered bridge when I was in high school they had that all cleared off up through there, and they used to skate all the time. That's one you can tell about your grandfather Bowen.

FE By mother's father was a very good skier. And when he was in his 80's we had a pond up near where we lived on the farm. It was frozen over, made a nice rink. And he went down one day, I think he was 82, 83, and he made the figure 8 on the ice. He wrote his name. He did that, but he got a little bit dizzy and that ended that. It was quite remarkable. [26:00]

JB Now where did he learn to skate?

CE He lived in Bethel, Vermont. They used to skate on the river, I don't know where he learned it when he was young. We had a lot in my family, we had a lot of music in their family too. Everybody, my father sang, my mother played the piano. She was the organist in the church in Waitsfield for 50 some years. Directed the choir, sang in the choir. As we came along my oldest sister played the piano, I played some, but I took violin lessons and my younger sister took cello. We played in the school

orchestra. But we had music at home. My mother would play and we would play with her, my father sang, and we just had a lot of music. [27:00]

JB Would you sing every Sunday night?

CE Maybe not every Sunday night, but we sang a lot. My father's brothers and everybody in the family on both sides were musical. So anytime anyone was there was always had music, singing.

JB I've been interested in the traditional songs that came down that weren't written down. And there seems to be a very strong tradition in the Warren, Waitsfield area. In fact Guy Livingston was talking about, couldn't remember it, a murder ballad that his mother used to sing, that he thought had actually occurred in the Warren area. All they could remember was that her husband had killed her, and she'd been pulled by her hair or something. Do you know the song I'm talking about.

CE [28:09] Oh I've heard that, oh yes. I don't know whether that was hooked up at the same time, up where, this some of her relatives. Because we're related. There used to be a lot of Bairds up in Fayston where Guy Livingston I think lives on one of the Baird farms, or used to be.

There was Clayton Baird, Jim Baird and little Jim Baird,

FE I'm related to them.

CE Jim Baird of the bush, lived way out beyond where Guy lives. One used to live where Mad River Barn is now. He used to have sheep. And he sheared the wool off the sheep and he took it, I don't know where, probably to Middlesex and sold it or somewhere. And he never come back. They found his horse and wagon up at the farm, but they could never find him. That was Jim Baird. [29:25] They always said that fighting Jim, his own brother killed him. And they found his body 5 or 6 years later this side of Mad River barn where you turn to go up, the village on [End of tape 1, side A]

CE [Tape 1, side B] in Warren used to be, it's where the Warren store is now, but used to be a big hotel, Lyford Hotel. And my grandmother worked there when she was, well I guess before they were married, she and my grandfather. They had an old fellow up there they used to call him the Bear Man. I know what his name was, I can't ever think of it. He trapped a bear down in Granville woods, caught in

a trap in the fall. I guess they probably had a little home brew, and he and Gabe Seymore and another man, they put ropes on that bear and brought him into Warren, leading him, a wild bear, brought him into the hotel in Warren. And the bear they shot him later, and hung him up in the barn. [1:00] We did have one time my mother had a picture of it. Six feet something tall, it weighed 600 and some odd pounds, that black bear. Warren used to be quite a scrappy place. Especially town meeting. When I was a kid we used to like to go, always getting in awful fights sometimes. I mean slug fests it was, it wasn't just mouth arguments, they would get in some awful fights over things. Then 2 minutes later they'd all be friends, it was all settled anyway. Warren used to be, right in the center of the village at one time there was 3 stores operated all at the same time. There was a John Spaulding store, the one over where Roy Long's was and just across the bridge was the Will Freeman store. And they all did good business there of course. That's was the only store that I can remember that one. [2:12] I used to go down with my grandfather quite often, had the old milk chocolate they used to slice off. He'd always buy a pound

or two of it to take home because everyone liked it. We was going home after we left the store. I guess I made a mistake or something, I don't know. I put something in my mouth, and he wanted to know what that was. I says a piece of milk chocolate. He said where'd you get it, I said I got it at the store. Mr. Spaulding was out back, I took it, it was just a small piece, hell it wasn't a mouthful even. So my grandfather said you didn't pay for it did you, and I said no. So he turned around the horse right there in the road and took me back up, I had to go in and tell him I took the chocolate. I never stole anything after that! [3:11]

JB What did he say to you?

CE Nothing. He made me pay for it, my grandfather gave me the money, I think it was 2 cents was all it was. Because you could buy a whole pound for 25 cents. He never said a word, Mr. Spaulding, I can see him now. He says thank you for coming and telling me you took it. I got out of there quick.

FE We had in Waitsfield, one store they had right down in where RSVP is now, Jones' store. It was a general store but he had everything. He had one little corner a littler

shoe department, he had clothing. Of course like they used to have the ribbon in back of the counter and the material. [4:11] It was so different than it is now.

JB There was a lot of humor too that came out of the general store.

JB I was told a story in Ripton, a guy stole some butter, and put it under his hat and the store keeper saw him. So lured him over by the stove and engaged him in long conversation. And pretty soon the butter slipped down.

CE It was just a different atmosphere then. Of course we had to go to war and had to go to Waitsfield to high school, either there or Montpelier, they could go to whichever they wanted. [5:00] But we went down there of course I played sports and played baseball. And this same Mr. Jones that she's talking about, when it come baseball season, we never had to buy any baseball bats or anything like that. We'd to go Mr. Jones and he said here's so many balls, and he says so many bats, and then there was Carl Long her had another store where the store is empty now because they're selling out. They furnished the baseballs and the bats for the kids in school. The high school never had to buy a thing. It was a much different

atmosphere, that's all that I got to say. Now everybody, of course my grandfather used to say money is the ruination of a man's life. [6:02] I think of that a good many a times. When we were married, we lived in Waitsfield Village. Back of the Masonic hall there used to be the old hotel. I worked up where the Von Trapp farm is now for Clarence Tucker. And I had to walk every morning, didn't have any car or anything, I walked up there every morning, and another man and I that worked for him from Waitsfield. We rented a 5 room apartment from the Downers. Furnished apartment, $5 a month, furnished.

JB Now is Clarence Tucker Bertha Tucker's husband?

CE No, he was a cousin. Jerry Tucker that has the stand, his dad. But $5 a month I paid for a furnished apartment, that was it. We had everything we needed. But I only got $6.50 a week. And I worked from 4 o'clock in the morning till 9 o'clock at night. [7:14] And I'd have one Sunday a month off. The don't realize, of course I still think money went further then than it does now. Because we could go down to the store, to Jones' store and buy $5 worth of groceries, and I couldn't lug it home, I'd have

to go twice to get it home. Butter was 10 cents probably a pound or so. Eggs were 8, 9 cents a dozen, loaf of bread was 10 cents, donuts 12 cents a dozen. Hamburg 3 pounds for a quarter. [8:00] But you see a dollar then was a dollar, there was no inflation. Now what's it, 27 cents for a dollar, something like that.

JB When you lived up on the farm in Warren, which store would you come to? You probably would only come,

CE Very seldom went to the store. My grandfather would go every fall to Barre to a wholesale house, would take the team of horses. He used to raise 8 or 10 pigs. And when they got about 200 pounds, then he'd butcher them all and he took them out to the capitol market in Montpelier bought them every year. Had a standing order, and twice a year if he wanted to. And then he'd go up to Barre to this farm we knew and buy all the wholesale stuff. [9:02] Buy 3 or 4 barrels of flour, couple big hundred pound tubs of lard, the old big wooden tubs of lard then. And the sugar, a barrel or so of sugar probably. Big tub of cod fish, salt cod and salt salmon. It was very unusual we ever went to the store. If they ever went to one, they always went to Warren because it was the nearer. Usually

John Spaulding store. But then later years they traded quite a lot of with Walter Jones, Mr. Jones in Waitsfield. We raised all of our stuff on the farm. We raised and wheat and took it down to where _____ Ski Club is now. I can remember even in my time taking down I don't know how many bags of wheat down there, and they ground it into flour, and that's what the folks they made, my mother and grandmother made all the bread, donuts. We never bought any of that stuff. Had our own beef, our own chickens, own pork, own syrup. Made 2 or 3 great big crocks full of sauerkraut every year, my grandfather. Smoked our own hams of course. [10:30] All of them did, all the farmers did the same thing. Her folks would put them in the old barrel with the broom stick across and the smoke would come up with the corn cobs.

JB I bet many others didn't make sauerkraut.

CE Oh no, there weren't too many made sauerkraut, but my grandfather always had at least 110 gallons or so.

JB It sounds like from what I'm hearing with the names that this valley was a lot of Irish.

FE Yes there were, Moriarty, Gallagher.

CE [Whispers] Scotch and Irish. [11:12] God I guess at one time that's all there was mostly. On my mother's side, I don't know how far back that does go. Ed must know because I think he's got a genealogy of it. But of course they were born, my mother was born way up on West Hill where the golf course is, the back end of the golf course now. That's where she was born. And they had a big farm, her folks had a big farm up there. My grandfather Richardson and Sumners had places before that in Warren, so I never did know how far back it had ever did go in the town of Warren. [12:00] Scotch, grampa Richardson I guess was Scotch and part Irish and part Indian, he had some Indian in him.

JB Now you have a lot of music in your family too.

CE Ya, we all sang, every one of us. My grandfather, was telling her just the other day, I had a great uncle, this uncle Fred. He had one of the most beautiful tenor voices I ever heard in my life. Never got him to sing too much. They used to sit there at night every once and awhile, grampy and uncle Fred would start up some German song or chorus. We knew the tune but that was all. I've always felt bad that we didn't learn the language because grampy

wanted to, and my brother Ed, he went to Burlington, the University of Vermont and took German for one year. [13:04] But he come home and tried to talk to my grandfather and he couldn't one word out of probably 50 that he could understand what he was saying. It's the same as the French language I suppose. They say you take French and go to France and you can get through but that's it.

JB You really got to grow up with it.

CE We had an old piano. My aunt from New York she was a nurse at the hospital in New York, and she used to come once a year. (JB: That was Dora?) Dora, and she would play.

JB I think your brother Ed told me Art Hartshorn would try to come when she was there because he was musical too.

CE Oh yes, he would always, he lived down at Montpelier way up the end of Clay Hill.

JB He was married to Earl Fuller's adopted sister, Belle.

CE That's right, way back. [14:10] It's too bad they can't get him, but I see he's still living too, Floyd Fuller, that's the one I was trying to think. And we just lost one old one here, the oldest alumni Waitsfield High

School, Phillip Neal. He just died, he was 90 something years old. He went every year to this Brookfield ice cutting.

FE He was always at the alumni banquet.

CE Always at the alumni banquet, graduated from Waitsfield high school, one of the first classes they had.

JB Did you used to cut ice on the river here? [14:52]

CE Oh god I guess so. Back right across from Marrimar, there used to be what they called a cove, Herb Smith's Cove. Probably 10 acres in there was all flooded, the whole thing and that's where they cut all the ice for the farm, most of it they could get around. [15:10] They'd cut anywhere in the river they wanted, you didn't have to get permission from the state or anything then of course.

FE The ice house be all packed with sawdust. _____on the farm too.

CE Every other farmer of course had to have it, it was the only way he could cool his milk in the summertime. When I was in high school I used to work for this man down to Waitsfield, Milford Long, where the village grocery is now, I used to stay with him some. And we used to draw ice for all of town of Warren. And they used to cut it

where the swimming hole is down before you get to Middlesex now? Well that whole thing from where the swimming hole was, clear down to where the dam is now, was all cut off, sometimes 3 times during the winter for ice. There would be cakes that high. [16:10] And we drew it up, all the farmers in E. Warren. And then they had Birches Mill Dam in Warren, they cut on that always. Any place they could get, they'd cut their ice. I think it was a lot healthier then than it is now. Like I told somebody the other day, everything you get now they inject, any piece of meat you buy or anything else is all injected.

JB Was the river much higher in those days?

CE No, maybe on the whole, during the summer it would stay up more than it is now. But then again you don't know because you see that's one thing, of course I have an awful lot for the environmental people around here is [17:08] the farmers, even towns, they'd go into the river and that's the only place they got their gravel for fixing roads. And of course then it was all gravel roads. And they claim you can't take it out now because it kills the fish. Well fishing was so much better then, that's

what I've tried telling about this water up here by Kingsberry's their having so much trouble about. That was one of the best fishing stretches of brook which I know because I do a lot of fishing, did. That was one of the best ones there was. The last few years you can't catch fish up through there, because it's filled up so with gravel. When we used to take it out every year down through there and dig it right down, boy there was fish all over that place.

JB So they actually would dig gravel.

CE Sure, go right in with the horses. Of course it was all shoveled by hand then, they didn't have any loaders. [18:00] Men put boots on, oh yes when I was a kid, grade school, Ed and I shoveled gravel for the town of Warren 50 cents a day all day long for horses and teams go right out and load the wagons up and draw it out, day after day after day right out of the river. It was kept right down. Now anywhere you look in the river it's all built up. (JB: Makes sense.) Yes it does. Then they had more fish then than they ever have now. The fish naturally is gone, that's one thing that the ski area didn't help any I don't think.

JB Because it drew so much water off the river?

CE That's right. You take that Clay brook that comes down from Sugarbush there, I wouldn't eat a fish out of it. I know it's supposed to be al healthy, but I wouldn't eat a fish out of it because you can go down through that brook, which I have before just to look it over, most anything you want to see in the brook. Toilet paper, the whole brook, clear down through the whole thing. [19:22] They have done a lot in the last few years with it, I'll say that. But as far as this dam up here, I say they might just as well go ahead because if they don't they're going to be in trouble, the whole valley. I'm afraid Sugarbush will close down just as they say they will.

JB It sounded like they would.

CE It's the only thing that kept them going this year was what snow they did have you see.

JB Mad River is really hurting. [20:00]

CE So it has helped, yes.

FE We just aren't getting the snow like we used to. Changing.

CE The last good snow storm we had was 1972 I think it was. We got 40 some inches one time. I was working for Mad

River then, I worked 80 some hours steady, never stopped, plowing and working on the lift.

FE I remember going to school back when we were kids. In the wintertime we had what looked like a covered wagon on runners, a sled. We'd like kids are we'd all come to places that drifted up in high snow, we'd all get on one side so it would all tip over into the snow and we'd be late for school. [20:58]

JB There have been real changes, huge changes.

FE As I said the things I tell I've told my kids through the years. It was better than reading a book to them because everything I told them sounded like so much fun that we used to have. Our girls, our older ones, they had more of the life, they lived up on the farm. They got sort of the same kind of a life that I had when they were little.

JB You farmed then for,

CE No, I never farmed. I was on the farm with her father for a few years, to help him out because he couldn't get any hired help or anything. Even when I was working there I was still working on another job all the time. But I used to help him with haying and stuff like that, and milk in the morning and night and things like that to relieve him

some because he was getting up older. [22:03] He had to give up his sugar place, he didn't use that anymore. I guess I helped him sugar twice. It's been so long ago I can't remember. Yes, because we went across the brook and put the road over in there. But I guess for awhile you couldn't find anybody to work on the farm.

JB Now was that after the ski areas came in, or before that?

CE Just about the time they were coming in. Like her father, the boys and girls both used to come up here and work on the farms out of New York City in the summertime. (FE: And Boston.) I forget what it was called, it wasn't Fresh Air kids at that time they called them. Her father had a very nice boy from Boston that worked for him, 2 or 3 years. [23:07]

FE For years even when he grew up he would come back to visit. It reminds me of the time we had with the diphtheria, which was quite a terrible thing. We were up at the farm. And come to find out as we traced it down later this young fellow that we're just speaking about, my sister, we couldn't even write letters or anything, send mail. She wrote to him, to find out because he was the only one that we knew of that been there. He had

apparently seemed like a cold when he was there. It turned out that he had diphtheria, and had been several cases the school where he was. But our son, Kevin got it, and he was less than 2 years old, about a year and a half. And he got it. There hadn't been a case in years and years. And the doctor from Waterbury, Dr. Orton came over from Waterbury. He came every day. And finally got so bad that he took me in his car, the Dr. did to Burlington, we took Kevin up there to Burlington. We nearly lost him. [24:28] And I had had my shots when I was a kid. But I got it again. And I was sick at home. We were quarantined where the men couldn't touch the milking things, they couldn't milk or anything. They couldn't go to the village to go to the store, the neighbors had to do things for us.

JB How long did that go on for?

CE Three weeks we was going through it. Neighbors had to come in and do all the milking, well everything. We weren't supposed. Sometimes we helped, slipped down and helped. We couldn't wash the utensils or anything, they had to all be, the neighbors all came in and did it.

FE Ed, he helped, would come and get the things and take

them right home and do them there. [25:30]

JB Everett Palmer was telling me about the infantile paralysis too. I guess he had a brother that died of it. (FE: That's right.) And he remember his mother saying to his father, do you think it's going to take them all?

FE That was really a hard time. I had 3 little girls besides Kevin who was sick. And then I was sick. And my mother taking care of me and taking care of the girls. It was a hard time.

JB Were you able to with the quarantine nobody else got it?

CE No, she's the only one that got it.

FE And it was strange because I had had my vaccination.

CE There wasn't another case in town. [26:30] And of course as she said the Dr. Orton that we had at that time, he hadn't seen but one case before in his life.

FE And he kept coming, he came every day because Kevin was so sick, but he was treating him for tonsillitis, because that resembled it. Of course he had no idea that it was diphtheria. Until if finally got so he couldn't breath. Maybe I'll just mentioned he took me in his car. That was scary. I'm holding Kevin in the backseat of the doctor's car and going to Burlington. It was pretty scary. He said

he was scared afterwards, because he didn't know whether he would even make it. We had a lot of things happen up there on that farm. [27:26] My father years ago when I was just about a year and a half or two, fell off the back side of the big barn and broke both of his legs.

CE 60 some feet from the eave down.

FE He was in the hospital I think it was 9 days at that time. And then they brought him home, it was in the summer and they fixed a bed on the front porch. He stayed there all summer long where he'd watch the men. The neighbors came and helped with the work that had to be done.

JB They must of had to take him by horse and wagon.

FE No, they took him in a car. I think the doctor took him.

CE Dr. Shaw? No, Dr. Kent. [28:22]

FE That was a hard time too, a lot of things happened.

JB Did you do any logging?

CE Oh yes, I worked for, when we was on the farm. The farmers used to get out logs every winter to help pay their taxes, that's what they always. And of course we had a big wood lot. We had a big sugar place. In fact we never tapped all of our sugar place. We tapped around

2,000, we could of tapped probably twice that many. Because Merrill Long used to tap part of it because it was way down over from where our sugar house was and we didn't need them, and Merrill used them. Every year, and then I went to work. I worked for 6, 7 years I guess for Claude Bonnette for the Ward Lumber Company cutting the big basin back in here. [29:24] I'm an outdoors man, that's what I am. That bothers me now, I can't get out in the woods.

JB Otis Wallace said he used to hear the teams going up. And every team had a different bell. (CE: That's right.)

CE Ward Lumber Company, my father used to work in the winter for them lots of times. Guy Livingston's uncle used to have a team. I don't know what Guy's father had a team. And they used to haul out of Fayston underneath Burnt Rock, and they'd cut the logs, they'd pile them up and then they'd draw them out in the winter, with sleds and horses clear from there to Moretown to the mill. And a lot of the farmers used to work doing that in the winter. [30:24] The farmer they did everything to get money. Grampy used to say nobody's going to bed hungry anyway, and we never did I don't think. Of course my grandmother

was a great cook.

JB I should ask about food has changed too. The kind of meals and so forth that you had. And she was cooking for a dinner party every night. When would you have breakfast?

CE About 6 o'clock, between 6 and 7. Most all the time because you see kids had to get to school. Even in the summertime, we was always done milking in the morning about 6 o'clock. We always had breakfast. I tell her that's when they had good breakfasts.

JB Tell me what you'd have for breakfast. [31:29]

CE We always had warmed up home fried potatoes I called them, always. And then some of us had cereal if we wanted it. Most every morning you had toast. Of course it wasn't toasted on toaster, it was toasted on the stove, or they'd make rolls, [end of tape 1, Side B]

CE You done an hours work or so before breakfast was always on. Of course usually on a Sunday morning they always had bacon and eggs or ham and eggs. Of course it was all of their own, never had to buy it.

JB Pancakes?

CE Oh gosh I guess so, pancakes. Spring of the year

especially pancakes and syrup.

JB And the cereal would be oatmeal.

CE Yes, oatmeal. I don't ever remember having cornflakes until I was in high school I guess. Either cornmeal, oatmeal or cream of wheat, that's what it was.

JB Did you use your own oats for oatmeal?

CE No, I never knew them to grind oats for our own oatmeal, never. [1:03] That's another thing grampy used to buy. I don't know how they used to come, but big old thing, I can see it now, a big wooden keg or barrel, only it was kind of a square thing, and it would be full of oatmeal. And he used to buy 2 or 3 of those. Another thing he used to get an awful lot of, everybody did in the valley, they'd go into Cross Bakery out to Montpelier, you could buy a barrel of crackers for 50 cents. There were what they call the odds. Oh god, we had crackers and milk.

FE You can't buy those, the size that they were. You buy these little ones and they cost, they're out of sight. They don't even taste the same.

CE No they don't, they say they're Vermont crackers, but they don't taste like the ones that used to, the big ones used to get them like that, Cross crackers, 50 cents for

a barrel of the odd, the throw outs they called them. They might be curled over or something and they'd just throw them in, so we always bought them. [2:09] There was a man from Warren, Mobis that used to work out there. He was one of the head ones in the bakery, and people all here knew him. He'd tell them about it, they'd go out and get them fast as they could get them. Your meals like I say were all together different. Then of course at noon it was noon. You didn't get your meal later on, it was at 12 o'clock, that's when you ate. Then at night we usually tried to get all of the chores all done, milking and all by 6 o'clock at night, and that's when we'd eat our supper, they call it dinner now. [3:00] But our big meal was always at noon.

JB And what would you have at noon?

CE Beef, pork, all depends on, venison a lot of the time, potatoes, gravy was the main thing and then peas or beans or corn, of course we raised them all.

FE Dried beef gravy, cod fish gravy.

CE Oh god, that's what we used to like. I still do today, but I'm not supposed to have any of that stuff. I can sit down to cod fish gravy, and salt salmon gravy. My

daughter in law works in the fish market up here She showed me a piece of pink salmon the other day, red salmon, salt salmon, $7.99 a pound. I said god, I don't think I want any of that.

JB And how would you make salmon gravy?

CE Just the way you would cod fish gravy, just exactly the same way. They break it up all into little pieces, put the thickening with it. It was a milk gravy is what I call it. [4:10] But oh god it was good. Very very seldom, grampy used to get, I don't know what it was he used to get for fish besides cod fish, but he used to buy whole fish, haddock probably or something. And then he's slice it himself. And we used to have that once and awhile, but of course back then, my family, were scared of the damn bones in the fish, afraid the kids would get in the bones. So we didn't have too much fish that had any bones in it, unless it was brook trout or something we'd get.

JB How about game? Partridge?

CE Oh yes, we'd eat all of those, coons, gray squirrels. Back then there used to be a lot of gray squirrels. My mother used to make they call it a game pie. We boys got a lot of coons in the fall of the year especially. Coon

and gray squirrel and partridge and rabbit, mix all together. And it make a real good. Rabbits are good anyway. [5:19] We used to eat a lot of them. We had tame rabbits, we raised on the farm, we eat one of them once and awhile. And of course had our own chickens. Used to eat a lot of chicken then just the same as I do now.

JB And then would your mother and grandmother make pies and stuff for noon?

CE Yes they did, pie after pie after pie. Usually had pie, we kids had it more than we should have I guess. We used to have a big pantry, and we'd usually get in there once and awhile, cookies. Big old tin things full of cookies. I don't know how many pies they used to make at a time, 10, 12 or more at a time. [6:10] And we had all of our own apples, on the farm. We never had to buy apples, always put them down cellar, our own potatoes. But most of the farms around here, they didn't have to.

JB And made your jams and jellies.

CE Oh ya, made everything like that. Currant berries, we'd pick wild strawberries for hours at a time, go out in the pasture and fields and try to pick wild strawberries because used to love them.

FE My father had cultivated raspberries and they were beautiful berries. We used to pick those. And he'd take them and he could hardly give those berries away for 25 cents a quart. It was even less than that, maybe 10 cents a quart.

CE Less than that, when we used to take them to Northfield and around.

FE And then there'd be times it was hard to even get rid of them. Beautiful berries.

CE When I was helping him up on the farm. We had strawberries too.

FE He didn't have too many strawberries.

CE And potatoes, he used to load the truck, and we used to load it on a Saturday. And he had regular customers anyway, Northfield and Montpelier. [7:24] Once and awhile you'd take an extra load because you thought, you couldn't sell them for 50 cents a bushel for potatoes.

FE My sisters and I, we got right out and helped pick up potatoes in the fall.

CE Dug them all in, you didn't dig them by hand, but you might just as well have I called it.

FE He had a sugar orchard too.

JB You said noon was your big meal. At supper what would you have?

CE Fried potatoes again or boiled potatoes. We had potatoes usually 3 times a day. We always did, 3 times, a lot of people did. [8:10] And then lots of times at night you'd have what was left over at noon. There was nothing thrown away. It was all made good use of.

JB Did you have lots of stews, hashes?

CE Yes. Ground up beef and potatoes, hash, then red flannel hash, used to have a lot of that. We could have that in the middle of the winter because we had beets downstairs in the sand they used to bury them in the sand to keep them. The beef, what we usually do, we raised a lot of oats. And that was one thing we kids had to do after they packaged the beef when they butchered it, same with the pork in the fall. There again it goes back to this damn weather. [9:17] In the last of October and November, you could make up your mind that was it. It was going to freeze up. So you could hang your beef up and you didn't have to worry about it. What they used to do is grampy would cut it up, usually ours was 5 to 6, 7 pound things everything because that's what it cost, took to feed the

family. And then you'd wrap it in newspaper. And we'd bury it in the oat bin. We had 3 different big oat bins, they would hold probably 100, 150 bushel apiece each one of them. And you could go up there in the 4th of July, and get a piece of beef out of the oat bin and it was froze just as hard.

JB Where would your oat bin be? [10:00]

CE In another barn or shed off to one side. You had to have a roof over it to keep it dry for the horses, the grain and stuff. Putting it down in there, no air get to it. That's the way we kept it. Lots of times you clean out a bin in the fall of the year before we had to put the new in, and you'd run on to a piece that somebody had forgot down there, they hadn't got it out yet. And it be just as frozen, just as hard as could be. And that's the way most of that stuff. She laughs, a lot of them do, what we used to have what we called swatamocha. [10:55] It was more or less head cheese. When they butchered, there was nothing left, everything was boiled right off the bones. And it was ground up, put right into the pig's intestines. We'd boil them of course then turn them wrong side out and boil them again. [11:16]

JB My husband's made it.

CE We would hang them up in what we called the attic, off from the bedroom upstairs. It had no heat, and it be just as cold. When we wanted one we'd go in and get it. She laughs at a lot of the things we used to have up at our farm. I tell them today, they say that pork is bad for you. But one thing, my grandfather on the table, our dining room table, had a big old bowl, just of held 3 gallons. And it was full of sliced raw pork and onions in vinegar. And I eat that a good many day after day. And he lived to be 96 years old. [12:10]

JB What did he call that?

CE Nothing, just salt pork, it was a brine I suppose with vinegar.

FE There might of been a name for it.

CE Probably was, but I never knew. Another thing we kids used to like especially, had the old hand grinder. We'd take salt pork, fresh salt pork, of course they kept it in the crock downstairs in the cellar all the time, had a barrel full of that all the time. We'd go down and slice it off, and then get some of the oldest bread my grandmother had, and grind it up, bread and the pork. And

then it was moist enough so you could make a ball. We used to love it for sandwiches. If you put it in the frying pan it was awful good. [13:02]

JB What about for like Christmas or Easter? Would you had special meals then?

CE Usually what we used to do Christmas and Thanksgiving, my mother's family, the Richardson family would come to our place at 1 and we would go to theirs the other. So they'd switch off every other year, Christmas and Thanksgiving. Usually grampa Richardson always raised turkeys. At Christmas we'd usually have turkey, duck or goose and chicken. You could have all 4 of them if you wanted them. A goose was good, I like goose. [14:00] Usually it was just a chicken. I know Thanksgiving when we'd have nothing but a big pork roast, and have nothing any much special about it. Of course all your presents, I tell them I graduated I guess from the 8th grade, I know I did, before I ever had any boughten clothes. They was always made. Mother and grandmother made them all. And then they was handed down, what Ed didn't wear I'd get the next year and so on, and that's the way it went.

JB Did they do some of the stuff I've seen has been

beautifully, the grain bags, they would bleach them and then the embroidery sometimes you see. Did your mother and grandmother do that? [15:04]

CE No, they never did anything out of a grain bag.

JB I think actually it was a lot of the French people that did that.

CE Aunt Lizzie, you said you interviewed Merrill? His mother, her husband, Merrill's father and my grandmother were brother and sister. Aunt Lizzie, she wasn't all there. She was a good old woman, god she was a good woman. She was funny, and somewhere she went down to Walter Jones store one time in Waitsfield at Christmas or sometimes. Walter was always picking on her, and aunt Lizzie had a pair of bloomers on of course they wore at that time. She stooped over to do something, and Walter Jones said to her, "My god, Lizzie, what kind of bloomers are those you got on?" She said "By god, Walter, they're Layer Bust!" And that's what it was, that was the kind of grain you fed your, and she made herself a pair of bloomers, Layer Bust right across her own rear end! [16:20]

FE She was something. She was also related to what we call

the hired girl that was working for my mother. When she first came over, Maggie from Ireland she went up there and stayed for a little while with this aunt Lizzie we're talking about. And she asked Maggie one day do you like pumpkin pie? Oh yes, she liked it. So she said she got out the pumpkin and cooked it, and then went and under her bed and hauled out an old window screen, and put it over the black iron sink and strained the pumpkin right into the sink. And Maggie said by the time she made that pie she didn't care for any. Well I thought you liked it! [17:10]

CE But you were talking about a cook, that woman, oh my god. We used to just love the stuff she made plain donuts, honest to god, and she always brought them out to we kids. We used to like to go down there to eat, but I don't know sometimes, I wonder.

FE What you didn't know didn't hurt you I guess then.

CE No, we knew, but we still loved to go there to eat just the same because her bread, oh god it was good. She was an awful, awful good old lady, but she was way off.

JB Did you have the same kind of food pretty much? (FE: ya.) Same kind of thing for Christmas? [18:00]

CE Ya, we'd have usually sometimes roast pork, sometimes roast chicken. Not very often, once in a great while we'd have roast turkey. They didn't raise turkeys. And breakfast would be, like every week day breakfast would be hot cereal and muffins, coffee, milk. They had the big meal at noon because they had the men working. She would still have a big meal at night.

CE They used always most all of the farmers, they had 3 good meals anyway, you could plan on that wherever you went. And always seemed to have enough. When I was up with her father on the farm, there was Harold Neal, Ward Joslin, and her father. They used to swap off in corn cutting time, one would have the harvester, one would have the blower, and they'd go, no problem, we'll do yours today and ours, and that's they way. And of course when they did, all of the hired men, all of the men there would come into that house to eat. They fed the whole bunch of them. [19:19] Sometimes there was 12 or 13, 14, extra people. That's the thing they don't do today. If I go over and help you, you own me so much. Then it was you got your corn in and I got mine in, so what the hell, we don't need to pay anything, and that's they way it went

back then.

FE It was hard with my folks anyway. In the summer a lot of the relatives from out of state would come to visit. Of course a great place to come to the farm. But they had a lot of extra help, meals to get. And my mother had just had one batch of company leave, and she was tired, and she'd call her mother who lived nearby at that time, and she just gotten a letter in the mail, as I said one had just left that day, that someone else was coming. And she said I can't do it! [20:20] She said her mother got a hold of them somehow and told them that she just could not have them. They think they got a farm, everything's.

JB And I guess a number of people used to come up and stay at different farms in the summer. Wasn't it kind of,

FE Summer boarders.

CE Staffords down below, he used to take boarders. And another one was over by the DeFreest on the Cold Spring farm. They used to take every year, not too many. Usually Cora and Andres had 4 people at the most. They had one family came for years and years.

JB And I gather they used to hike on the Long Trail.

CE That was one of our great things in the fall. [21:18]

After we got all done haying and oats and everything else was all in or between haying and oats there was usually 3 or 4 weeks of laying over, doing one job to the next. So Sterling Livingston and myself, there was Glenn Buzzell up on the hill, we used to take at least 2 weeks and hike on the Long Trail. My father would take us up to the Canadian border, which back then was a long way, it was in the 30's. And we would hike down maybe to Mt. Mansfield, and he'd pick us up there or we'd hike home, one or the two. Then the next year we'd go to Mt. Mansfield and hike maybe through to Warren and come down Lincoln Mountain. [22:08] So I've traveled the whole length of the Long Trail here in the state of Vermont, Sterling Livingston and I. I guess we're the only 2 left here that has done it, 2 or 3 different times. We've hiked the whole length of, we always wanted to, but we decided now we're getting too old to take it from right up in Maine and go clear through to Georgia the way it goes now. But then of course it quit, the Canadian line they didn't have it any further. The end of Vermont they never had it any further. And now of course you can go clear through to Georgia on the Long Trail. (JB: The

Appalachian.) Ya. That was nice. We would try to do 6 miles a day. Sometimes we didn't, if we happened to hit a lodge we liked. Of course then there was all kinds of them on the mountain, about 3 miles apart they would be. Of course you took your own stuff with us and cooked it. [23:09] It was a lot of fun.

JB How long would you take, 2 weeks did you say?

CE Usually, we would go about 2 weeks. If we thought we had the time we would spend 2 weeks. Like if we thought the weather had been so that the crops were going to be ready to get in, but we always went over a week, 10 days anyway. We hiked every year on the Long Trail.

FE That's one thing where I've never been, I've never been on the Long Trail. I don't think I'll start doing it now.

CE At one time Professor Monroe, he was the owner of Crouch and Lion farm down at the foot of Camel's Hump, on this side? He had a whole lot of pictures and things of me in the New York Times. I was the youngest person to ever hike the Long Trail and carry my own pack. I wasn't quite 5 years old. [24:13] We went up, my father and mother and my older sister and my brother, Ed, and myself, and then this professor and his wife, he used to have a summer

home in Warren, Newells from Massachusetts, he and his wife and the 2 boys. And we hiked from Lincoln Mountain through to Camel's Hump and come down. And I was the youngest fellow that ever been on the Long Trail and carried my own pack all the way. [24:46] Outdoors is my life, it always has been. I could spend day and night outdoors, in the woods.

JB Did you do much trapping?

CE I used to. Now she won't let me because she says it's too hard for me.

JB How did you learn to trap?

CE Just by starting in setting, first we used to trap nothing but coons and skunks. And then of course you get smarter animals like fox and minks and things, I guess by reading, Natural Sportsman or things like that about different fellows we used to follow. Lynch from up in Maine used to write in that. He would tell how to set the trap and everything else, illustrations and all in the magazine. So Ed and I both, we trapped, pretty good at it.

JB It was a real art I guess to mix some scents.

CE When you get to especially foxes and minks and things,

you got to be.

JB Was there a local guy that would sort of help you out?

CE [26:04] Merrill Long used to be a big trapper, he and Roy both. Roy was a good trapper. They used to help us out, when we were kids of course. Started us on skunks and foxes, or coons. Then more or less Roy showed me how once how to set they called them water sets, they never did do any that I know dry sets the way they do now most everybody. He showed us how to do those. I guess we just picked it up from there and kept going. We used to pick up quite a lot of money in high school down there. My brother in law later on, he and I had 300 traps we used to set out in the river, for mink and mostly then it was just mink and muskrat. We'd pick up $2,000 in the fall, in a month's time.

JB Which river was this?

CE Mad River. [27:15] Go across Mezziraz [?] Road, go to one place they called it the Cove, where they cut ice on? We could catch a couple, 300 muskrats in there in the fall of the year, every year. Next year there'd be just as many or more.

JB Are they still there now?

CE I went down there 2 years ago, I guess the last year I trapped or 3 years ago I went down, the beavers have taken it all over now, and I don't like to bother them.

JB In the old days there weren't too many beaver around.

CE Oh god, no. I can remember when there wasn't a beaver around there, not that you could see anyway. I guess maybe back in the woods, way back there were. I can remember for years there was no beavers. [28:07] And of course it wasn't too many years now that they'd been able to trap them again anyway.

JB I always notice going down through Granville woods.

CE State dig them out before they get them dug out they got them back in again. In fact I just read a big story in one of these magazines here about them, I was telling her yesterday, about how they build their house up for their living quarters. That's the way a beaver builds. He puts, the one I was reading in there, says 2 to 3 ton of wood, apple bushes, poplar, alders and things, they take and bury them or stick them somehow in the bottom of the mud in the bottom of their pond for food during the winter. [29:05] And they have a room that they take it into where they eat it. They chew the bark up, so that it's fluffy,

and they sleep in that. In their sleeping quarters, they have 5 rooms in the house, the bathroom, [End of tape 2, side A] [Tape 2, side B can't understand Clesson.]

JB You said you worked outside a lot, hunting, logging.

CE Snow shoeing, I love to snow shoe. Years back, when we was up on the farm, my brother in law I was telling about, he used to be up to the farm 2/3 of the time when we was in high school anyway. And we would take snow shoes and put them around our, put snow shoes on our feet. Then we had skis and we'd put them over our shoulder and we would hike clear to the top of where our sugar bush is now, and ski down the old log roads, [1:03] And then put the snow shoes on again and hike back up, and maybe make sometimes twice on a weekend, Sunday or something like that. We never did on Saturday, but on a Sunday, that was one of the recreations that we had.

JB So you were skiing at Sugarbush.

CE Oh yes, before there was any trails or anything else, down old log roads and everything else, yes.

JB Where'd you get the skis?

CE Made right here in Waitsfield. It's where Old Times is, the little dam? Well they got a dam there now, but there

used to be a building where that building across I think they sharpen skis or motorcycle shop or whatever it is across the brook there. Fellow by the name of Mr. Newcomb, used to be a wheelwright. And he made sleds for the kids. Made sleds all the time for people. And he's [2:02] the one my grandfather took him down and had Ed and I both had a pair of skis made down there, and it cost $3 a pair. Ed's was 6 foot and something and mind were a little shorter. We had them, and of course every year you had to take them down to steam them and turn the toes up, because they'd flatten right out just as flat as could be. And I think, I've been going to ask, Ed last time that I knew about he still had his old pair that he had up there, his antiques that he's got in the old school house up there. I wished he'd get that thing set up so that he's got stuff in there, you've probably never been in there.

JB He got it set up as a museum?

CE Every time he goes he buys some more and brings it in and puts in there, there isn't room enough to even get in the building now hardly. [3:00] But he has some beautiful antique stuff in there.

JB I was going to ask you and I guess I forget to ask him, do you have old photographs of the farm?

CE Oh yes. It ran along for years, before nobody ever though. And finally all we had was a small snapshot. So my mother asked us one time, she said would you kids like a picture of this farm, if I could get it? We told her naturally, yes. So she took it, somebody took it and blew it up for her. And she made. [pause while Florence looks for the picture. 4:10] You had to know what the farm was like, same as her farm up there. She used to be all open where Ski Valley Acres is up through there, she's got pictures of that where you can stand down and look clear to the top of the mountain almost, all open, not a tree in sight. That's how it's grown up so fast since. That's why I like to see these places and are kept open a lot of them. But say somebody comes in and offers you what they do for land and things. And the young folks they just can't. Young folks couldn't farm today, if they had to go out and buy the whole thing, that's why the farmers are in such a mess as they are now. Ed was fortunate when he bought his up there, and he just bought on the other 2 or 3 farms with it. He just had good buys on them. He hit it

just the right time. And then he went and sold it of course. But I guess that one is sold, they can't develop on it, any of the open meadow. [5:24]

JB DeFreest, David is renting from him isn't he?

CE Ya, David rents, I guess all of the farm. He uses the barn now, milking cows, and Gordie's just setting up the sugar place. I think Gordie and Ed have got a 5 year lease, or did have when they sold it on the sugar place.

JB Ya, because he said his son was.

CE Gordie, he's already started to tap. Piping. (JB: Must be early.) Ya, but you see they got them today where you could tap in December. There's a pill, you put a pill in them tap hole, and it keeps it just as moist. Oh sure, that's what all the farmers do now, they tap, that way they don't have to wait so long. And of course they don't have the old hand bar that we used to have to tap with. [6:17] But those are one of the two things that I always like was sugaring, I always loved sugaring. No, there isn't much of this land from here to Granville that I haven't traveled over. Camel's Hump, Fayston, over the other side of the mountain, all through Starksboro, during hunting some time or other.

JB What's your favorite piece?

CE Of land? Way back in the basin, what we call Finn Basin.

JB Now why was it called Finn Basin? [7:00]

CE The family out beyond Guy Livingston, way out to the end, this old cellar hole is still there. There used to be a family by the name of Finn. _____ _____ , they made a misspelling like Finn. Apparently that's where it got it's name from. And it's at one time, you wouldn't get many people to go in there hunting, because they was so afraid you were going to get lost. But in the last 30 years or so of course they've put log roads all through it so there's no way. In fact I took Art Williams and Roland Palamino and Henry Perkins, and put a cross country ski trail through there. Took them in and showed them where to go, where the best terrain was. And it goes through and goes through over to French Basin on the North Fayston side, and then through Huntington and comes out over in Huntington. They use it for a snow mobile now too. It's a real natural. [8:09] My two boys that I got, they know, that's where we've hunted most all the time. Of course another one's down here in Stetson Hollow and

Granville woods and Austin Hollow, all of those. I've hunted with my father when I was 7, 8 years old. Same as my two boys. [looking for a photo.] We have a time sometimes trying to find them. In fact my sister, Madeline just gone up to New York, because I have a nephew up there that has got all kinds of old pictures, taken of the farm. We never had them.

JB Is she going to bring them back I hope?

CE She's going to bring them back or try to. He brought them to the family reunion 2 years ago, but he took them right back with him. He wouldn't leave them for anybody. So she's gone up, and I've got a sister that lives up there, my youngest sister. And they're going to try to get them and bring them back so we can have copies of different. There's one in there special we want is of my two aunts, way back, must be in the teens, '12, '15, '18, before World War I anyway. And they're boiling sap up on the old farm. My grandfather picked him up with a old big kettle and a stick through it so they can raise it up and down. And it shows them over there, and that's one picture nobody's got at all. My aunt, was a funny, funny woman. And she took all of this stuff from my mother after my

father died. She took it and she gave it all to him, everything. Of course we're family, we didn't want any trouble so we just let it dropped it all. But there's a lot of stuff like that and a lot of pictures she burned, took them right out and burned them. [10:12]

JB Because you can get good quality copies now.

CE I don't think we've ever had a squabble. Oh, had kids stuff. Close families, both of them. Their family is close to this one. But we have to live here, and we can't get them all in here now. [tape shut off.]

FE That's a picture of Ed and Clesson.

JB The old car in the background. [looking for pictures.] [pause; 11:30, picture of farm, a lot of barns. Clesson points out individual barns. 12:32] You must of farmed all with horses.

CE Oh yes, never had a tractor on the farm. [high school picture, grandparents, wood building, corn crib.] that's where we kept the oats in there too. The wood, he had enough wood so that we had what we called a summer and a winter wood. Summer wood, when I wanted to build a quick fire in the stove, because that's all they had to cook by. They didn't have any gas or anything back then. And

so we used white birch, and to get their meals with they could get a good, quick meal. [13:32] That one there was when Warren first had the 4th of July celebration. And that's what they called the 90 club. That was my grandfather, he was 96. This woman here, they all lived to be 107 years old.

JB And who's next to your grandfather? Is that his brother?

CE That's Elliot, Frank Blake.

JB I've heard about him. He had the blacksmith shop. Earl Fuller. (CE: That's right.) And who's this here? [14:10]

CE Parsons I think her name was, _____Parsons mother. They used to ride in a special car. No, Mrs. Devall. She's 107 years old. [children] We had 3 in 3 years.

FE We had this old horse Billy. And we used him just to drive my family. We could take him out. This is my sister her, this is me with the doll. I went from a doll to a baby. [neighbor's children, parents, sister, grandparents, 17:02]

JB Do you figure the deer population has declined?

CE Of course I'm strictly against doe hunting.

FE Is that you with a dress on? (CE: Yup!)

CE I got one there where I went to school with my pants were

torn up in the woods. That's the pair of pants I wore to school back side to. No, they were all made then. We was happy.

JB Did you put your car up for the winter?

CE Oh god yes. By the first of November anyway we always put it right up, took the battery out and jacked it right in the air and left it, never took it out to May again. 18:00; asks Jane how long she lived here. shuts tape off. 18:29]

JB And this originally your grandfather's.

FE It was my grandfather Moriarty sold it to his father, James Baird. [pictures of back of the barn.]

JB Did you have somebody come, this must be an old glass plate. (CE: It probably is.)

FE You can't even see this now, it's built up good. It's Ski Valley Acres now, there's a lot of building up in there, a lot of houses. But this is nothing but trees. Doesn't look the same at all. And the barn is gone.

JB [19:08] Is Ski Valley Acres, is that going down here?

FE You go through the covered bridge, and go up do you know where _____ on Ed's farm? (JB: Yes.) It's on the same hill.

CE Between Ed's and the Von Trapp farm. It's too bad, [photos; grandparents. 19:50]

JB And your father was Earl Baird. Now did one of these brothers do the mill down?

FE No, they're related. Not too awfully close, Andy and,

CE No, your father and Andy were about 3rd cousins. About the same as we are, 3rd, 4th, 5th. [20:26]

FE None of our children are foolish anyway. [tape shut off.]

CE Clarence Strong, Ina Goodyear's father. He used to come over to her folks house once and awhile. When her mother and father, after they'd been married quite awhile, her father used to come up from the barn in the morning, and he'd rap on the door.

FE It wasn't just in the morning, he'd apt to do it most any time.

CE He'd rap on the door and she'd go to the door and there he was, she was expecting it to be somebody else.

FE She said I'd take off my apron, get my company face on and go to the door, there'd be my father. He pulled that on her several times. [21:15] So one day somebody rapped at the door. And she had it so many times she said I'm going to fix him this time. So she got a glass of water

and got some water in it. And she got right in behind, there was a place where it was closed in and they used to hang their coats. And she got in there and said come in if your face is clean. And the door opened and she let the water go, and it was Clarence Strong from over in East Warren! He said well I don't know whether it was clean when I left or not, but it is now! [21:46]

JB This is Ina that did this?

FE Ina's father!

CE He was a character, that man was unbelievable. Witty, I never saw _____ .

FE My father was funny too. He was a witty man.

CE But there's a lot of us old timers we get, Harry Smith that used to live _____, god, he knew everything, he could remember everything just as plain as could be.

JB I visited with him one day. I guess about '78, and I always meant to go back, and of course I never did. A great guy. [22:27]

FE So many stories, and I guess as you get older so many things have happened, in your life that you don't remember, heard about.

CE She'd going down to see Bob Gove. But when we was in high school, I'd like to tell this one, about Elwin Neal and Bob Gove and Ed and I all stayed together down to this one house as you go into Waitsfield. A dollar a week for staying. The women, we're supposed to have our own food, but she got most of it anyway. This Elwin Neal is a character. He was something, still is as far as that goes. We was there, Mrs. Mamorter made bread and donuts, and sometimes she'd be up all night long cooking, making for people, selling to people. Elwin said to Bob Gove one night, Bob was going with this girl in Waitsfield in back of Masonic Hall, he says by god, Bob, you've been getting in kind of late at night. 10 o'clock comes later every night. By god I want you home early, just kidding him. So want you home early tonight. Bob says I will, Nealy boy, I'll be there. Well after Bob had gone and we sit there and study I guess. All of a sudden Elwin come down upstairs, and he had these two sheets in his hand. What the hell you going to do? He says you come with me, never mind what I'm going to do. So I went out, and he says I'm going to fix that Bob Gove, because Bob was scared to death of the dark anyway. [24:08] He says you come with

me. So I went, it was in the spring of the year and I put the inside of my jacket, we went down and we got right where you go around down into Waitsfield village, now the old village. There used to be of course a telephone office, it used to be there before it burned. Well that ledge still comes down where you go up to the _____ office, where my son works. Elwin says I'm going up there. And he said of course it was a gravel road, the main road. He said I can watch him when he comes out of Newcomb's house, and he says I'll let you know. You just put your feet up over your head. You stand right down by the road right down there. And when he comes by there he says you just move that and make a little noise. Well Elwin hollered and he says he's just coming out of the house. So Bob started down, a whistling away to beat hell. He was just one stop right on the whole street. When he got there by the old fire station, the telephone office, Elwin up on top of the big ledge, he went with the sheet, didn't say a word, just like that. Bob happened to catch his eye and he saw it, and he started jogging. Elwin went "Oooooh!" Bob took off. [25:24] Well of course he didn't have to go much more than 100 feet

before he was to me. Well he was going pretty good when he got to me. And when I stepped out just as he went by, "Ooooooooh!" And my god, I wish you could of seen him go! He took off and Elwin come down, folded the sheets up and put them in his coat, walked up through, Mrs. Lamorter, we went in, it must of been 11 o'clock I guess. Mrs. Lamorter said my god, what happened to Bob? Elwin says what do you mean? She said look at my new screen door! She just had a brand new sreen door, Bob went right through it, never even opened it up he was so scared! Here he was upstairs in bed with all his clothes on! Elwin says what's the matter with you? Oh god, I just saw a ghost down there! I don't know how long it went before Bob ever found out what happened. [26:20]

JB So shall I ask him about that?

CE Ya, he'll remember it, he knows it!

JB You were talking about making your own fun. And the humor, there just seemed to be much more of it around. And sort of one up manship. I will ask him about that.

CE It's wonderful the way it used to be. Florence, we just had to make our own. I never went to a movie till after I was in high school. I won't say that, we used to have

what they called medicine shows or something in Warren. And I guess they did probably show maybe movies or so, down once and awhile to them. But it was very seldom that we ever went.

JB Now would they come in in the wintertime?

CE Yes, that's when they usually, follow the year and along towards winter they usually came. That's when those medicine shows then they'd sell medicine, nothing but a bottle of water an they'd sell it to people. That old Earl Fuller, I don't know whether he ever told you about, he probably wouldn't tell it. [28:02] Steve Joslin that used to have the Fletcher's father used to have the grist mill where Marimar Ski Club is now. He had 7 or 8 cows up where Betty Hyde lives there on the hill, before you get to the cemetery. My brother in law and I always used to take care of them. And he was always dickering, this one owned him for grain because he was the only man in town that had any grain. He in Waitsfield, Fayston, everywhere. All the grain come out of there. Well this Earl Fuller owed him for some grain. So he went up to see Earl up on the farm up here one time, that's before Earl went up to war. He said god Earl, I wished you'd pay me,

somehow. See if you can't get me a little bit of money. Well he said, I'll tell you Steve. I've got a cow, I just traded with a man, the cow's going to be here tomorrow. He says you come up, you can take a look at her and see what you think. Well Earl did, he had this cow come. [29:07] So he took an old bicycle pump, and he pumped the cow's bag up. Steve went up, took a look at her, god he says Earl, that's a nice cow. He says she give a lot of milk? Boy, Earl says, she gives a good little mess of milk, don't think she doesn't. So Steve says well I'll take her. Sent his truck up that afternoon and took her down. Steve went out to milk her that night and he couldn't get about a pint of milk out of her! Squeezed till all the air would come out. Steve said he called him up and said my god I thought you said this cow give milk? Earl said I didn't lie, I told you she give a good little mess of milk!

JB [30:00] He told me too about, [shuts tape off.]

CE My father's one and only experience on the radio? My father had a brother who had a store in Hanover, New Hampshire. Well he had this idea, he came up here and he wanted to go on WDEV, some promotion thing I suppose. So

he got them all together. My uncle Clyde was going to sing a solo. My father was going to sing a solo, and the uncle in Hanover played the trumpet, and he was going to play the trumpet. My mother was playing the piano. And my father was singing this song. He knew the song, but he had the words in front of him just in case, but he knew the words anyway. He was singing along, he couldn't remember the words. He said where in hell the damn words? And this came out on the radio. My uncle was playing his trumpet and he'd blow the saliva out, and that would make an awful noise, that came out. He said they made quite a hit, people in Waitsfield heard it anyway. Their one and only. It was funny at the time. [End of interview.]