

Guy Livingston/TC1992.0037
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

GL Guy Livingston
JB Jane Beck
Place Waitsfield, VT
Date 04/09/1992

GL [starts at :26]

GL I recorded that maybe right here that-

JB Now let me see which-

GL I won't give anything except the last verse or so in
or on the tape. But that's what it reads like it's the
last one.

JB This is the railroad song.

GL Well, I don't know what the name of it is. My mother
used to sing it and she'd do it all through but this
is all I can remember of it.

JB Great.

GL I wrote down what _____ [:32] did and when you get
done I'll if you want I'll try to get so you get the
tune.

JB Oh, yeah, I'd love it.

GL I think it's on the tape but I don't remember.

JB Well, let's do it again anyway.

GL Don't know if I got the tune either.

JB I bet you do.

GL I know as I know got to start out-, maybe I'll get used to these after a while. [JB laughs]

JB Sure you will.

GL Let's see, [he starts singing the following at :37] l-o-o-k spell look now I am looking all the time and spelling like a book. [stops singing] Then it goes on. This I don't know how it goes, but-. [starts singing the following] There is this awful crash the horses go to kingdom come the wagon goes to smash and I am hoisted seven yards above the tallest ash. It's not the pain nor taint the loss of that there team of mine but stranger how I'd like to know the rest of adder Sign. That's about the way it goes and-.

JB That's nice.

GL And here's a- some of these couple of them are what I had made up and some of them- I catch a verse here and a verse there of there and some of them aren't completed some have another verse and I don't know what it is. I could write it down and you know the ones that missing- you get that and maybe someone

else'll know it.

JB Yeah.

GL Let's see, now that's the last one.

JB Now when would your mother sing that one? The one you call the railroad.

GL Oh, I don't know when I was down in my teens or something like that. And let's see there's the Prisoner song, maybe you know that one.

JB No, now what's this one? And again your mother sang the prisoner song.

GL Yeah. And I knew that much of it anyway.

JB Well sing it then.

GL It's right here.

JB Well, sing it.

GL Well, I got it on tape- you want me to sing it?!

JB Yes.

GL Well, I have it on tape course but-, see-. [:57 starts singing the following] meet me tonight in the moonlight. Meet me tonight all alone. For I have a sad story to tell you. It's a story that's never been told. I'll be taken to the new jail tomorrow leaving my poor darling alone. With the cold prison walls all

around me and my head on a pillow of stone. Oh, I have
a grand ship on the ocean all mounted in silver and
gold and before my poor darling will suffer that will
be anchored and sold. [stops singing :67]

JB That's nice.

GL And this is- I got- I put all these on tape.

JB That's okay, I'll listen to them again. You sound so-

GL Well, some of these I don't know there's several
verses you know. It's just part of it.

JB Now this one is the- {tramp?}

GL I don't know what tis. As I said most of these titles
I don't know I used to here the songs but I don't know
the title. [:73 starts singing the following] Let me
set down a moment. A stone has got into my shoe. Now
don't come in here cussing. I haven't done nothing to
you. Down in the Leeha valley me and my people grew. I
was a village blacksmith yes, and a good on too. [:78
stops singing] There's some more here but- [:79 starts
singing the following] Nelly was just sixteen. She was
the prettiest creature the valley had ever seen. [:80
stopped singing] there's more of course and- [:81
starts singing the following] Most of them were

farmers and none of them suited her. And I'll hunt 'til I find the rascal (or what ever it is) if it take 'til the judgement day. [:83 stopped singing] And that's the way that one ends. And this verse- I don't know too much of this, there's several verses to start with and then there's more in between. And it's the burglar getting an old-maid's room.

JB Oh, that's great.

GL Maybe- probably got to eight there somewhere. I- all I know probably a couple lines- a verse and the rest I don't. Where he got in the house and that and then he went and old-maid's room. [:90 starts singing the following] HE didn't know it was an old-maid's room or he wouldn't have been there at all. [:91 stops singing] And there's some more verses [:91 starts singing again] She took out her teeth and one glass eye. The hair from off her head. The burglar had just seventeen fists as he looked from under the bed. From under the bed that burglar crept. The old maid wasn't afraid at all [:94 stops singing] and anyway she grabbed him and pulled a pistol out of her drawer and said at last I found me a man. Then the last verse is.

[1:97 starts singing again] She said you have to marry me or I'll blow off the top of your head. The burglar looked at her teeth and one glass eye. He had no chance to scoot. He looked at her hair from off her head and said madam for God's sake shoot. [1:00 stops singing. laughter] That's the way it ended up. I don't know- I'd like to know all that if you ever get it.

JB I've heard one about a- the- a young guy marrying a young woman and then they go to bed and she takes out her glass eye and she takes off her finger nails and she takes off her legs and she's ninety years old.

GL Well, this one is- I'm going through the window and I think it's- then he gets into the bedroom- I guess she was coming and he gets under the bed and then he watches all that. And when he tries to get away she gets him anyway.

JB Oh, is this another version of the same one?

GL No this is another one it's only a couple verses I know, I don't know the rest of it. It says the-
_____ [1:11 he's mumbling] this fellow gets married and his bride makes some biscuits and he says a- [1:14 starts singing the following] The green

grass grew all around all around and the green grass
grew all around. [1:15 stopped singing] then there's
some other verses and said- [1:15 starts singing
again] The biscuits, John could not digest, was laid
away with John to rest. And the green grass grew all
around all around and the green grew all around. Each
little bird in the treetop high said oh, dear John
good-bye good-bye and the green grass grew all around
all around and the green grass grew all around. [JB
laughs] And this is another one I don't know what the
name- none of them- most of them I don't know the
names of.

JB Yeah.

GL 'Bout this fellow that meets this girl I don't know- a
dance or a party or something and he wants to ask if
he can call on her and she tells him whether he can or
not and then there's a verse or so after this. He ends
up marrying the girl anyway so he don't have to call
on the girl no more. Anyway- this part says she says
[1:27 starts singing the following] Don't call in the
morning or in the afternoon. Never call in the evening
for that will be too soon. Don't call in the morning

and never call at night. You can call at any other time and then you'll be alright.

JB But she married him anyway.

GL Yeah. He, well she had it so that he calls at noon the next day that's the way she worded it, see. It says something about she's pleased that he took the joke so well. She invites him for Sunday dinner. And this- all I know is just this short one of this. It's just a- and it's a- well it's about a little girl catching a little boy kissing and another little girl and she likes the boy so that she's put out about it. And that's all I remember- all I remember really is the chorus. [1:38 starts singing the following] Smarty, smarty, smarty thought you had a party. You'll be sorry when you get caught, don't forget what the teacher taught. I'm going to tell your mother just see if you don't care. Your nothing but a smarty cat so there, there, there. [1:43 stopped singing]

JB You remembered a lot.

GL Huh?

JB You remembered a lot.

GL I know but they only parts though and that's what

burns me up.

JB Yeah.

GL I- probably they got that one.

JB No, let's hear it.

GL Huh?

JB Let's hear it.

GL [1:47 starts singing again] Way down in the meadow
where the lily first blows where the wind from the
mountain ruffles the rose. This fond Avalina is a
sweet little dove. The pride out of the valley, the
girl that I love. Dear Avalina, sweet Avalina. My love
for you will never, never die though I am fated to
marry her never my love for you will never, never die.
She's fair like a rose, like a lamb she is meek. She
never requires any paint on her cheek. In long
graceful curls hangs a wreath of black hair. She never
requires perfume or {redare? 1:58} Dear Avalina sweet
Avalina my love for you will never, never die. Though
I am fated to marry her never my love for her will
never, never die. Avalina and I one bright night in
June went walking all alone by the light of the moon.
The planets all shone for the heavens were clear and I

felt around the heart tremendously queer. Dear
Avalina, sweet Avalina my love for you will never,
never die. Dear Avalina, sweet Avalina my love for you
will never, never die. Three years are gone by and I
have not a dollar. Avalina still lives in the green
grass {yalla? 1:171}. Though I am fated to marry her
never I sworn that I'll love her for ever and ever.
Dear Avalina, sweet Avalina, my love for you will
never, never die. Dear Avalina, sweet Avalina, my love
for you will never, never die. [1:77 stopped singing]
I think some of that I got one line or so off from
what it really was in that chorus there.

JB Was this one of your mother's favorites that you
remember the whole thing?

GL Well, I don't know. I happen to remember it. Sometimes
I sing it a few times myself if it isn't too far
between I remember some of it. Most of this I didn't
sing I just listened to my mother sing. Of course I
guess I was the one that did the most singing or
something of that more than my brothers or sisters.
Mother had a lot of nice old records that she- she
give them away. I got some of the ones that wasn't any

good, but my sister, she got most of them and then she had a fire and lost the- all the good ones. And mine wasn't worth keeping really.

JB What was your mother's favorite?

GL I don't know. She just sang different ones just how the mood happened to hit her. And this is something about the girl seeing a picture on the wall. You probably- this probably come too and this is only part of it too. Something about-

JB What's the story behind that. She saw a-

GL Oh, it's about her father putting a different picture on the wall instead of her mother's picture. It's right here do you want it?

JB Yeah.

GL Well, this isn't the- well, I don't have the first line or so but- Her father asking her- [1:95 starts to sing the following] Tell me why you're crying. Can't you see it pains your papa so every day for you things I'm buying. [1:98 stopped singing] And that's another line or so. [1:98 starts singing again] Then she said I know you are the dearest and the sweetest papa of them all but if you love me dearly you will tell me

truly who's that lady's picture on the wall? There's another lady in my mamma's frame. There's another lady who's smile is not the same. There's another lady I know you're not to blame. But there's another picture in my mamma's frame. [2:07 stopped singing] I'm not sure of this one either that the- I think you probably have it. I put mother and son 'cause it's one listed there but I don't know if it is or not.

JB Oh, yeah, I do.

GL It used to be my uncle's favorite. I think it come out in the late twenties early thirties my uncle Jim-. 'Course he lived out there in- huh?

JB Is this the one that went to the Klondike? Your uncle Jim?

GL No, he's the one who's the contractor up in Toledo. Oh, I think I was going to get you new slip on the bank properties out there.

JB Oh.

GL Now this might not be just right but it's fairly close. [2:18 starts to sing the following] So you're going to leave the old home Jim, today you're going

away. you're going among those city folks to dwell. So spoke a mother to her son one warm September day, we'll miss you but you know we'll wish you well. She spoke these words and then she said good-bye (or somewhere in there). If sickness overtakes you and old companions shake you and you find yourself left all alone, if friends you haven't any, in your pocket's not a penny remember you have a mother waiting here at home- [2:27 stops singing] like I said I haven't got it right. [2:28 starts singing again] Ten years later to the village came a stranger no one knew. He step was hauled and ragged clothes he wore. The little children laughed at him as down the lane he walked. Alas he stopped before the cottage door. He gently knocked, no sound he heard, at first he thought her dead. And then he heard the password known to him. Alas our prayers are answered and they sent us home our Jim [2:36] I don't think it ends quite right, it did end funny, even the song something about they sent us home our Jim and ended something like that. I remember it was a funny ending. These are just part of some- I don't- some songs. I don't remember too much

of it. One of my- I call it Black hills [2:41 starts singing the following] Keep away I say, keep away while you can. Keep away from the city they call the shy in. Not a rag on their backs in their pockets no bills but still they strike out for those very black hills. [2:46 stopped singing] I didn't put shy in down- I wasn't sure of my spelling. Another one this is just part of it too. So of these are just parts I remember. They weren't always my mother, I'd pick them up other places somebody I'd hear 'em singing it or something. Some go way back. I'll see- [2:51 starts singing again] Sally was my pride and joy. Sally was my baby. Sally should have been a boy but Sally was a lady. The other night my Sally died. Sally was my baby. Hung my head and how I cried. For Sally was a lady. [2:58 stopped singing] Well that first one I didn't into tune very much I tell you that. And there's some more to this one too. It's kind of a drinking song I guess. [2:62 starts singing] I'll drink with you or I'll drink alone. I'll drink from silver or I'll drink from stone. I drink when I'm cold or I'll drink when I'm dry. And I'll drink with any

fella 'til the day I die. I drink with my gal when I gave her a ring. I'll drink with a person or I'll drink with a king. I'll drink with a judge when my term is done. And I'll drink with Mr. Deadman when my time has run. [2:69 stopped singing] And there's more to that too.

JB You know I heard the great story the other day about was it Tom and Betty Egan? Have you ever heard that story?

GL No.

JB Where they were an Irish couple that lived over in Warren. And-

[tape was stopped at 2:73 then restarted]

GL So- he's out in Toledo, and he's about four blocks from where I lived- he lived up on Cherry street. I lived on Walden Avenue and there was- had an old colored fellow who he's up- and jobs were almost impossible to get during the depression but he had the job of the clean the funeral home up at night. He's around and clean it up and had one of the corpses strapped down well the strap broke and it set up in the coffin. The colored fellow see him and they had a

glass door something like we got here and he went right through it and never even noticed the door.

[they both laugh] And he quit right there, they couldn't get him to go back inside the building at all he was so scared. They said he was almost white, and he was a colored man he was so scared.

JB Oh, dear.

GL Well this is one that Oh, I heard years ago but when it originated was supposed to been the- over in India and Calcutta and there was some British troops under siege by Indians or something and someone wrote this song. I said it- someone said it had to be the English something that gets- something as dreary as this one was. [They laugh] Well, it says that right in that book. I happened to- I hadn't looked in that for years and I found it a while ago and I put it away and it took quite a while before I found it. I had it down there I got a trunk full of stuff upstairs I'll get around later on and I might have some more stuff in that 'cause it goes back fifty years or more.

JB Right, gee.

GL But this is probably- probably heard it a lot several

other times.

JB Nope, I haven't.

GL I call it- I don't know what the name of it was but I said Samuel _____ is dead. [3:09 starts singing the following] The mist on the glass is congealing tis the hurricane's icy breath. And the _____ [3:11] of feeling is clasping the hands of death. The brightest have gone before us the dullest are left behind. Here's to the bores that bore us, a drink to whatever we find. Now stand by your glasses steady this world is a world full of lies. Here's to the dead already dead and here's to the next man that dies. [3:21 stopped singing] This one has a lot of verses to it but I only know two, three of them and it goes back a long time. I heard it way back when I was young and I didn't hear it from my mother I heard it somewhere else. I call it Jack of diamonds. And the- you want me to sing it?

JB Yeah.

GL [3:29 starts singing] Jack diamonds, Jack diamonds I know you of old. You rob my poor pockets of silver and gold. You cheat me, you beat me, you bend my downfall.

You trick me and scorn me but I love you for all. If a sea was a whiskey and I was a duck I'd dive to the bottom and take a big sup. If a sea was a whiskey and I was a loon I'd dive to the bottom and start a salon. Jack of diamonds, Jack of diamonds I know you of old. You rob my poor pockets of silver and gold. You cheat me, you beat me, you bend my downfall. You trick me and scorn me but I love you for all. Rye whiskey, rye whiskey, rye whiskey I cry. For a drink of rye whiskey I think I would die. If a river was whiskey that flowed from my still, sure I trade you a gallon for a five dollar bill. Jack of diamonds, Jack of diamonds, I know you of old. You rob my poor pockets of silver and gold. You cheat me, you beat me, you bend my downfall. You trick me and scorn me but I love you for all. [3:56 stopped singing] I went and had my plane I took a card, the Jack of diamonds and placed it on the thing and I said it robbed my poor pockets too. [laughs] Well, this last flight is anonymous. Way back _____ [3:61 he isn't speaking clearly] I see it somewhere. It was over fifty years ago and it's on flying. [3:64 starts singing] When the

last long flight is over and happy landings past my altimeter tells me- altimeter tells me the crack-up's come at last. I'll point her nose for the ceiling and I gave my crate the gun. I'll open her up and I'll let her zoom for the airport of the sun. The great god of flying men will look at me sort of slow as I stow my ship in the hanger on the field where fliers go. Then I'll look up on his face- the almighty flying boss whose wingspread fills the heavens from Orion to the cross. [3:78 stops singing]

JB Now, you learned that as child?

GL Huh?

JB Did you learn that as a child?

GL Well,- no I-

JB It was after you were already interested in flying.

GL Oh, yeah I was in my teens. That was back in the thirties. A lot of- some of these are back in the thirties. This one is a World War I thing and there's other's in there.

JB Uh-huh.

GL But I copied it down a long time ago. I call it Dying aviator but I don't know what the name of it was it

didn't have it in here but there are several others in here.

JB Uh-huh.

GL And one, two of them tell what tune to use to play I don't even know what the tune. [3:92 started to sing] The young aviator went stunting at the end of a bright summers day. His comrades gather round him to carry his fragments away. The airplane push on his wish bone, his loiasis wrapped around his head. He wore a spark plug in each elbow. It was plain he would shortly be dead. He spat out a valve and a gasket as he stirred in the slump where he laid. And then to his wondering comrades these brave parting words he did say. Take a manifold out of my larynx and the butterfly valve from my neck. Remove from my kidneys the cameras. There's a lot of good parts in this wreck. Take the piston rings out of my stomach and the cylinders out of my brain. Strike from a _____ [4:08] the crank shaft and assemble that engine again. Pull the _____ [4:10] out of my backbone and the turnbuckle out of my ear. From the small of the back take the rudder. There's all of the airplane here.

I'll be riding a cloud in the morning when the rotary
before me ____ [4:14]. Take the lead from my feet and
get busy. There's another lad needing this bus. [4:16
stopped singing]

JB That's great. Now you say that's from World War I?

GL Yeah. Most of these are- those in there are. I don't
have too many World War II's. Once in a while there's-
. Now this one I made up so I don't know as you'd want
to-

JB I most certainly would and in fact-

GL Well, maybe I've already sang it, I don't know.

JB No.

GL I lost some in the-

[tape stopped at 4:24]

[end side one of tape 4:82]

[side two of tape starts at :01]

GL All set?

JB Yeah. Now this is one you wrote.

GL Yeah.

JB And what do you call it?

GL I just put ____ ____ ____ [0:02] I don't know what to
call it. I did it quite a number of years ago I guess.

It was back when I was flying more. See- [:04 starts singing] The hills are mighty high and the clouds hang low. Can't see the sky above nor the ground below. Compass going wild and my gas is low. All I get is static on the radio. High above where the wind's still free, the sirens call to men like me. How do you tell the one you love how much your heart belongs in the sky above. Chill down my back and sweat on my brow. Sure would do some praying but I don't know how. Going to meet my maker when it comes my time. Ice on the struts and it looks like grime. High above where the wind's still free, a siren's call to men like me. How do you tell the one you love how much your heart belongs in the sky above. There's a break in the clouds, the fields below everything cleared up on the radio. No, my darling don't you cry, I'll be home with you when the moon rides high. High above where the wind's still free, a siren's call to men like me. How do you tell the one you love how much your heart belongs in the sky above. [:22 stopped singing]

JB That's terrific! How long did you fly?

GL Oh, I've flown off and on for about fifty-five years.

JB Really? Yeah, you started-

GL But most of it off I only flew when I had money and I was broke most of the time. [laughs]

JB But you started in your-

GL Started back in thirty-six. Went up first in thirty-five but I was interested way back in twenty-six before the war come on as you seem- when I first went out to Toledo. My first- I see my first plane when I probably about five years old out here to a carnival or something in Montpelier. I think it's probably where the high school is now but I'm not sure. I didn't know what 'twas, I thought it was a bird or something. And I thought it was funny people- there was a big bird where people ride in it. I could see them get out but that's about it.

JB And from then on you were interested in-

GL Yeah. Thing is the war kind of knocked things apart here. Now this is a- this is a poem I read that's- it's either by Hilary or Miller and that's back in the thirties. And I guess my mother must of threw the book out it's in but-. So I can sing better than I can read it so that's what I put it to my own tune.

JB Well then sing it.

GL And it's- the name of it I remember, is the back farm.

JB So your mother actually read you this and you-

GL No, I read it.

JB You read it and then-

GL In some book somewhere. And I put it to a-

JB You liked it so you put it to a tune.

GL Yeah. I can do that better than I can recite it.

JB That's neat.

GL See- I call it- well, the name of it was back farm.

This I remember. [:41 starts singing] In solemn pause
the forest waits the signal to return. While within
our rotten garden gate the leaves of autumn burn.

Father to son we hold our fields against the siege of
tars. Knowing our weaker sons will yield the land no
longer theirs. Knowing the wind and sun and rain will
fling it's green stampedes while we who harvested the
grain lie buried under weeds. [:49 stopped singing]

Now that one I remember and this one was another one
that's back right about the same time, I think the
same book- small booklet of poems. And this is either-

I don't which I know one was Hiller and one was Miller and it's and I don't know which meant which. But this is one the- the name of it I remember if the Silver ship and it's on flying too. [:54 starts to sing] Their trails that land may follow as years of his boy had lain. But I would soar like a swallow on the wings of a silver ship. Guiding my bird of metal one with throbbing frame. Floating down like a petal roaring up like a flame. Winding the wind that scatters smoke from the chimney's lip. Tearing the clouds to tatters with the wings of a silver ship. Snug in my coat of leather up where the falcons flare there in the purple twilight brushed by a comets hair. [:64 stopped singing] And then I think there's another verse or so but- [:65 starts singing] Their trails that land may follow as of his boy had lain but I would soar like a swallow on the winds of a silver plane. [:67 stopped singing] This is a- well, different put little in it someone's kind off cynical I guess. I call it miss-Blue Beard. then that's- there's a lot of other verses but I don't know many of them. [:72 starts singing] Here's to the jumpers everyone, here's to the men that

fly. And here's to those that walk the wings and
here's to those that try. We're sorry for mister Blue
Beard, we're sorry to cause him pain. What a terrible
spree there's sure to be when he comes back again.
What a terrible spree you're sure to see when he comes
back again. Here's to every dreamers head and
shattered _____ [:77] recall. Here's to those that hit
the top and here's to those that fall. We're sorry for
mister Blue Beard, we're sorry to cause him pain.
What a terrible spree there's sure to be when he comes
back again. Here's to those that go above and here's
to those that burn. And here's to all the lucky ones,
the ones that don't return. We're sorry for mister
Blue Beard, we're sorry to cause him pain. What a
terrible spree there's sure to be when he comes back
again. [:83 stopped singing] That's kind of they sang
that our outfit.

JB It was.

GL Yeah. They get kind of cynical at times after taking-
long enough.

JB Well, now did you fly during World War II?

GL No. I went in and washed out about three months from

getting my wings I'd flown before the war and the worst thing you could do was fly before the war and then go into the service. You had your way and they had theirs you try to break your way into get theirs. We had just too many-. I had a friend of mine, he was a check pilot in the navy. He said- he said he had orders to wash out ninety percent of them and a little later they come through and said wash out ninety-eight percent. He said I only hit two of them that I had to ship out that couldn't fly there's just they had so many of them. So that was- see, I- yeah, you had that one. So, I guess that make them.

JB And there terrific. This is which one the-

GL That's the one about the fellow sitting in the sign.

JB Oh, the first one.

GL Yeah.

JB Yeah.

GL I've got them all marked see- as it- as it went on the tape and I marked the- what I did I let it lap, there's a little in between so you want to put something in between them.

JB Oh, I see. This is your tape- great!

GL And in- this- I let it lap in between the time one started so you had a little time put something else in between. Probably know it if you place it.

JB Oh, thank you.

GL That's all-these all-

JB You want a copy of your tape?

GL No.

JB You're sure?

GL I've got, I know the things there. I'll do it again if I want it. [JB laughs.] No, I don't have to.

JB Okay. I think it's amazing what you still remember.

GL Yeah, but I can't get- I get half way through the song where I don't got the tune of it anymore. I'll go get you- I happened to see it the other day about uncle Matt-

JB Okay.

GL [1:09 to 1:10] Sure that in here.

JB I thought I would try to go see your aunt.

GL What's that?

JB I thought I would try and go see your aunt in Brattleboro.

GL Okay, I'll put this on it. Little better. How's that.

JB I thought I would go- try and go see your aunt in
Brattleboro.

GL Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. It might not- it might- want to
call in ahead you know and-

JB Yeah.

GL I got a sister that has to she said she might know
some that she had my mother last in but I don't think
she remembered. It must be the one I didn't bring out.
I'll go in and get the rest of it.

JB Here.

GL Okay, just stick it over there out of the way. I'll go
and get the _____ [1:20] That had the thing on it.
And I think of something else in there. Maybe it's in
here. I don't I see it just yet. I was going to show
it to you. You know I'll find it another time. Well, I
don't see it right now so.

JB Don't worry.

GL It- probably _____ [1:28 he's mumbling] Well,
I- you might be able to get a little out of my sister.

JB Now she's the one that lives over in Northfield?

GL Yeah, over in Williamstown.

JB Williamstown.

GL Oh, yeah that reminded me I kind of made a map for you while I was thinking of it, it should be here somewhere. I thought it might make it easier to find her.

JB Oh, thank you.

GL Trying to figure out the way I did it. Oh, yeah this is the road that goes to Barre and goes up to- into South Barre goes up there. And this is where your Ford sales stuff is and you come off the interstate and there's a light there. And you go up that road and- up that- they used to call it Middle road, and go up and there's a road without a sign here. You go right up through up here and this takes you up into Graniteville. And this takes you out to my sister's. And this- it used to be an ore path there and there's a gate- iron gate right there where they go up to the quarries. And they've taken down the ore paths but it's still- you can see where it is. Go up there and just over a little hill and it's the first road to your right in a trailer up here and- a house trailer. And you go out here right and her's the first place on the right.

JB Okay.

GL There's another place out here and the road goes on by. And Phil and Laura Gibbs is the name.

JB Okay, great. And you thought you might have some photographs too.

GL Oh, yeah. Yeah. I got some but- what's the {Oras 1:51?} phone number hun?

JB Great, that's I got it.

GL And he told- he's a young fellow, he lives over in Lincoln. And he went out and he got a bottle one night, was heading home and he was feeling pretty good. And he said that an old couple had a sharp turn at _____ [1:61] mountain. It had a house built right off one side there and you could step from the road in those days right on top of the house. So I- he stepped off, started dancing on the roof. [JB laughs] And the roof caved in with him. He landed in what they called the livingroom, they didn't have one, it was a shack with two, three rooms. He land in there and just missed the kitchen table. And the poor fellow said what's going on in there. And Roger says ah- how'd you like a drink. The old fellow got up and he lit a lamp,

set there and finished the bottle off. Nowadays if you come through the roof they'd sue you. He said all it was was a few boards that the two of them had scrounged up to build the place.

JB I was going to get you to tell me again, 'cause I didn't get it on tape, the story of Jack Laro which I think is terrific, you know where-

GL On the- at the ski tow?

JB Yeah.

GL Well, One night Jack, he used to work at all hours, and Mad River had a unimug, that's a German jeep that had a blower on it for blowing snow and plowing and it would go along about two miles an hour if you geared it way down. And he was out using it and he come in about five, six o'clock and- dark or just getting dark but he put it and gone home for supper. And then he was going to come back and work the rest of the night. And he got all locked up and was heading for his car and fellow come along and ask him pull him out. Well Jack said I'm going home, can't you get out, or get somebody else? Oh, no he couldn't, he kept at

Jack to until he said okay so he went and unlocked the garage, got out the unimug, went down to where the nursery was on the back road and the fellow had run the jeep off. IT was four wheel drive and over the bank in snow where he couldn't get out. So Jack hitched on him and pulled him back out and the fellow said I'm all set now. Well, Jack says what about a little something? Fella says what do you mean? Well, Jack says how about couple dollars. Well, he says I know all about you fellas, he says here take that, he says he was looking for something like that and he said he'll take it and buy a beer or something he says. And he kept on that and made Jack pretty burned up and he was so mad he put that old unimug in the low gear and pushed the fellow right back in again. And said well, so there. See what you did now you got to pull me out. Jack says I don't have to do a. He says you get somebody else to pull you out. He put the unimug away and went home. And Jack had been told by the manager Will, couple weeks before that _____
_____ [2:01 not speaking clearly] it or something, but we weren't in the towing business but

if they pull them out or something to charge a couple or five dollars something like that, said don't let them get away for nothing. And Jack would have turned that over 'cause he's as honest as could be. But the fellow made a big thing about it. And I was oh, a few years later I was telling Stany Martin down to the- when he ran the garage in Waitsfield down at Bonet's garage I was telling him about it. HE said oh, yes, he says I remember that. HE says I got a call that night, he said, I went up and I pulled the fellow out and it cost him twenty-five dollars.

JB I asked Jack about it. He was very funny. HE said, you know, he'd been working for all day and he knew he was going to go back for half the night.

GL Yeah. HE didn't- well, he locked everything up you know, he was almost to his car and he figured he'd be home so long and then he'd be back and have to work 'cause he was really a workaholic, Jack was. Yeah.

JB And Earl Long told me about a guy skiing who kept bringing people up free and Jack- not Jack, but Earl said you know, you got to pay and the third day he stopped the- he was running the rope tow when he

stopped them half way up the mountain. And they had to come down and pay.

GL Well, let's see what I was going to say, I had something right in mind I can't remember right now. It wasn't that, that's- I'll think of it in a minute.

JB That's the way I am.

[pause from 2:27 to 2:30]

GL No, can't think of it right now. Oh,-

JB the other thing I was going to ask you about was that story you told me that again I didn't get on tape, about, gosh that accident you had with the logs that came off and luckily you went under the truck. It was down at the- was it down at the Barre's mill?

GL Yeah. Yeah, it's old- Andy and his boys runs it now, his father said he thought his boy or one of the other directors around there thought that maybe they'd get that, they weren't expecting me. What 'twas is fella come in with a load of logs in a straight flatbed truck, he had a stake on the front and back to hold them on. Well, he stood by the cab and reach out by the headboard and pry his out and I stood at the back and I pried mine out instead of coming off- so the

whole load started. And they had a load of twelve-foot logs and the last one was sixteen foot long and I see I couldn't get out passed it so I ducked under the truck behind the rear wheels. And the log hit being a sixteen-footer it landed and swung around. I was on my hands and knees under the truck and it hit me in the back rolled right up and hit me in the back of the head and drove my head down into the ground. And it got black for just a minute and I remember thinking oh, this is it, that's all it. And I think I sort of come out of it and I could feel it run out in the back of the head pretty good clip that it bounced back which is probably a good thing. And I got on my feet and Andy came round and check on me and he said told me to go over and _____ [2:56] something, he told me to sit down and I said no 'cause I knew if I would have passed out so I just held my arms across my stomach and I bent over to keep the blood you know, from going out. And by that time my left eye is closed and that- I had a little blood coming out you know, my nose and that. And So I went over to the brook and washed up and the other eye was closing pretty good didn't ever get to quite all closed. And just a few

more logs to scale, I'd scaled most of them on the truck. That scale we went top of the tugway and Dr. Quimby's office there and he had the doctor check me out. And the doctor said how long were you knocked out? And I said I wasn't knocked out. He said you had to be, you had to be unconscious for a while. I said I wasn't. Andy said no he wasn't he said that I never see anybody come onto his feet so fast in my life. And well, he says, doctor says bull that, like that he says he should have been knocked out. But anyway the next day they took some-went out up here and got some x-rays. I guess it was alright but I think- I still think it chipped the vertebrate in the back of my neck 'cause after that I had to have a _____ [2:26] in it in my left ear and three months later I was deaf in it. And the next day the doctor give me three pills to take 'cause my head was swollen and back about half way up my skull and raised about and inch or so.

JB Gee.

GL And he gave me three pills I think, take one about every two hours for the pain. Well there's pain somewhat, it wasn't that bad. But next day my face and everything was- looked like a balloon and I was every

color of the rainbow for about the next- another month clear to my waist. You know, black, blue, yellow. So it was over my face and the next night after it happened my folks came up and my father said he wouldn't know me if he didn't know who I was. But that happened on a Wednesday night and the next monday I went back to work. I had that big swollen on over my left temple forward over my eye. And the doctor gave me a elastic bandage start hold it to see if it take it down but it didn't. And after about a month he had me come up one noon to lance it and he couldn't do it 'cause he said that to come down that night and he'd have his wife help him to get it out. So I went back to work and that was about one and- or a little after and two o'clock Andy shut the mill down and I said- he said he wasn't going to work no more that day. I said well, I don't mind, I said I don't feel very well. He said that's why I'm shutting down, he says I know you don't. I went down that night and they drained it out. It was just like thick tar it was all blood in there.

JB Oh.

GL And I always said I had a numbskull 'cause Ed said I

had to freeze it. At times I was- the skull feels numb in places and well I don't- it doesn't happen very often now but oh, it used to happen couple, three times a year. It'd only last about five minutes but my head would feel like it was crushed right together. It was an awful funny- pain, it wasn't a headache or anything but an awful funny feeling. Almost scary you know.

JB Gosh.

GL And- but now it- well some of the years so once in a while I feel it for just a few seconds or so. But, I think it supposed to been-, and the doctor couldn't like I said He couldn't think of- believe why I wasn't knocked out 'cause it had hit me so hard in the back of the head that it broke the skin that bled a little right at the base of my skull.

JB It's the most incredible accident. You were very lucky.

GL Huh?

JB You were very lucky.

GL Uh-huh. Well, I told a neighbor one time that- something about- he was talking and I said well, I got

nine lives like a cat. She said oh, no you haven't, she says I've seen you lose several of them since we knew you. They knew me quite a number of years and I lost three or four- I'm not superstitious but I don't dare to add up how many times I've missed 'cause I don't- I think'll probably run a little over nine.

[laughs]

JB But that is- how old were you when that happened?

GL Oh, I was thirty-five, forty.

JB Oh, really!?

GL Yeah, must have been round thirty- between thirty-five, forty because I come home and all my children were just about ready to go to school. There were four of them. That's what worried me more than anything, you know, Ester to be left with for kids. [laughs]

JB That's quite a story. Well, did you work for Mad River as well as Jack?

GL I used to- I worked for Warren for a number of years and then I went to work in the summers for Andy Bared then in the winter time I'd work up to the ski area.

JB Well, what would you do up there?

GL I worked at the top of the single lift- the old single

lift.

JB It must have been cold wasn't it?

GL Well, you get used to it. After- I used to keep the same amount of cloths on in the shack where I have some heat and outside and after a couple of weeks you got so you didn't notice it. Some would go in there and take everything off and then when we got there's more than one of us we'd time it so somebody's- they'd spend equal amounts of time outside and equal in. And that worked pretty good.

JB So would you ride up every morning on the chairlift?

GL The first one up in the morning check out the safety snap usually it's the last one down at night. If- well, they got where they- the ski patrol come out and watch the last ten minutes so we go down and shut the lift down. They'd get the last- they'd call up from the bottom tell them that's the last chair coming up.

JB And I hear that some of the- I don't know if it was the ski patrol, they used to ride shovels down the mountain.

GL Some of them did some. I tried it but I didn't like it very well.

JB I guess it was Earl that was telling me that you go- actually go around in a circle, you couldn't steer it well.

GL Yeah. Well, we had the one fellow, he worked for the oil company down there for quite a while, gas company. But he had to quite because of cancer. Kenny Whimble. He went up he's in the school, first time he's ever on skis he started down the chute, that's right down the lift and that's one of the steepest, most expert trails there. _____ [3:77] probably killed him.

JB And he went straight down?

GL Huh? I don't know he must have fell down some. I guess one of the best ones is the- had a fella named Oley and I think he was a- a Dane, or a norwegian. And he only- he used to come up with a guy named Phil Paterson. This fellow was a Swede and- but they were over in this country and that. So this Oley, he was going to learn how to ski, he never skied! This guy is from over from, you know, like I think it was from Denmark so he skied some but he come up weekends. He got up above mid-station a ways up- second tower up

and he started down and he lost control and he come straight down and fellow we called Richard Barten, we used to call him Super Barten, he was on the platform and there's the shack on the edge of the platform that they got off on. And he was between him and the shack he could be on the other side so he could hit safety if it had- and stop it you know. He was standing there and this fellow came down on the downhill side of the chairs across the platform and why he didn't hit the safety cord I don't know, it must have been bent way over. Passed Super so he blew his hat off and I guess Super went about three feet into the air 'tween him and the shack just missed the chair that was coming onto the platform. He was really travelling, he sailed way out- the platform's up probably fifteen feet above the- ten, fifteen feet above the ground, that it sloped right away from it down the hill. Way out and went down into the stone and some brush and didn't get hurt. But-

JB Amazing.

GL And never touched the thing.

JB Well, you must of seen some pretty good accidents

there too.

GL Oh, we didn't have any.

JB Really?

GL We had one one year but that's- the one that got hurt the worst I guess fell off a chair and hit the base or something, broke a few ribs or something. But it's 'cause a cable jumped the bow-wheel came off. But the reason was somebody caught his parka string and the fellow at mid-station was- happened to be too far away from the safety cord to hit it. And by the time he did the chair had gone outside the guide they call it there. And it ruined the chair, of course, pulled the thing off. And dumped all three or four of them. The only ones that got- fell out were the ones had the gates open. People who were coming in had opened their gate and threw off three or four at the top, didn't hurt them, it shook them up a little bit. And the ones at the bottom they got around closing the gate. This fellow was one of the towers I guess, but he was the only one I guess that had to go to the hospital. Some of the others went, but he was the only one that had

to stay. And there was one big heavy girl there and she sat there and they bouncing off front and behind her down by the bottom and she was there and rode it right out. She come up few years ago- two, three years before I got done up there. She was, had a whole new outfit and pretty as could be, she lost a hundred pounds. She was a big girl anyway but that, but she had lost a hundred pounds. She still was a big- big girl but she was awful tickled, she had bought a whole new outfit, real pleased on it. But that was the only real accident we've had. We've had some get- only two get bumped or something, you know, but that- and that was a cable come off I think it was on Monday I think it was, or a Sunday. And that all was going by Tuesday put it right back on but they wouldn't let them run it until Thursday, had to check out everything. They haven't had near the accidents they have in the other places.

JB Well-

GL The other places, most of them are expert skiers and they start in when they are small, you know, not some hardly walk and they got out and start skiing there.

They grow up there. I know that some of them come from another ski area or something and they get all upset about it sometimes. The neighbor of mine that- he and his wife were in the store down there one time, said one woman was telling another she said oh, it was awful, she was up at Mad River, she said it was awful. And that so. Said they were checking out, and one of the check out girls asked another woman, says how was it up at Mad River that day? She says, oh, lovely skiing, she says, it's that nice. So when they were asking me about it why, I said we thought it was all pretty-

[4:83 end of side two]

[side three starts at :01]

GL Down through there.

JB Do you remember when it first started up?

GL Well I- that was in Forty-seven, forty-eight and it had a real bad year, you know. But I didn't go up there until about ten years later. There was a fellow named George Neil, he-

JB Oh, yeah, people have suggested I go talk with him.

GL Yeah, he's- his- I don't have- he's having trouble

with his head or something, he had a head injury when he was small but he's taking some kind of medicine for it. But see him, he'd probably tell a lot about it because he- he was there from time it started to, well, just a few years ago. He got done just two, three years ago.

JB What- where does he live?

GL Up in Warren. You go up in Warren and turn to go into Warren village then the first left at- will take you to go up Warren- Rocksbury Mountain. You go up there and just as you come to the foot of the hill is a house on the- your right, right at the foot of the hill and there's I think there's a yellow house on- there's a house there but connecting double connecting garage. And he lives there. Would you like his phone number? He might not be there, he might- you might have to phone ahead or you got to call.

JB I- I'll call ahead next week maybe.

GL You want his phone number or something.

JB I've got one of those Warren books so I can look it up.

GL Okay. The name is George Neil.

JB Okay. Yeah. Others have suggested him too.

GL Yeah. He could tell you about Mad River so.

JB 'Cause that's another whole area that I've got to-
like I was going to go see-

[tape stopped and then restarted]

GL The just asking the what the going price was. I said
my grandfather heard what you got and he says well, I
guess he wise me up, he says I- he said I'm going to
charge accordingly. He got to be a millionaire on the
land he had 'cause he had it all over the place.

JB That's what I heard.

GL And he took it in for grocery bills but he says my
grandfather didn't catch on, he says they found what
you sold yours for. He says the rest of them were
selling it for you know, just a few hundred or a few
thousand.

JB So he got people paid up in terms of land?

GL Yeah.

JB For grocery bills.

GL Yup, lot of them.

JB And then he was able to sell it

GL Yeah, he had land all over. Lot of times they'd have a

bill and I said, they paying taxes on the thing or that so they'd ask him about settling up their bill and they'd deed him over a piece of land or something. That's what a lot of them did in the war. Earl Lang got a lot that way too.

JB And that was during the war?

GL During the depression.

JB During the depression. Uh-huh. That makes sense. Interesting.

GL Well several years ago I bought this place for six hundred I guess it was.

JB Well, this was when you came home from the war right?

GL No, I stopped on the way in. I had Fridays at home and I bought this place.

JB Yeah.

GL And after the war I bought the other one over there. And the two places I paid eighteen hundred for. A hundred- the two places made a hundred and forty acres then there's a house and barn here, and there's a house and several barns over there.

JB And this was the- at Henry Perkins' or-

GL No, I- I still own the one down to Henry Perkins' this

on the hill.

JB Oh.

GL I bought that the early part of that war when I come home from California. Then I went into the service in forty-two. And then I bought this over across from where the trailers are. My daughter lives over there now.

JB Uh-huh.

GL The two of them made a hundred and forty acres and then the two houses, the windows had been all smashed out of here and everything, the kids came and smashed the windows and the doors so we had to fix those up. And had the other- over at the other place I had to tear down- there was two- well, the barns fell in, two barns like the old barn out here. And thirty, forty barns there hooked together. And then there's another barn up on the side they had for a horse barn. And there's an addition on the end of the main house, it's just a main house left now. That's for the summer kitchen. And on the end of that they had a woodshed, a kind of carriage shed, and a shed it's all closed in for the others except for a small door. They had a

sheep shed, pigs, chickens, and that all added up and they must have went at least sixty, seventy feet from the main house. And in between that and the barn parallel to the road the horse barn. And the others was a big corn barn you could drive a car or something into. And course they- I was broke coming out of the service trying to get started here and. I was going to try to save that- all the sheds and stuff over there but the roofs were all rotted away, the sills and everything. I couldn't save them. And that house is at least the first story is made out of six by twelve _____ [:58] timbers. And it's covered over with clapboards and then later on one of my neighbors that had lived there a put on a shingle. And this one when it used to be- said there used to be three barns in a U-shape. And the barn like this and then there was another one went right angles to it, it was a horse barn. Then there was another barn like this cow barn that take about eight, ten horses. So it's-

JB But the land goes off pretty steep doesn't it?

GL Yeah. Well, it's a fair level there so it made a U-shape. And it opened to the east but the rest of it

made up sort of a barn yard like. And it protect the cattle in the wintertime except from the north-eastern come from the east. And I just managed to save this, the others are down and gone. I just managed to save this one. It was a going fast.

JB I bet.

GL But-

JB When do you figure that was originally built?

GL Back in the eighteen hundreds some where- I checked the house back to eighteen thirty-one and I'm trying to read the deed, I got the- I haven't finished looking yet. I hadn't been able to read this- that last one. It's quite a job to follow the deeds back.

JB Yeah.

GL You have maybe one family like the Richardsons or something and they'll deed it to maybe three or four of there children or brothers or in the family and then they'll deed it to somebody else, deed it back and you chased yourself in a circle part of the time. So it's- And there's different families that had lot of, well, property around here. There was the Richardsons, the Bards, and the Johnsons, and the

Maxills- that was on my mother's side. There was several Maxills that own there- one of them used to own across from where the den is down there in Waitsfield, another owned a place just below the what used to call the doveway, just below there. And I had a- my father had a cousin lived over where they call Beckridge, or did call it.

JB Called what?

GL Beckridge. It's just before you- almost across from the state shed- lot there where they get the gravel and stuff. And there was a- my grandmother I think was born over on top of the hill- Tucker hill.

JB Uh-huh.

GL Up there about eighteen forty, fifty. And-

JB Now was this your grandmother-

GL Livingston. Maxill before she was married. And the Livingstons I guess came down from CANada. And, well, I don't know how long I- on my mohter's side on her mother's side- on my grandmother side was Sherman. And if you want to see Sherman just go over in Ducksbury hills. And we're related to pretty near all of them. Some of them born, grew up, and died and I never met,

you know. But-

JB Now did they all sing too? Were they all singers?

GL I don't know. They used to do teh back forth quite a lot. But I remember my mother and her sister they used to get at the organ and sing to it. You know they got together quite a bit.

JB Now this is the other sister in Brattleboro you're talking about.

GL Taht's my mother;s sister, my aunt.

JB Yeah, the one that's in Brattleboro. The one that lives up at Berlin Corners.

GL YEah. She- she loved to sing too. She liked to get together with my mother and get singing different ones. Of course later on they didn't so much, youknow, each had their families and stuff, got separated but I remember when I was small that they would once in a while get together. Yeah.

JB And your mother played the organ or your aunt?

GL Well, both of them did. Course after we sold our organ before we went to Toledo we never had another one in the house. Before that mother did, course I was small then. Probably eight, nine years old, I remember that.

About nine when we sold that organ. I had told you about it, the bells and the chimes and everything else on it. I've never seen one since. It was a beautiful organ.

JB Where did they get that?

GL Huh?

JB Where did that come from? The organ.

GL My folks bought it somewhere. From around here. But I think it's made in Vermont but- somewhere. But I don't remember but it was the only one I ever saw with the chimes and bells and everything on it you could blend in with the thing after you learned to play it.

JB An Esty organ? They used to make those down in Brattleboro.

GL I don't- I don't remember. I don't remember. You see, I was only eight, nine years old. But that time most of them were- all you had were made in the state here.

JB Yeah.

GL But it's the only one of that kind that I've ever knew that had the chimes and the bells on it. They could blend that in with the- with it. I don't know how it was done but I remember it they're doing it. Mother

used to sing mostly just, you know- I usually sing to myself, I mean I'd get a spell where I'd sit up half the night play the _____ [1:20] I used to drive my parents nuts but it didn't happen very often. But I did played it lot more than any the rest, all the rest put together, I think.

JB When did you start writing songs?

GL Just the way the mood hit me, way back.

JB When you were a kid or-?

GL Well, time I was in high school or something.

Sometimes I'd done one before. But I got some I've never finished up.

JB Would you make up the tune or would you put it to-

GL No, oh, well, I might have heard it but I always figured I made it up but you can't tell you know. In the back of your mind somewhere. Those at- far as I know- on the back farm and the others are just tunes I made up myself. So- so there's- I knew the words or heard them and I-

JB Yeah. Did your mother used to make up songs?

GL No, I don't think so. I think I was the one that did that. I used to- other people that- they'll go out and

drive and play the radio. Well, I don't, I get driving somewhere I'll sing to myself. I usually don't when anybody with me. Fact, I've done more here than I have all the rest of my life just since you been around.

JB Well, that's good, See!

GL I think you got me into a bad habit.

JB I think it's a great habit.

GL But I used to just myself. When somebody's with me I don't. I- once in a while I get Ester hear me singing something down in the cellar or something, but otherwise I don't. I- and then- well, I used to say I'm kind of a loner, I think maybe I am. You know, it's not the way some, I can like visit with you or something but I like time I just like to be by myself. And it doesn't bother me. When I worked up on the mountain I'd have a- I didn't mind being alone. I'd have a day off and I'd come back and so fellows would be pretty near wild, they had to spend all day up there nobody to talk to or nothing else and _____ [1:46] all day. That never bothered me. It still don't.

JB Yeah, I think some people really enjoy it and it gives

you a chance to think and-

GL Well, when we even have a family reunion, we just had one last few years 'cause of my aunt and uncle, they're up near, well pretty near ninety, I'll go mix in for an hour or so and then I want to get away. I get away for maybe an hour and then I come back and that's how it goes. After an hour or so it- I just want to get away. Got to be by myself for a while.

JB Well, you always enjoyed the woods too didn't you?

GL Oh, I like the woods alright, yeah. I- when I was younger I used to- to just take off and hike. I also used to run. I'd run for miles when I was younger. Time I got out the service that was all gone. Course I- I think probably I lost that in the service. I don't have anyone wind at all now and that bothers me 'cause when you don't have any wind you get- you know, things you can't do, I mean. No, when I got out of the service I just got out, come home. Friday nights I came up here on the hill and got that first pitch down there about where the blacktop ends. He always claimed he didn't have any wind but he got out there and he's hardly puffing and I had stopped two, three times and

rest. And Before I went in I could run up that hill.

JB That's amazing.

GL Course I caught some typhus and I don't know if that's what did it or not. Put me in the hospital for three months. They said it took a years complete rest to cure it but- I went back in the outfit three months, they wanted to send me to rest camp but I lied a little bit and got back into the outfit. And I met Phil Louter, my squadron I was in just after shipping. And I guess forty thousand tons being credited to with me and tons of a ship either damaged or something in the war and the Japanese. And they flew nights. And they- one of the few radar planes you could see the ball turn that they had that radar that they let up and down to check radar. And the official thing was to go in over a battleship or cruiser at night five thousand feet. With _____ [1:80] fifteen hundred so that's why they went in. And we lost our ship oh, about six weeks or so before the war ended. And we just changed all the engines and had about twelve hours on it and it went out and didn't come back. And after the war ended we found out why. There

was three fellows that was in it ended up now just about an hour and they shipped them right back out. They'd went out to Yanksy river and they'd gone passed, they'd come round for another at night and the pilot come in too low and hooked the wing-tip in the water and they cartwheeled.

JB Oh.

GL And the Chinese come and just picked up three of them of a eleven man crew. Most cruisers was ten but they had eleven with the radar man. And so the crew chief stand by and he was 'bout to speak to them just 'fore they went out. They said oh, the Indians are working perfect, we'd always worried there's something, you know, that we hadn't done or hadn't done right or something. It was the last year of the war, well, we supposed to got more help and stuff and it didn't turn out that way. There used to be five of us to a ship ground crew working on it less the crew chief. Ended up there's just the two of us. They had a lot of replacements from the States. Well, they got all their ratings from drill field or spy or something and they come over and what they do, we had to do the Damna

engines. Well it- is pretty hard do it all 'cause before we had had a man for each engine, there is four engines and a crew chief to staff the other part of the plane. That wasn't too bad, _____
[2:06] the engine did that. So, they did the Damna maintenance it was just the crew chief and I do the same work used to be five

JB Wow.

GL But when it came to an engine change or a plug change or stuff like that hundred hours of engine changing every four hundred hours. We had to have these new ones. Well that wasn't much of a relief 'cause you had to go round and try to do your work and watch theirs and be sure it's all checked out right. So we pretty near exhausted you know-,

JB Yeah.

GL From trying to keep up all that. So. That was really for the last year of the war and our officers were the same they came over from the States too. They were- they looked- before that our officers looked

out for the men and the men looked out for the officers, but after that it's more or less every man for himself also that and seeing others. So they come over all the ratings and I pretty near got court marshalled for that. I wrote a letter to send out I didn't pay any attention of the censor was. Well the CO himself- and that was after our old ones left you know and he- this one's about as two faced as ever there was. And he got it and I wasn't pay any attention until the next morning after I send it out that the first Sergeant come around and just says you get in a pair of fatigues- we used to wear shorts, shoes and cap and that was about what- our working outfit- said so you put on a pair of fatigues, the CO wants to see you about eight o'clock. So I got in, then I go in and get suspicious so I went down check see who the censor was and I see so I knew what was coming. I got in there and I didn't like it very well so I didn't even salute him and he went on about that letter. I told him that if he worked in the mess hall or something like that you get more ratings then the fellows on the line. I says some of them been over

here for two years, they're crew chiefs. And I said they're still corporals. And I said a crew chief supposed to be a ____ [2:37] or a master Sergeant. And I knew one fellow, he'd- he'd been there- had been a corporal for twenty-two months and a crew chief for seventeen your still a corporal. And so I could see he was mad- he was so mad he was shaking, you know. He started- I told him I said anybody, I says the black market and I think I said anybody get more ratings in the mess hall, I says through the officers, I said is a black market or something. And the ones on the line. He didn't like that. He- wanted- I did shake it over a little bit so it get through. But me this- but he was mad and I wouldn't- didn't salute him. All we had some prom frogs up for- about shoulder high and they really see what was going on, you could here them all the way over to the orderly room. Well, course everybody could hear, all these fellows listening. And they could hear what went on. So after when I went out in line again about ten days later the ratings come out and the fellows on the line, engineers and that, you know, worked on the planes, a lot of them hadn't had a

rating in a year. And about ten days later they come out. And about eight or ten of them got another strip. And we was coming in that noon and on a six by six, you know, the big truck and riding in one fellow tapped me on the shoulder. I was not looking. And he'd been in Pearl Harbor at the barracks the day of Pearl Harbor and his wife and everything. And the first thing afterwards they send back the States he said no one landed in the States that turned around send them back to Australia. And he said you know he says long as you're in this outfit, he says, you're never going to get another strip. He says, but we all know who got us one. [laughs] He said thanks anyways but you'll never get one. And- 'cause they all heard what- went through the outfit that I had practically blackmailed the CO 'cause I- about the method of- getting the black market and their- some of their supplies and I think he figured I'd blackmail him a little bit so he'd better give out some strips. HE did, I didn't get it but about ten others did. And he said we- he says you won't get one, we all know who got us one, he said. And he'd been over a long time and he hadn't got

a strip for a long time either.

JB You must of been pretty popular.

GL I got along with the enlisted men alright. I got along with the officers alright if they were a good officer otherwise our crew chief and I were known to _____ [2:81] laws. [laughs] Yeah. The last day of the war we was working another plane, they just shifting one plane another. And I remember I had this splitting headache and there had been rumors all day about the war ending, you know, and I finished up my work step back and then the crew chief, he step back. He asked me, he says you all done. I say yeah. HE says well, I guess it's all we can do. Just after that we just stood there, you know. And just after that they come up in a weapons carrier their combat, they got out and they were all quiet, you know, the skipper- the first pilot started talking with the crew chief. When the crew started coming over talking with me and he was all wound up and he started talking, said well, he said we're going out tonight war over or not, there's going to be two planes going up that night. He says

war over or not we're going to have that other forty thousand ton. He says they don't give us a citation we just one squadron out of a group of four, they won't give just a single one- a presidential citation but- 'cause they were all after land targets except our one squadron. He said we'll get that, he says, they'll have to give us one. He says go out ten miles, he says, everything's going out. He says you ain't going to hear us 'til we get back. War over or not, he says we go out, and he says we find five thousand tonners a ship- sink them on the way home was a whole mess of ten thousand tonners. He says nothing to sink them with. He says everything's heading for Japan. He says we can find them alright. Tonight, he says, between the two- us two ships, he says you won't here from us 'til we get back. And he says, well, he says skipper was sure pleased and he said he see who was working on his plane. But he told us he said the- he says you treat those fellows right, he says I'll have your butts. HE says, the war's pretty near over and he says I don't want no accidents. You know, it made me feel kind of embarrassed. I said we wouldn't do that to you

fellas. _____ [3:17] and about that time somebody hollered for them to get aboard they was pulling out. HE got on and pulled out and few minutes later I, we got picked up to go back to camp. And wounded were just kind of on the truck. See the first plane take off, yeah, our plane, the one we'd worked on started down the runway got about halfway down, dropped the power and stopped. The other plane come round and circle round and land. And we stopped what they call a _____ [3:28], a land shack. And they come out, couple of them and the others are going stay there and they said we just got on the radio that all the missions are scrubbed 'til further notice, the war's over. That's what we heard.

JB Boy, that must have been something.

GL Yeah, but you know, we didn't celebrate the way- used to- I've heard about all the big celebrations that went on here in the States. It wasn't like that in our outfit. We'd- I don't remember a thing other than I know I had a sick headache. Later in the evening I laid down some. And put on a shirt and britches that night. It was earlier before the mosquito stuff had

cooled down a little. Remember the fellows forming groups and visits, you know, and break up, form another. It was that way all over camp.

JB And where were you?

GL Ischaemia.

JB Oh, you were.

GL And I know that there was four of us, just about dark, and some of the fellows you knew and some you didn't, some of them had been in and out. Some of them were pre-service men before the war. I know one or two of them and another fellow heard a _____ [3:50] right by us, probably six foot away. One of the fellows- big rugged fellow, he says the one they fired he says and what you fire that for? Says 'cause it's sobering. And he said well, don't fire it again. The fellow said I will if I want to. He says you fire that again I'll wrap that piece around head. Well, he went off bumming but he was smart because he would have- it was a new replacement. And just before that we'd heard a mess of small arms fire and someone said I wonder what that is. And one of us said I don't know. I don't know what their f- whole shooting about. And next day we heard

it's over in Okinawa and there was a bunch of replacements come in, heard the war was all over they all started firing into the air and stuff. And during the process six of them got killed and about twenty of them wounded. Just-

JB Were you there when the bombs were dropped over Nagasaki and-

GL Well, we's some the places. But I used to make- they made a raid there at- the last raid they made at Ischaemia. A week or so before the war ended. All the fellows- I'd been over a long time so you got so you figured it wasn't your time anyway. So all of them- I'd been there longer than most of them. And all of them went bailing out of the tent into the fox hole. And we had one fellow been with us a week or so in our tent and I heard him say where's Livingston, what happened to Livingston, did he get hit? And I heard one fellow say no, he says, he alright. Well, he says he get hit or something? A fellow says no, he's in there sacking out, he says don't worry he says he's clothes and stuff and he'll be out. So I went back to sleep and they stayed out in the fox hole all night.

And they were dead in the morning, I got a good night's sleep that night. [laughs] I figured they didn't- Japs couldn't hit pretty close if they wanted, so I didn't worry too much about them.

JB Well, how about the atomic bomb? Where were you then?

GL I was down Ischaemia. I think that's where I was.

Yeah, I think we come up from Clarkfield. But course we didn't hear about that right off, 'til later. We- our outfit flew the- made what they call the B-32 about the same time they come out with the B-20 ah, the B-29. But the thirty-two was a bigger plane than the B-24 we worked on. Carry a heavier load and there's a- in our squadron it's the only one ever flew in combat. They- we got three of them.

JB I'll be darn.

GL And they had the reversed propellers where you could reverse the pitches, stop quicker. Well, they had trouble with the brakes and I down in Clarkfield when I first come in and one of them burned out the brakes. And they- I fixed them. They'd pulled into a _____ [4:13] there. Well, I talked one of the crewmen on it and he was laughing and he said you set up top the

hatch, had it all open and he had just a beer
somewhere and it fell off to one side, he says he was
drinking a can of beer he said to put the props in
reverse and the plane started backing up. He said he
lowered it, looked at the plane took another sip and
lowered it he said the plane was still backing, he
threw _____ [4:21 to 4:22 he's
laughing to hard to understand what he's saying] He'd
never seen them back up before.

JB Gee.

GL But they- they just used them I guess as- I don't
think you flew them in Ischaemia but they had them up
to Clarkfield. Just a few of my own squadron flew
them. But they were- weren't for the high levels, more
for low level- lower level bombing.

JB Boy. That must have been-

[tape stopped 4:32]