

Earl Long/TC1991.0031  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck  
EL Earl Long  
Place Hancock, VT  
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EL We don't.

JB Okay. [2.28] He drove.

EL Took them slick, you know and he had beautiful painted carriages, and so, he'd take the other members of the school board, and district, and the town committee, around to look the school house over as he tried to explain where the money was going you know, of course, this was Hartson, that made up this, the words to this song, yeah.

JB Yeah. Yes.

EL And he named the song, and he named it Wilson Averill Hack, instead of the Yellow Painted, but to you the Yellow Painted Hack, it was, it was good. Of course it was good to me because I, even thought I was a kid, I remembered all these people. [3.08] And a, yup. We went to neighbor Estes to get good boy Charlie, had him hitch the pony while we all went out back, roam

among the clover, look the school house over, than all  
ride home together in the Wilson Averill Hack, that's  
part of it, you know and than the chorus was,  
Woo, be dandy, you know, oh Napoleon he was a pacer  
and the finest on the track, and it was just, the way  
that things was back than, you know. It was cute. Ha!  
Ha!

JB Yeah he made, I would love to find if anybody ever,  
you know, kept his songs, they're hard to come by.

EL Oh yes. And, I don't know of anyone who, who would  
have them, not even, his great nephews. [4.04] I  
believe he was brother to, Paul's father.

JB Yes.

EL Yes, I think he was. I think he uncle.

JB Yes. Yes.

EL Paul's uncle. Yeah. I don't believe it.

JB Do you remember any of the others he made up?

EL No, not off hand, it someone mentioned them I might  
remember of hearing them, but I wouldn't know what  
they were. [4.26] The old songs, of course most of the  
songs I knew were, old songs that dad sang.

JB Um, hum.

EL And he had a few parodies, parody on Home, Sweet,  
Home, and yeah one or two, one or two novelty numbers  
they weren't all that good but they were, they were  
songs of the time. Party songs.

JB Yeah. Yeah. And you said your mother knew a whole slew  
of songs didn't you? [5.10]

EL Yes. Mother, she knew a lot of songs, I don't know as  
I learned too many of them. But he music more was  
violin, she played violin.

JB Um hum.

EL She sang, she and dad sang together at parties and  
that like but, we used to have every week we'd have a,  
we called them kitchen junkets, house parties around  
the neighborhood, practically every farm house in East  
Warren had a, I have played for house parties, there  
is one or two that, one or two that I haven't, I  
never, Seymour's house I never played there, old Dan's  
I have, but his son, Lester, I never played at  
Lester's place. [5.55] And there was one or two  
others, can't remember which ones. John Lovett, I  
never played at John Lovett's place. It's way up on  
the hill.

JB Um, hum.

EL And I never played at Fullers. And Ledger. Or Amnesty, they were brothers. I never played either one of those places. But I guess Ledger done most of his own fiddling in his own places.

JB But they all had kitchen junkets?

EL I never, never went to one up there at the Fullers. I doubt if they had any. Blair, that would be Rupert's uncle, Herb, we've had, I played up there many times, and that's the furthest up on that road that I've been.

JB Ah ha, I see.

EL But that is playing but just above him, Casey Jones, his name was, we called him Casey, what was his name? Mervin. Mervin I guess. Ervin. Ervin Jones. [7.04] Was his name, they called him Casey. He had, oh he just loved parties, he was the, one that brought in the western calling, the calling from the west the singing calls which we never had before. And, they went over big when he came. So, always had no matter where we were, if I was playing, well if I was playing in Montpelier, but we had square dances than, squaring

around, even if I was playing in Montpelier, if Casey came in, I'd have him call one of those, one of his dances the crowd loved it you know.

JB Well did they pick that up as singing calls from him?

EL In this locality. And Warren, Waitsfield, through there, yes, and I forget what, all over the place, his actually this was very common in the west, than of course when radio came in, and tv well radio was in than, we had, I guess our first radio in 1924, we had Croswe, Crosby, Crosly, I can't talk, yeah. Crosley, yeah mother has still got it I believe, well of course mother has passed on, her sister must still have it, it's quite an antique now.

JB Now would your sister know any of the songs of your mother?

EL I doubt it. I doubt any particular.

JB What was the difference between, can you give me an example of the kind of call that you used to use, in Warren and than when Casey came in.

EL Yeah. Well we had, string dances, prior to that, like Cortland Fancy, Boston Fancy, and Chorus Gig, Money Musk, and than they had chadrills, now the singing

calls didn't go with any of the string dances, your  
chadrills was round dances, circular dances.

JB Um, hum. [9.08]

EL And, the singing calls went with your chadrills, and  
so they just took over from there, instead of being  
plain chadrill it would be a, how, they're still  
playing chadrill. They're still. Four or six whatever  
we want. And, than they're like a, I can't give the  
calls but they'd sing, can't think even the names of  
songs, isn't this something. [9.47] What the hell kind  
of baby is it? Do, do, do baby. Leave her alone. Go  
back and swing your own. Honolulu Baby. Honolulu Baby,  
that's the name of one other singing song. And, well  
my mind doesn't work very good.

JB And would it have what you were supposed to do in the  
sort of.

EL Yeah, no they make their singing calls, they made up  
there, but they're very similar. Some of them, swing  
her if you love her and leave her if you don't. And  
all those things, you know.

JB Um, hum.

EL And, they made up their own calls, now the ones on

the, on the tv they're having now, they're very good,  
but they're all make these calls are all made up,  
they're, they're nothing that any other caller, except  
him would call. [10.46]

JB I see.

EL Which makes it unique, his own, you know. And of  
course, there's when they have these dances, they have  
no band, the band is all recording see, he uses,  
special for the calls that he makes.

JB Um, hum.

EL Made up and it does a very nice job. [11.02] You've  
probably heard them.

JB You mean on the television, yeah, once.

EL They broadcast all over the state, usually WDEV in  
Waterbury when we see it.

JB Hum. But I think it's interesting that he was the  
first one and than really got Warren using them.

EL Right, yeah. Yeah he did.

JB What were some of his specials, do you remember? His  
favorites. [11.27]

EL I've got to think of the call, I got to think of the  
ones he called. That one I just singing was, I don't

know just what words he used but that was, one he had calls to, there's one that he sang, and of course the local people probably added different calls, according to, the way they remembered them or, I can't even think of, many of the songs, when you're playing they'll call a song, I know all of the songs, all the tunes, and isn't that something. [12.13] See I haven't played any square dances for years and years.

JB Who are the good callers?

EL Rallie Moulton, in Fayston was considered the best, before him Neil McClaughlin, Neil called, played and called, without the amplifiers back in, so he had to have a very shrill voice, in order to carry, and he had one all right. So he'd do his own fiddling and that, he was with the McClaughlin and house orchestra, they played for about sixty years and when they had a larger job in Montpelier, or some place like that, they had a clarinet and a trumpet so there would be a, a piano, or organ whichever they used back in those days, mostly organs, way, I'm going back now, Mr. House was born in, 1848. So that would be quite awhile ago. And, he died I believe, see I, the reason I



remember his age, I lived there seven years and went through school and yeah he died in 1933, but he hadn't played any for, oh I remember their playing, so he played in the 1900's, quite a bit.

JB Were these calls mostly passed down learned.

EL They were, they used to call, it all came from the old country. Ireland, Scotland, yup.

JB Is there anybody alive that remembers them.

EL Neil's nephew would but he's in Florida. If he's still alive. He has been, he's been coming to the reunion, or, Waitsfield reunion, high school, up until two years the last two years he hasn't been coming, he hadn't missed one before, so he's either something.  
[14.16] I don't if Robert Gove, he'd remember some calls I think cause his brother calls some, but he couldn't understand him.

JB Raymond.

EL Raymond, he called but he couldn't understand what he was saying, and \_\_\_\_\_, you know what I mean.

JB Yeah, I've heard a tape of him, and I couldn't understand him at all.

EL Nope. I wasn't making fun of him, it was just a, one

of those things, he loved, he loved to play fiddle,  
and he loved to call. But it's just you had to know  
the dance in order to dance it.

JB Did he have a speech impediment, is that?

EL Yes, that was, was born with that I guess. It wasn't  
any accident or anything it was.

JB Yeah, cause somebody had recorded him and gave me a  
tape and I just had a, you know it's hard enough  
listening to something, if you can look at somebody  
and see the mouthing of the words.

EL Yeah, okay. That calls your attention off of that. But  
yes that's the same with me. [15.14] I, always wanted,  
have him, give him a chance to show off but I, I hated  
to ask him.

JB Yeah. Well you don't like to put somebody in that  
position, cause nobody.

EL I always was for the underdog, anyone has a handicap,  
I don't try to point it out at all, but I try to use  
it just like they were normal, I can, and I think they  
feel more comfortable.

JB I agree. Yeah I'll have to ask Robert Gove, he's  
playing at, what's it called, there's a thing over in

Waitsfield, this weekend, and next weekend, that he and Ed Eurich are going to do, I thought I'd go over Thursday night.

EL Oh Bob and Ed, yeah.

JB Yeah.

EL They sing together a lot. Yeah.

JB Yeah, so I thought over and hear that.

EL Yeah, that's be good, yeah. I don't know what it would be there, I went up, Ed called me, to play, to do some entertaining at a, antique car show, and that went on two, three days, well he didn't give me any time to get anybody to play, now I had a, a Don Field's rythm and guitar man, in Rutland, West Rutland, I could of got him if I had time, I had no time to get anyone and, the last, I will go and play a little bit, and I, finally I got a man, and I got Austin and accordion, he'll play with you, and that guy could, I had to play what he, what he and the \_\_\_\_\_, he couldn't do anything that I had done you know, it was a so fast, I didn't play over a half an hour and that was it, stopping, too bad you know, when things could of been good, yeah, so we didn't have any chance to prepare.

But Ed was nice about it.

JB Well anyway I though I'd go, go hear.

EL Oh you'll like it, they, they used to sing, have good voices, they had a, well nope, they, Bob wasn't in his quartet, this was more of a school matter, Bob and Ed sang together back in high school.

JB Yeah I think they.

EL But that's afterwards than, Ed sang in high tenore, his brother \_\_\_\_\_ sang lead, [17.53] his father in law, \_\_\_\_\_ father-in-law Earl Baird, sang baritone, and another brother in law, of both of them, Kingsbury Mert, Mert Kingsbury sang base, and it made a nice quartet, they were really good. I was surprised they were, I smoked, drank some, after my, divorce, my first divorce and my first marriage, ten years I was single I drank quite a little and it hurt my voice a little bit. And Ed for some reason couldn't, couldn't sing and they wanted me to sing high tenore, and take his place, you know, I couldn't do it the job at all, I went up to rehearse with them, just couldn't do it, you know I sing better now, then I could than.

JB Isn't that funny.

EL When I was drinking and smoking. [18.56] Cause I don't smoke, I drink now, I drink too much probably but it's what keeps me going.

JB Sure. Ha! Ha! Oh, well you were talking about, parodies, Elloe knew some parodies.

EL Yeah, Elloe Flemings. Elloe, yeah, Wakefield it used to be, yeah.

JB In fact I meant to, I'm trying to remember another time to bring the tapes and play, she did some funny stuff for, wonderful stories. Very funny. [19.25] You'd like.

EL Yeah. Oh she was a person that could, no one could copy Elloe, she was the original, when she told it it was funny or sang it it was funny, you try to repeat it, it flat, ha, ha. She just had that personality to put it across and that laugh that she had was \_\_\_\_\_, it made you laugh if it wasn't even funny.  
Ha! Ha!

JB Oh she was terrific.

EL Yeah I loved Elloe, she was something else, I didn't use her as much as I should have at the parties, I should of put myself out, because she did love music

that much, and she was, she knew her cords, I, I was surprised, Speedy Wyman had a new song, Crazy Creek, and it was a fast fiddling song and it went into, my there's so many flat sevens, I'm telling you you can't believe the miserable cords, that thing went into and Speedy was really good at it, and well so I can't play that, Speedy you could play it, and I'll tell you what to do. And by gosh, he dam the, he named the cords off and with Elloe on the \_\_\_\_\_, she'd catch him just about as quick as he damned them, and you thought they'd practiced that and this was going in these, I mean deep, deep cords, yup, I was gonna give you an idea of the song if I'd think how Crazy Creek went. \_\_\_\_\_ has it just it wasn't any [20.53] straight tune, there was one tune and another one and you know, and one key and another one. It was, it was a song you would, a number you wouldn't appreciate, unless you were a musician. Cause you appreciate how difficult it was to play. But as far as listening to him yeck, ha, ha.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

EL Can I get you a cup of coffee, or something?

JB Oh I'm fine.

EL Okay, good.

JB But if you want one.

EL No, no. I had enough thanks.

JB No I had one.

EL I don't eat breakfast anyway. [21.20] Nope.

JB Well I was gonna ask you again about the, parodies,  
you said you remembered Home, Sweet, Home, and what  
were some of the others.

EL Well, let's see there was Home, Sweet, Home, the other  
one's so much a parody, it was a song dad sang like,  
these the ones he'd give to Bob Gove, if he sang them  
to you, so you probably.

JB He hasn't, no he, let's see, I think you sang me,  
Home, Sweet, Home.

EL He did.

JB You did.

EL Oh I did. A little bit of it.

JB And, I'm.

EL Not much of it, yup.

JB Most, mostly Bob, has been telling stories.

EL Yeah. Yeah.

JB Well there's the one about the circus. That's a cute little song, and there was one more I gave him, I'm sure there was. It's too bad I can't remember. But I will in a few minutes. I had time, trying to think of the words for, I haven't thought of them for, fifty, sixty years you know, you try to pick up a song and get all the words, it starts out something like, Now do be offended please because, because I start to sing, for if I had not come out here, this curting down would ring, the one who was to sing this song, inside was taken sick, while I was standing idle there, they grabbed me very quick and they wanted I should take his place and do the best I could, they said go on and sing this song and I told them I would, they're standing inside watching now my actions for to see, they say you can't get more than killed how pleasant that would be. Oh P. T. Barnham's great big show was in an awful stew, they'd lost the curiosity and they don't know what to do. It happened just a week ago, oh how they wept and cried, and through the crowd it quickly spread the old baboon had died. And they wanted I should take his place and do the best I



could, they locked me up in a great big cage with monkeys bad and good, they called me Crowley number two, the kids stuck pins in me, they feed me candy and peanuts, how pleasant that would be, my sister had a policy, upon her husband's life, he ran away and left us sad and broken hearted wife, she said if he were only dead, the insurance she might claim so she bought a coffin and on it engraved his name. She wanted I should take his place and do the best I could, to play off dead and be nailed up, in a coffin made of wood, she said when the mourners were all gone, she said she'd set me free, perhaps she might forget it, oh how pleasant that would be. That's the end of the song. [24.11] Crazy.

JB That's terrific.

EL But it's cute.

JB Oh yeah.

EL Let's see. There's a parody Home, Sweet, Home and I don't know as I sang many of the versus.

JB You just sang one or two.

EL I'm just refreshing them now actually cause I, well I'm not sure if I remember all the versus. [24.32]

Whenever, whenever, whenever you get a little bit  
full, there's no place like home. You grab the bell  
and you'll pull like, well there's no place like home.  
But there's one whom will meet you in the room, in the  
gloom, drag you by the hair and to the room, knock you  
out with that tough old brew, there's no place like  
home, than you go on to the chorus. Home, home, home  
sweet home. And, when you have to get up in the dead  
of night, there's no place like home, in search of  
paregoric without any light, there's no place like  
home. Hell, I forgot that.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [25.21]

E1 When, um, hum. Oh boy! I figured I'd forget that. I  
guess that's right. When you have to get up in the  
dead of night, there's no place like home, in search  
for paregoric without any light, there's no place like  
home, and the baby cried, still his voice was cracked,  
you step your foot on a sharp, sharp tack, with your  
wife's cold feet on your warm, warm back, there's no  
place like home. And than the chorus. [26.04] When  
you're hired, let's see, I'm not sure, that probably  
is the last one, but it don't make no difference, what

order. Now when your hired girl goes for another place looking, there's no place like home and your wife declares that she won't do the cooking, there's no place like home, but there's one thing that will knock you flat, when you find your neighbor's old gray cat, it's sixteen kittens in your best Sunday hat, there's no place like home, and there's one more, but I've forgotten what it was. [26.42] Something about, when your neighbor's, when your wife's relations comes to visit you, there's no place like home, they'll pack up their things and they'll stick like glue, there's no place like home. Oh that's where the, oh gray \_\_\_\_\_ too flat. [27.05]

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

EL Yeah, that isn't so much, it's was just something for an old song, an old, that was parody. [27.17] And, by golly, I do know more. But I. It will just have to come to me, these aren't, these aren't songs that you're that much interested in because they are not funny, something like those there, those are funny. And that's more of like what you like. Yeah.

JB And that sounds to me like what you were the most

interested in, as you were saying you weren't so long  
on the murder.

EL Right, right. You always run into those things, in  
true life so much, you know, that, that is not funny.

JB Yeah. Well it'd much more.

EL It's entertaining, it's entertaining, but it's not  
really funny, even on, in the, why I guess, I guess in  
the movies it's a, it can be, funny and entertaining,  
because you realize this movie and besides they'll  
make the show, you're so disgusted, at that guy, you  
want him killed. You know. [28.33] So that's all  
right. Ha! Ha!

JB Well Elloe used to say to me, you know, she really,  
she didn't remember the, bad stuff so much she just  
tended to remember the funny.

EL Yeah. Yeah.

JB The jokes and.

EL Her telling funny stories and I'm telling you. [28.53]  
Ha! Ha! Yeah. (tape off and on again)

JB Get on tape.

EL Oh tape, yeah.

JB About the storm.

EL I'm gonna put, I'm gonna put whatever names we called him and that like behind his back, you didn't call him rabbit to his face but, you'd get fired like that.

[29.11]

JB Ha! Ha!

EL Well he was probably the, most miserable bastard ever to work for, but back then I was a kid, and just out of, just what, during high school days I think it was, yes it was, I was going to high school. Yup any time you get a job Saturday or Sunday, you took it you know, washed all the tools down the river, and bridges and everything, ha, ha. Woo, what a storm. [29.43]

JB Well how did that start out, you were, you were digging gravel I guess.

EL Yeah we were back then we used to shovel gravel with horses, we had horses and, and well a gravel wagons with two by fours so they just take, pull up a two by four and the gravel falls down you know, and we had to load them all with shovels, you know, so, caution of that bony shoveling, the river bottom some stones that big, hot sun it was just a, it was a killing job you know, and back then you had a, the boss always stood,

stood right up there, watching everything, and you didn't stop, you didn't straighten your back at all. and of course I didn't smoke, so I didn't have to stop and get a cigarette now and than. But I guess he might not say anything the older men that smoked the pipe, if they were not too often if they lit up a couple of times, light up their pipe. But he was just a, slave driver, a little negro in the family anyway. But that was a, what's the matter with your head, yeah. I knew enough to know it was hot and sweat running right off me well that was hot. Ha! Ha! Yeah, you'd like that on tape.

JB Yeah.

EL Okay. [31.05]

JB And also, also explain why it was called rabbit.

EL Oh yeah well, yeah. Yeah. Yeah, back in the, 1925, I was going to high school, and whenever I get a job, in town or usually it was for the town, I'd take it, so this particular day I. [31.39]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

EL 1925 I was in high school and I'd take what jobs I could take, what I could get, so usually I could get a job shoveling gravel, on Saturday and sometimes Sunday in an emergency, this particular day, I was shoveling river bed, and just above, just above the Warren town line, and oh that was bony shoveling, hard work and then the sun came out in the afternoon and it was so hot it just suffocating, wasn't a breath of air, and I straightened up, wiped the sweat off and boy I said it's hot out, we're gonna have a thunder shower before, before midnight, we had a boss, he was a road commissioner, his name was Seth Boise, you older people in Waitsfield remember him, wiggled his nose, every time he said something, he'd go, wiggle his nose like a rabbit, we didn't call him rabbit to his face but he was rabbit, to any other time, and he wasn't the easiest boss to work for, he was sarcastic and abusive in a way, but, especially for a young fellow, and what is matter with your head, [1.33] what I went back to work, and he wouldn't let it drop, he said I'll bet you, cigars to the crowd, won't have a

thunder shower before midnight, you're on Seth. So, I had to make a, remark that we worked back then till five o'clock, nine hour days, and at five o'clock, we got through work and I says well boys we better pick up all these tools and take them up out of the river bed here, because we're gonna have a thunder shower. Leave those tools right where they are. So we left the tools there, there was dance at Warren town hall that night, and Andy Pan's orchestra played, was playing, and Andy's orchestra back than we had, Mishey Shaw, probably the best piano player in the state, and Mrs. Doctor Shaw, and Andy done a good job on the saxes, he had Al Shever, playing the second sax, Fred Smith, of course we all know Fred, he was playing fiddle, \_\_\_\_\_ Straw playing banjo, [2.50] Eugene Baird, Eugene is still alive, now, he lives in Montpelier, he played drums some, and that Eugene stopped playing drums, Walter Brooks played drums, and Riley Moulton down all the calling for the square dances, so we couldn't miss that dance and I didn't have cars back in those days so I, everyone back than, you didn't go to, to a dance in your shirt sleeves, you had a suit



on and a tux, or at least a sweater, and a tie, so I dressed up and I started walking going to Warren, and there about half way to Warren, where, yeah, Ina Lem lives now, there used to be a big tool shed right beside the road, and oh the thunder was a rumbling over the mountain and lightning flashing and I got as far as the shed and I just barely made it, we got in the shed, out of the rain, the rain came down in torrents, you can't believe, you can't believe unless you seen a cloud burst, anything like it, water couldn't run off the road, prit near six or seven inches deep on the road, it couldn't run off fast enough. It didn't last over, twenty minutes or a half hour, well I come out of the garage and there was no traffic any where, I started up towards Warren, and no one come along and give me a ride, and I don't know why I, maybe, maybe they're not having a dance. [4.32] I tried a waiting for the band anyways, cause our graduates or something, they'd pick me up anyway, and so I started back and I got back, to clay brook, and here was quite a crowd there, the ridge, the bridge was half washed out, it dropped down, Ray Barton had a

brand new, Dodge coup, and he was coming to the dance, as he was driving just fast enough, there was no way he could stop, he saw the bridge was going out, and he tried to jump it, and the front end made it but the back wheel didn't and it took the back wheels in, and the rear end, took everything out, went down the river, well the orange tree got between clay, the bridge at clay brook and gold brook by Charles Folsoms, that brook went out, so they, we didn't have any dance that night, both bridges were washed out, and that was 1925.

JB And all the tools went down the river?

EL Oh yes, I forgot the tools, yes. Oh the tools all went down, all the town's tools.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [5.51]

EL Seth didn't like to pan off the bet, he, I don't know if he ever paid it, I've forgotten, and of course I, down about a week, before I done a day's work, anyways, because I was going to high school, I don't think, I don't except, I don't know if he ever paid his bet. Ha! Ha!

JB Now where is, Slay Brook and Gold Brook?

EL West, a clay brook is Sugar, Sugarbush brook, the  
brook coming down ny Sugarbush.

JB Ah ha.

EL That's clay brook, and the gold brook, is the brook  
that comes down by Mad Bush Chalet, by Charles  
Folsoms.

JB Oh! Okay.

EL Yup.

JB And so you were heading toward the town of Warren.

EL Right, right. [6.35] I was, yeah, I got by with a  
washed out bridges, but I managed to, well the bridge  
one end had dropped down the other end was up, so I  
managed to get down and jump across the stream after  
the stream went down a little bit, it went down quite,  
quite quick, there's such a quick shower, a cloud  
burst, that the streams, your small streams could  
carry it but the river, it didn't bother the river at  
all, the river took care of it, but the small streams,  
any bridge on a small stream as that, they just went,  
they just went out. I managed to hop on the bridge and  
climb up the bridge to the other side, so that, and I  
lived in between the two bridges, up on the hill where

the \_\_\_\_\_ Art Gallery is now. [7.16] And or was,  
I guess that's gone to pieces now. That's terrible.  
They're making, now, go to pieces. So that.

JB It was quite a story.

EL Made my day. Ha! Ha!

JB Where were you digging gravel? Was that by \_\_\_\_\_?  
[7.35]

EL Right by Elwin Kings, right back of Elwin Kingsbury,  
beyond Elwin Kingsbury's property, where the store,  
the country store is now. Back there, just below on  
the Waitsfield side of that, the town line is just  
below there and this was just on the Warren side of  
the town line. [7.52]

JB Cause I gather one of the things that a number of  
people have told me that was in the old days, there  
was a, a lot of gravel dug and a lot of people feel  
that, this was a very good thing, not only did it  
bring in income, but it kept the river.

EL Cleaned out, it cleaned them out, it gave a, for an  
income for the farmers, it was a good thing, fish and  
game had gone too far in my, my opinion, not only fish  
and game the environment, well we, education is a

wonderful thing, it's a must, but I do think sometimes there's not an opening in the field that the person is educated for and because they have that diploma they give them a job, and they're not any more fitted for that job and it's a, it's pitiful but, that's the way it is. [8.50] So we're gonna run into these things, things aren't gonna be handled the way they should be, that's where I believe many times where ever it could be handled, handled locally it's a lot more honest and fair than it is run by the bigger government. I guess I spoke my peace. Ha! Ha!

JB Well no I think that, I'm interested in the gravel thing cause it makes a lot of sense to me.

EL Well they got ten cents, I guess ten cents a load, or something like that, the farmers got, which don't sound much to us, but and we had no roads, back when I was a kid, just sand. In the spring of the year, you've just, well clear to the hub in mud, you know, and when cars first came around well, about 19, in Warren the 1910, was about the first of any cars being around, there was a \_\_\_\_\_ Elliot had a Buick, [9.47] there were a few cars there, my Uncle Mailon had a

Model T Ford, and I think it cost right around eleven hundred dollars back then, that was a lot of money at first, you know, of course they came down to three hundred and something later. But, it, but I remember my brothers and sisters and I, bare footed of course up on the farm, of course that, open pasture where back of, of well there's a, not mad bush, the one this side the chalet this side of, it's not occupied now, anyway just back of there, that side hill was all open then, of course which is now pine and white birch, and that like. And we'd run across the field, of ten acres field, barefooted we hear a car, it's a novelty to us, you know, and the car was probably going about five miles an hour chugging through sand and that, you can go just as fast with a horse, now and then a horse would pass, pass it. Ha! Ha!

JB So for along time there was no advantage to having a car.

EL So we had to get into that coarse gravel in the river to get something substantial enough to, to hold the roads, when cars came along. And, it didn't hurt the fish, state says it kills the fish to disturb that

sane, it kills the fish. Bull.

JB Yeah cause the fishing was good than.

EL The fishing was better than than it is now, of course  
of course there was no comparison. Back than, fish  
just locally, cause that's as far as you could travel.  
Now, fished everywhere, with the cars and that like,  
so there's no comparison. But the state takes care of  
that and do a good job in their stocking. [11.41]

JB The other thing I was gonna ask you, you started to  
tell me, last week, about sort of the advent of  
Sugarbush and Damen Gag coming, and buying up  
property, and I was interested in that, cause I hadn't  
heard that before and you said that you were one of  
the first people that took him up there.

EL Right. Well, I don't think the first part of that I  
don't think would be a, I don't think Damen would want  
me.

JB But, whatever part of it that.

EL Yes I, I was a little foolish in my own actions, Damen  
tried to help me and, and I just, too countrified I  
guess to understand. After, he wanted me to look a  
piece of property over, and evaluate it, so it,

because it is, Damen's business, I will not mention the prices and that like, no I'll leave that out, but, I did look over the property and I gave him a valuation and my evaluation of it, of just the property and he was to pay what he wanted to for the buildings. And, I guess he made a very satisfactory settlement with the gentleman, that's where the Common Man is, The Common, yeah the Common Man was, I guess it's still the Common Man.

JB That was the Cameron farm, wasn't it?

EL That was the, it was the Patterson farm.

JB Patterson.

EL Yeah. [13.14] Yup. So that was the original farm, Sam Patterson, and yeah they built, they fixed the barn over, oh cleaned the beams you know, got the original beams, it was beautiful, it was really classic, that was a starting, that day Damen motioned toward the south, he took his arm and took a big wide swing, towards the south, Earl I'll give you a hundred dollars and acre for every last, every acre you can buy here. Well I thought the man was mixed up than,



cause it was, Mad River Glen was over north of us, just starting, and it'd been going a few years. So I figured they meant that, and so I paid no attention, I went down, I got down to, till I guess, I got to thinking, it was high and dry, before that, Howard Mund owned it, I'm trying to think what the name of the, well it don't make no difference, it's a place where Howard Mund owned, I can't seem to think, of the name Howard had for it. But it's the same building. Ken added on some, anyway I went in for lunch and Howard said, I got a good piece of property for you, make you a good dear camp. Where is it? Well he said it's the old Cricket Brook's farm. Up in Warren, south hollow. South hill. West Hill, no, what is that? [14.55] What it is, what's the name of that? Anyway, it was up to Clay Brook. He says, I'll let you have it for four hundred, I think it was seventy acres, which old \_\_\_\_\_ buildings with seventy acres [15.14] and I'll let you have it for four hundred and fifty dollars. Howard he said, make you build a hunting camp. I said, Howard I got better hunting up home than that and I never paid any attention to what Damen told

me, right where he was pointing, you know, the seventy acres I, or seven thousand dollars at a hundred dollars an acre. Ha! Ha! I done some smart business, ha, ha. They was just a, Mr. Bowan gave me the same offer and was just before Sugarbush came in, he offered me five hundred some odd acres, he'd cut the maple off, he wanted for bobbins you know. He was a, in the bobbin company. He was the owner. [15.54] He cut the maple off and not much lumber there, he said, but it would make something for your children, you have a family, children in the future. Let you have it for five hundred dollars. And where it is? Let's say, A. I. McCullough, not A. I., Jim McCullough property, oh gosh I, I wouldn't even pay taxes on it Mr. Bowan. The very next spring Sugarbush came in, he was offered twenty thousand dollars he wouldn't touch it. Ha! Ha! [16.28] So, you see I done some good business.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [16.33] Well so, how much land did Damen Gade buy for the initial Sugarbush?

EL I am not sure.

JB This must of been what?

EL But he, he bought just enough to, build the, the lift,

and a few trails, he added on later, but anything he added on I don't think he put many trails through, mostly for housing and, and that like, he bought a thousand acres from afterwards, after he built. He bought from the Rice brothers, in Granville. Yeah I'm not sure just how much, how many acres of land or who owned it. I believe, I believe Middlebury College may have owned a little of it.

JB Oh I heard that, yeah. [17.37] Tell me, maybe it was you that told me that.

EL But that would of been leased land.

JB Yeah and I guess a lot was national forest.

EL Some was national forest right, yeah I wouldn't, I wouldn't want to be quoted on that, because I'm not just sure.

JB Yeah. Yeah. And when did he start this, was this in the, about 1955, or 6 that he started to acquire the land.

EL Oh no, no. He started before than. [18.13] I would say 1958. I'm guessing.

JB Um hum.

EL Just about 1958.

JB So at this, this point you didn't know what he was gonna do with it than?

EL At that point, I didn't know what he wanted it for, no. Nope, he didn't, why he couldn't, he couldn't, he couldn't of built, property had gone up so high he couldn't afford to buy it. Nope. But he did, he did tell me all he could tell. Tell me. And.

JB Hum. [18.45] And, he, was he involved in Mad River, at first or how?

EL No he wasn't involved but, his foreman, a manager, Jack Murphy, was the manager, for Mr. Palomino, who owned was a big owner of Mad River. And, he quit. He quit cause of Palomino, Mad River and went over with Damen, to Sugarbush. I understood and I believe it, it probably is, it probably is correct, because it was done. That, Mr. Jack Murphy guaranteed Damen Gade, or promised Damen Gade, that he could build that, lift at a dollar an hour. And he done it. There was a line of workmen coming, there was a line, there was some working, and a line leaving. But they got it done, for a dollar an hour.

JB That's amazing. [19.50] People must of needed work

and.

EL Yup, it was a working proposition. Ha! Ha!

JB It's amazing. What was Gade doing here than, how did he, cause he wasn't from here was he?

EL He wasn't from here. Nope. He was a wealthy man, I can't tell you what, none of that's my business, nope, anyway, he came here as a, as a skier. There was a, Mr. Palomino was in the shipping business and very wealthy, he wasn't too well liked by some people, I liked, I liked him, he always used me fine, I would go up, I was, my work was, seasonal. Landscaping and so I'd go up and operate a lift, and usually it was, well I started in the rope tow, and I got caught there, almost made trouble for my owner, I didn't intend to, I, I was operating the rope tow, and I was very careful, of little children and that like getting on, I was very, very careful to run it very slow for them, and, and sometimes when it went a little fast I'd hold them back, wouldn't let, make them wait, and this ski team, from MIT College, was visiting Mad River, and one of them said, can't you run this a little faster.

[21.20] And I looked up and where the crowd come down skiing, to see who many people were there, and what type of skiers they were, and didn't seem to be too many, yeah I think I'd accommodate you. And I put that motor in third gear, and I'm gonna tell you they went up the mountain faster than they came down. And some let go of the rope two thirds of the way up and shoot up to the top of the hill. Ha! Ha! [21.44] Insurance agent, or investor, or investigator, was watching the whole procedure. But I did notice a kid, probably ten or eleven years old, wanting to get on, so I shut it right down, and rode that kid up and when the kid got off I started up again, and I, I operated that way, the only thing that saved me was he had to see that and, but they wanted it like that, it was beautiful, it was best, golly those guys could handle their skis. And they loved it. They, around Boston, the flying rope of Mad River.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [22.32] Well you must of had some fun then, working there?

EL I, I loved it, that was, there's more, it wasn't the money, there's no money to speak of in it, but it was

out with the crowd and, well most people, you need an awful lot of people, yes I enjoyed it, I actually did enjoy it. [22.50] I got some, I had to take some abuse, but, some of the boys now, are probably listening. That, amused me a little bit, I guess I got even more than I should. [23.14]

JB Well I, I think that's good.

EL Well one, one ski instructor I won't mention any names, no need to, one ski instructor, a nice enough fellow too, but, he brought his, he'd bring his whole ski team to school, class, down off the mountain and jump on my rope tow, well he would be fifteen, twenty people on a rope tow and maybe I hadn't had a paying customer all morning, so I don't own this rope tow, I'm running this for Mr. Fanny Martin, so I spoke to the ski instructor, I got to have tickets for these people, I can't, well, the boss come up what's it gonna look like. [23.54] It'll look like money going in my pocket. Ha! Ha! Yup, he wouldn't, he wouldn't do a thing about it. And I let them get away with that. Two days succession. The third day, they come they jumped on the rope, and I waited until the class all

got on and I shut it, shut it off, I left them  
stranded there. Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha! [24.15] Ha!

EL Trod came a skiing.

JB It won't.

EL The instructor came a skiing down and pretty angry,  
and snapped his skis off and took his hat off and  
\_\_\_\_\_ it and what's this all about. [24.32] When  
you buy some tickets you can ride the rope. Well gee  
just as see Fanny about this. You can see Fanny or  
whatever, right now you're talking to me. You want to  
make something of it, you're off the hill, you're off  
the ski tow. You want to make something of it, okay.  
[24.56] You pay up for this whole ski school, before  
you ever get back on the mountain. And an apology as  
well. And, he went to my boss, and my boss says, talk  
with Earl, he'd running it, I'm not. Ha! Ha! That was  
it, I got an apology. \_\_\_\_\_ that it never  
happened, so we went on. And we were the best of  
friends. Ha! Ha! [25.25]

JB That's a great story. I like it. Ha! Oh he must of  
been beside himself. Ha! Ha!



EL Oh he had a, trouble is, two worlds can't come together. But we both had the same dispositions. Ha! Oh he was bigger than I was. Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha!

EL I had more authority than he had, but he was bigger than us.

JB Oh dear! Oh! Well are you getting a. (tape off and on again) Okay. [25.57]

EL When, when Mad River Glen started, of course there wasn't any, any decent roads at all, and some of it was, freshly made, anyway having an awful time through the years, of course Easter is your, one of your good ski seasons, you know at the time. And there was what, oh cars were getting stuck in there, and Gregory Veins was road commissioner of Fayston, he was working right out straight, day and night, trying to keep the, mud holes filled up with gravel. But he, sometimes the traffic get the best of him and as it did this particular day. This New Yorker come bowing up through, runs right in the mud, and drops away in clear up to his fenders, of course back than you had more fenders that you have today, and there wasn't but

a few minutes, Gregory happened to be, Gregory Veins, the road commissioner happen to be, on the truck that was, had this load of gravel. They came a few minutes, and Gregory was gonna, hook onto him and pull him out, but the New Yorker, he got out start and given Gregory the devil over this, having such road you know, Gregory, French Canadian, he'd been down here, oh he come down and he signal man, I believe, when he came, or fresh newly married when he first came down, and didn't speak English, but he, so what English he had, he learned while he was, an adult, and done a good job, oh yeah he had a little brogue like anyone would expect, and Gregory didn't say anything, he listened, and he said, are you through. Now, Mister, let me tell you something, see that sign, it says road constitution can't you read. [28.05]

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

EL Well we though that was cute.

JB Well there must of been a number of.

EL Gregory was one that, a nice guy, a good road commissioner, I didn't tell this or, for a, you know, any remarks, about Gregory, just one of those things.

Add a little frosting. Ha! Ha!

JB Absolutely. Absolutely. [28.30] (tape off and on again) Ride their shovels down.

EL That was your trail crew. That was the trail crew, they had their shovels, you know and that would be in the spring of the year when they'd have to shovel from the outside in to keep snow, we didn't have snow machines, back than, yes, many of them, some got, not seriously hurt, but you could get quite badly hurt, if you had very little control over that ride you know. Yeah they. More of a challenge from one to another, they'd get on their shovels and down that mountain, and you take those steep parts you get going pretty good speed. Ha! Ha! Ha! [29.08]

JB Yeah. I would, it must of been something to see.

EL More of it, you're certain, in a circle. Most of the time, you can't, you can't make the thing go straight.

JB Oh so you'd be going. Ha! Ha! [29.20] Oh! Well so you were involved, I didn't realize, until this morning that you had actually worked at Mad River, in the early days.

EL Yeah.

JB Early days I guess.

EL Yeah. I done most of the, the greasing of the lift,  
well, they had people greasing it, they had to.

[29.43] But, we'd have to slow down and maybe stop, of  
course I with tree surgery and the, Bobby and I jumped  
from the chair to the lift and to the middle of it to  
catch a chair when it goes by and keep right on going,  
so they, give me that job but, you know, actually some  
mornings up there, looking over the top of the clouds,  
beautiful, beautiful beyond trees, hard to explain how  
beautiful it is, you see the tops of the mountain  
sticking up so, it looks like a different state and  
the good, on a good clear say up there, above the  
clouds, you can see, in the white mountains, and New  
Hampshire, and the Adirondacks and New York. [30.26]

JB Gee.

EL Really, really beautiful.

JB Now how did you get working as a tree surgeon?

EL My, oldest brother studied it, and he went to college  
tree surgery and in 1929, Howard and I started a  
company, and we were both single Long Brothers Tree  
Surgery Company, and oh we drove Davey and Bartley and

all of them out, because we done good work at reasonable prices. But, oh they, they some of them especially Davey, they down some awful bad work, I suppose they done it because they figured most of the people that had that done up here were retired out of staters, got the money and don't know the difference but. They as soon as they got some good work they found out. Anyway, beyond that. [31.32]

END OF TAPE ONE

EL So we took a fancy to that, I studied, I took up more myself, landscaping.

JB Well I suppose with the tree surgery you learned a lot from your brother and practically.

EL Oh oh, absolutely. I, I oh absolutely of course he told me things he wouldn't tell anyone else, you know and. Yup. Yes, I wouldn't of been able to do what I could, what I done without his knowledge. [3.00]

JB And so, you started that when did you say?

EL 1929. And I, we broke up, he got married and his, his wife wanted her brother in there, I say things weren't gonna go good, so I got married and we divided, I done a little tree surgery work on my own, not under any

name, just neighbors.

JB Free lancing.

EL They paid me well of course that was depression, in the thirties and, and finally get twenty five cents an hour, maybe labor, I was getting two dollars. [3.46]

JB And than from there, you got into the landscaping, or?

EL I came into landscaping after, after the out of staters starting come in here, I started the landscaping in, oh boy, I guess about, (short pause) 55, maybe.

JB Well was that when you first started to work for, the guy up at the Bundy Gallery?

EL No. [4.16] No. I done his landscaping but I, no I'd been doing.

JB I remember you telling me.

EL No I'd been doing landscaping for, six, seven years. I done some before than, but my older brother been doing it right along too. [4.30] And.

JB Did you work together than with your older brother?

EL Once in awhile.

JB With landscaping?

EL Enough so I, got the basic.

JB So he studied both tree surgery and landscaping?

EL It goes together a lot, yeah. [4.42]

JB I see. Cause it sounds to me like you got into it  
right at the right time.

EL Oh all those trees at the Bundy, I transplanted those.  
\_\_\_\_\_, big maples. [4.57] Yeah, transplanted  
all those, never lost a tree. Not a. Maybe all  
together, thirty. [5.08] But I mean, I set up, I mean,  
hell that big around but probably weigh two, three ton  
a piece, you know, when I set them out, and with a  
ball of earth you have to take with them.

JB Yeah. So that was your main, kind of work?

EL That was my work, yeah. My main work. And, Mr.  
Carpenter, had seen some of my work, and wanted me to  
come to work for him steady. And, put me on payroll,  
so, that was the end of my landscaping, but I could of  
done wonders had I stayed with it, I had no idea it  
was, that valley was gonna grow like it did. There was  
more landscaping work than anyone could do. And, it's  
surprising, how many people are crazy with a check  
book. On some things. [6.06] Something they want. Now  
like property, my God if they want that property

they'll pay most anything for it, they, some people.  
They've got, that don't know the value of money and  
don't have to. Ha! Ha! But they'll be so tight,  
anyways over some little things. It's pitiful.

JB Yeah the inconsistency that. [6.28]

EL Yeah. Ha! Ha!

JB Now last time we were also talking about, we didn't  
get into it too much, the horse racing, but you were  
talking about the popularity of horse racing in the  
area.

EL Oh yeah. It was, that was their, their gentleman's  
entertainment, that was my grandfather's age, of  
course my grandfather spent his life racing horses.  
[6.54]

JB He did?

EL But the sulky, that was all sulky, not horse back.  
Yeah he's a, he still holds the state record for  
yearling colts, never been beaten. In Burlington. Yup.

JB So he'd go all around racing.

EL Yes even I had the, the state fair was, was it White  
River or Bellows Falls, had a mile track. [7.18] Had a  
mile track there, and that's the only mile track I



guess in the state, I think so, most of the rest of them are a half mile tracks. Yeah he went every where. He, Lenny's colt was one that, set the state record. And had to use it for, \_\_\_\_\_ mare cause she well of course she was highly grained and, and she started to go through, he was gonna put her in a stall, and there's a little threshold there, a little cleat, and she caught her shoe in the cleat, she'd go, she'd, highlights, you know, went through and broke her ankle, they healed her up cause she was that valuable. Yup, she was the fastest thing he'd ever seen, of all his racing, so he used her for a brood mare and she had a colt, completely black, black velvet they named her, and grampa wouldn't put a mark on her, wouldn't put her, a mark on her, cause she could win any, any race, any race he ever put her in, she'd take it. [8.26] But, he's careful not to get a mark on her, cause she'd have to, like if she raced, in a class like say with two minute class, or something like that, well, you're gonna find just a few of those in the country. All the rest were slower classes. So, she's racing against the best in the world than, you

aren't gonna make any money. You're better off not to get a mark on her and take everything. Take.

JB Now, what do you mean by a mark?

EL Okay. You're, you win so many races in this class and you'll race in that class, maybe it's a, two, two five, two eight, two twenty.

JB I see.

EL Two twenty is a good class, now. You don't get too many horses much faster than two twenty. If you do they're champions. You get that mark, you can't erase the score last, you've got to race up in your class. So. So he's careful not to put a mark on her, that way, it's a free for all, he's wait for the free for all. [9.30] And that don't give you a mark.

JB I see.

EL Take them all. Take them, big money. Ha! Ha! Ha! Yup he raced all his life, mother loved it, she, well born in her, you know she after grandfather died, she of course, had the, black velvet, for her driving horse, she let us kids take it one day to take her one day to go to school, five of us in a wagon, we raced, Shoddy Buzzle the meat man, two miles, two miles he couldn't

go by us, pulled out from the door yard and stopped,  
and oh did we catch hell from dad. If dad heard about  
it, you better believe it. Her belly weren't any  
further from the ground than that and Mister was she  
going and didn't us kids love it. Ha! Ha! Ha! [10.26]

JB Oh that's great.

EL Yeah. But we didn't know enough to, she'd go just as  
long as you ask her too and we didn't know enough to  
use her, but.

JB So there were a number of people that in the Warren,  
Waitsfield area, that.

EL Had horses. Oh yes there was, I'm going back, my  
grandfather's.

JB Now your grandfather lived in?

EL Lived in Warren, East Warren, and yup, his name was  
Frank, well Thomas Frank Williamson, he went by the  
name of T. Frank Williamson. And he had race horses,  
Morgans, all Morgans, had a Morgan stallion, and a,  
sold it for eight hundred dollars, and than, back than  
that was a lot of money. And, but he had to take him  
back again, but he was ugly, oh that horse was ugly.  
He bit me and he kicked me, and ou, I got even.

[11.30] Ha! Ha!

JB Now where was your grandfather's farm?

EL Right across from the airport.

JB Ah ha.

EL That.

JB Sort of above Defreest.

EL Yeah. Yeah. DeFreest you keep going, towards the airport go through the hollow, get up to the top of the hill, and our place goings right on to DeFreest, and we've sold it now. There was 70 acres there, it used to be 90 but we lost, we lost 20 acres. You see the fire, Warren town clerk's office burned, and dad bought another piece off of Daniel's farm, and all they could go by was the older records, see but.

JB Wow, how awful.

EL But those records were burned and so they, just what people knew about was all they could go by, didn't have any records. So we lost 20 acres there, so, there ain't no difference about that and. That was where, and it went all the way to the corner. It goes by, William Elliot's farm, towards the one that went towards the dump with Warren village, just about a

mile down the road to the village and the other one went over to East Warren corners, four corners, and there was the Elliot family, Hod, the name was Edward, he owned the, mother farm we'll say, Joe which would be Fred's, Fred Elliot's father, he bought the farm over where Fred is, and than George, Fred's, Rudolph's brother, took the farm over afterwards and I guess some DeFreest boys own it now I think.

JB I think so. How old is, Rudolph Elliot? [13.20]

EL Same age I am. Yup, we went to school together, in East Warren, went to 1917 we moved over to the, East Warren farm because of polio on Waitsfield, infantile paralysis.

JB Oh yes. Well, Everett.

EL Everett Palmer's family.

JB Everett Palmer's.

EL Went all through all the whole family.

JB Brother.

EL Cary died, yeah. [13.41] He was gonna graduate in another week. Yeah. From high school, yeah.

JB That was an awful, yeah he told me that story.

EL Yup, Cary. He died and I guess he's the only one that

died, yeah. But it left, Mary Moriarity crippled,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Joseln completely crippled, I mean, with that  
one leg, it just never grew. And they're the only two  
that and Dwight Palmer, Everitt's brother left his  
foot in like this, when he walked. (Shuffling with his  
feet here, giving Jane a demonstration)

JB I'll be darned. [14.16]

EL It was quite a little but he could run, and play  
baseball, and it didn't seem to handicap him at all,  
but you could see, it, he was effected a little bit  
by.

JB Yeah well Evertitt remembers his mother, saying to her  
husband, do you think we're gonna loose them all after  
the first one got polio. I mean.

EL Well of course, they were.

JB I mean just oh.

EL Yup. Yes you see 1917, Everitt was, 9 years old. Yeah.  
So he would remember the whole thing.

JB Yeah I mean it was obviously one of the.

EL Yeah.

JB Yeah he, when I saw him, I saw him recently he hadn't  
made, much syrup at all. [15.12]

EL Well he's making some now. It's ideal. The last two, three days, I mean, ideal the days are, the sap isn't running all that long days, but it's a, at first it got to \_\_\_\_\_, and gosh I mean it came out, run fast, but this last, two, three days yes, and kind of snowy, otherwise it would quit completely, you know, just rainy weather, just don't run very long, but if snow mixed it, sometimes it just enough nippy in the air, so it will run right through, it's supposed to underneath the cars, you know.

JB Oh that's interesting.

EL Yeah.

JB Hum. Well I was asking about your, your grandfather and racing but you said that there were, there was a guy up I think up in Fayston, who raced?

EL Yeah, Will Nelson, raced. Mel Waterman, Waitsfield village. Lou Palm, Jewel Palmer, down below ways where Hartson lives, where.

JB Paul.

EL Paul lives. He owned that farm. He had the Morgan stallions and that like. He raced horses. Will Freeman. [16.33] Dave Seynore, he was one of the

biggest swappers, trade swappers, this is back in my grandfather's time of course, with my grandfather Frank Williamson, and what the heck is the name, the name of the man, Wilson Avery, yeah Wilson Avery, yeah.

JB The selectman.

EL Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha!

EL Yeah right. [17.00] They were the main ones, I've probably left out somebody, of course Earl Fuller was about, that's another generation.

JB Did his father race? Elisha?

EL No.

JB No. Just Earl.

EL No he was strictly a farmer, the boys didn't appreciate the father too well, well they all, they got in trouble, the boys got in trouble all the time and the old man had to pay up, to keep them out of jail, and their, their excuse for it was, he never would give them a dam thing, the only way they'd get anything out of him, was to get in trouble, he'd have to pay it up, and I don't know if that's the truth or



not, but they'd buy a, go out up here, and they'd buy a beautiful team of horses and, resell it, and keep the money. [17.55] And try to collect off from them, and the old man would have to pay up. Ha! Ha! They pulled some good ones. Ha! Ha! You'd heard about it. Ha! Ha!

JB Yeah I heard about one the other day where I guess it was Rudolph Elliot, Earl was talking to his mother, I guess, and she said that they were all out looking for a cow, and Earl said I'll come help you, but he had the cow in his barn. Ha! Ha! [18.24]

EL Yes. Earl had a cow for sale, Steve \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ always more or less at each other's throats anyway, Steve Joslin, he was going to the feed store, and Steve wanted a good cow and Earl says, probably I got, the cow you want, it's the best cow I ever had, he says probably that's the one you want, gonna have just one family cow, you know, you want a good one. Steve would look it over, I'll bring it down he said. He brought the cow down and he'd take a bicycle pump and pumped her bag up and she had the biggest dam bag, Steve bought it. Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [19.05] Ha! I heard he also complained,  
about her and Earl said I told you, she would give the  
best little bit of milk you ever had. Ha! Ha!

EL Some remark like that. Ha! Where else could you of  
heard that. Ha! Ha!

JB I just cracked up over that.

EL Ha! Ha! Yeah, I couldn't, I, see I didn't know about I  
just heard about it, so I know I wouldn't know the  
whole thing, but could be a lot more added to it.  
[19.37] Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB And Everitt Palmer was the one.

EL Oh yeah.

JB He was funny. Well you told me also I think that there  
was racing up on, Waitsfield Common and as well.

EL No.

JB No.

EL Not Waitsfield Common.

JB Not Waitsfield Common, but up above, didn't they used  
to have a, 4th of July celebration or?

EL They still do have in Warren. Yeah I wouldn't wind up  
if there's a little racing up there, but racing was on  
the fair grounds.

JB That's what I meant. Yeah.

EL Down below Waitsfield. That would be, it's the airport now. No it isn't, it was an airport. I don't know what they do use it for now, polo ground, they play polo there.

JB Oh.

EL But anyway, they was racing there, and than they used to have racing on the, Larue's fairground that would be just above the Catholic church, in Waitsfield. Is, that's all.

JB I think that's what I was talking about.

EL It's all grown up now. [20.44] But, yeah they had racing there, well a lot of their racing, right on the main road, it was not for prices but for ego, dignity. There's a better word it, but I don't know what. Ha! Ha!

JB That's true. [21.05] Ha! Ha! Well you probably have a lot of. (tape off and on again)

EL Excuse me just a minute. Plus speaking of, East Warren, and the settlers, the Elliots and all the

people that lived there, it was, this was a little before my time, but mother remembers it well, it was a family of, Agans, or Egans, Tom and I don't know what his wife's name was, but he called her Bitty, Tom and Bitty, and they were Irish, and they did love a, fight, and I mean a, real fight, not, not just a spat, stand toe to toe until I get out, Bitty would hold her own pretty good, but if she ever licked, she'd go to the authorities and have Tom arrested. [21.53] Than they'd fight with the judge and one, one judge particular, one lawyer in particular in front of the judge, was running Tom down, and he said, you tell by the looks of him, that he's a woman beater, and that lawyer, I can't tell you, it seems like his name it makes no difference what his name was, anyway the holiest man you ever saw in your life, and he was pointing his finger at old Tom, and he says you can tell by the looks of him he's a woman beater. And Tom says I'm as good looking as yeah. Well anyway, of course, drop down, the judge kicked them out and got to where they wouldn't even pay any attention to them, but they had a family, they had quite a few friends

there, which they were Irish and Irish Catholics, and there was families, families of Foleys and Sullivans, and there's a few Catholics, around, enough so, well Tom coming from the barn, in the wintertime, had a heart attack, and well he laid in the snow and Bitty didn't miss him for awhile and when she did miss him and went looking for him, he was frozen stiff. [23.13] But the Irish Catholics have a wake, it's tradition. And they, they got Oscar Eaton for an undertaker from I believe he lived in Waitsfield, at that time. And, of course he didn't, didn't embalm or anything back in those days, anyway, Oscar they had to have the wake so Oscar tried to straighten him out the best he could, I don't know if they had a, caskets back than, or just a box or whatever, well whatever they had, but he put a weight on his feet, and a weight on his shoulders, so to try and straighten him out the best he could. So, anyway they, they had their wake and about midnight they was a dancing and having a good time, they was happier than a clown, you know, someone suggested given Tom a drink with the crowd so they gathered around, took a glass, put it to his lips and someone

had him by the head and put it to his lips and dislocated a weight somewhere, and up set old Tom, in the casket, the box, I guess it didn't take long to clear the room. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [24.25] So he just rose like that, right up.

EL He just sat right up, quick, you know that weight come off up he came. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Oh gosh. Well you told a wonderful story last week about the, couple the woman wasn't too pretty and her pants fell down and.

EL Oh, I'd want to, I'd have to mention names, and I wouldn't want to do it. [24.54]

JB All right, okay. That also was a, ha, ha.

EL Yes that would be nice but. (tape off and on again)  
[25.02] We, yeah we was mentioning, you were mentioning the Moriaritys and those families in Warren, Moriaritys they were, they were Catholics and we was speaking of the Catholic population there for the wakes and that like, and Walter Moriarity in

Waitsfield, run a saw mill and he and his family they were, they were Catholic, but than there was another family of Moriaritys' Charles Moriarity, he died young and his family, his mother more or less and the boys themselves brought themselves up the best they could, Don Moriarity was, one of the greatest high school pitchers that they've had at all, and we went down to University of Vermont. I think Doctor F. S. Kent, later was the state board of health, guided him, and helped him through college some, and he also pitched Montreal baseball to, for money to get through the University of Vermont, Tom had an offer, Boston Red Sox, but Doctor F. S. Kent advised him, that he being a doctor and he just got married, his wife was a doctor and they both had good positions offered them, in Massachusetts General Hospital, so he advised him to not to give up baseball it might last just a few years and with his arm, depending on that, but it was my point here, I had, when I was telling it, well anyway, oh yes, but I, I don't know, I've seen many big league pitchers, but none amazed me any more than perhaps it was the, the talent which they were

against, they used to have fairs in Waitsfield on the fair ground, the route, LaRue's fair ground, and it run this fair, this fair was run by the Warren Grange, and they'd have the, there three days of the fair and the baseball game each day of the fair. At that time they was, the Warren cubs were going strong, I believe they won, number one trophy from the National District Company in Burlington, the State of Vermont. And, they played the first game of the fair, I, believe it was Rochester, but I'm not sure. [27.27] They won, Waitsfield won. And they played the second game of the fair, and they won, whoever they played against. And they had, they was playing, they, a team which was an organized team of Dartmouth College, the June before. But they split up, but they'd got together, and was gonna to play, the Warren Cubs, on the fair ground. But Warren had run out of pitchers, and they'd, someone knew Don's address anyway and I guess probably many of them did so they got hold of Don Moriarity and asked him if he'd come in and pitch for the home town. [28.10] And, he did. I want to tell you, when Don came on the ground, they had a band waiting. They had a



band waiting and oh, what a welcome they gave Don. Well they got in the ball game, started, these guys, they were, come here to stick, they were gonna have, they were gonna have some fun the Warren Cubs, the first man looked at three balls and went and set it out. A three strikes I mean and set down. That went on, it went on until about, seventh inning, oh, I've got to, I've missed part of it. We didn't have a catcher that could hold Don Moriarity. So, there was one in, Rochester Vermont, John Trask he thought he could do it, and he done a beautiful job holding him, the seventh inning and the third strike the swung at him, and missed it by a foot but so did Don, so did John. Ha! Ha! So he got on first, Don didn't pay any attention to him, let him jog right down to second, let him jog third base, he kept working on the batters. That was the end of the ball game, when it got nine innings, it was still, whatever Warren had, to nothing, and well it was one of the nicest games I'd ever seen, because, maybe because he didn't have that much talent but some of those college boys are good ball players. And I, was working on, trees, a

tree surgery and I was down in, Bellows Falls, yeah,  
Bellows Falls, eating lunch, my brother and I, and  
here were two guys talking about a, ball game they  
went up in the sticks to play. And run out to a man  
they never, saw anything like in their life and this  
was the, this was the game that I've just told about,  
and here's the guys down there still talking about it.  
Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB That's terrific. What a great story.

EL Yup that was Don Moriarity he was something else.

JB Um. Well I, that's the other thing I've heard is that  
Warren really did have a good baseball team.

EL Probably hired, they hired all over. Rutland, yeah,  
yeah. And I didn't know the names of, had two people  
from Rutland they had them, Barre, Montpelier,  
Rutland, let's see, they didn't have a few men in  
Warren.

JB Um, hum.

EL But it went by the Warren Cubs, it started out, Warren  
team.

JB Hum.

EL Yeah. Red Wakefield was substitute.

JB Oh really.

EL Yup. Yup. I had, saw a picture the other day, Gless  
Eurich had it, yup, showed it to me, he said you know  
who that is, no, it's Red Wakefield. Yeah.

JB I'll be darn. I have a great picture of actually Red  
Wakefield fiddling.

EL Yeah. Yeah.

JB A nice one.

EL Oh I've fiddled with him a lot, Red and I played an  
awful lot together. I miss that guy. [31.32]

END OF TAPE TWO