

Dorothy Carpenter and Marla Durham/TC1992.0041
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

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JB Jane Beck
DC Dorothy Carpenter
MD Marla Durham
Place Waitsfield, VT
Date 04/24/1992

JB Just say your name and.

DC Dorothy Carpenter.

JB And let's see it's, April 24th, but you were saying
you grew up in, in Chelsea?

DC Well Tunbridge. Well I was, born in Chelsea, but
raised in Tunbridge.

JB Um hum. [.32] And than, came, got married and.

DC And I married and than I moved to Montpelier, and
that's how, of course I was divorced, I married Doctor
Murphy, and was divorced when George met me, and cause
he brought his mother down for us to take care of in
the nursing home. And, I saw how good he was to his
mother, and every thing, and he kind of grew on me,
ha, ha. [1.06]

JB And that was in? The early fifties?

DC Yeah. And you were born in 1954, right Marla?

MD Yes.

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DC And we were married in 1953.

JB Ah ha.

DC And moved in here and from that day on, it was just
work, work, work, work.

JB Now this farm has that been in the Carpenter family
for a long time? Or?

DC How many years? [1.32]

MD My grandfather bought it in 1893.

JB Ah ha.

MD And my grandmother I'm not sure when they got married,
dad would have to tell you that. And she and they took
summer people, and they took boarders, and did some
changes, and I understand my grandfather got sick and
had his first heart attack what when dad was thirteen?

DC I think.

MD And so dad had to quit the eight grade and he was an A
student, and my grandmother as a school teacher, and
she taught Uncle Walt Witness junior year and she made
them still learn at home, and they ran the farm. So
than, I'm not sure if they took guests during that
time period or not, so my dad was ninety years old
when his father finally died, from his heart, and you

married him what the fifties? Grandma was ill than she was in her sixties.

DC Yeah she was, seventies, when I married him, she died when she was seventy six I believe. [2.48]

JB So that's interesting to me, cause they must of been one of the first farms to take, summer boarders.

MD As far as I'm aware they are.

DC Well I think, no Mrs. Joslin, I think is another one that took them at the same time, they were friends.

JB And this would of been in the?

DC I don't know when that would be? And you know who would be one to talk about that would be, what's that, her name there, her husband just died, Stafford.

MD Yeah over.

DC Alberta Stafford is another one to talk to.

JB Okay.

DC Her husband just died with cancer.

JB And she lives in Waitsfield?

DC You know what we should do is have one of those, when we have dad going he could, he sometimes will tell everything.

JB Yeah, well I'd love to come back, you know when he

fells like talking.

DC Well you never know when you're gonna get him in the right mood.

JB Well maybe I could get you to.

DC Cause you know this gravel pit, everything has made him so bitter, the gravel down there, and for him to dig that out, he knew it was our land, just because George didn't stop him. It's all right. She wonders about this gravel from the river and everything.

[4.20] You know.

MD Yeah.

DC It's not because a, it's a soft spot in the end, you know, for them to come in and take it out, just cause he didn't stop them, and than, the lawyer didn't fix it so that we could get any money back, we didn't even get the money back from the gravel that they even took. That there would be no, the lawyer said there would be no, what? In other words, suing or something like that. [4.57]

MD Well what's hard is you've got, an old time Vermonter who is very independent and wasn't used to a lot of regulating and a lot of farmers, the valley was mostly

farming, and so anything that dad did was an improvement to the land, so he get very insulted if someone doesn't understand that he's doing something to improve his farming and he took down in the lower fields, and through out the years he's the type of man who does it himself, and it took him awhile but he cleared another acre of land, down in our lower fields and fixed it so that it wasn't just water near the river and he'd got another acre of hay, and he cleared out the trees. And then when the government came in and did the riff rafting he was in on that, and allowed it, and I can remember being ten years old, and he stood me outside, I would walk the property a couple of times, cause he never, he worked so hard he didn't' have a lot of time to speak but when he did it was about something that he wanted to do, and I just remember being about ten years old and he planted the maples out behind the house, and he said, I won't live to see them, but you will. And he's still living.

[6.17] He thought he would die, at the age his dad did, he you know, planted, he sold his maple sugar house way up back and wanted his maples back, so how

many years did it take him, he's planted a whole, bunch of maples up back, he's replaces his maples, he's constantly doing something that he, and people don't see it cause it's up in the woods, you know, or he's doing all these things.

DC The trees up there are doing something.

MD And he, he tries and when I was, when he told me about the trees, he said to me, he says I want to see the river from my lawn. [6.55] He said someday, you're going to be able to look out and see the river from the lawn, and he says I'm going to do that before I die and so he was constantly removing from the lower end of the field, it's like two levels and he can't plant corn there, he can't plant a second crop of hay, so he knew at that point, he was going to remove that excess gravel that the agriculture service, a Bruce Chapel has done the paper work to it, and they agree with what dad wants to do, it's going to, make it so that the water seeps thought, it doesn't seep through as fast, it's going to make it so that he can grow corn or rotate crops and it's gonna add what, three acres?

DC Um hum. [7.44]

MD On because it's gonna lower it to the other field.
And, he just, he's always lived his life that he envisions, things in the future like he constantly is the type of man that will tell you, that if you believe there isn't gonna be another depression he lost eighteen dollars during the depression, and it's always stuck with him and he's never trusted banks. And what he had said throughout years, he's cautioned Mom and I because we seem to be the big spenders, and it's like if you think there isn't gonna be another depression there is. There's no amount of bank controls, no amount of government controls, that are gonna stop it, and he sees the recession we're in now, and he, he says it will get worse, I mean he's called a lot of things, for the future, and has seen a lot of turns, and the trend that he sees right now is that farming is not going to be in Vermont, the way that we used to know it, it's already on the way out, and that the government controls that are coming in now, farmers that are going to court, not just him but

other farming situations that have end up in court, the farmers are loosing. And the state [8.54] regulations, the act 250, the act 200, it just takes one or two neighbors to complain, and I mean, I wish he would speak to you on tape, cause he would tell you, he's followed it in the newspaper, he's followed pieces and he could list you, things that are happening, and he had asked, he has even called the Burlington Free Press, and asked them to research certain cases for him. Because there's a trend and a growing trend, of people that are fighting the farmers and he believes it's against him. [9.26] He said if they aren't gonna allow trucks on certain roads, if they aren't going to allow certain things to happen, you can't allow, you can't stop a gravel truck or a logging truck if you don't stop the farmers truck. And he's got the truck for the saw dust, he's got the truck that he delivers hay to the horse people. Elwin Neil up the road is worried, I believe for the concern of what's gonna happen for him as a farmer, he had to bring his milk truck in here. [9.55] If you're going to bring, you have to have those farming trucks in

here, you have to have gravel to put back on the roads. If the people moving in don't want to do that, then they have to pay. There you've lost, that's the scenic character, the scenic character like when I grew up, when I was ten years old, and would ride a bike on this road, it was curvy, it was windy, it was a little narrower, all the, all the streets up here were shaded with big old elms, you know, I mean there was a lot of the elms, or maples.

DC Maples.

MD And, it was hard to ride a bike on this road. I mean I found it a lot of hard work and I gave up when I was a sixteen and I started walking. And the traffic even than it changed to that point where dad was worried about the safety for me, because people were driving faster. [10.43] It was no longer the quite little country, street. And, that started when I was sixteen I'd say, and they started now as you start having people move in, their concern for safety so you have to widen the roads. If you want certain state aid. And, widening the roads, you're loosing some of the country, character. But on the other hand people don't

want the farm trucks and the this and that, but the people that live in their little apartments and houses think nothing of whizzing by us, doing fifty and sixty miles an hour. And there was a logging truck that stopped and my father's cows were out, and a logger man, sits up high, he stopped to help my father herd the cattle, this woman in a pick up truck came bombing down the road, along without helping and she swerved, around the truck, say my mother, slammed on her brakes, and of course she skid on the gravel, mom almost got hit, she throws the truck in reverse, backs up real fast and she goes around the other way and she goes right along all the cattle, people honest to God you live here and you see it, people do not stop for the cattle crossing the road anymore. They.

DC No. [12.00]

MD It's, it's a very, there's, it's a controversy and I didn't see it until I came back a year ago, to live here. I thought my parents were being overly paranoid I thought that they were getting older and not excepting changes, and so my husband and I been up in Essex Junction for five or six years living with my

husband and son, and we come back to help, and some of the community life, I see, I don't feel comfortable with some of the, the infighting that I know that's gone on, I've gone to a couple of the town meetings, and I've heard some of these people even say, what they want to stop in truck traffic. [12.43] What they want to stop on their roads and it will stop the farmer eventually. They say at the meetings, we don't want to hurt the farmer, but how can you allow a farmer to do it, if you're gonna stop the logger, the gravel trucks, which is the scenic character of the roads. You need the gravel.

DC She needs hair clip and a bath. [13.06]

MD She's fine.

DC But, she's from Russia.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

MD And just to go along with, I don't know if this will help you in this part for the changes occurring, but with moving back, my sister and brother went through a lot of the paper work, for my parents, the legal paper work, on the field that they were trying to reclaim out front, and in our research come to find out, they

received a letter from the state when this very first thing started occurring, in the late 1980's, and the letter was, they had to prove whether Act 250 had jurisdiction or not, and my father whose a very, he does know his legalities and he said, ignore the letter Dot, we have jurisdiction I've been removing gravel I have grandfather clause, she hired a lawyer, she hired her, grandson my marriage to do the permit, and put it through Act 250, cause mom thought that was the proper way to do it, and of course she knew that she would get the permit.

DC Yeah I thought I did. [14.14]

MD And, dad said Dot it's no one's business, what I'm doing, I'm doing the agriculture I have this, I have this backing, I have that backing, come to find out, my sister and my brother and I, went through the paper work, if we had done what my father said to do, the gravel would now be gone and he would be farming corn out there. He, the lawyer, I think they spent between twenty and thirty thousand dollars on a lawyer, every step of the way you look at what he had them do and he was wrong, they went through the state and they won

their noise controls, they paid engineers on noise level, they paid engineers on wind direction.

DC Traffic. Traffic.

MD Traffic control, they want every part of it, so it, it went to the Supreme Court, and what shout them down was, it that the town had written in their plan, the town plan in 1986, I believe was the date.

DC 88.

MD 88. Was written that every road in the town of Waitsfield was a scenic road, so the word scenic in the Supreme Court of Vermont, was taken to mean, I believe not having commercial trucks on the road, they consider gravel a commercial entity, okay, so that is what stopped my parents, the noise level, the traffic, their plan of what they were doing was not what got thrown out, what got thrown out was the fact that the Waitsfield town plan had the word scenic in it.
[15.47] Now I don't understand what they mean by scenic. I mean.

DC A scenic road means, what's off of.

MD How do you protect, so this is a controversy. How do you protect what was there, versus you have to go

forward and do projects, you have to move forward, can't live back in the fifties, if you talk to people there's been a progression, and the way of life can be kept for a certain amount of years, but all of a sudden we've reached these eighties, and people are just panicking, and it's like putting on all these controls, the more controls and the more controls they're putting, the harder, they're hurting, they're really hurting and I see it, and there's no, that person who drives the gravel truck, or drives the logging truck, or delivers your oil, he might not have a college education, and he'd your local guy you went to school with, who might not of been an A, B student, he didn't get out of Vermont, like I did and got to college, he has to have a job to keep him in Vermont. He has to be able to earn a living. And with the real estate prices around here, and with the way things are, they can't stay here. [16.57] I mean, I'm back here calling up friends for a class reunion, and the people that are here and the ones that were, went to college, have a career, are commuting to Burlington, are able to have the smarts to let's put it, run a

business. [17.18] Where you're, where some of the local kids, which were three fourths of the class, that probably didn't go, are no longer living in this area, or if they're living in this area, you, you can't get hold of them, because they don't own a phone, or they live on a rural road that's way up, even further up in the mountains, so I mean, I've gotten off the track of.

JB No you've.

MD Of what dad has intended for the property and for the future, and I just wish he would talk to you because what he sees is that the agricultural farming is gone, it's no longer the way he's financially he cannot, he breaks even probably is what he's able to do, and if you have a bad year, you're.

DC That's why they started the ski business was to help the farmers.

JB Well the interesting thing to me, well there are a couple of interesting things, first of all, here's the farmer, you know looking to the future, and here are the people coming in, looking to the past. You know, and that in itself is, an irony.

DC Yeah.

JB The other thing is that I think farming has always been a diversified enterprise, and like you taking ski people or logging in the winter, or.

DC And do you know a lot of my skiing people that come here, had worked on a farm, or lived on a farm, we'd get these young doctors in medical school and they worked through hay, during the summertime during the, to earn a few dollars, when they were in high school and college, and it's very interesting, to note how many different people would come here, because they like it, because it was a farm.

MD Dad would tell these women back when I was a little girl, he'd tell them, they'd be in their high heels, and the very stretched ski pants that they wore when Sugarbush first opened, [19.23] and he'd have them, they'd go out in the barn and check on the milking and he'd tell them, he put the pail under the teeth and

you pump the tail and the milk comes out, and they would believe him back then, cause they had never seen a cow, well people are a little more worldly now when it comes to farmers pulling their legs but, dad used to do some strange things. And they'd follow him around like a little puppy dog, they would be in awe of him. And they, it was, I think the other thing that's occurring now, in the valley which concerns me is, if you look at a lot of the bed and breakfasts, that are available now, they're the homes of some of the people that used to live here for years. When the price, when the house went to sell it might of been a property that you bought for maybe a hundred and sixty to two hundred and sixty thousand dollars, and people have bought that, and they are turning them into bed and breakfasts. And, they're promoting it in the state of Vermont, I mean it's getting tourism up here, and they're promoting it, but they only have four to six rooms, and they're promoting it as antique feather duster, or four poster beds or they're really promoting the old way of life, and that's part of why I think in the valley the trend is they want to keep

the scenic, the scenic way so they can get these biking tours in. [20.40] Well I know from growing up, it's hard to ride a bike on a gravel road, the real gravel road is not smooth, you've got the actual chunks, it was actual chunks that kept the dirt road to be, sturdy enough for the cars and the traffic had to be a lot heavier thicker gravel than it is now. It's not, it wasn't a softer, and I can remember your bike tire would hit those and you'd be going all over the place, well now they want it, a certain way, and that's not the way it was. What they want is not the way it used to be. And these bed and breakfast that are coming in are beautiful, I mean people in the majority of the valley with doing business with them this winter, I think the majority of them are New Jersey, I'd be very surprised if you didn't take a poll and find out there's a lot of New Jersey, here. [21.24] And, they're wonderful people, and every thing but they're buying these properties for a huge sum of money, they're regutting the inside, they are putting in what they think the old way of life was, well the old way of life is one thing here that I wanted to do

with this property, is with my grand parents having had it, is a lot of the furniture, that was in the family, there's still a lot here, and it wasn't necessarily the antiques, it was family farm, I mean if you were a farmer and you didn't have a lot of money, you had certain pieces of furniture, that have come through the family, and they're nicked, and they're, they've seen the wear and tear of a family, it's a family home, and a lot of these bed and breakfast won't even allow children in them, because they spent so much money on them, so they're not a farm family vacation. [22.09] I think that whole trend is lost, for the families, and they have, you have the beautifully landscaped lawns and it's, I feel bad when I look at our place sometimes, because the geese are out there. I mean you've got the geese, you've got the animals, and the reality is, you're going to have some manure out there, if they get out of the pen, and you got geese that are like a watch dog and they chase you and they try to bite you and I mean, the real, what people want and what they're trying to preserve I don't think is what Vermont was all about. [22.42] And

it, when I grew up, you drove down the road, you'd have one family that could afford to live in a trailer, you'd have another family like for instance to name the names, Eurichs' and some of these that can afford to have a beautiful home, and then you might have another family that had a building that was kind of run down, and there wasn't anybody in town, that complained that I know to the town, they understood that that's all they could afford, that they had maybe a family of eight, nine, ten, you didn't go around and go to the state and sue them, and because they were an eye sore on your street. [23.14] And you lived next to them, and you excepted them for what they were, and if a farmer had a farm, you cannot be pretty and beautiful. I mean the reality is you've got the manure spreader, you've got the tractors, you've got the animals, you can't have the story book little, bed and breakfast, and I feel bad, because I think the people coming up, want the rural Vermont and the rural Vermont is, all different types of houses on the street. It's not like the suburbia, where you've got the same, and I don't know how to approach that, I

don't, I wish there were somebody that would approach that way of life, I think this is wonderful. [23.54] (tape shut off, than on) Is, I think when people hear the infighting, and a lot of the infighting is the local versus the people moving in, mom and dad have had to rely upon a tourism to stay in business so they know how important your out of staters are and they want the business promoted, they want the state of Vermont to be promoting this. But there's got to be a happy medium. And I think the state and the government controls is where's it's gonna have to happen. [24.24] It's, mom, mom and dad are not against people moving in, I'm not against people moving, I mean that's the way, the population the way it's growing, there's got to be a way to move forward, and grow with it, and do it peacefully and not feeling friction. And, I'm trying to think how to word it. Cause I think people hearing it would think that you're just naturally against people moving in. And you're not, it's a, it's a way of life, that's receding, you want them to accept that what they move into, that they try to keep it, the way it was, not glorify it. [25.05] It's not a

Norman Rockwell painting.

JB Well your example of the furniture is a wonderful example.

MD It is. And the people, mom and dad have been lucky, their repeat business last summer, you could cry because there was like three families that came back. And they came back and knocked on the door and came in and what they did, they walked right around the house, they remembered they stayed here with their young families. [25.30] Back in the sixties. And they went through the house and they could tell what the room looked like, back in 1960, and they said it changed their life their sons had bought condominiums up here, or their sons had bought a house somewhere in Vermont. Another boy was here at Christmas time, who's probably in his late twenties, his father brought him here when he was a ten year old, to ski, he never ever forgot this place. And it, the people that show up here, are word of mouth, mom doesn't have the, the money to put into advertising, like some, and what she gets, and how she survived is word of mouth. [25.58] And it's been, it's touched their lives. It really has. And you

talk to them and every thing and it makes you realize how important she and dad were, when they showed them and had the time to show them the farm or, when she used to cook all her pies and her breads and she cooked more of the country meals, and the other thing that's gonna be lost, which should be approached in the tapes are some of the old time recipes. [26.24] And.

JB Absolutely!

MD They put out these cook books now a days, these granges and every thing else, and they call them, the old fashioned Vermont cooking or something and what they miss in there, is the salt pork gravies, I mean farmers didn't live, off their beef all the time, they had salt pork gravies, they had.

DC Cod fish gravies and.

MD It was the old fashioned milk gravies and I mean ways, Wayside out in Montpelier will once in awhile feature a salt pork gravy, and my sisters.

DC And tripe. Did you ever? Ever try tripe?

JB Yes.

MD You know, the cows tongue.

JB Yes.

MD I mean the meals we had, and so people are telling us that are coming up, they want to see some of the old farm style cooking. [27.03] And they can't get it in restaurants. And they say they can get the gourmet foods down in New Jersey and New York, but a lot of the places up here, are serving food that are, you know, mahi-mahi fish from Hawaii, or the European culinary and they're wonderful, they're wonderful restaurants, but there is no restaurant that touches upon some of the people coming to this valley want to see the farm style. [27.27] And, that's, I think, in doing this, that's another part of the life they're missing. Is the food and the way they used to cook like Bertha that you interviewed.

DC Oh!

MD What a wonderful cook, and I mean she could give you the recipes. I mean the recipes that they have and that they're loosing. And you don't, you don't see it in the cook books, they almost need some younger people to work with the older people and just get it written down. Because this, these recipes are in their

heads.

JB I did talk with Bertha, a little bit, but I, what I would need is somebody like you who remembers, you know she would talk about the different pies, and the, you know, I tried to get her talking about, what she cooked here, because.

DC Oh yeah.

JB But to have somebody like you, prompt her with do you remember is, would be extremely.

MD Yeah she has a, what's interesting is when she would cook here. Bertha was a wonderful cook, but my mother has memories of her mother's cooking from Tunbridge.

JB She mentioned that.

MD And so, mom would always say, Bertha would cook something and mom would taste it and say, well it doesn't quite taste like my mother's, I think my mother's had a little something like this in it, cause mom, couldn't quite get it. Or Bertha couldn't quite get it, so they experimented with recipes, and it was popcorn balls, mother had her heart set on having popcorn balls like her mother made. [28.47] Well Bertha finally I think got the recipe down, pretty

much, through trial and error, the way mom's mother made popcorn balls. And that was our Christmas present, we had such a large family that what Bertha would make, make us for Christmas, every year, were popcorn balls and every body, our only sisters and all their children when they were young, if Christmas didn't have Bertha's popcorn balls, that was the highlight. It wasn't that someone, we could care less about the gifts that were bought, and that were expensive and how much, what we wanted were Bertha's popcorn balls. [29.19] And, she used to apologize for not being able to afford to buy us all something. I mean there was what, how many of us? Five, four kids, five us of us kids, and than like ten grand children or something like that.

DC Yeah. Yeah.

MD And there was no way and I think that's what's missing and when Bertha worked here, she was family, and she, created quite an influence and things were a lot happier when Bertha was here I think. Those were the good years. It was, she never was cranky, and dad as you saw was grumpy this morning, he was always grumpy,

and he would turn her stoves off on her in the middle of cooking something, and she'd shake her fork at him and tell him to get out of her kitchen. And there was no one that could get away with telling dad to get out of the kitchen but Bertha.

DC And they'd talk politics, you know, and argue, and Bertha would be taking her fork, and, ha, ha.

MD She'd be shaking her fork at him and he'd be, and dad would leave this house, roaring, I mean mom would literally kick him in the seat of the pants, sometimes to get him out of here, and he'd get to that back door and he would roar, and laugh as loud as he could. He would just come in and antagonize them I think purposely. And how Bertha handled it I do not know, except that she was so much a part of the family life and when my brother was little she'd chase him around and what was it, the pizza board sometimes, this long handled thing, because the kids would drive her nuts, you know so she was like the grandmother, so we got chastised.

DC Ha! Ha!

MD And who taught us, she taught me to make the beds and,

she taught me, what she knew and every lunch time, we'd have these cross crackers, the Vermont cross crackers, and she'd put butter on them, and I'd have them in tea. She taught me how to drink my tea. And, it was, it was fun and it.

DC Yes.

MD It was sort of like having a grandmother in the family and that's the way the help was treated. And I think, mother, I can't say mom feels bad now, cause she looks back at what Bertha got paid, and for what Bertha used to do you could never have anybody work for you these days, but I think Bertha loved them as much as they loved her.

DC She was dedicated.

JB Nope. [31.29]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

MD No matter what family troubles went on for her at home there was always a smile, the only time her husband died when she was still working here, and as she got older, it was, it was different cause things started getting broken and you know, I mean she was about

seventy, she was seventy years old when she retired.

DC And she knew that she couldn't handle it, she, she was an awful hard worker, and she didn't feel as if she could give what she felt and she thought she better leave while her eye sight was, pretty good and every thing, so she left me when she was seventy years old.

[.34]

MD See Bertha started working here when I was about three, and mom worked the barn with dad, and so Bertha did and mom had my sisters, my three older sisters, my brother wasn't born yet, and she had a lot of older people that were in and out, we had uncles that were logging, and would stay here so the house it's always had, what twenty some odd rooms, it's always been a huge house, there was always family here, [1.00] there was always a lot of people. And so Bertha would come in and do the ironing, the floors, the windows, the real heavy work, and of course she would chastise my sisters cause she'd be ironing their clothes, and they'd be arguing over whose clothes is was, whose shirt it was gonna be when she got done, so Bertha would take sides but, that year that Sugarbush called

mom, wasn't it Sugarbush? Mad River.

DC The Chamber of Commerce.

MD Yeah Sugarbush, Mad River had been operating since the forties, Sugarbush had just come in in the sixties, Glen Ellen opened what in sixty four, sixty five.

DC No Glen Ellen opened.

JB Sixty three. [1.40]

MD Sixty three.

JB Maybe.

DC Yeah.

MD And I was born in 54, and the first guests I remember I was five or six years old, and I was sitting on their lap in the dining room and the lady taught me to crochet, and I was five or six when she started this, and my brother was six months old, right. So I might of.

DC No, I was carrying him, when I first started it.

MD Okay. So I.

DC I was six months pregnant.

JB And how did you?

MD Yeah so I was six. [2.05]

JB How did you come to start it, you said the chamber of

commerce?

DC Called me. Said you got a big house Dorothy, don't you have some have some extra bedrooms? We got all these people that can't find rooms, we can't find rooms for. And, Damen Gade was there that's when it was beautiful around here. It, every body was family, you know, Damen Gade, but then they, that Cohen come in here, and he started building condos, stay closer to the mountain and in other words, places like ours, wasn't needed, in fact they told us right to our face. [2.41] We don't need you any more.

JB Oh really.

MD But when mom started the business.

DC So, I, it's hard on me to say yes to them taking water out of the river when they're treating us like, and you ought to hear another to talk to is the Austins' down here, Wilma Austin, she's over there.

MD She has the Camel Hump View farm. [3.01]

JB Wilma Austin.

MD A very important lady, talk to her as to what's happened to her this year. Ha!

JB Camel View farm?

MD Camel Hump View farm. And her family the Austins',
she's Wilma Austin Maynard, the Austin's down here in
Moretown, they named this, end of this road, Austin
road, cause all the Austins live on it.

DC And Mr. and Mrs., Mrs. Austin could tell you about
things way back.

JB They live in Moretown, don't they?

DC Yeah. Yeah just down.

JB Yeah, they're on.

MD They're on that end, but start up.

DC But she's really in Moretown, but still the people,
you know Wilma.

JB Um hum.

DC Maynard over there. The Camel's Hump View farm.

JB Yeah.

MD See your main farming families on this road were
Austins, you had Austin's property, you had the
Carpenter's, we had the Bisby's next door, and than
you had the Neils.

DC The Messers.

MD The Messers and than the Neils. And it was all farms.
And you had, you know like Mrs. Bisby before she died,

her husband built her a new little house on the property, before Mrs. Messer had died her husband had started to build her a little house so that they could move and the children could start taking over farms, and that kind of got lost in the shuffle, it some how, it just didn't work out, either taxes went too high or something happened and a lot of the kids just, the parents would end up selling properties or things would happen, that the parents would have to sell the properties, I know dad ended up selling a lot of land so that he wouldn't have to pay the property taxes.

JB How big a farm is this here? [4.26]

DC Well it used to be five, about five hundred acres.

JB Ah ha.

DC And, it's down to about a hundred and eighty now, we sold off an sold off, and.

MD And he would sell, I think he sold one lot of land for forty thousand. And the next year they resold it for eighty thousand, dad felt very bitter, he felt very used, he, he sold just two, and not have to pay the taxes, there was a year that the taxes jumped up extremely high and it scared him, but a.

DC They claimed who came and bought it.

MD What she claims is.

DC For there, ancestors you know, for investment, for the grand children, later on in life, and heck, it wasn't two, three years it was sold for big, they knew.

MD That's how you can get to my father, is if you tell you're doing something for your kids or reserve for the future, and but when mom started the business in the sixties, Bertha was still working here, and it was mom says, Bertha can we do this for about twenty, and they hauled beds out of the attic rooms up there, and they, got beds out and they got every thing turned around, and they cooked for about twenty, I think that first winter.

DC Yeah. Twenty or twenty-six.

MD And than I can remember the next year mother loved it, cause she had come from Montpelier and was used to a lot more people than my father was so mom was in her glory, and mom would sing, when mom was happy cooking, she danced and she sang, and Bertha was happy and it was Bertha do you think we can handle this amount of people? And Bertha was always of course we can Dot, so

they put a big black stove over there and that door was closed off, and they put this great big huge commercial stove and I think they went to fifty people and than the next year, it's Bertha you think we can handle eighty. And of course we can Dot. So, Bertha was always of course we can and it went up to a hundred, a hundred and twenty. [6.16] A hundred and sixty and Bertha was always of course we can Dot. Ha! Ha! Or Dottie. She called her Dottie.

DC Ha! Ha! Ha!

MD And so Bertha at that point by the time it grew that much mother was doing the reservations, the advertising.

JB A hundred and sixty?

MD She had four bus loads in here at a time. Almost every weekend.

JB Holy.

MD Even in January the slow month.

DC And the neighbors down there, I mean people down in town that owned, said, Dotty said I don't know how to hell you do it, and I don't know how I did it, but I was young and.

MD Now we're talking sixties and seventies, with buses on this road all winter, in the spring and we're talking car traffic, now they're saying these dirt roads can't handle the traffic. [6.57] The roads, in the sixties and seventies were no where the shape and her business had slowed off in the eighties. So there's no longer that traffic from mother, from her business and the roads have deteriorated, and it's not due to the trucks or.

DC Traffic here.

MD It's, so there's something wrong some where if you can bring in bus loads of people and you can bring them in the sixties and seventies, and now all of a sudden in the eighties you can't.

DC Well we had a road commissioner, and his name was Mr. Armstrong, and he had a boulevard out through here, you never had this in the spring. You might once in awhile a little but than you always kept track of it, you know, filled it up, with the, gravel and he had it so smooth.

MD But yet it was still curvy, it still had the trees and it was still, and it was the way they formed the

ditches I think, now I think they're making every thing level, flat and down at the V, the Y down there that you see, that used to be a little rutty, little thing, and the tire tracks had grooved it out, and it, I think it was dangerous, I think people were going on to, Messer's lawn and he wanted it changed, but now they flattened it right out, and so there's no character there, you lost the little fork in the road, it's just this great, big wide open.

DC You know like they do in the cities.

JB Yeah.

DC That's just what people are coming in here and doing to us. [8.19] Like, one day, I got a call from Judy Reese, and she says, Dot we have a selectman that called and he wants your sign taken down, well I said, yeah I'll take it down, but I said the state will only put another one up there, so that's the last I heard of it.

MD Cause mom's had a sign there since the sixties.

DC Well you know it's grandfather clause.

JB Yeah.

MD But it used to be in the little y.

DC But some of these selectman from out of state, that come in here, and they were after my sign.

MD And it was cute, you'd drive down and we'd have the sign there, and it was a little y, and it just fit in, and now that the town has smoothed that out, they moved the sign on these posts, right across the ditch and it looks awful. [9.05]

DC Well we got to get our sign painted too.

MD Well the sign has got to get painted, but it still looks awful.

DC And they got a clause that if my sign comes down, I can't put it back up again. If the sign falls down.

JB Well now do you still have people coming here?

DC Oh yeah.

MD Yes.

DC But I mean it's little things the town's been after us about.

JB Well I mean I would think that, the sign, you know, would need to be here for.

DC But you know some people.

MD If they want their seven thousands a year in taxes, they're going to have to allow dad to do something. I

mean, there was a, back if you go back what really made me mad when I was probably in my late twenties, maybe my mid-twenties, Mr. Messer's son, Freddie, who got his farm the barns and the house.

DC Down there on the corner.

MD He wanted to operate a vegetable stand wasn't it.

DC A small.

MD He wanted to sell vegetables.

DC Well I think a machine.

MD Yeah but I thought I heard he wanted to do something with vegetables.

DC Well anyway, it was either small machinery, you know like, lawn mowers and stuff, have a shop at his own house. [10.14] In home operation. And, they wouldn't allow it. So finish telling.

MD Well, I think the first thing he wanted to do is I think he wanted to sell vegetables, now I think he got shot down on that, in the town, now than the small machinery that mom says he's got this huge barn, it's attached to the house, how can he afford to pay taxes if the town isn't gonna allow him to do something. [10.36] The, I mean he's one of the local guys that

hasn't gone on to college, doesn't have this career, this fancy career, and if they allow now, it makes a difference who it is. If it's Lucy _____, she can put in a beauty parlor. [10.49] It's allowed.

DC Yeah. Right over here next door and that's in home but they wouldn't allow him down there. Ten years ago.

MD And he was one of the original families that have been here, he's not gonna come in and do something and strip something naked, that wasn't gonna be something that was gonna hurt the property, as a matter of fact, if he could of had more money, the property would be prettier looking than it is no.

DC I know it.

MD If he has an income and he and his wife are struggling, they struggle hard for what they do.

JB Well I think the other thing is that, people that have come in from outside, think that farming is kind of a one shot deal, that farmers don't have to supplement their income, and yet, if you look at the history, they always have.

MD They always have. They always have, dad, ever since I

was a little girl has always sold gravel, in knowing certain improvements, he's always had, or you have to log, you have to lumber off your land, I mean if you don't do some form of control, lumbering your trees don't grow right anyways, I mean, even I who and I'm not trained in agricultural know that you have to do this and do it properly. And you have to rotate crops. [11.52] You have to have enough land and flat fields to rotate crops. You, and now they're bringing them, I know the sheep, the lamas, and other things to keep agriculture going, well they shouldn't have to, they shouldn't have to go to that and than be catered to these people that are bringing in those, those neat little kinds of little things, the farmer who farms with the cows, and if you're gonna farm with cows you've got to have a modern dairy farm, you've got to have the production, out lay, you can't be a little farmer of twenty cows and survive. [12.25] You can't do it unless you've got some wealth behind you. So they've got to allow the Neils, the you know like if my brother, that's part of why my brother left and went to Ben and Jerry's they can pay him more at Ben

and Jerry's than mom and dad could on the farm, and Georgie wants to earn enough there, and he gives them his money back. And I think people in town looked at, I think it scared him when he left and went to Ben and Jerry's to work, I think they thought dad was doing the field out front, for maybe development, but use some sense, if he levels that gravel out, you can't build houses out there. There won't be, they'll be the seepage for his corn or his hay, it will not be seepage for building, like right now Elwin Neil who's a selectman in town, said he doesn't understand [13.10] the neighbors fighting mom and dad, because if they do this, they can never build what these town houses, he says it stands now they can build one town house every third of an acre, and how many acres are out in that field.

DC Sixteen.

MD Sixteen acres. A third of an acre could have a townhouse, so in an acre is three. [13.33] Three times sixteen acres, they could have 48 townhouses out on that flat. So Elwin says why are the neighbors

fighting this, that I mean and it does, he makes sense, if people would look at it that way. What dad wants to do, will keep it the farm. And also the other thing is the barn and the stable that are out there, which people don't realize, it was built what, 1865. The beams in it, there's one beam that's gone out there, and they found it, a little while ago, and what may have to happen, they may have build, a stable over there, because where the barn is now, there's no more land, it's too wet out back here. And if they want to build the new stable, and they want to keep this as the heifer barn, and if you want to build your new stable, that would be the new milking parlor, that you run the cows through, they could have a bigger herd, and my brother could keep the farm going. And if they can't get the gravel removed and get that leveled out, he can't have his new stable there. And I've told my father, why don't you tell people this is your plan. These are the future plans, he says it's none of their business he said they should trust me that I'm a farmer and I'm not gonna damage anything. And, I think that's what's frustrating, is you have, if they want

to see this farm retained, you can't retain something that's 1865 with one major beam gone, the people who have looked at it said that, just to wire the barn, and replace the beam that's in there is gonna be seventy thousand dollars. [15.10] And they cannot build on anymore onto their stable unless they fix that beam. So, I mean the reality is, how does a farmer come up with that seventy thousand dollars. You either, take the gravel out, where you need to put the new stable, or you need to make your corn field, and you have some income coming from that, otherwise you can't pay a loan back, for just repairing the barn for seventy thousand on top of the mortgage you already got. [15.36] No but off the track, with Bertha and mother, they went through for years and now Bertha retired when she was seventy, and than mom had to hire my uncle that was a chef, that lived over where Lupie _____ is, [15.52] and he did home cooking, mother would fight with him to make sure it stayed home cooking. But some of the life I think went out of mom, because Bertha and she did the wall papering and the painting and they're both short little ladies, and you

know they'd tackle the mice together on a farm you have mice, and they'd be running around with a broom trying to, they'd be squealing and hollering and among making some of their stuff but they had a good time and now.

DC Wouldn't last long.

MD And now, yup, now the business in the eighties, I think 1986 was your last year with four bus loads on weekends. Or 1985. Right when Sugarbush sold.

DC Around the eighties.

MD Right when Damen Gade sold Sugarbush.

DC Whenever that was.

MD And mom.

DC And why they come in, wanted to make it, just for the, thought they were gonna get the movie stars, gonna get the big class. You know our place wasn't good enough for them. [16.54] Their clientele so they thought.

MD Well the tour people.

DC Now they wished that they had my clientele now probably for ski tickets.

MD Well the tour people that used to bring the loads in here, he told mom that they went to Killington. And he

told her that Sugarbush was discouraging the groups and he couldn't get the deals that Killington could give, and he wished her place was down in Killington.

DC He says your place would be filled all the time.

MD So than it, we've had to go back to, relying upon the couples and the families, so we have cut back on the beds, it used to be dormitory style too, we had a building that had the dorms, the old fashioned dorms in it, and they're making a come back, but you can't afford the labor to make the beds and do the work so, the come back isn't gonna be feasible, in that area. So if she can, we've cut the house back to where we can handle one bus load, of people. [17.50]

JB And how, what's that thirty, forty.

DC Well we got sixty-five.

MD We got 65, we can sleep 65 people now.

JB That's a lot.

MD But, when you say you can sleep 65 people, that's like if you have, high school and two girls don't mind being in a double bed or something like that. So you plan on being able to fit maybe one bus load of forty-eight. And this winter, mom's saving grace and what

will keep her business going is her repeats. [18.16]

Her repeat groups, that love it here and every thing.

So.

JB And do you get some people in the summer as well?

DC Yeah a few. But not as much as we used to when I was young. [18.30] You see I stopped taking them because I'd have heat rash and in the summer it would be so hot here, you remember how the summers got so hot, it's not like they used to be.

JB Yeah. Yeah.

DC Remember how they used to be sixty-nine, or?

JB Yes.

DC Seventy degrees, not nineties, and eighties.

JB Yes. Yes.

DC Now it's got like that I'd have to have the whole place air conditioned if I could. Cause I break out in these big, red welts, and itch, oh, and I'd have to run my hands under cold water, to cool off and drink cold water, other wise I used all those big, stuff itchy, all over me.

JB Oh gosh.

DC Heat rash like I guess.

JB Yeah. [19.06]

DC But anyway I stopped, of course I started getting older. I'm going on 70, now. So, you see. I'm the age that Bertha was when she quit. And she could work rings around me now.

JB Well it sounds like, as well as being helpful in running the farm, that you really enjoyed having the.

DC Can you imagine making pies for a hundred and sixty five people.

JB No I can't.

DC In one day.

JB I can't.

DC Plus getting the whole meal.

JB I really can't. You must of worked like.

DC Well I did yeah.

MD You want to know something else that I think I'll bring up on the tape, and let you, if you want to research it, if people want to check it out, there's all kinds of new permits going into effect, and my husband and I moved back to try to want to keep this in the family and there's new fire inspection laws,

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and one of them is the fire inspector we have a new chimney they need a sprinkler system in the house if we want to keep this business we have to put in a sprinkler system, well with the old fashioned plaster walls, in the rooms the way they are, I don't think it's feasible. And it would be about fifty thousand dollars, we can't afford to do it. If we don't do a sprinkler system, we have to do, it would have to be hooked up to a fire alarm system, and than if we don't do the sprinkler system we still have to have the smoke alarms in every single bedroom, and it has to be tied in to a panel, and the panel will dial Stowe fire department and the calls go into Stowe and than Stowe calls Waitsfield and that's how it goes. If we even do the fire alarm system, I've had two different estimates. We're looking at probably about fifteen thousand and all the wires will have to be exposed unless we regut the house, and have the wire molding, hidden, so if we do this, and want to stay in business for the amount of people, now as long as mom and dad own the place, they are able to run this as is, if my husband and I take it over, we have to make the

changes. And we can't afford to do it alone, to do the changes, we'll loose the place. Which my father has told us if we do what the state wants done, we're going to loose the place and he is very correct, I mean if you add up what the state wants done, so my dad doesn't want my husband and I to take it over, or he doesn't want to see any of us kids have to take it over, so just to throw it out to people, his solution is, is he's already called the fire chief, in the town, he's talked to people if he takes the fire insurance off the house, he can bulldoze the house under, or her can set fire to it. [21.46] And than he figures he pays four thousand dollars a year in taxes on this building, just this building alone, with fifteen acres, if my husband and I buy the fifteen acres, and this house our taxes will be four thousand a year. Dad says.

DC Isn't that awful.

MD Dad says if we can't afford the mortgages to run it,

he would rather, light a fire to it and not have to pay his taxes per year and still be able to live on his land. [22.12] Now, that's hard I mean, people look at that and they might think he's crazy, for thinking of this right, but he doesn't want to sell this to someone else, he doesn't want someone else living in his farmhouse that's third generation. He, it's something and people have to understand that, and he's serious. I think people in town think he's, talking through thin air, he's not, he's talked to the fire chief, he can take the insurance off the building, and he can do what he wants with it. He can do it, and he's not going to let it go to someone else. It's point blank. And what the state has done now, that they're doing, that mom and dad got a letter on, when they drop back in people, they were licensed with the health and food department, for ninety-six people sleeping and feeding seventy-five, that was how the numbers were arranged. And that was using, all the bunk beds they had in, in the house, they got a letter, last year, that said they had to pay the state of Vermont, fifteen hundred and sixty seven dollars,

for a five year period, not for back years but Madeleine Kunin's administration in 1986, or 87 passed a water permit law, now mom and dad when they started this business, went through the health department, they were licensed, he has a separate septic system for the barn and the toilets out there, he has all kinds of septic systems, he even did more than what was required of him because this is his house, and he lives here, and he knows that he does not want septic trouble. [23.40] And he will not pollute something that is on his property. And, they, so the letter stated that there's this new law, and if you produce more than sixty five hundred gallons a day, in water, being released in your septic system you have to pay this permit and you get charged the fee is I believe fifteen hundred dollars over the sixty-five gallons produced per day, than you get charged a four cent, permit fee on every gallon over sixty five hundred gallons, so they said our level of gallons are eighty one thousand, eighty one hundred sixty or something like that, so you take that, and what I don't understand is this is a tourist, Vermont is tourist,

it's seasonal, we're not a Holiday Inn, we're not a Raddison, and they told me it doesn't matter if all she has is fifty people for the winter. [24.40] She's licensed for that amount of people so she has to pay that fee, and it's paid in advance for five years. Now if you own a business, are you going to pay services, five years in advance, when you may not be operating your business five years ahead. They, they are driving business out. [25.00] They are driving the small businesses out, the family businesses, number one, they can't, so dad says he's being, he's getting, he already did all his septic, he's done it by law, now he gets a letter saying he's got to pay to use his toilet. There is not ninety-six people here every day three hundred sixty five days of the year. I mean, even if you go to banks and you get loans, you only base your capacity upon a certain amount of people. There is no Holiday Inn, you go talk to any of them, they're not full max capacity, every day of the year, and that's what the permit is based on. And I have, so we wrote them a letter this year, we talked to the health department, we have the beds were cut back

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anyways, we're only doing sixty-five beds and so our seating, they go by the actual number of seats and the seats we've got are something like sixty two seats. So they wrote us a nice little letter and if we go through the health department and we've changed our numbers, and we aren't gonna have to pay this fee, because we've got, come below the sixty five gallons. But my concern is not mom and dad, what happens to other places that might be as big a house as this, the families want to keep it in the family, and you want to keep operating, something is not right. Who's ever passing these laws, or are doing what they're doing, they're driving people out. They are not promoting a business, and I cannot see why they charge people five years in advance. If they sent you a permit and said you owe this year, like your health department, permits, you pay yearly. You get your fee, you get your license, the health inspector comes around you get your license, you renew it and you're in operation. Now you get a permit that comes from over to Waterbury, the head quarters in Waterbury, and they tell you got to pay five years in advance.

DC Ha! Ha! When you're lucky if you can scratch out fifteen hundred dollars.

JB Yeah, I don't even know if I'm gonna be alive in five years.

MD I mean you pay the state of Vermont to have your signs out, you know you pay a fee there, you're out just to stay in business you pay the state chamber of commerce, with the Vermont state chamber of commerce, she's with the central Vermont chamber of commerce, we can't afford to be with the Sugarbush chamber of commerce, they can't provide the business we need. Or what we look at for our, our clientele have to be the average families taking vacations, or the average people, the Sugarbush chamber is promoting the places that are ninety and a hundred dollar a night. You know that type of, of place but someone, some where has got to follow through and find out why this is being done to the tourist seasonal places. Something's wrong. Some where.

DC Because that's the only way the state is getting their money. And the act 250 is, ruining our, economy in the state of Vermont. The.

MD So that like, like dad says you can't afford to stay in business. [27.48] He would rather bulldoze the place under and lose the history of his house than keep hanging, he can't pay these fees out. He cannot do it. And, that, I think what they've done, I don't know what they've done, I don't know if the law makers in Vermont are now from out of state, they're used to bigger bucks, or what they're used to.

DC They're retired lawyers a lot of them. [28.10] And they're from out of state, and they're down there making our laws and we don't even.

MD But.

DC And they don't even know Vermont.

MD I don't think they understand that in order to keep some of these, the family heritage going, you have to do what you have to do, and if you live in the house as a family business, does it make sense that I want fire alarms on my plaster walls, or on my wall paper. I mean I don't understand if I live in the house, am I going to, have to worry, I mean I'm here, am I going to let something go on that's gonna cause a fire here. And jeopardize my family or my child, I mean if I have

a group of people in the house, I stay up all night. I mean, even they tell me, even with a fire alarm by the time it goes off, with this wooden building, the building is gonna be gone. So I don't understand the sense, I don't understand why you have to spend so much money [29.03] to keep something going and keep it in the family. And so, just from being back here the year we already know that it's infeasible, we aren't going to be able to keep it.

JB Hum.

MD So.

DC Yeah.

MD That's the bottom line. And that's it. So than the next solution you have to look at, whether can you do apartments, but in order to do that, you're probably gonna have to, go through act 250, there's no feasible way of keeping the property this size going. So. And, I think it needs to be addressed by people, you know, and I don't know who is there that can follow it through. [29.45] (tape off and than on) George _____ central Vermont chamber of commerce, I knew him from a

few years ago, from when I worked for my sister at her motel in Barre, and I see him as a very, he sees the future, and he's very good, I think he runs the central Vermont chamber he's done an excellent. He did well I mean we joined it, the people out there are home people like Lorraine that runs the office out there, she calls you, she looks for people to have places during foliage. She doesn't just look for people to have a place to stay during foliage, as a business, she has a heart and she cares, and she calls all the lodges and will try to fill you and get people a bed for the night. [30.26] You know what I mean and she will make sure, you know her husband has even told me that he'll even drive people to some places. To get them there safely at night. Now, George I had run this by him when I moved back here and wanted to take over this property, and he told me that possibly what we would have to do is get together, that mom's place is unique, there is no place in the valley like it or around, and he said that we don't have, which is true, you look at it feasibly, we can't advertise it the way it needs to be advertised, to keep it in business. So

he said we'd have to get together with three or four other places, and advertise as a, as a combination, so you have to find other farms or certain things that are doing this, it's very hard to get people to cooperate, with you. [31.16]

END OF TAPE ONE

JB Okay.

MD Okay.

JB Um, hum.

MD So George _____, and the central Vermont chamber of commerce told me when I told them about this water permit, that mom and dad had, that they were gonna have to pay fifteen hundred dollars for, he told me about these meetings that the central Vermont chamber of commerce were backing, the business man, out in Barre and Montpelier, they held these meetings last summer in trying to put forth some opinions and ideas as to how they could change Act 200 and Act 250. And streamline it, and get it moving faster, for

businesses. [.50] So George said to me, he said you've got a very valid point, between the gravel, reclamation project and this water permit that came through, so he said please be there, so I showed up to that meeting, now I missed the meetings before that probably were the month before and at that meeting they said they had a lot of people, they had a lot of contractors, they had a lot of people and very few state workers, there were no state workers there to at the first meetings, to balance out the amount of people that showed up, so at the first months meetings, I hear that these contractors and everybody said, oh, this isn't gonna work, so why should we bother to go to the second data meeting, so the meetings I went to, they had more state workers there, that worked for the environmental department, or whatever departments that are available, and they were there and there were less contractors and less business people. [1.50] There were, I believe two other parties there, that are having trouble with gravel things and the gravel things that they're trying to promote are not as commercial and they're

fighting in court like mom has, and they've been denied, and so they can't put forward their businesses or their home industries. Now, when I spoke up about the permit, and I told the group at large, you know my feelings on this one subject, the lady running the meeting and I wished I could remember names of people for you, she twisted what I said, what I was trying to say is, this law got passed in the eighties, mom and dad knew nothing about this law, if they had of known, they would of lobbied it, or done what ever they had to do to stop that law from going through. The average person you have to have a lawyer n staff now to know what's going on, when you're a family business you don't have lawyers on staff, I don't understand the wording of their laws, to begin with, I don't understand the concept of how it's gonna effect me five years from now, and that law that was passed in the eighties on the water permit, went into effect in 1991. Okay that's five years down the road, that it's gonna go into effect, and it's passed in the mid eighties, to give people a chance I guess to know about it, mom and dad knew nothing about it. [3.10]

And it's, I know it's our business to know these things, but I don't understand them, my parents don't understand them, we can't afford to have a lawyer on staff. [3.17] So I was trying to tell them at the meeting that part of the problem with Act 200 and Act 250, is they need to word things for the average person. They've got it worded so, it's hard, they've got it so strangely worded, that they cannot, the average person can't follow it, they can't help themselves you end up getting lawyer involved and you're paying a lot of dollars you have to hire a lawyer to understand, if he gives you the wrong advise, like the lawyer gave them on the, reclamation out front the field, then they're out twenty, thirty thousand dollars, and their life savings, their insurance is gone. So we don't have the money to fight this water permit. So I'm trying to tell them at the meeting, this is the point, you've got to get it for the average person, you've got to have people there that help the average person, and she twisted it around to mean, because I had, contacted someone called Faith Cleesh, when I first moved down here, I

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was told to contact Faith Cleesh, and she would help me, get all my permits in place for here. And she's wonderful, she worked with me one on one, we spent time on the phone, I talked with her in person, we wrote letters, she told me what I needed to do, cause she knows I want to save it as a family business, there was nothing wrong with how she did it, or what she did and she spent hours with me. That's one employee working with me for hours, so they took it that I said at the meeting, that she didn't tell me properly, that she wasn't trained properly, that she didn't know her permits, and what I was trying to tell them is that Faith can't take, how many people can she help the way she helped me, and have time for everybody that's out there. You cannot have all these controls and regulations, and have a one on one permit person helping you through the steps, it's the state workers I mean some of those state workers that are working those positions, they're hands are tied too.

[5.20] You know there's things that they would like to see, be continued in families, and they can't, because they've got to go by the regulations. Something has

got to be streamlined, or something has got to be simplified, to help people and she was telling me that if we wanted to even change a bathroom in this house, to do my permit, two years in advance. If you've got a plan that you want to do, you better know two years in advance because it's gonna take you that long to put it through Act 250. Something is wrong when you own a business and it's gonna take you two years to get.

DC That's what's the matter with the economy in the state of Vermont. [5.57] Is that.

MD So George Valik, so I'm at this meeting, and when I get in a group of people I get nervous, I could not present myself, I could not get my concept across, the lady running the meeting because they're for Act 250 and they're for Act 200, they twisted my words around, and made it sound like oh yes we've got to get more education to our employees. [6.20] We got to have our employees we got to hire more employees to help you. What George and the group, I believe if you talk with business people that are out there, they want things

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simplified, they want less state workers involved they want less boards, going from board to board to board, and if we had not had to go through the reclamation of the field, mom and dad went for 88, all the way to 91, to the Supreme Court, and they'd get a permit, and they'd be allowed to take some gravel out, than a person up ahead, up hire would deny the permit. And they'd have to stop the gravel removal, so people think that a gravel pit has to stay there for ten years, and it does if you do it by Act 250, if they had been allowed to do the field, the way my dad wants to do it, it would of been out in two years, there's not that much gravel out there. [7.14] People think there is a mint out there. I have also, been told and I came back, because I was told by a guy I met in Burlington, that hadn't seen me in years, he said that someone wants mom and dad's property. [7.29] He told me, that the neighbors that have lawyers, that are fighting my parents on the gravel pit, they have to put as much out in lawyers, as my parents have, these neighbors do not have the income to fight us, okay, I know one of the neighbors, they're in debt, they have

no money, every time they take my parents to court, or something goes on, isn't it a little strange that can buy a new vehicle or they can get something that's a little different, and all of a sudden they're back taxes are paid, and they're not working any different jobs, I mean there's little strange things going on, so and this man, told me that they're, that because you have people that can have lawyers on staff, you have people that can afford to do this, they are taking the environmental laws, and they see a weakness there, and they can go after certain properties, or certain divisions and they know how to fight you every step of the way. [8.31] Now, to me, I mean, and if, I don't know, if it's good to put this on tape or not but I have a sister who has, owns businesses, and I had her research the financial end of the gravel, and go through some of the stuff, and she was like amazed and she saw every step of the way that my mom's lawyer did things and my sister said if we had the money, we should sue the town of Waitsfield. We should sue the lawyer, and we should sue my nephew by marriage, because all the advise given was wrong, and there is,

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a financial factor there because now that the town, the town used to get the gravel from mom and dad for two twenty five yard, now they're having to go to Northfield and get their gravel they're paying seven fifty a yard for gravel.

DC Isn't that strange.

MD Now, the town when I talked to Elwin Neil his complaint is that when they got gravel from mom and dad they paid two twenty five a yard, but they had to pay someone to crush it for a dollar thirty five a yard, so it still comes up to probably about four dollars. That's still almost half the cost of going to Northfield. Plus they're giving the income to someone in Northfield's gravel. Okay.

DC They're not giving it in town.

MD So, you have the gravel right in your own town, that's cheaper, you know, less expensive and you're going over to Northfield over Roxbury mountain, they're hauling the gravel over there, those roads aren't safe for hauling gravel, the neighbors at that end of Waitsfield are complaining cause of the truck traffic, now. You've got, the town tells me, Owen Neil tells me

that they can bring seven fifty a yard, they can bring the gravel from Northfield cheaper than they could get it from mom and dad, because they're using someone else's trucks, they're using someone else's men, and paying them, now my complaint is, we have three men working for the town, on the road department, now. They're getting paid, what over twenty thousand a year, each one of them.

DC Twenty, thirty thousand.

MD You've got them, they've invested in their machinery, we've got lots of money tied up in the road machinery, we've got trucks sitting there, doesn't it make sense you use your own trucks, your own men, your maintaining those vehicles, something doesn't stick me right, that they could get gravel from us, for four dollars a yard versus going all the way to Northfield of seven fifty. [11.02] So when my sister started approaching it from the financial end and looking at things, she says something isn't right.

JB Do you have any idea?

MD I have, I have, the, I have, so I've had two people, my sisters looked at it from one end, and she said

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someone in the gravel industry found that loop hole on scenic roads, in the state of Vermont, town plans, the state is pushing town plans to be stripped and hard so that they don't have to regulate it, I know that, that's part of Act 200, right. To try to have the towns regulate. So, someone who's very wise, knows that the towns are going to write little scenic language in there, is how I believe. [11.40] They bring their little companies in, and they have some of their things already operating, and they have their permits in place, so the people that want to start one, or they want to do a project, can't go forward. Now, every time mom and dad, were denied a permit with the state of Vermont, every single time, they had a real estate person show up on this property, offering to buy or calling.

DC Calling us.

MD It's been three different real estate, dad said, I will not, now dad didn't tell them he would not sell, dad's smart, he wanted to know who's behind trying to

drive him out. [12.20] He said you tell me the name of the person that wants to buy the gravel out there, cause what they want, they want the rights and the field. For ten years. And he says, I will tell you whether I'll be willing to do it, they will not give him the name of the person that wants to buy that field. But if they have the rights to that gravel for ten years, the price of gravel is gonna get jacked up even higher than seven fifty a yard, and maybe in the eighth year, they've got their permits, there is a fortune out there if you wait that long. Okay. At the price my parents were getting it, what it did, the two twenty five a yard, what it did was, as dad removed the gravel, sold it to the town of Moretown, and the town of Waitsfield, he took the money, and there might be Granfield, I think was one, I think Corliss Nelson was another, they would take and bulldoze a section, and if you look out there when the grass turns green you'll see where he's reseeded part of it, if it's already been done. And, what they paid to them to bulldoze, or to change, he probably broke even. Between lawyers, well he's gone under now, with having

to pay lawyers, we're way behind. But, until they had to drag lawyers into it, mom and dad were breaking even. [13.42] On cost, and they might of been making a little bit. Because, they so they, cause dad has saved every bit of top soil, because it's going back on, and it is all saved. He won't even let us touch it, to bring top soil up here for certain parts of the lawn, he gets very angry if I say I want some top soil for the garden. He says no, that's for my field, you can't touch it, he will not sell any of that. So you have this field sitting out there, and someone has stopped them effectively with all the regulations that are in place, in Vermont, and every time we're now trying to put the field through the agricultural department because we've been told that we're agricultural, that's the way we should of gone instead of getting this lawyer. [14.28] There's a man that I can't name, because he tells me he'll get fired if, if we name them. He has worked with us, he's a lawyer, he tells us how to write the things, and we still get shot down and it's Kaplan on all the permits, every time they go to [14.46] her office we're getting shot down at the

level of Stephanie Kaplan. And I will name that on the tape and there is something wrong some where I don't know, who's being paid, I don't know, who wants it, and I can't prove anything, I have no proof, all I can tell you is something is wrong when a real estate person comes around, and they come around a week before they get their official denial in the mail. They come before mom and dad, and the last time a real estate person came, I said to mom and dad, you're getting denied. Mom and dad said no, no, no. They told us this was gonna go through, this is going through as agricultural now. Denial came. I'm, I'm, I'm not done. [15.28] I'm not an idiot. And I know, and I see something going on, something is wrong, someone is using the rules and regulations and they know ahead of time, so some how people that have gravel pits, ahead of time, I would start researching into people that already have gravel pits ahead of time. And, it's jack, they're jacking the price up, they really are. And, look at all the gravel roads in Vermont, look what they're gonna do to the towns and their taxes. [15.58] And I see it. I really do. It's gonna be

cheaper for them to pave all these roads by the time they get done.

DC Who wants paved roads? Where you drive and walk in, horses and.

MD But that.

DC It won't be country anymore, to me.

MD But the only thing I can suggest, I know what George Malick and the business people out in Barre, Montpelier are saying, it is dying, businesses are dying. It's not just the flood that happened this winter but, places were on the edge out there, Waitsfield with coming back, I told mom and dad, it's sad to me, some of the big old homes, that were here when I was a teenager, and in my twenties were beautiful. [16.43] I mean people, this was before even the ski areas, had probably taken off, they always maintained a certain way, the big homes can't be maintained like that, you can't take every home in Waitsfield and turn it into a bed and breakfast. They have gotten a little shabby. There are lots of store fronts, that are empty. I mean, you can see that the valley I don't see the movement I see it, it's

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regressed, and I do see a regression.

JB Um.

MD Or.

JB Well. (tape off) [17.14]

END OF TAPE TWO