

Bob Gove/TC1992.0052  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck  
BG Bob Gove  
Place Moretown, VT  
Date 5/14/92

JB Let's see if I got a level here.

BG This is Bob Gove, again, in Moretown, Vermont.

JB Great. And it is, May 14th.

BG It's May 14th.

JB Perfect. (tape off, and then on) (short pause)

BG Oh gee. [.41] Welcome to my world, won't you come on  
in, miracles I guess, still happen now and then. Step  
into my heart, leave your cares behind, welcome to my  
world, filled with you in mind, knock and the door  
will open, seek and you'll find, ask and you'll be  
given, the key to this world of mine, I'll be waiting  
here, with my arms unfold, waiting just for you  
welcome to my world. [1.41] That's all I guess.

JB Okay.

BG I have a little story about Frank Hartshorn that I,

forgot when I was taping about him before, and Frank was I believe, was telling Albert Neil about this, some one, he told someone but, it wasn't me about it, and he said, Frank went on, you know he says, my wife don't want me to have any cream. He says or milk, or any of those kind of things, she says dairy products are awful bad for me, and she won't put them on the table. You know at all. So he said, but I fooled her, oh, he says I go out to the barn, and I lay right down under that quiet cow, and I just squirt that milk right into my mouth you know, just all I can hold of it, oh. [2.40] Warren, Warren White went up to, or rather he didn't go up especially he was working on a log truck with Mervin Cutler, and they were up that way, drawing logs and they stopped in to see Frank, of course every body always wanted to stop and talk with Frank, and he was out in the barn, you know, and, Warren said that he had of course Clarence his son, always went home and helped his father hay. Which was a wonderful thing, and not many people do that, you know, their families aren't that close that Frank, Clarence would always stop, he, even when he was road

commissioner for the town of Warren, he would stop his work, and go and help his father put in his hay. And I assume, that it was probably cut late, of course Warren White and Mervin Cutler would know something about hay, you know, but Frank was in the barn, and Warren said that it was very obvious that this hay was cut, late in the season, see, and it was a kind of, like June grass, because Frank was old, and he hadn't taken care, plowed his farm, probable lately and he, he ran his finger, his hand into the hay mow, and pulled out a hand, a handful of that hay, and he held it up to the boys and he says, just smell of that boys, isn't that beautiful smell he said oh, he says, that's just beautiful, that hay, ooo.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [4.23] Again.

BG Eldon DeLong was an old Warrenite of course and he was about my age but he and his brother used to go over and help Frank, do different things, and he and Dennis his brother, went over there one morning, and here was Frank out in the barn yard, it seems that he had several pigs probably a whole litter of pigs that he'd

been feeding down in the basement, under the horse barn, people back in those days used to think, all these barns, the older barns were built with basements, and if you put your horse manure, down that basement, all winter, or even for a month, and you don't have pigs on that manure, it just heats, and really burns up. And it's not any good, so people always, figured on, having pigs on their horse manure, in the basement, well it seems that the horse manure got built up and there was windows, along, under just above the ground, you see, and that, when that horse manure got built up to the right, depth there, so it was even with those windows those pigs just broke the windows and out they went, into the barn. [5.44] And, to the barn yard, well you know those windows were only as I remember any that I've ever seen weren't more than a foot high, and not a very big, but probably two feet long, and when the DeLong boys went into the, barn, into the barn yard where Frank was, here he was with his hair hanging down in his eyes, and the perspiration was just standing out on him all over, and he had off his hat, and he was swinging his

hat, in his right hand, trying to drive that litter of pigs back through that window, into the barn. And of course they would scoot right by that window, they didn't want to go by and Frank was just, beside himself with agony. Ha! Ha! Trying to and Eldon says, you aren't, you can't ever drive those pigs back in there Frank and, and he didn't make too much oh, he says, the vial roots, you know, I can't seem to do anything with them, boys would you just help me get those pigs back. Oh! And so the boys helped him get the pigs into the corner and caught them and they took them in the barn and put them back in the basement and he boarded up the window. And that was the end of the pig thing for that day. [7.07]

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! Oh, gosh! And then you had that, story about Elijah Fuller, and Hattie.

BG Oh yeah. [7.18] I had a, a little, another story about Elijah Fuller and Hattie that I, had forgotten to tell, and it seems that a man, from around town probably went there one day to trade horses with, with Elijah Fuller, and of course Elijah raised colts and all that sort of thing, and he had, always had a,

quite a few horses around, and he used to sell horses to people and trade when he could and, they were, they had been out and looked at, at Elijah's horse, and the fellow wants, seems saw a horse or a colt there that he really wanted, and Elijah probably was getting a better horse, probably a more mature horse I imagine, then what he was letting the man have so, they were setting at the kitchen table talking about it, and, and Elijah said to the man, I will give you twenty five dollars to boot, between the horses if you want to do that, if you want to trade, and Hattie, Elijah's wife spoke right up, and she says why Elijah Fuller, you know that you haven't got a single cent to your name, today, how can you tell this man that you will give him twenty five dollars to boot, between the horses. And, Elijah kind of, snuffed up his nose a little, well he says, Hattie, I guess probably you don't know all that goes on around here, I got a little box out to the barn, and he says I've been kind of putting away a little few cents out there along, and he says I guess probably you don't know about that little box. [9.08] Hattie and, then one day she was,

probably another day she was giving him, a going over about something and she kind of, after awhile she let up a little bit and Elijah says to her, well Hattie have you finished speaking your piece? And, she says well I don't know whether I have or not, and he says well, if you finish speaking your piece, you better make a bow. Cause people always make a bow after they finish speaking their peace.

JB Ha! Ha! She sounds like she was fairly domineering.

BG Ha! [9.48] Well I guess I, I guess I like to keep telling stories about the Fullers because they were such a remarkable family, it seemed that they could do things that other people would never think of, even, and it seems that they bought this, four year old mare, in Granville, and or traded, probably, I guess probably they bought her, and Lauren Fuller and his father Elijah, took a horse and sleigh, this was in the wintertime, and they went to Granville to get that colt. And, Lauren told me that the colt never even had a halter on, and she was running in the basement, to the barn, and Lauren went in there with some grain,

and he got her, some how got her to eating the grain,  
and he got a rope around her neck, not a slip knot,  
because it would of choked her to death of course, but  
he tied the knot, so that it couldn't slip. And then  
he, he had a, it was a long rope, and he ran it  
through one of the beams, ran it around one of the  
beams, and then he took the grain away and snubbed his  
rope around that beam, and the mare found out that she  
was hitched of course and she put up quite a fight, to  
get away but she soon found out that she couldn't get  
away, and they let her, fool around there, for a  
little while, as long as she fought it, when she  
stopped fighting it, Lauren went and put a halter on  
that mare, and took her behind the sleigh and he and  
his father led her all the way to East Warren to the  
Fuller farm, behind the sleigh. [11.35] Now who in the  
world would of ever thought that they could do a thing  
like that, with a horse but they left her there,  
hitched with that rope, until she had stopped fighting  
and she made up her mind that she had got to give up  
to the rope and she came right along with them, and  
Lauren said that they came up over Granville hill,

when they came home and they saw Joe Jewett, standing outside of his house, and they, so they stopped to talk with him, because Joe Jewett married a Downs girl, from Warren, Gladys Downs, and of course, they knew Gladys and her whole family, and so they stopped to talk with Joe, and that mare was standing behind the sleigh and it seems that there dog, that Joe's dog came out, and he was kind of sniffing around that mare, and he kept getting a little bit, closer and a little bit closer and a little bit more inquisitive, and finally, Lauren said when that mare, when he got just where she wanted him, she nailed him she kicked and nailed that dog. And he said, if you ever heard a dog scream that that dog did, and he went, right to the wood shed, and up on the, jump, gave a jump up on to, into the, on the floor, [12.55] and stood and peaked around the door at him, every, all the rest of the while they were there and kind of, yup once in awhile, well they were there and kind of yipped once in awhile and Lauren said that he found out that he could see just as well back a little ways.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! \_\_\_\_\_ . [13.13]

BG I always think about the Fullers and their beautiful, beautiful barn that they built, in 1913, and I know that Floyd has told about his father, laying the stone walls, for the foundation of that barn, and of course Elijah Fuller was a, not a very big man, I don't think he would weigh more than a hundred forty of fifty pounds, and still here were all these great stones that were put into the foundation, for that barn, and not cement mind you because they, nobody was using cement, in those days, they were using stone for foundation, and Elijah had had his boys bring up stones and some of those stones, on a stone boat, and some of those stones were, were so large that they had to put two, pairs of oxen, on one ahead of the other to draw that stone up there. [14.10] And they drew it in above the foundation so that it would go down hill, and than they, Elijah had some hardwood planks and he laid those planks down and they used bars to bar that stone off, they didn't have the modern machinery that they have today, they had to use bars, to bar those stones off the stone boat, and down into that place

where they, wanted to use them, of course they couldn't use those great big ones after the foundation got up a ways, you see because it wouldn't be down hill, now they had to use smaller stones on top but, the big ones they used down in the bottom. And, and the boys helped him bar those stones, off and bar them into place down there, in that hole that they had dog out by hand of course, and they dug that. [15.00] The, what do I want to call it, it's kind of a ditch along where the, where the stones were going, you see and they barred those off and placed them, and then the boys would go back and get some more stone. [15.13] It was just, incredible. I don't know.

JB Yeah. Floyd has told me that, his father learned with his grandfather, but they, or somebody told me, that he and his, Elijah and his father had built the stone, the other stone wall.

BG Yes, Elijah, Elijah's father came there, and bought one of those farms and I think it was the upper one that Amassa had. And, Elijah's father was a, a stone mason, and he taught those fellows how to do things and it's just, well I've never seen anything else

around the country just like it.

JB Oh and the foundation is still.

BG The old red barn that stands on the upper part of the, Skip Blair farm, which borders, the Fuller farm, they, the Fullers laid that wall for that barn down there, and the, and then it, kind of, they laid it in sort of a wing, the wing went out, for a place to drive up in the barn with those stones, and I've been by there, deer hunting, of course, hundreds of times and I always walked to that barn, and just, look at that stone work and wish that I had some of those stones and wished that I had something like that on my farm.

[16.47]

JB Is that barn still there?

BG The barn is not there, it's no, it's fallen down, years ago, we, you could see that red barn from the road from the Fuller hill road but then the trees got up and they, you couldn't, and after awhile it fell down. But I, if I'm hunting in that part of the country I always go back there and, and see that stone masonry. It's just, out of this world. After all these years, that stands there just like it did when they

laid it. [17.18]

JB Yeah. I definitely want to get some photographs of the stone masonry around the big Fuller barn cause that, I guess is still.

BG I don't know.

JB I've seen that.

BG I don't know how much of that you can see now, but I'm pretty sure you can see some. [17.34]

JB On the left hand side of the road, wasn't it.

BG Um, hum.

JB Yeah. Yeah.

BG Right.

JB The guy has, said that he was gonna keep it, for all times, supposedly. [17.50] You also told me about Frank Brooks, and his children.

BG Hial Ford was another of Warren's older people, and he had, he ended up with two sons, he had other children, he and his wife had other children, but they died, they must of lost three, or four children, but Lawrence was the older one, and he married Emma Ford,

of course, which was the, town treasurer, for years,  
and years and years, probably forty years anyway, and  
before her Lawrence was the town treasurer, too.

[18.33] And, Lyle the younger fellow was a, he was a  
wonderful, baseball player, he just could play like  
you wouldn't believe. And he was, a very, nice man to  
talk to, and all that, but he was not as ambitious as  
Lawrence was, and so when, they sugared down on the,  
Ford farm, and hayed, Lawrence would take some of the,  
of his mill help, from the mill that they finally sold  
that mill, they called it Warren bobbin company, they  
finally sold it to, someone else, and in later years,  
I can't remember the man's name. [19.21] I guess,  
nope, I can't, it didn't come to me, but he ran that  
mill for several years, after Lawrence and Parker sold  
it to him, well anyway Raymond Beil was telling me  
this story and he said that it was, he was about  
sixteen years old and he just gotten his license to  
drive and his father, Arthur Neil, of course, ran a  
mill, a saw mill in Studson hollow, and they had this,  
old truck, and for some reason, Arthur wanted Raymond  
to go out to Montpelier with the truck and get some

things, and so, he invited his mother to go and they started out, and of course back in those days, and this was quite early in the spring, the frost was just coming out of the road, and all the way down, Mad River the frost was just coming out and the truck was sinking in the mud, and there was these deep ruts and, and it, when they got down, just south of the Ford farm, here came Lyle and Hyle, with some young cattle to turn out and Hyle had, the old man had a rope on the bull, and when they got, just right even with that bull, Raymond said you didn't actually know just what happened. [20.47] Whether the truck pulled him out of that rut or whether the bull really jumped right in front to him, but anyway he hit the bull. And not very hard because he was going slow and he said that bull gave an awful jump, and pulled the rope out of Hyle's hand. And then of course he started after the heifers, and Hyle, being the kind of man he was, never even looked at Raymond, never said, a word, he just took after the bull, and Raymond said I felt pretty badly about it but Hyle got, or Hyle and Lyle got right a hold of the rope again, and Raymond said, I went along

to Montpelier, and he said the next morning, my father said to me, now I want you to go down with the truck Raymond, down to Hyle Ford's and borrow his corn planter, and Raymond said I would of rather of done most anything then to go near Hyle Ford that morning, after what had happened, but he said I knew my father was real serious, and so, I jumped in the truck and down I went, and he said I, I went in the barn and Hyle was still milking. [21.54] He was milking by hand. And he had his head against the cow, and he said, I know that he saw me out of the corner of his eye, but he never acknowledged that I came into the barn, at all. He just kept right on milking. And, he says I walked back and forth and looked at the cows, and he never paid any attention to me, and finally I said, my father, sent me down, to see if you would loan us the, your corn planter this morning, Hyle. [22.22] And Hyle never answered, at all, never said a thing, and finally he got the cow done and he, got up, and he give his stool a throw over into the corner, and he said, he looked at Raymond, then, and he says, by God Raymond, he says, there's a wheel barrel, in

front of those cows, in the feed floor, I want you to go in, and take that wheel barrel and go up and down that, feed floor three times, and you go just as fast as you can go, and he says if you can do that, and not run into a cow, or a, or have any accident with it, he says I'm gonna loan you the, God dam, corn planter and so Raymond said yeah gosh, he said I went ahead and did it, he said just what he said and he gave me the corn planter, but Hyle Ford was a very, well I would call him a stubborn man, a very, self conscious man, that never, said too much unless he had, really had something to say, you know, and he, you would think to go and see him, and talk with him that maybe he was mad at you or something. [23.33] But, he might not be. You couldn't tell. Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha! That's a great story. And, it seems that, Lyle was up street one evening, and there was a, girl, that had gone up from down that way and some how or other, they both decided to go home about the same time, and there, end result was that the girl became pregnant, and Lyle either Lyle or his folks or, the three of them decided that he shouldn't own up to that, and

finally the people that, the girls parents decided to take it to court and they did, and, and they won of course, and Lyle had got to pay for the support of that child, and so I don't know whether he, he paid them or what, or whether he left, before they paid but he went to Florida. Lyle left his father on the farm and, and took right off and went to Florida, and he got a job down there, and stayed down there awhile, quite awhile, and I believe this was in the fall of, 29, I believe it was 29, when we had that, quite a hurricane here, all up and down the coast we had a, a hurricane and it did a lot of damage in Florida, and there were some people killed and so, Hyle, said to Lawrence his older, son, he said, Lawrence, I'm giving you so many dollars, I want you to go to Florida, and I want you to find that God dam fool, and I want you to bring him home with you, and don't you come home until you bring him. And Lawrence went and he brought Lyle home with him. Yup.

JB And did he stay from then on? [25.46]

BG Yeah. He stayed with his father, and his father died there, and then Lawrence, and then Lyle, went along

and, and \_\_\_\_\_ the farm and so forth and but his,  
his father was very put out with Lyle a lot of the  
time and he used to say, I guess probably his mother  
called him Lylie, and he said, Hyle would say, Lylie,  
Lylie, Jesus H. Christ what an enterprising young man.  
[26.25]

JB And this is the same ford, oh no, not, no I'm thinking  
of Parker and Slayton.

BG There was a Parker and Ford, Parker, Harold Parker,  
and Lawrence Ford, teamed up and bought that mill  
where, the bobbin mill, up in, first they, they owned  
the store in Warren village together, and they ran  
that for awhile and then sold it out, to someone and  
they, and they ran a, the bobbin mill in Moretown  
together. [26.51] Back in those days that I'm trying  
to tell about, people were, were very poor, most of  
the farmers and most of the people were very poor, and  
they worked very hard and I suppose that had a, an  
influence on their personality, because they were so  
stubborn, and self, self sufficient, you might say,  
and it is such a change from now a days, and things  
are so much easier, and people don't have to work so

hard, for their money, and I just wonder whether the young folks are really interested in what went on to bring them about. To bring this property about, that they inherited, I think lots of them don't even, realize what went on, to make that property possible for them to inherit. [28.01]

JB One of the things I asked Marion Wallis and I'd like to ask you, is how, it seems to me that, Moretown, Waitsfield, Warren, East Warren, are all very different towns, and how do you characterize them? [28.23]

BG Oh I don't know so much about the town of Moretown, because I, we only move down here in 1973, I believe, from East Warren, and so, I didn't get to know the older people, in, in Warren.

JB In Moretown.

BG I want to change that, date, it was 1963 that we moved to Moretown from East Warren and, and you asked about, could I describe the difference between the towns. I guess I'll start out with Warren, because back in the early days I think that Warren was known as a sort of a rough town, it was a rougher town, there were, I

can't explain why it was rougher, except that, probably there were lots of mills in Warren, and I've never heard that there were a lot of mills in Waitsfield, saw mills, grist mills, butter tub mills, and people came through in the those years, looking for work, and I know of course this would be after, this would be a little later, but when the, paper company, New England Paper Company, or something, came to Granville woods, to log off those mountains, and they took a million feet of timber off from those mountains, three years running, of course a lot of their help that came, that came then, to work in the woods were, we're travelling men, that, went here and there where ever they could find a better job and I think you will find that that type of person is a rougher person, they live in these, these log, these houses, camps, lumber camps, that's what I'm trying to say, they lived in these lumber camps, week after week, month after month, and many of them didn't have any families, they were just, you might call loaners, and I think that you will find that that type of person is a rougher person. They tend to drink more,

and because they don't have a family or anything, they only have themselves to support, and they are a lonely people, and I think that they drink more, anyway, you see Granville woods was right next to Warren, and those people would come into Warren, to buy things and go to the dances and so forth, and so back in those.

[31.24]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

BG And the people, a lot of them, then there were in Waitsfield, I know most, a lot of the, people that lived in Warren at that time, used to feel that, that the people in Waitsfield felt above them. [.16] I think there was more money in the town of Waitsfield, I think there were, Walter Jones of course ran the store, and, and he had help and people worked for him, and, and the Moriaritys ran the mill and they were, you know a very nice family. Very respectable family and all that. And they would be hiring help, local help in Waitsfield, to run their, businesses in Waitsfield, and they didn't get those transients, that Warren got. And, then you speak about, Moretown,

probably the Ward Lumber Company made bigger, change in Moretown, because they were, the Ward Lumber Company was a rich company and they hired help and it was just, a different kind of help, it was local help in Moretown, that they, that the Ward Lumber Company hired, and I, I believe that that, answers your questions, some what about the, the difference in the towns, and I know that in Fayston, Fayston was, in my day was considered, of course that's where Ward Lumber Company got a lot of their timber was out of Fayston. [1.46] And the people of Fayston were different then the people of Waitsfield, and Moretown, that, the local people I think they were, mostly, a poorer people, poorer families, then there were in Waitsfield [2.05] and in Moretown. And, so.

JB That's interesting. Now, did, the Fayston people they were mostly farmers, and loggers, or a?

BG Yes the, the people in Fayston were mostly loggers and farmers, because I don't think at that time, there was any stores in Fayston, they probably had a, a town clerk's office, and a few things like that, but Fayston is so spread out, you see that you have north

Fayston and center Fayston and south Fayston, and they were so spread out more then the, more the other towns were. [2.48]

JB One of the people that I talked with was, saying that, I think her father, had gone to farming in Moretown, rather than gotten involved in working in the mills and she was glad of that because her family were more self sufficient than the, you tended in Moretown to work in the mills and then spend the money right there and.

BG Right. [3.27]

JB So you told me to turn it off.

BG Ha! I did. [3.32]

JB Okay let's go back a hair, about the lumber. People were working and then, paying for their goods.

BG Yes the people of Moretown, who worked for the Ward Lumber Company were required to get their to do their shopping in the Ward store, their food and their everything, just about everything that they, that they had to do with their clothing and all that, and I had heard that if they didn't do that, then they were out

of a job. And, so, and Ralph Wimble is one example and I talked with him, and, and he said that he was very glad to get, to stop work for Ward Lumber Company and buy a farm. And go on his own. And live as he, saw fit, you know. And, I remember talking with this man that took me up to those, shin digs, to Montpelier. What was his name? [4.42] Anyway there were, I can't speak the name of the family, right now. The lady that used to work in the telephone office in Waitsfield, married one of those. Newton, the Newton family. That's them. The Newtons had several boys, I guess, six or seven, I don't know about girls but, Mr. Newton who moved to Florida and got his, and got a job down there, is a, quite a musician, and after I, he plays the banjo, and after I, had my heart attack, I heard that he was going to Montpelier, one day a week and that they were, some musicians were gathering up there, and some of the, quite a lot of the older people, around Montpelier were coming in there to dance and they would play for these people, musicians would play for an hour, or so, and people would dance to their music and he was one of them, and he invited

me to go out, and I went out, and went up by the orchestra, and sang several pieces with them I wasn't able to do much else, I was just recuperating from the heart attack then, and Mr. Newton told me that he, at a very young age, he left his mother, in Moretown, she was a widow at the time. [6.26] And he said he hated to do that, he, he really broke his heart to leave his mother, alone, and but he said, I could see that I didn't have any future in Moretown, and he said I, I just took off and made my life, elsewhere and helped my mother financially, which I couldn't of done if I stayed in Moretown.

JB Yeah, it's interesting that, that's what I'm I guess I'm hearing is that, although there were steady wages, you just couldn't get ahead, you just.

BG No, they felt, all of the, I think all of these people felt that you just couldn't get ahead working here. And, as far as that goes, I'm not sure that people in Warren, felt that they were getting ahead, terrifically, at that, that period of time, but, they were more independent, they weren't dependent on the Ward Lumber Company, you see and they were more

independent and they could do what they wanted to, they weren't getting rich, but they could do what they want, saw fit.

JB Well now the, the hold, the Ward hold on the town, has stopped now, has it not pretty much?

BG Yes, yes the Ward, the Ward hold on, on the town of Moretown has more of less you know stopped, I think it stopped, about the time that Merlin died, because they, they were getting rid of their timber, in those days, and ha, ha, and they were getting rid of their timber land and they, and the mills they were getting rid of the mills, they still have one mill here, but it's not, they saw clapboards out, and Merlin's son, runs this mill, down here but they really aren't doing very much, they only employ three, or four people, something like that.

JB Ah ha. [8.27] But at the height, they must of employed?

BG Oh my gosh, at the height of their business they had three mills here, you see and they probably employed, I would say seventy five people, or maybe more.

JB I would imagine even more.

BG You see because they had to have cutters in the woods and they had to have people getting our those logs with horses, and people trucking the logs to the mill. (ringing) And all that. And besides the mill help in the three mills. (ringing) And the store help, and they even ran the post office, the Ward Lumber Company ran the post office at that time. [9.05] (tape off and on) Another thing about these older people like my parents, and people of that age, they didn't believe in an education, they didn't think that an education was, was necessary at all for people, if you could go out and do a day's work with your hands, and you were honest, and all that, that was all that was necessary, you, the education part, didn't, now, now not, you see not everybody in that age felt that way about it, because you see, Fremont Lovett would of never been able to do the things he did and go through college and all that, if his parents hadn't supported him. [9.56] You see. But.

JB Well now it also seems like, the Wallis boys got a pretty good education.

BG Yes the Wallis boys got an education, their father was

a, a, you might call him an educated man, so the Wallis, they did, they went to high school and of course the high school was right there in Waitsfield and the other one, but that didn't always matter, you know, what, how close you were to the school if you didn't believe in and education if your parents didn't, why you, you were just, going an uphill grade, trying to get one.

JB How did you come to believe in an education when your parents didn't?

BG I can't explain that to you, I can't explain why I wanted an education, I think probably a lot of, it had to do with the fact that I was, the youngest in the family the sister next to me had died, the one that was three years older than I, and the others of course were all older. So when I grew up, I grew up practically alone, you see my sister Thelma was about seven years older than I was and she, of course a girl being a girl, and the next one, Eva was a girl, and girls have a different way of playing a different attitude about things than boys do, in other words, I

wanted to play baseball, I, I heard about my brothers, they, my two older brothers talked, talked about playing baseball and all that, and it sort of got in my blood, and I wanted to do it, but there was none in my school to play with, in that little East Warren school, there were four boys, but they were all, those four boys were four years younger than I was. [11.53] And so I really didn't have a chance to, to play baseball or do those kind of things, at all, and most of my early life was spent working you might say. If I wanted to play I had to, or I did yoke up some of my father's heifer calves that he was, raising and played that way, and played with them, but I didn't have, anyone to play with and I wanted to get out amongst people, and, and when I went to high school I was very, conscious of, of my attitudes and my dress and my, and how I looked and every thing for fear that I wouldn't measure up to the people in Waitsfield.

[12.42] And the kids in Waitsfield and the ones that were, about my age, and I, and I started into play baseball and of course I didn't know a thing about it, and I don't know if I told about Henry Eurich but,

talking to me like he did, but I was trying to play baseball on a 4 H team and of course I didn't know anything about catching fly balls at that time and, and a fly ball came out to me and it just went six or eight feet over my head, I miss judged it, and Mr. Henry Eurich was coming along walking along and the Eurichs' always went to all the baseball games and when he saw me do that, he was right even with me, and God darn fool, of course he didn't me, you see at the time, I guess probably he might of known who I was but, the people up in that part of town, were not very well acquainted with the people up in my part of the town. He was in the west part, I was in the east part, and he said, you God darn fool, you don't know nothing do you? You can't play ball, you God dam fool. And, I didn't get mad at him, and I'm sure that afterwards, he thought about that, I know I did lots of times, but I never said anything because I went to the Eurich home, lots and lots of times, with Ed and Clessen, to spend the weekend and so on. [14.08]

JB Ha! Ha!

BG But I, I don't, I can't say why I wanted a, an

education, I know where I wanted to go to college, because I was going with Catherine Newcomb, and it was, decided that she would go to UVM, because she, she was a, no she was second highest in her class, so she would have, her tuition paid, and I never thought of going to college until I found out that she was going but I wanted to, have as good an education, I wanted to be equal with her because I, I thought that some day I would, wanted to marry her, and even then I thought about it, and so that was one reason why I wanted to go to college, another was that I, I just felt that, people who had an education, what little I had been out, I could see that people who had an education, had the advantage over the ones that didn't. I mean, I mean my father was a wonderful man, but he, he could only, sign his name, he couldn't read or write, and I just wanted to be a little bit different I guess. Ha!

JB I drove by I guess it was the farm house you grew up in, and now there's a lake, was it boggy there before or was there a pond there, or? [15.50]

BG No there wasn't any pond, where Blueberry Lake is now,

that was, there was a brook that ran down through that meadow, and that meadow, near the brook was quite level and so that was all marshy and a lot of, a lot of that, meadow we couldn't get on with the horses and when they came to put that dam in, Blueberry Lake, they found that they could, I know my, I heard my father say that in certain places there, that they could run a rake handle down the whole length of it, which would be six feet, just through this muck like stuff, before they would strike, hard pan, and so we couldn't get the horses out on, those pieces and we mowed them by hand, and tumbled that green hay up, and lugged, carried it out of there on our backs, and spread it out on the higher land, to dry. [16.43] And that's the way we hayed those places.

JB And so is that house, that's there now, that was the house, you grew up in?

BG Yes. [16.54] That was the house I was born in, and grew up there, and, and all my brothers and sisters were born there. And, grew up there, and.

JB And there must of been more barns, then?

BG Yes, yes the barn, has been torn down, and all that,

and it's a queer thing, I have dreams a lot of the time, and I never dream about, hardly ever dream about this farm, or the farm that I was on in East Warren but it's always, that farm where I was born and grew up, about the difficulties that were there, and how to overcome those difficulties. I'm dreaming about those things. And, I dream about my father and I can see him doing this and that, and my mother and us working around there, but a lot of it is how to overcome some of the difficulties that we had at that time. [17.53]

JB Thelma told me the story about your sister dying. And how she also told me that.

BG My sister who?

JB That died.

BG Oh yes. That died. Myrtle.

JB Myrtle, and she also said that, her, your mother kept a calendar for years and years and years after the, Myrtle I guess had taken a pencil.

BG Right. Right.

JB And literally was it.

BG Drew down across that calendar and stopped on the date that she died.

JB That's incredible.

BG The end, the end of, and there's some very, queer things that go if we just think about them once in awhile and that little girl climbed up there and drew that line down and stopped on the date that she died.

JB In fact it was, I think the way Thelma told it was the date she got sick, to the date she died. [18.55]

BG Yes. Yes I believe it was, I'm not quite clear on that, but I think the line went from the day she got sick until the day she died.

JB And was it a burst appendix, or?

BG Yes I burst appendix.

JB A lot of people.

BG And you didn't know, people didn't know, ha, ha. I, I just am so curious, why I have lived all these years that I have when I had that, that same thing. Happen. No I didn't have the burst appendix, but I came very close to it. And I had a, I had appendix trouble, from the time I was eleven or twelve years old until I got, so that I could go out and work and earn my own money and then I went and was operated on for it, and, and I

think that people thought about what they needed to do, and getting the living. I know that and here's quite a story, that, we had all that piping, in those, in that sugar place, and we set up twenty eight hundred, with that piping, twenty hundred taps, and as my father got older, he wasn't able to do as much work, of course he was, sixty years old I believe when I was born, and so that, he and Raymond didn't have the wood sod, they usually had Ernest Brooks come with his power, with his horse power, and drag saw rig to saw those logs and then they would split the wood and put it in the sugarhouse, and have it drive for sugaring, but the logs got down there, but they didn't get, sod and split. And, my mother of course, was a, was a work horse and at that time, I was having a month off, in sugaring, the schools closed for a month, so the boys could help sugar and I went home to help sugar and here was this big pile of logs there, and twenty eight hundred taps and hardly any wood in the wood shed to go on, so my mother and I took the pair of horses and the sled and dray and we would go up there by that wood pile, and she would pull on one

end of that cross cut saw and I did on the other, and we saw and we would saw the blocks off of the big logs, and then I would split them with, with wedges and a hammer, and I remember very clearly that, this appendix, appendicitis, attacks would take me then, when I was splitting that wood and my mother would say, well just, set down a few minutes Robert, you're gonna be all right. [21.43] And I would sit down and rest a few minutes and go back at it, and so that's the way we sugared that year, and it was, my mother-in-law, my mother and I getting that, wood and putting it down to the shed so my father and my brother could boil.

JB And you were how old? [21.57]

BG I was sixteen at that time. I was sixteen then when I was doing all that and appendicitis was, was bothering me, and it did a lot after that, so I, that's why I say it, I don't understand why I'm still alive, why I didn't go the same way my sister went but. I was tough.

JB And, \_\_\_\_\_ yeah. [22.18] I guess, David DeFreest had a burst appendix.

BG Yeah. Yeah.

JB Almost killed him.

BG Yeah.

JB It's no joke.

BG My doctor that I had in Montpelier didn't get all my appendix when he operated there was a little piece left, and I don't know how many years after that it was, it must of been five years later, I started to go deer hunting and my side began to bother me, again, and of course I didn't have any idea what it was and, and a man that came to, hunt deer with me, said you're going to the hospital, tonight I'm taking you to the hospital to find out what that is, so and the doctors didn't have any idea what it was so, but I was in so much pain, that they, that they didn't exploratory operation, and found this little piece of appendix that was left, and it was all, gangrene like, and ready to break. Ha! Ha! Ha! [23.24]

JB Boy you are lucky. You.

BG Ha! Ha!

JB Charmed life.

BG Ha! Ha!

?? That's what I meant \_\_\_\_\_.

JB Yeah.

BG Ha! Ha!

JB Incredible. [23.32] Were there people in East Warren that could, that had second sight? That could look into the future, or the, read your palms. Some of the little communities in Vermont, had a person like that, like Luria Laferier, [23.53] in Marshfield.

BG Well now that you ask about that. Excuse me. I think that my mother was blessed some what that way. I remember that when Dennis went to, Montpelier to work for the Light and Power Company of course he didn't have any more time to, for his trap line that he'd been running, but he, I suspect that he still wanted to keep in it some what, so he set some traps for me, and this was when I was, both years when I was in the seventh and eight grade, and I know that, of course I was real anxious to catch a fox and all that, being a kid, you know, it meant a few dollars to me and each day, each morning my mother would have her tea and then she would, dump, she made it so that the tea

grounds came in the tea, in a cup, and she would drink her tea and then pour off the last of it, and turn her cup over, and I believe she would put it in the, in the saucer and turn in around three times, or something like that I can't, and here this morning she picked up this cup back up and she says oh you're gonna get a fox this morning, and he'd one the side hill. [25.17] He's up, on the side hill. I can see the side hill and, and you have a fox there so boy I tore out of that house and I went to look a that trap and sure enough I had a fox. Now that could of been just a coincidence, I'm not sure but she was always reading tea leaves and coming up with things that, were going to happen and so on. Quite often, you would connect that with something that, would happen.

JB How did she learn to read tea leaves? [25.50]

BG I haven't any idea how she learned to do it, she never said.

JB Cause I think a, that was considered a real art. And a gift. Can you remember any other things that, she told about.

BG I guess that was the one that really stuck in my mind

more but, I realize that she was always, doing that, she was always reading tea leaves and we used to laugh we kids used to laugh about, at her sometimes, but.

JB Would people come in and have her?

BG No. No it never, just the family would.

JB Could she, did she ever predict somebody's death or?

BG I'm not sure, I'm not sure whether she did or not, you see my mother's father was an Indian, and I'm not sure how much of an Indian, but he was born on an Indian reservation, at least, and I guess that she never, wanted to talk about that, that she was an Indian, so I'm sure that, that some of these things, some of these ideas that she had, were something like the Indians, you know, you inherit, you inherit things like that, I mean you certainly do, some people belong, believe that they can take, a child from any kind of a family and raise them to be, real smart, people and real, honest people but, that's not so. That's not so because we saw instances in East Warren where people had adopted children and did the best they could to raise them and they were nothing like they thought they were going to, of course that could

happen to your own family, too like, I know that some of my brothers and sisters took back as they call it, took back from, ancestors and were more like.

JB Yeah, no I think's that's, I mean you know people all.  
(Tape off and then on)

BG Did I tell you the story about the woman that wanted implants?

JB No.

BG And, she told her husband that she wanted implants and he said, I don't know what you want to fool around with that for, he says, they suit me fine, and but she kept at him and she was gonna have implants, and finally it came to him, this idea came to him, and he says I got an idea, he says, three or four times a day, why don't you, wad up some toilet paper and rub it up and down between your breasts and she says, what they hell good is that gonna do? Well he says it might not do any good but it did wonders for your hind end.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [28.52] Oh gosh, I was, I was trying to remember the other. (tape off and then on)

BG Ha! Ha! I heard about this other man that, that came home intoxicated at night and his wife was mad of

course, and she locked the door on him and when he came to the door, she wouldn't let him in and, and he kept rapping and knocking at the door, and finally she came back to the door and she says, well, she says, I'm gonna let you win, but there's only two things, there's only two reasons why I'm gonna let you in this house tonight, and he says, I know it darling, I've got one, and you've got the other.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [29.41] Ha! Ha! Oh!

BG Oh Marion can you get us a sandwich this lady wants.  
(tape off and then on) Ernie Whistle came to work for my people, and he married one of my mother's nieces, Almy, and he came and, and he made up this little song and he said: I came to Warren looking mighty green, / Hired out to Alman Gove for to drive his team. / He said can you drive a pair of mules, do you think, / I said give me what you call the raw hide whip / Went down the road to get a load of hay, / Said young man don't you let them get away. / I cracked my whip and the leaders sprung / And they bid fair well to the wagon and tongue. [30.36] Ha! Ha!

JB Oh that is.

BG My hands and arms would go in time with my singing,  
and yeah that was a common thing.

JB Were there any particular songs? Or would you sing,  
sing, I mean there must of been songs that, you know  
that had the right rhythm.

BG Yup there was but I, you know it's been so long.

[31.07]

END OF INTERVIEW