

Rudolph Elliott/TC1992.0034
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

RE Rudolph Elliott
JB Jane Beck
30/31/1992
Waitsfield, VT

[tape starts at :26]

JB And then we'll go from there.

RE Okay.

JB It's let's see, March thirtieth and I'm with Mr.-

RE Rudolph F. Elliott. I have a son that's Rudolph M. so,
put the initial in so as to-

JB I called your son first and he screamed at me.

[laughs]

RE Yeah.

JB Okay now you were telling me that you actually- I'm
going to get just a hair closer, that's okay- that you
grew up in

East Warren.

RE Born and brought up in East Warren four corners. Yeah.

JB And went to school there and grew up on a farm?

RE Yeah, I'm a farmer's boy. [laughs] Yeah.

JB And what I was told was I should talk with you about

horse trading, that you were one of the best horse traders that there was.

RE Thank you. Well, my father was a super man on any kind of an animal. And my brother, there was just my brother and I, and my brother was older. He didn't seem to pick that up but I did. And I was up at the Sugar- ah, no- Appletree stables- Applewood stables there, Applewood stables in East Warren. And Jan Tishman, which is, she and her husband from New York city, they own two or three sky scrapers in New York city and she run the place. Jan was a good person. But just like that. So one day- I had my horses up there in the winter sleigh rides. One day weren't doing much everybody- well, everybody's in the office so everybody told- well, otherwords tried to sell their idea to- that they was a good horseman. So I listened and so I told them I says well, I says is it my turn. And they said yup. Well, I says, I'm going to tell you something I says it may hurt but it's a fact and I can back it up. I wouldn't switch my knowledge and experience in horses or horsemanship or any other animal for any two of your knowledge.

JB I bet that's right too.

RE Trust that. Drop the chin. [laughter] But it was a fact. And I _____ [:59] seemed I have good luck. I- I- Charlie Ellis from Castleton saw me one day and he said I sold him two colts and he had two others and he says takes the two oldest ones over to your place and train them, break them. So I told Charlie I said gee, there must be somebody closer by than I am. No, he says I want you. Well, I was- the oldest one I sold him and the oldest one that he had were the ones he wanted me to take over. The oldest one I'd sold him I'd had him hitched twice, which I knew he was alright, but the other one I took was an hour and a half to get him into my truck. And he was one of these who had laid his ears tight to his head open his mouth that and jump for you. If he didn't get you that way he'd whirl to kick you. But anyway I got him over. Charlie saw me one day and he said when can I come over and see those two colts hitched together. I said any day you say. So he came over and about noon and I'd had his- not the one I'd sold him but the

other- hitched beside an old horse that I had. Just about noon he says well, he says get that other one out here, I want to see them hitched together. I says no, when you're working come noon you want to eat don't you? And I said these horses do too. But after they eat and after I eat I says we'll hitch them together. And I says if you haven't eaten come on in, we'll all have a lunch. So. So after lunch we hitched them together and passed the reigns to him, I says here Charlie, I says these are your horses you drive them so that they can know. No, he says, you drive them. I says no, I want you to drive them. And I said are you satisfied with them now? He says yup, he says bring them back anytime. But the one that- the ugly one there, he took to his brothers place in Orwell, and oh, he'd it to trample his brother in. And the last I- and Pete Woods from Pasumsing, no, not- what's that town near Woodstock?

JB Quechee or Taftsville?

RE No. But anyway Pete Woods bought them and he took them to Essex fair that year and was in the ribbons in the pulling contest.

JB Is that right!

RE And the last I knew of that particular horse he was over in New York state in a lumber camp. Which he either worked or else he stayed in the woods. So- but. I've had two or three like that.

JB Now you- you said your father was a good horseman before you so you must have learned a lot from him.

RE Oh, yeah. Yeah. I learned how to shoe horses from him. Yeah.

JB And you always used a team or- how many horses did you have on your farm with your father?

RE At one time I had seven.

JB And so at a young age did you start training them or-

RE Oh, yeah. I handled my own. Yeah. I raised- after you called me I tried to look for some pictures that I had but I couldn't find them so. No, I had- I raised- I have lifetime membership of the holstein _____ [1:05] club, lifetime membership of the Belgian breeders association. And I used- in the fifties I used- went to Canada buying cattle a little bit and then come bull tanks I get rid of the cattle. And I was always interested in horses and- so I went in to horses.

Yeah. And I had three mares, yeah, three mares that had three of the top blood lines of the Belgian breeders.

JB Is that right.

RE Yeah. Yeah, I had a lifetime membership for Belgian breeders. And you get a little discount from being a member on registration or transfers which when you come to sell even a commercial buyer would give a little more for a registered one which I think paid for the extra. Oh, yeah. Yeah, I was in service in forty-two to forty-four and I got out in January of forty-four and I came home to my folks. And my wife and I went to Burlington one day and Harry Harvey of Waterbury used to be a dealer in horses. And I told my wife I says my father tells me that Harry Harvey's got a two year old which we did- if he did so many horses he'd buy. So we was literally getting back from Burlington, we stopped in, I bought her. HE was asking three hundred. She was only two years old, never had a harness on her only twice. And I bought her for two hundred. Had a little Yankee trading in my blood so-. So I brought her home and that made, with my father's

four horses, that was before tractor time, Forty-four. And so when I wanted a horse I used this particular- she was a chestnut _____ [1:35] mare, and that summer three years old. And between Warren down toward Warren village in the wintertime she was I think five years old then, and I took a job of skidding from where they cut the trees down-skid the logs down to the roadside for trucks. I had her trained so one man up in the woods and one at the head sent her back and forth alone.

JB I'll be darn.

RE Yeah. Yeah. And I had a- had another horse that another man had started training that way so I had two of them that we sent back and forth alone. And but animals are like people, there's no question about it. Like this ugly one I had. There's some people that are just like that- the way that horse was. And this one that I bought at Harry Harvey was super. She could understand what you said. And I liked this one that I had from Charlie Ellis he and I had a- have a kind of a harsh understanding a couple of times. And but he didn't want to listen but. I'm not proud of what I'd

done but it was either he or I. And then this one that I had that horse hitched beside of was the mare I bought of George Randall over in North Danville. And She was carrying a colt which I raised and that one I hitched beside of her mother and never a problem. She was always sort of waiting to do what you asked her to. And that's the difference between the ugly one and the good one. But a lot of difference on how they're handled when they're young.

JB How do you tell- what do you look for for a good horse or- I know it must be more than what you consciously look for.

RE Any animal the first thing I look at's their head. And I've judged a few draft horse shows. And take a horse that's wide between the eyes, between the ears and there's room for intelligence. A long head narrow between the eyes, narrow between the ears there's not much room there. So. And that's true with any animal. That's been my experience. And- yeah. And yeah, I tell you, yeah, many times I have sat down near an animal and just watch them, see what their ways and means are. And you can tell a lot. And I have part of my

field up in East Warren rented to the Polo club, has been for several years. So, I run across this saddlehorse, he was a runaway. So, I says to Holly Ward which likes to be the head one of the Polo club which Holly's alright though. And I says Holly I says you know I know where there's a runaway horse that would make a good polo horse 'cause in polo they push them and spur them to go fast and faster and yank this and that's where a horse is abused the most of any job. And so I says to Holly you know and she says what is it and I said a runaway but I says after you play a few chukkers with him (that's what they are in a polo club) I says I think he'd be alright. But I says work him. He needs a lot of mileage. Get him a little bit tired and I says he'll make a good horse. No, she says well, what about controlling him? I says that's to the man that's riding him. I says he is controllable. And no, he didn't want him so I heard about the horse went out west. I heard about him two different times. He turned out to be a super polo horse.

JB IS that right.

RE They were like- I've had a few draft horses that was

runaways. If you got the work and time work them.

That's what they want. They want to go so give them the road, let them go. And Get them tired and they'll make a- I like them.

JB Now by a runaway you mean a horse that is constantly running away a rider?

RE No, run every chance he gets whether it's with a rider or whatever. I bought a draft horse one time, it was during the haying time. That's when we was mowing, doing the haying with horses, and this fellow tells me he says You know he's a runaway. I says that's alright. So, my brother had a lot of mowing to do so one day got him home and in the morning after breakfast, hitched him on the mowing machine I had five horses, draft horses then. After dinner I put him with a fresh horse. And I told my youngsters to do the milking and after supper another fresh horse. And the next day before noon he commenced to lag back. And you know he was one of the best work horses I ever had. But I had- and, gee, I done a lot of haying with him. But anyway my brother had some grass to mow and so I went over and mowed for him on a mowing machine

they're moving all the time you know. Yeah. But I put a fresh horse in with him half day. So.

JB I've heard that one white foot buy him, two white feet try him, three white feet deny him, four white and a slip in his nose take him out and feed him to the crows.

RE Well, my mother used to tell about- let's see, One white foot well done, two will done, three leave them be. YEAh. But I- well when- when my brother was and I was home my father had me stop to the horse barn, take care of the horses and my brother and my father went down and took care of the cattle. And So I don't know, I more or less grew up with them. And, yeah. Oh, yeah, I still- still like horses. And I used to have German shepard dogs. Yeah. I raised- raised a few. And next to last one I raised, he was a super dog. Some of them are natural born good and some are natural born miserable. And he was- he was a good guard dog natural born. And like being in the house if I was over there sitting down he'd be over there and if I move over here he'd move over here. And the last dog was a female that I got from down in Hancock when you come

over Middlebury mountain in the high white house on
the right coming down. Maybe- maybe you don't
recognize it but any way.

JB Yeah, I do.

RE Yeah. Well, I was coming from Middlebury and out come
this dog and two half grown puppies and I thought I
ran over one so I backed up and went up and they was
up back of the house and I told the lady and two or
three other people there that I thought I hit one. And
she looked, says no guess not, says they're alright.
Says you don't know of anybody wants a dog? I says
well, which ones. Says the mother or the pups. And I
says how much? She says nothing. I says I'll take the
mother. And so she was, she was a super dog, like
sudden here she'd lay down by my feet here, over there
she'd go and lay down by my feet. And no one would
touch her like when a person was in my yard and I- up
to the house here and there was some lilacs. She says
do you mind if I have some lilacs and I says no, go
help yourself. So this woman now she cares me around
some, nothing only a friend, but anyway she went over
to pick some, this dog says no don't. Yeah, very

smart. But I had to put her away because I had a heart spell but. Nobody could- I took her to Celie's one for them to use for one time but she was too much dog for them and so I had to- when I had my heart spell I had to have her put away. But, oh, I love animals. But, seem to get along pretty good with them.

JB I knew a guy once that had a beagle that he train to do- I mean he would hunt not only rabbits but partridge and coon and bear and all kinds of things. I guess you can train a dog or an animal to do almost anything.

RE You can. It- like this one that I had that I could send her back and forth in the woods skidding logs. You've got to have something for them to do and you got to have patience.

JB How did you get her to do that?

RE Well, I stayed at the skidway and so I started along driving her oh, probably half from- way from here to those other buildings, put the lines on the hames and spoke to her and she thought I was still driving so I followed her along and I followed her back and forth with the lines on the hames for a while. And then I

decided well, we'll see if she'll go alone so I let her go far as from her to the other building and she did and then I went up and kept letting her go a little farther and little farther and after a while she went back and forth. And I told the guy up in the woods I says have something when she gets up there, a little handful of grain or something and it weren't long before she was going back and forth alone. And you know, skidding a log if the log got caught she'd go one way or the other to loosen it by herself. Yeah, she was smart. Yeah, it's-

JB I know of one guy that was logging in the woods and the tree caught him and the horse was able to lift so that he could get his foot out.

RE Gee, that's something. And you know when you're skidding a log, like if you're driving the horse you come down this way and around this way. Do not stay on side there, get on the here. No come down like this, do not stay on this side where you are turning in 'cause they could pull a log against you. Yeah, you got to have your- use your head, you know.

JB Did you do a lot of logging?

RE No, not a lot.

JB Just some skidding.

RE But I liked it. Course back then we burned wood and so we had to get out our own wood. Yeah. Yeah, you know, life is funny. I wasn't supposed to live past teenage.

JB Is that right?

RE Yeah.

JB Why was that?

RE When I was young I was very sickly, why, I don't know. And So I- well, I come- Montpelier flood we just had?

JB Yeah.

RE I was going to school in Barre at the auditorium which was cottage seminary back in those days. I was doing school up there and another man had a son up there and so we was up there and we could here people down street in Barre calling for help and all this and that. And I presume the same in Montpelier, but, anyway our fathers came out and got us. And I remember coming through Montpelier and seeing the water like- so when I saw that picture, gee it snapped a twenty-seven flood right into my mind.

JB Oh, I bet. Well, now is the seminary is that high

school or-

RE No, that's- yeah, that was seminary- _____ [3:47]
like Montpelier seminary used to be there. High school
courses. Yeah, but now it's an auditorium and Godard
seminary is in Plainfield.

JB Oh, right, yeah.

RE Yeah. Yeah. So I had a two year course there and then
during the depression in the thirties I went to
Burlington business College, took an accounting
course. But it didn't amount to anything 'cause I was
a- when the depression was on you couldn't even buy a
job then.

JB Did you have your farm- did you- were you living on a
farm then?

RE I was living with my folks. Yeah. Yeah, and then my
brother and I both was in service. I was home two days
when my brother went in and it was- I seemed to be the
one things would happen to me a little before they
would my brother even though he was older. Yeah. So.
Yes, I was born and brought up there, seen a lot
things happen in the valley and some of them are good.
And from up in the east part of the valley from

Granville town line through the Waitsfield they used to be twenty-seven dairies.

JB IS that right?

RE Yeah. Besides the other dairies around and right now there's only one in the whole valley, Defress. They have- what the polo doesn't use for polo the Defress have the rest of the field to raise corn. And so. Quite a change.

JB I would say.

RE But, anyway I was- got out in forty-four, came home, stayed my folks for a while. Let's see, I went in forty-two and I did not finish my fifth week of basic training. They shipped in a bunch of boys from Ohio, brought in the flu and really plastered the rest of us. Some of us was very sick, I had a temperature of a hundred and five.

JB Good Lord!

RE And I was out for two days and three nights or vice versa. And, anyway another fellow and I had charge of service records and allied papers in the office. A lot of boys came back without records so we had to make some more. And then when the quacks came in they put

one with me in the office and after I think it was two weeks training they gave me a medical discharge on account of my lungs. The rest of my outfit had gone- had gone over seas. But, I didn't happen to go. Guess they figured that I couldn't take it, but.

JB So you had bad lungs as a kid growing up.

RE That's right, yeah.

JB Did you have TB or-

RE No, not a- my lungs wasn't bad, I don't think, until I had that pneumonia in the service. So. But it come close to I think it's three times of crossing the threshold. Like the last time was eighty-nine when I was going to vote at Celie's. In fact I sold some draft horse stuff for Celie and I was going over to take the money and just below Ripton there's a turn out place. I stopped there and this was February eighteenth, cold part of he year. And I got out and went around and stepped on the- thought I was dirt, but it was dirt over some ice and down I went. On a eighteenth on a Saturday, yeah, from two to four I laid there and my hands was commencing to get numb and my feet, you know, and after a while a lady came along

and I told her I needed help so she called the Middlebury ambulance and they done a good job getting me up to Porter Hospital. Sunday morning the nineteenth, they operated on me. And- fractured shoulder and arm, broke the hip and leg and I thought- and February twenty-third up comes the ambulance from- my eyes run. So February twenty-third up comes the ambulance from White River, took me down there and June twenty-third I was discharged four months down then.

JB Oh, Lord.

RE If I'd- and I got three pins in there and I thought it was three but I got one big one goes down like that and three little one's in like this. And I got down to this.

JB Gosh. You're kidding.

RE Oh, I can walk around on the floor alright but outdoors-

JB Well, you better not.

RE No, 'cause little whole in the step down this muscle here it- now it's cut from here up here, flesh to get into the bone when they operated. And, but I'm still

here. [laughs]

JB That's amazing.

RE But I don't know what for.

JB Well, I do. To talk to me. [laughter]

RE Well, thank you.

JB Because I heard, you know, that you were one of the best horsemen in the valley. Now-

RE Well,-

JB The Fullers were known as horse trainers but-

RE Now let me tell you, I don't want them to train one for me.

JB Any of them or-

[4:79 stop of side one]

[side two begins :01]

RE _____ [:01] was a veterinary. He's just a dairy farmer, but did have the ability to work on animals. And they used to buy- back years ago they used to be the Rolley come around to people sell them door to door. Watkins' the same. For colic cure for horses they used to buy from Rolley and Watkins, put it in small bottles, and said it was their formula. So. And this Earl Fuller, Earl, I liked Earl, he'd- he and I

got along good, but I- I knew he was a Fuller. And so he called his folks that used to live up on Fuller hill in Warren and he says to his mother he says what's papa and Lauren doing? (Lauren was his brother). Says they're out looking for a cow. And so Earl says gee, says if they want I'll come help them find it. Earl had that cow down in his own barn.

[laughter]

JB What, did he just take it home with him?

RE Yeah, it-. And he had a brother Claren that lived- last I knew of him he was down this side of- fifteen miles this side of Hartford, Connecticut. And he was come up and buy two, three, four or five saddlehorses and I had a livestock truck and he came to me and wanted to know if I'd truck them down for him. And I says yes Lauren I says I will but I want my pay and no bounced checks. Well, I made a few trips for him and you know, I never was treated nicer in my life. Been once or twice I had to stay down there over night and he used to come up into Springfield, Mass. that would be about the time when the help from the plants changing and escorted me down through the traffic.

Treated me real nice. So, what can I complain.

JB This is Claren?

RE Yeah. Well, I tell you, you got to- got to use your head in life. And like there used to be this Wesley Tucker in Northfield. He logged with horses and I used to move his horses from one job to the other. Someone says to me says do you know Wesley Tucker? I says not too well. Says be careful. Well, Wesley got out to owe me seventy, eighty dollars that was- dollars was dollars back then too. So anyway all of a sudden one day he come to me. He says you going to- you said for commission sale. And gee, I almost dropped it of the end of my time to know him but I told him I says probably end up going over. And he says you know that little black saddlehorse you had? He was a miserable little son of a gun, he was a good puller only the more he run the more he wanted to. And I says yeah. And he says how about taking him over for me. I says yeah. I says, but I says I'll load him first then he didn't know whether I had anything else or not. So, I load him first. I didn't have anything but I made a

special trip so I got over there and Carleton Grave was alive then that was the father and I told Carleton about it and so I told him I says you send the check to me. The sales are on Mondays so Tuesday Wesley was over for the check and I told him I says you'll get it in the mail. Which I did not lie to him. And so the check came and I got a money order and on the slip which it says less commission, less what you owe me and I took my pay out. And he comes over and he says golly he says I- well that was on a Tuesday he came over says I got a uncle I owe quite a lot of money and I figured on that money to pay my uncle which I don't think he had an uncle. But anyway I took my- got a money order so he couldn't say the check was no good. And send it to him. Long time he didn't even know me. But he liked his beer, he liked his coffee. Every time I see him I says well, Wesley, how about a cup of coffee or beer or something, which I knew he'd never refuse. And it cost me, I don't know, five or six dollars but when I had my heart attack somebody was at the house and he stopped in to see how I was. Lot better person to trade with and a better friend after

that.

JB Yeah, I think that's often the case.

RE Yeah, and I tell you- this isn't all recorded is it?

JB Yeah, it is.

RE IT won't be in the public though will it?

JB We can turn it off.

RE Okay this-

[tape stopped for a while at :63]

RE He and I was such good friends you know.

JB Yeah, that's- that's hard.

RE And then just say he wouldn't do it. And I see that he really meant it when he said it that way. But he did pay to not know it for a while.

JB Until your cousin broke the news. [laughter]

RE No, well that's- no I tell you my father was a super man. HE was a school director, selectman, represented the town back in nineteen twenty-seven, that's when representatives went from each town instead of a district. And, yeah.

JB Was your father called Rudolph Elliott too?

RE What's that?

JB What was your father's name?

RE Fred Elliott.

JB Oh, yes. I-

RE Fred Arthur Elliott.

JB -people have spoken very highly of him.

RE Yeah. Yeah.

JB It's all coming together, I've heard a- I've heard his name mentioned a lot. Well, Fred Elliott's farm, you know, as a landmark.

RE Yeah, at time- one time my father had oh, must have been close to eight hundred acres and up on Prickly mountain he owned that.

JB I'll be darned.

RE And then my brother got it and then my brother sold it to Dave Sellous and Bill Rennicky. Those two guys came to me and wanted to know if I knew of anybody that had any land that they'd sell. And I says yes, I says I do. And oh, what was his name- Anyway he had a number of lots around, in fact he's Alpine village he sold it to the man that bought it and developed it. _____
_____ [:86] And then he had a woodworking mill in Northfield and-

JB Caplin?

RE No. Boy, he lived down below Randolph, had the open air moving picture place. Well, anyway he saw- that's before our school was built and I was- had a school bus, small one and took the high school kids that wanted to go to Northfield. So Allen- Allen Randal, that's the name. And so Allen says to me says I want to see you some day. And I says well, I says when? Well, he says what you doing now? I says start talking. And he says I got a farm here- Francis Smith, he says I want to buy the lumber off from it. And he says I've had several people up there but I can- he lived alone, kind of an odd sort of a fellow, but good fellow. And he says I want the lumber. And he says I want you to go up and try it. I says well, if you had several people up there no sense in me going. No, he says, I want you to go. He says, I'll make it well worth your trouble, which he did. And well, I says I tell you Allen how much would you give for that lumber? He says I'll give eight thousand. Well, I says, if I go up you're going to have to sign a check

and trust me to fill it in for what have to pay. So I went up and he was late milking in the morning. I'd taken the kids to school and I went in the barn and talked with him a minute and I says well. HE says well, he says what do you want? I says I want to buy two, three your jersey cows, which I knew he wouldn't sell them. No, sir he says, I won't sell a one. But I will sell you the whole works place, real estate and everything. Well, that sounded good so I talked with him I says what do you figure you got to have for the whole works. IT wasn't a very big place. He says I want ten thousand dollars. Well, I figured two thousand dollars for what Randal didn't want would be a good investment so I did that before I knew I was going to do it. But I didn't want to hurry so I talked with him a while and after a while I says I'm going to give you the check for ten thousand dollars but I want you to give me a receipt. Took a little while for him to write out a receipt but I got it. So I went back down to Randal down to the Mill in Northfield falls and I went in. Says well, how did you make out. I says well, how do you think? I says after all I was going

up there and so on so forth and-. And he says, well he says you still got the blank check? I says well, Allen, I says, I gave that to him but I got a receipt for you. But I says I paid more than what you wanted for the lumber. I says I gave two thousand dollars plus your eight thousand dollars for everything and all he wanted was enough furniture for a bedroom downtown. I says the rest of it belongs to you. This is the part I like. And so I talked to him for a while. Well, he says. Well, I says Allen, I says remember you're going to have to milk those cows. He said my God, I never milked a cow in my life. Well, I says you're going to have to learn and so he says what am I going to do with it?. I says I don't know, it's yours. And so after a while he says how about you taking it and- excepting the lumber and doing whatever you think's right. And I says well I says it's yours what do you think would be a good idea? He says well he only thinks an auction. I says well, that's alright with me. So I got Roberts from down in Lebanon, New Hampshire and talk about antiques he was born and brought up there. And he brought another older

auctioneer with him and we pretty near had to go in a second day. And anyway he gave me a thousand dollars out of the deal.

JB That's terrific.

RE But-.

JB Who's farm was it that he bought?

RE The fellow that was living there is Francis Smith.

JB That's a wonderful story.

RE That made me feel good think he'd had others up there.

JB Yeah. It says a lot about you.

RE Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, I tell you life is a funny thing but very, very interesting.

JB It is you're right.

RE I got a fellow, he's Roger Whoole in Barre, he and two brothers owned one of those stone sheds. He came to me one day and he said you don't know where I can find a good pair of horses. I says sure there's a lot of them around. And I says to him I says first I want to know how much experience you've had, well, not too much. So I told him I says know Fred Hall up in Greensboro been in Canada and bought a pair of black ones which are- would be ideal for you, they're gentle and straight

and alright. Says are they for sale? I says that's what Fred bought them for. So went and got a hold of Fred and we went to Canada and Roger bought them. Then he wanted a pair of more challenge so he sold them. Bought a pair of chestnut mares which I told him he had better get rid of them 'cause I says they'll put you in the hospital or somebody else. Which they did kick him twice. And so he finally got rid of them but-. Roger and I we went to Canada, I don't know, an awful lot and all I did was-. Here I'm doing the talking.

JB Well, you're supposed to be!

RE Oh. [laughs] Yeah.

JB How can I learn anything if you don't do the talking?

RE Yeah. Well as I say my father was a slick man. Back then they had these big rollers for horses to hitch to which I've got pictures of them. You wait a minute.

JB Can I get them for you?

RE No, no, I can get them. I can get around. It's really good to move around every so often. Yeah, my father back in the- tell you the story about these [rings some kind of bell]

JB Oh my gosh.

RE These are team bells they used to have on them and they could tell by the sound of the bell which neighbor it was.

JB I've heard that. I've got my glasses here.

RE You can have that.

JB Oh, thank you. The snow roller in action on Vermont roads about nineteen hundred. Oh, this is W. S. Gillman of Chelsey courtesy of.

RE Did you ever run across these papers?

JB Green Mountain Trading Post. No.

RE That's two you may have there older ones but I enjoy that because there's not many pictures but there's- gives you an idea of the price of things of the ads that they put in there.

JB Oh, yeah. No, I haven't see this. Well, you were saying that every team had a different bell.

RE Yeah. My father had six bells he put onto his horses.

JB Is that right?

RE Yeah.

JB Each one different?

RE Well, those bells- I'll show you.

JB Here, I'll get them. Sit down.

RE No, I- I can get them. This one here I bought down to
Stony steps from old Bethel.

JB Oh, yeah.

RE And she thought it went on an ox yolk, but they did
not have them on ox yolks at anytime that I ever knew
of. One time I had a real good collection of bells.
You see, these have different tongues.

JB Oh, yes! And that's what makes the different sound.

RE This one is one that they put in I don't know what
happened to- you can see where the original banged
around there and just below that you can see where
this one used to be.

JB Yeah.

RE This one should have been a little shorter. But there,
you see, see, this was in eighteen thirty-two.

JB Oh, they have the dates on them and everything.

RE And this one has another date.

JB Nineteen eleven. So that was probably when the clanger
was changed?

RE I have no idea.

JB Did they always put dates on them? No.

RE Only in the winter time. They had these bells.

JB Uh-huh.

RE And you know over in Vergennes just before you- down on the foot of the hill as you go down on Route seven big high house, antiques- Fitzgerald. If he had these over there he'd have a tag on them forty-five dollars a piece.

JB Is that right.

RE Yeah.

JB Now why did they have them in the winter? Just as a warning that the team-

RE Well, a lot of times the roads was no places to turn out so they did have a few turn out places so that was on account of the bells they could tell if anybody was coming or not and stop their horses and then the bells stop ringing then they could tell. So.

JB Must have made a nice sound in the wintertime.

RE Oh, yeah. And then they had bells that- four on a strap that big around put on the hips. And the stage used to go from Warren village over Rushbury round into Rocksbury. And they went twice a day. And you could here those bells. Had two horses. And when my

father was _____ [2:59] many times I've had to hitch up a pair of horses go up there and make a track up the mountain for the stage. And-

JB Oh, you did that now, I talked with Gladys Bissel who I guess-

RE Yes ma'am she- Gladys Bissel used to run a stage her father, no her husband- well, he was serving time locked up.

JB Yeah, so she had to drive it I guess.

RE And she did. And she used to- during the summertime before the road was improved she used to drive a car back and forth.

JB That's what she told me.

RE Yeah. She's a- she could tell you a lot.

JB She was- I went to see her the other- other day and we sat- she talked to me for three hours.

RE Yeah.

JB She was great.

RE Yeah. Oh, yeah. No, her- her husband was a horse trader and I'll tell you about one deal that he made. HE used to trade horses with these real old traders and there was this guy from Randolph. Anyway they

swopped horses and there's a lot of tricks played in horse trading. And so anyway Charlie traded with- oh, what is his name the man in Randolph? Well that's me to think of names. Anyway he was an older man than Charlie so they swopped horses and Charlie took some horse clippers and clipped spots on the hair to make it as if the parties shaved the hair so- why what is his name? I know it too. But anyway he says to Charlie you know Charlie he says when you want to clip a horse to show harness marks show clip the same way as the hair grows. Charlie clipped it the back way. Yeah.

JB What did he do to end up in prison?

RE What's that?

JB What did he do-

RE Oh, he and his brother- Charlie's brother- what was it? There was buying young- yearling, two year old, three year old heifers, holstein heifers, butcher them and sell the meat. And just what it was I don't know, don't remember but-, gee, I can't tell you just what it was. Whether they took- got some heifers that they wasn't supposed to or- but anyway they served time in jail for a while.

JB And then as I understand it he wasn't able- I mean they had the contract but because if you've been in federal prison or something you can't take a federal job. So then she did it-

RE She had to do it. He couldn't. Yeah, that's Clessin Irish.

JB Yeah, I in- I talked with him.

RE Yeah, yeah. He lives right down-

JB Yeah, he- he was very interesting. And I talked with Ed Irish too.

RE Ed- Ed has done very well for himself. HE's was they commissioner of agriculture for a while.

JB Yes.

RE Yeah. Yeah, they- they was good people. They used to live up in the Sugarbush area.

JB Yeah, they were telling me that. The farm up by the Sugarbush Inn.

RE Yeah, yeah.

JB And how-

RE Turn to your right and go up in and-

JB And how- and how his grandfather came over from Germany.

RE Germany. His- their grandfather and their
grandfather's brother. Yeah.

JB And they met mending fence.

RE Yeah. Yeah.

JB It's an incredible story.

RE Why? If you know the history different ones why- well,
I was talking about the Fullers. Rupport Blair's
father was Lauren Fuller.

JB Yes, he told me that.

RE Yeah. Oh, he did?

JB Yeah.

RE Yeah. And he can't deny his father 'cause he talks and
appears just like him and Rupport's- Kenny- I don't- I
don't know about-

JB His son, yeah.

RE Kenny is just they same way. It's traced back a couple
of generations.

JB Yeah, well, he told me when I went to talk with him he
told me that right off.

RE Well, you know, it's funny, I shouldn't be saying this
but I'd like the chance that Rupport had. His mother
and his mother's brother- Herb Blair, which was

totally blind, but you ought to see the way he get around. When he wanted to go- he had to go to a herd of holstein sale too and when Herb would want to _____ [3:51] or anything he'd call my father, he'd go to state hospital from that _____ [3:53] or over to Bradford to the _____ [3:54] And so he depended on my father a lot which my father- . And we used to change back and forth in filling silo. Yeah. Jeepers some time I have no idea where those are. Oh, yeah, we used to have horses draw the corn harvest, cut the corn little bit and then tip it over and then we'd have to go on and pick it up and put it on the wagon and take it the corn cutter. I used to do the cutting with the horses cutting the corn down. Had a black- black one that my folks raised and a dappled gray one and we bought this at Harvey in Waterbury where I bought the one that I had. Yeah.

JB Now, you have photographs of all that?

RE They're around here somewhere. You see I was- when I got out of the hospital, eighty-nine, June I lived with my youngest brother- ah, youngest brother-
[laughs]

JB Youngest son?

RE Youngest daughter.

JB Daughter. How many children do you have?

RE We had four boys, six girls. My wife came from
Brandon. She was a Ketchem.

JB A Ketchem.

RE Yeah. She- they had a farm in the town of Sudbury.

JB Uh-huh.

RE Perry, has one, and the youngest boy, Robert, has one.
And the- my mother in law passed away here was it last
fall I think. She was ninety something.

JB Gosh.

RE And. Yeah, we had four boys, six girls. My wife was a
teacher- she was a super woman. Boy, I'm telling you.
And school teacher, and I forgot the other one. Oh, I
know. Another guy and I was going to movies in
Montpelier and I- Jack Larrow- Jack Larrow run across
his girlfriend, then she's bound she's going to go and
so Jack says you, you should have someone. Well, I
told him I don't know of anyone. So he says I do. And
so got a hold of her and, yeah, she was- no she was a
very, very good person she-

JB So Jack Larrow introduced you.

RE Yeah.

JB I interviewed him too.

RE Yeah. Did you?

JB Yeah.

RE Yeah, well, Jack's alright. HE used to live up in East Warren down to the foot the hill of Prickly Mountain.

JB That's- that's what he said. Well, I guess his family's house burned when- right after they were married.

RE Yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, you've seen quite a few people over here then.

JB Well, slowly. But you said you did have photographs. REI've got them around somewhere but I- they may-

JB No, no hurry what I was going to say to you was, you know, I'm going to be working on this project for, you know, another six- well, till December.

RE Oh.

JB But I'm looking to sort of amass older materials copies of photographs.

RE Oh, gee well, up in East Warren- you- are you familiar up there?

JB A little bit.

RE You know where the new barn is the big house- farm house? As you come up from Warren.

JB NEAr-

RE It's one the left just before you get to the four corners.

JB Oh, just before-, yes I do.

RE That's where I was born and brought up.

JB Oh, is that right?

RE Yeah. And from the house- let's see- same's the house- farm house here there was another house here and another house here and the airport road here. YEAh, well, I can remember these two houses and I think I've got a picture of them standing.

JB OH, I'd love to, you know, at some- when they turn up. I'll leave you my number.

RE But I'll tell you what happened I- when I came home from the hospital I- twenty-third I stayed a while at my youngest daughter and then I moved into the- a trailer- one of the trailers down to the trailer park. And then up in my place I gave her and her husband twelve and a half acres and the old house to see me

through. And her husband- well, when he first come around I was at the house and the first two times he came around I kicked him out. And I told Roberta, I says he's no one for you. HE's a brutally type of a person. And so anyway they divorced final- the final was August nineteenth. And the valley reporter I had one but got to get some more if I can with her picture on the front and she's something about the walking deal or the running deal how far they run or something.

JB Marathon?

RE Yeah, a marathon or something like that. Her picture's one the front. But anyway so anyway they was in the process of divorce so Tom Doe his name is- Tom had to get out. And I was there and all of a sudden Roberta came to my room and threw- well,-

[4:79 end side two]

[side three starts at :25]

RE HE come and shout and holler at her and how he would beat and abuse and all this and that. And this particular Saturday he call her on a Saturday afternoon, that night around seven, seven-fifteen I

was in my bedroom and I heard this loud talk. So I got up and I went out and I says what in hell is all this loud talk about? Well, he says, we're just talking. I says well it's alright for you to talk but I says you cool down. And he hesitated a minute and he said you go along back to your bedroom. I says listen Tom Doe, I'm not going back to my bedroom. And I told him I says you're going to cool down. Well, he's got an temper so when he went out in the trailer he- there was a table, something like that and something's on it and he took his arm, brushed it down. Well he was out the door before I could get to him to talk to him again. And so I don't know. And I told Roberta, I says get a restraining order and keep him away from here. But she didn't. He kept- they got two dogs, he come back and get the dogs for a while and he- oh, that's alright, you can't hurt that. And well, anyway I told him I says Tom I says you know, I said right along that you two would never get along. I says I used to have a job, several jobs where I had to judge somebody about as soon as I caught them and then they was both chiseling on each other. So this boyfriend that she

had come in there- Grafton Smith, quick as I saw him I thought he was a- just a lazy sponger which that's just what he turned out to be.

JB Not only are you a pretty good judge at animals, pretty good judge of people.

RE Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yes. And so I- Grafton had a book there and they got a trailer there going to East Warren you look up in back and there's a kind of blue, light bluish one and he had a book there and well, come spring we're going to have some patios put on here and we're going to do some pruning. I thought to myself, boy you'll be gone before it comes to do any work. Which his mother lives in England, his father's out west, raises quarter horses I think. They'd separated. So, anyway Roberta had a girlfriend come there and stayed a week and I was talking with her girlfriend. She knew Grafton. She says he's just a lazy good for nothing, says he won't earn enough to make his own living and then he was coming there with Roberta and they had fancy meals like shark steak and salmon steak and all this and that for meals. And I- and that's another thing that you can tell- that I

judge people with when they'd get groceries he'd come in empty-handed, Roberta would be carrying them.

JB You look for the little signs I guess.

RE There were little things add to be quite a lot sometimes. That Tom, he turned out to be just what I thought he was. And, yeah, I must tell you about the nice work at the Middlebury Inn one time. Chores hell, he was a dentist down in west Rutland I think, his brother had a store in west Rutland. And so Joe and I, two bellhops running at the same time. Joe and I was running. So this car drove up and it was oh, I don't know, last of August, September. A kind of oldish couple you could see. So, it was Joe's- we called them fronts- it was his turn so he went out and so he old lady looked-. I stood by the door and opened the door when he came in with the luggage so this old lady looks up says get yourself down here and help this boy with all of this luggage. And I thought oh, boy and btu I didn't 'cause we knew- had an understanding between one another. So he checked them in, I opened the door. And so they checked in. After a while they came back down into the lobby and I told Joe you know

I think we got something on our hands, but you know what I'm going to do. I says I'm going to really plaster it on to that old lady. Which I did. They come down the stairs in the morning I'd get a daily paper and I'd pass it to them if they wanted it, if they didn't I'd put it back and I did really plaster it. And you know, when she left she left a ten dollar bill for each one of the bellhops and the deskclerk.

JB How nice.

RE But that would happen to be her way.

JB Yeah, I'll be darn.

RE Yeah.

JB Now when- when did you work at the Middlebury Inn? Was this before the war or-?

RE Yeah, yeah that was back in my younger day. YEAh. I went to work there as a waiter on the terrace.

JB At the Middlebury Inn.

RE Yeah, and then. Vitin Dicky was the manager and he was good manager. And so he says to me he says how about it would you like to be a bellhop. I says if there's more money. Well, he says, there is. So he put me on Bellhopping. Joe and I was teamed up. And that was

before the field house in Middlebury was built. And they used to have the formals and things at the Inn.

JB Oh.

RE Back then Joe and I used to be way upstairs, the third floor. And so when there's something like that Dicky would call us on and put the other two guys off. And one night there was a formal there- I forgot which it was- but anyway and he and I made twenty-one dollars each in just tips back then.

JB Wow.

RE But boy we was-

JB Then that was when about?

RE That was- oh, when was that? Well, I'll tell you what I had a ford- two-door Ford maroon color which was a thirty-six so that must have been thirty-eight, thirty-nine. Somewhere, something like that.

JB Yeah, the whole pay structure has changed today.

RE Oh, yeah.

JB Well, you must have seen huge changes in Warren.

RE Oh, yeah.

JB Or East Warren.

RE Up in where Sugarbush is, that was after- well, I tell

you before this. I- when I got out of the service I went to work for the unemployment service, they put me in Montpelier another- Pat Delvecio and I. Montpelier for training for the unemployment. Then they put me down to Bennington as Veterans' representative.

JB Oh, my gosh.

RE And back then that was when you couldn't get only about so much gas and this, that, and the other thing. So I quit there and came to Middlebury- to Brandon to the _____ [1:22] breeders association.

JB Uh-huh.

RE And my job there was final checking all the papers before they was mailed. I had two girls that the changes on typewriter. And then I- do to the deal in service I had to get out in the fresh air. So I told my wife that- came over to see my folks that says I'm going over to see this Arthur Mobus. Did you meet Warren Mobus in Warren yet?

JB I've heard about-

RE Well, it's his father. And his father's brother had the farm where Lavinsky was were the big barn burnt.

JB Uh-huh.

RE Yeah, that was Fred Mobus and that's where the Mobus family grew up. And so I went over and I says to Arthur I says well I says I come over to see if you want to sell your farm. He says I do. I ended up- I gave ninety-five hundred dollars for two hundred acres. Two horses, forty head of livestock and what machinery- Mobus never spent a sent to improve anything and that includes the buildings. There was a round barn there.

JB Oh, really.

RE Like what's on the Jostlen's farm. But it was in such bad shape I had it torn down.

JB When was that built do you figure?

RE Gee, I don't know.

JB That's interesting. I didn't know that.

RE Yeah, round barn there, and there was a horse barn, but the house had to be roofed and new plumbing. A big expense right off the bat. And with the family that I had we didn't have money enough to improve much afterwards. So, but my daughter has a house now so.

JB Well, did you live there for a long time or-?

RE Came there March fifteenth nineteen forty-six.

JB And stayed.

RE Yeah.

JB So you farmed there.

RE Yeah. And then as I say besides that dairy I took that job to skid logs with that horse and after that- before the milk bulk tanks came in there was the jugs in Barre where they had the real ice cream came into this area to pick up milk. And I told them I says you could have my milk providing I can have a job picking it up with my truck. And boy, those cans you know, about this high, forty quarts, two pounds to the quart and each can weighed twenty-five, twenty-eight pounds. And the truck was up like this. And Walter Lad in Barre used to bring in from another route. And I've seen him since. He says I don't know how you ever stood it as small as you are. So you see the cans and the milk was over a hundred pounds apiece.

JB How long did you do that for?

RE Oh, couple of years. Then I sold out to Rickets, Summer Rickets' husband for their son Klyde.

JB Uh-huh.

RE Yeah.

JB Alden Bedest.

RE Yeah, he used to. That was before my time.

JB And then Nelson Patch.

RE Nelson Patch for a long time he went to work for Herb Smith which lived in-. Yeah, Nelson Patch we have a trading post six-thirty to seven in the- no six-thirty to ten of seven now from Waterbury. Nelson Patch had a camper on sale. He lives in Warren.

JB Uh-huh. I talked with him.

RE Yeah. He- he was kind of upset when you take a customer away from him. Fact he gave me a shot against the wall one time. No, he- Nelson Patch married sister to Jess Cody.

JB And- and Don- Don Cody too who was Earl Fuller's son-in-law.

RE Yeah. Don Cody married Earl Fuller's daughter.

JB That's right, yes. Ruth.

RE YEAh, Ruth. Yeah.

JB Yeah and people have suggested I see Jess Cody- ah Coda I think. He's still alive right?

RE Yeah.

JB Would he be a good person to talk-

RE You know another thing just that makes me think about
Jess Cody and _____ [1:85] Kenyan and a few people.
These artificial smiles, watch out for them.

JB Okay.

RE Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, Jess Cody's got- his older brother
was Don and then I think Kenneth Cody lives just past
the opposite from the town hall in Warren village.
And- Kenneth Cody, then I think Jess Cody. Jess Cody
married Jack Laro's sister.

JB Oh.

RE Yeah. I'll get to talking I can think of a lot of
things.

JB Well, I was- I think it was Jess Coda or Don Coda or
all of their grandparents that lived on the mountain
when there was the mudslide. Did you ever hear about
that?

RE Could be, I'm not sure.

JB Or it may have been their great grandparents I'm not
sure which.

RE Yeah, Yeah. Oh, yeah gets your brain rolling you can
come up with a lot of things.

JB Yeah, that's what's good about talking for a while.

Did you ever go to Kitchen Junkettes and-

RE Back years ago they did have some but working my father we got exercise enough during the day so we didn't go to too many.

JB I can imagine.

RE Yeah. Yeah. Pitching hay. Yeah. Well, here's another thing, just south of the new barn from there down to the stone wall we used to rake with a dump rake. I got skin cancer from too much sun. Anyway so-. Anyway my father had this Bay horse that he got from Harry Harvey in Waterbury, he was on a milk route in Boston the horse was. Well, I used to rake down in back and down again and I'd tumbled ahead of him- put tumblers here leave a way- and talked to that horse, he'd come up through alone. And then I'd go down in back and back down again then that made about a little hay but you had a pitcher then lift it up onto the wagon. And think of these stone walls they used to build for fences, now electric wire. So much different. People worked back then. You ask a lot of young people to work like that today they'd pass you up. Yeah.

JB Well, in many ways you must have- when you changed

over to tractors you must have missed working with horses.

RE I really did. To this day I'd prefer horses. Yeah and over toward the airport you go down a hollow and up a little bit and I know- way up in the field they put on a Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. was there some pictures and they wanted a scene of a barn raising like they used to have years ago. And I took two of my horses over there and I had to put on a- they had some older jackets to wear and things and my pictures are down in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. so they tell me.

JB Is that right.

RE Yeah.

JB I'll be darn.

RE Yeah.

JB Of the barn raising?

RE Well, they had just a few timbers hitched the two horses onto it and skid them around and things like that. It wasn't much of a- I wouldn't say much of a scene so that you'd know what it really was. So.

JB Did you use to move houses too? Didn't they move

houses with oxen?

RE Oh, yeah. You know where the Post Office out in Warren village?

JB Yes.

RE The first house past the Post Office-

JB Yes.

RE was moved from down- you know where the Smed bridge in Warren village?

JB Yes.

RE Well, let's see now.

JB Is that Thelma Neil's house?

RE This would be right in Warren village across- on this side I think it was- the lady that runs the store- Carol, What is her name?

JB I don't know.

RE owns the house, she lives there. And across the road there's a kind of a bandstand. Where that bandstand sits that house just past the office- Post Office was sitting there.

JB I'll be darn.

RE My father, Bing Jones which was Robert's father- no let me see Jones lumber company it was and Bing Jones-

Bob Jones' father, Bobby's dead now he used to be the Postmaster there and Bing Jones, he was the RFD man. And I had a pair of horses I think it was six horses pulled that building up to where it is.

JB That must have been quite a sight.

RE They had big, big round rollers, you know, they put under, and skids under the house and then the rollers-skids on the rollers. But heard my father- this pair of Red-roam mares was one they used to use on the roller. Back in the twenties he gave seven hundred and fifty dollars for that pair. That was real big money then. They used to be- it was H.M. Farnum in Montpelier going toward North hill up top the hill there and now it's- Stanley farm it- well, I think Stanley and Hector both are dead now. H.M Farnum was Horace Farnum. Horse dealer. Had him come in from the west on the freight train and that's where my father bought them.

JB He was a big horse dealer wasn't he? Farnum?

RE Yes he was. Yeah, they used to- I've heard- I've never haven't see it but I've heard them tell about take the horses from the train downstreet and hitch one horse

behind the other, hitch the lead rope to the front horses' tails and that's how they used to get them up to the stable.

JB Is that right. Well, Earl Fuller said that he had worked for Farnum. And I think- well, he said that he made a trip out west with him once. I don't know whether-

RE That could be, course those Fuller's are all- you can't depend on them too much. And some people thought this Lauren was lot better but I told them I says they all- they're related. Come from the same place.

JB Well, I was told today that Lauren sold the same piece of property twice.

RE His brother Claren (who was the ripper). There used to be a fellow by the name of COburn- Coburn's market in Montpelier. He sold them a pair of oxen- come to find out he stole them out of somebodies pasture.

JB What happened?

RE I never- I don't remember.

JB [laughing] Gosh.

RE Yeah, like Earl stealing his father's cow and having it in his own barn. But you know, I got to say Claren

treated me alright. And Earl treated me good too. So you can't say too much against them.

JB And I guess Floyd is still around.

RE Who?

JB Floyd.

RE Floyd, he's over in Randolph. I have a lifetime membership- well oh, what is it? Charter member of the Mad River Driving and Riding club. Floyd Fuller does. Well, he wanted me to go to a meeting up here to the Laro farm. A couple of people mentioned it twice to me so I went up and wanted me for this and that and the other thing and so. They had Floyd there and I thought well, knowing the family if they're going to have Floyd there for the- one of the leaders why I'll forget it which I did. I never been since. I guess if I'd started telling this or that or the other thing he'd- I'm sure he would have fouled me up so. But. NO I never have run across any horse that I have not used. My father taught me how to shoe horses- my- we had this little Morgan mare, my brother he went to started to Norwich University back then had horses and the freshmen could not use the government horses. So

my father bought this little Morgan mare and boy I'm telling you just like that and she would- boy if you get onto her- course you got to have your foot in the one strap you better be ready to- 'cause she was gone. And they took her over there for polo in Norwich she do super polo pony. And boy, and we raised some colts from her. And when I was to Middlebury Inn there was a guy came along wanted go- know about the Morgan farm, Weybridge. And then I told him that my father had a couple of Morgan, _____ [3:54] Morgans and so he said he'd like to see them. Well, anyway I sold those two to this man, he was from Plymouth, New Hampshire.

JB Uh-huh.

RE So we delivered them over there. Yeah, he preferred those two from the ones in Weybridge.

JB That's a nice complement.

RE Yeah, yeah. Well, they was. They was real well bred, built very attractive. So.

JB So your father trained horses for other people as well.

RE No.

JB No.

RE Just his own. But what I was going to tell you. In this Morgan mare my brother had over Northfield there she got to banging her rear ankles, made spots that big around.

JB Yes.

RE So. We took her to the Fullers and they said they could stop it but they never did. They even filed off the hooves. And made them smooth which that was good. But then I brought her down to up here there was Clifford Derky, he was in service and he used to do the shoeing. And he says well, he says I'm going to tell you I used to bring her down for him to shoe her and he says no, he says I'm going to trim her feet different. He says I'm going to leave the inside, not take any off from this but take it here so it tip the ankles down on both of them. And then he says I'm going to instead of plates on the feet, he says I'm going to put corks on. So he put the corks instead of right in front he put it round here. And so when she picked up her foot- feet went around like that. He stopped her. So oh what is this guy who shoes horses? Anyway he lives out in Montpelier. He- he's got the

super rig for his- rig made a purpose for people that shoe horses. They place instead of having a forge and things run by gas and that's a place _____ [4:03] square.

JB Uh-huh.

RE Puts it in to on that gas and heats it red hot and then shapes it up on an anvil. So I up to King which is a lawyer, he and his wife are both lawyers here in town. And so I went up there and I had some hoof nippers and things I wanted to sell I didn't need, wouldn't ever use. So why got it, well me think I can't think of names. But anyway went up and they had a horse, a gray one on the each anklet had spots like that where they'd hit it. And so I- that funny. But anyway I told him I says that horse is really interfered sometime. He says yeah. I says you know how to stop that don't you? He says well, he says there's several different ways. And I told him about what I had learned from this Clifford Derky. He says I never heard of that before. Well, I says try it, see it works. So I guess it must have worked.

JB Yeah, you know, the thing that is interested me is

that the old ways passed down often have very simple solutions that nobody thinks about.

RE That's right, oh yeah.

JB And so of course that's also what I'm interested in.

RE Well, look at medication. See the old- well, herbs and things that they used to use. And like you have the pneumonia, what was it a plaster of paris they put on your chest. And I'm telling you I've got nine kinds of medicine that I'm taking there. Some of them are three, four times a day. And I don't know. As I told-

JB Did your- did your mother used collect herbs and stuff?

RE No, she used to have this- was it mustard they used to have for plaster of paris?

JB Mustard plaster, yeah.

RE Yeah, things like that.

JB And- And sulfur in the springtime.

RE Well, like on my father cattle had this barn itch they call it. My father used to take sulfur and lard, mix it together, and rub it all over. That was a cure. Now you have to have some special medication, costs a lot of money. Yeah.

JB But that worked well for the barn itch.

RE Yeah, yeah. Oh, yeah it's- lot of things you can- even to this day like well, I carry the nitro pills, got one here one under my pillow, one in the bathroom, and where's the forth one? Anyway I got four of them. So. One night I think I took six of them, I had these pains. So my doctor says you know you shouldn't take over three. I says well, I says I did and I'm still here so I- but I says it stopped the pain each time so. But some people can endure so much more than others. You hear about this little baby being born without a brain?

JB Oh, yeah.

RE It died you know.

JB I heard that, yeah.

[4:79 end side three]

[side four starts at :01]

RE They're the lack of communication. I really do with this living alone what can you see? I've asked for when one of those units get in to- then you can look down and see cars going back and forth, think about what can you see here? And you know there's been a

deer hanging around here.

JB Is that right?

RE Yeah. I got some pictures if I get them developed. One morning I saw these tracks.

JB Uh-huh.

RE Walking along like this and it was deer tracks. HE'd have to been a buck and big horns they would have hit the building they was that close.

JB Now did you used to do a lot of hunting?

RE Not a- no, not a lot, but I done some.

JB And tracking, any tracking?

RE Yeah, I remember when I was real young I'd done some trapping, I caught a skunk. And I caught one I went to school before I changed my clothes so the teacher sent me home. [laughter] I didn't want to be too late to school but-. Yeah.

JB I think it was Alden Betis talked about riding a trapper's sled down.

RE Oh, yes, well, I was going to school up in East Warren there where the store is we used to go up on the mountain of my folks and I said to Travis and I was- several got on it and come down the mountain. We had

to plan it so it not be there when teams was crossing the mountain. But boy, we used to come down to beat the dickens. There was these- they called them flexible flyers. Yeah.

JB You could at least steer a flexible flyer.

RE Yeah, yeah. oh, yeah. Well you could at least drive a sleds one sat in the front and brakes your feet and had a rope here to pull it one way and another. Yeah.

JB Well, I think it was Alden Betis said he took John Spaulding on a ride, he would never ride on another one. [laughter]

RE Yeah. Yeah, oh, yeah. IT's- well, I tell you I've seen the- down to the hospital lot of people that get sick, it's all up here though. They worry themselves sick. I tell you another one I had a cardiogram down to the VA back two, three, or four years ago. And I just got in the chair and they was putting these cups on me, you know, and this guy came in, I see that he kind of a nervous fellow. And so I says to the technician I says this the way they wire you up for the electric chair? [laughter] His eyes come right out.

JB Oh, dear. Now were you born home?

RE I guess must be because back years ago they didn't take anybody to hospital. It was local doctors come around.

JB And used to be usually a neighborhood woman that would come in and help.

RE Well, did you ever meet Merle and Mildred Caffin?

JB No. But that's- Mildred is Mrs. Brooks' daughter right?

RE So is Mildred.

JB Yeah.

RE Those were the only two daughters. But anyway I think it was Marjory and Mildred's great grandmother, or grandmother, one or the other, used to be around and I know I can remember her being there. And I think maybe she was there at the time. Yeah, well, there used to be a veterinary, doctor Welch, came into this area, veterinary. He used to drive a pair of horses from Northfield over here to doctor animals. Yeah. So. Oh yeah, it's-. Yeah I had my horses- I had, let's see belong to Belgium Breeders' association, I had some registered ones and- and Humane Society call me two different times so. They run out, but they had a place

they could run in or up into the woods, go into the thick pines and, plenty of water and things and so the last time I asked the lady at the Humane Society who it was, course she wouldn't tell me. Well, I says I'll tell you what I will do, And I want you to do it, get this person, you come up and I'll show you my horses. I says and I'll tell you how you can tell whether they have good care or not. I says if their hair is smooth, lays down the way it should they're getting good care, and if they're in good flesh. And if they're the other way and thin you have a right to complain. But they never came near.

JB You mean your horses had run away and they were found by somebody who reported them?

RE No. My horses was running out and they was complaining about them being outdoors in the wintertime.

JB Oh, my heavens.

RE YEAh. But you know, there's a lot of people that has followed my example here in the valley, let their horses being out. Yeah.

JB Well, they get the big heavy coats in the winter.

RE Yeah, yeah. And I used to have Dave Sellous from

Morrisville, he was a real good horse doctor. And I told him about being complained and he says well, he says I'll tell you if you want me to he says I'll write a letter and he says your horses are some of the best condition of any horses I take care of. So. But. Jealousy. Jealousy, I'm telling you jealousy cause an awful lot of trouble and a lot of bitterness. Yeah. You get a little bit like well, in ever town there's the jealousy among different town offices and the ones that run for town office. Like when President campaigning here like Clinton here, see, what they're digging up about him now.

JB Yeah.

RE I think Bush is going to get it.

JB I don't think they've got anybody to run against him.

I mean 'cause-

RE Brown hurt himself by not coming to Vermont when he promised. But when he did here he got a good turnout, got a good backing.

JB Yeah, yeah. Well, I think he'll win today.

RE Yeah. Oh, I think Brown is going to get ahead of Clinton 'cause things said about Clinton is going to

hurt him. But, well,-

JB Okay.

RE Well, Bush was a veteran.

JB Ah-ha.

RE And I guess- take them out and see what they say
inside. Got one for three years on my birthday.

JB Is that right? A warmest congratulations to you on
your birthday, you have our heartfelt good wishes. How
wonderful! And you get it every year on your birthday?

RE Last three years.

JB I thought you only got it when you were a hundred.

RE Well, I'm sure I'll never get one when I get there. I
don't expect to get there.

JB How did you happen to get these?

RE I don't know.

JB Isn't that nice.

RE Well, that's- I think they got- got my name through
the VA to White River.

JB Uh-huh. And you started getting them on a particular
birthday?

RE Soon after the birthday.

JB Golly.

RE Oh, yeah, that's something, that's another thing,
that's-

JB _____ [1:00 both talking at the same time] for
drivers, sing while driving.

RE I had some of them run off and I'd given some to the
State Police, which I know Bob Davis and a few other
guys.

JB At forty-five miles per hour, Highways are happyways.
At fifty-five miles per hour I am but a stranger here,
heaven is my home. At sixty-five miles per hour nearer
my God to thee. At seventy-five miles per hour when
the road is called up yonder I'll be there. At eighty-
five miles per hour Lord I'm coming home. [laughter]

RE Yeah, I got to get some more run off 'cause different
people have mentioned that they'd like one.

JB Oh, that's terrific.

RE Oh, my youngest daughter which I was staying with up
there in East Warren she graduate- she was a baby, she
was only five years old when my wife died.

JB Oh.

RE And she's- let me take them here. She graduated from

high school in three years and now she's got a job at the Chittenden bank here in Waitsfield.

JB Oh, in Waitsfield.

RE And you have to see her before you make any loans.

JB Gosh.

RE She's really done well.

JB Wow, that's terrific.

RE She's got- but she got rid of that husband which- and her name I see on that picture in the letter she's got her maiden name.

JB Oh, yeah. Oh that's nice.

RE Her husband Dean- no Burt Cameron-

JB Uh-huh.

RE They used to live up in Sugarbush area where the- oh, what is the name of that restaurant?

JB Oops. The Common Man or-

RE Common Man, yeah. Her husband's folks used to live there. They had a farm and I had- when Dean was logging for Rice in Granville they wanted more logs so I went took a team of horses up there and worked my horses up there. I kept them up there to that what is the restaurant.

JB At- at- yeah.

RE Yeah. Yeah.

JB Yeah, there were a bunch of farms I guess up there.

RE What's that?

JB There were a bunch of farms up there.

RE Oh, yeah. Irish was up in there, Cameron, people by the name of Brooks, Long, Roy Long that used to have the Warren village store, and Mara long. Oh, God, I-

JB And then there was another one Warner Corlous.

RE Corlous he lived up in where the golf course is.
Walter Corlous.

JB Walter Corlous.

RE And then he had a son,

JB Warner.

RE Warner Corlous.

JB Who is down in Brownsville.

RE That's right.

JB And somebody suggested I talk with him.

RE Yeah.

JB Would he be good?

RE I think so. 'Cause there was no sign of a golfcourse back when they- and they had some-, well, I must tell

you Walter Corlous and Clessin Corlous- ah Clessin Irish father. Corlous had a pair of black horses, Roy had a- Roy Irish had a pair of bay horses. And they always figured that- each one of them figured they had the best team. And, yeah, so. But the Corlous' really took- had some jersey cows they was good caretakers to animals. Yeah.

JB Well, I guess there were a number of people interested in horse racing too weren't there in-

RE Some of them, yeah. But there wasn't all these really high-blooded ones.

JB Just more low-

RE Had a job out there was just the kind that carry the blanket for the others. Yeah, I was a town lister. There was Earl Fuller and Clessin Irish's grandfather on his mother's side Richardson. And so I got along with Earl, Earl was- I always got along with him pretty good. And anyway we's listers so come time to- they used to go around and appraise farmers' animals so. Richardson, he was a kind of a little bit bitter side. So he says we're going to send you up to Corlous' and Earl says yeah, he says you know why he's

sending you up there? 'Cause he says he has a hard time with them. So I went up and took the list and about noon, nothing to do but stay for lunch with them (or dinner then) and- which I did. So I went back down and Richardson said what took you so long? Well, I says they insisted me to stay for dinner with them. Well, I can't believe that he says. And Earl started laughing away he did, you know. HE says well, Elly, he says he wasn't such a old, miserable as you are. And course that didn't set well so they had a little argument then. [JB laughs] Anyway I stayed in then- yeah, they was good. Their animals looked real good and their horses was good. _____ [1:79] had a pair of black ones, Warner, he had pair of red roam ones which was a fancy pair. Yeah. Oh, yeah. You know, anybody do anything that some other people can pick up to hurt them they pick it up and hurt them. And everybody hears about it. But I believe when you do something good it should be known too.

JB Absolutely.

RE Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, my father represented the town in twenty-seven. There was a fellow by the name of

George Long. It takes somebody to push things a little for you, give him a start. Well, he happened to represent the town. Yeah.

JB Now was that part of the whole Long family?

RE No. Do you know where Jess Cody lives?

JB In East Warren or Warren?

RE Warren village.

JB Warren village.

RE Well, you know, the road that goes onto what they call Fuller Hill?

JB Uh-huh.

RE Well, you go up that road and it's that big old house on the- wait a minute- yeah.

JB That's where Don Cody used to live.

RE Jess Cody's- why, his oldest sister Martin lived there but that's where this George Long lived.

JB Uh-huh.

RE And this Robert Goves wife who was Lee, a long George Long's daughter.

JB I see.

RE Oh, God I can go rattle on for hours.

JB Well, you're terrific.

RE Geesum.

JB I sure-

RE Jane Beck, huh?

JB Yeah.

RE My oldest daughter's name is Jane.

JB Is that right?

RE And I'll tell you about that. Does you good get this over your system. Anyway my wife wanted to have- come up with the middle name. My mother's name was MAbel, her mother's is Leena, so I told- my wife says how about Mabelleena for a middle name? And so.

JB That's neat.

RE But Jane doesn't like it. [laughter]

JB You said there was a blacksmith's shop across from the-

RE Well, you- when you go down the airport road there used to be a house on the right which my brother tore down and just below that used to be a blacksmith shop. Yeah. East Warren used to be the village before water power.

JB I- I know.

RE Yeah. Yeah.

JB Now that was where the town really was first settled.

RE Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, my father- my mother was- what was she? Anyway she- my father's folks, I guess it must have been his grandfather or- I think it was his grandfather, came from Scotland into Canada. I think it's Quebec, and from Quebec down into Bristol and what's the other towns over there?

JB STarksboro?

RE Yeah. Starksboro and Bristol.

JB Lincoln.

RE And then my grandfather Joseph Elliott, and his brother Ed Elliott came over and settled into East Warren.

JB From across Lincoln mountain.

RE Yeah.

JB I'll be darn.

RE Yeah. You know, I tried- well, I've given up now but, I've tried to have them put a tunnel through Lincoln mountain.

JB Makes sense.

RE Which it could be done, gee whiz, down south in different places they put tunnels through and where I

had it spotted out you go up this side of Lincoln mountain, you look of to the right and the ledge comes straight down. Get over to the other side and off this way a little bit there's another- tunnel right through there and it would not be a fourth of a mile long.

JB Is that- you must have spent some time in the mountains then.

RE Well, I used- when I worked at Middlebury Inn I used to cross back and forth there. In fact I took flying lessons up in Bristol. Seven dollars and half an hour. I was just ready to solo flight when I quit. Run out of funds.

JB Well, the-

[2:47 tape stopped]