

Ed Eurich/TC1994.0002  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

EE Ed Eurich  
JB Jane Beck  
MS Miles Smith  
EV Ev Grimes  
Place Waitsfield, VT  
Date 02/03/1994

ED I live in Waitsfield and was born and brought up in  
Warren.

MS Stop this for one second. Actually, if you want to  
have a seat that would be best for us. [004]

JB Ha! Ha! Poor Mrs. Eurich. You didn't know a.

MS I'm sorry. And don't think too hard. Ha! No, I'm  
just kidding.

JB The microphone picks up, it's incredible everything.

MS Thank you. Thank you very much.

JB Ha! Ha!

MS Okay do. Start again.

EE Start again.

MS Yes please.

EE I'm Ed Eurich [009] and I live in Waitsfield, we've  
been here since 1948, I was born and brought up in  
Warren, I went to high school in Waitsfield, and I

went on to further education, then spent ten years at a, on the west side of the state and a year in Connecticut and a year in Massachusetts, before I came back here and bought our first farm.

JB Now I wanted to start, one of the first stories I remember you telling me was, you know, growing up on your grandfather's farm and how you started out learning to milk and just how you described that whole.

EE Yes. [017] I was born and brought up when the area in Warren it was known as Grand Hollow. Presently it's been renamed Sugarbush. And a, there were, six of us children plus our father and mother, and grandfather and grandmother Eurich on my father's side. And of course a, that was a time of, the lanterns and lamps, not electricity. And there was always the a, Saturday that we my mother and my grandmother either washed the lantern globes and the chimneys to the lamps and filled them with kerosene, because and wash day was on Monday, Sunday was a day of rest, nothing took place

except those things that absolutely had to be done.

And, of course, the means of communication were, horse and buggy, or horse and sleigh. Sometimes various big sleds, it all depended, we had express wagons, we had wagons, lumber wagons to, to carry on, whatever we had to do. And as kids in the means of communication we spent most of our time, around the home, the home meant so much more back, in my estimation than does it is today. And yet we're seeing the politicians now are emphasizing the home again which, which makes me feel good. [035] We learned a lot of things a, at home. I know it was always interesting to help out in the fall of the year by picking the fruits. And almost every, every farm and farming was the major thing then, had some orchards, had apples, we always raised a, a big garden, and the harvesting of the year especially with the pumpkins was always a thrill. We learned a lot of other things because a, the home was almost self-supporting, we raised our vegetables, our potatoes were the big crop. We had most every home had a, a, if it was a farm it had a, a few cows, [044] we raised pigs, we had chickens, we had eggs, and so

it was very important that we all learned that that was a, way of getting along in life, and school was a, important part about it. And a, one of the things that I recall that I'll always remember was, how a, we didn't have milking machines at that time, all milking was done by hand and so it was a great thrill to learn to milk. And a, which I did, and the key to the whole thing was being able to hold the milk pail between your legs while you milked. Well, I was just wasn't large enough to, big enough to, to be able to hold the pail and so my Uncle Fred who was my grandfather's brother who came over from Germany too, he made me a, a stool that a was different from the three, three legged stools that we, that we hear so much about, it was one that I could sit on, and then there was a little platform on it that, I could set the pail on so I didn't have to hold it. Well that worked very well but one time, I'm not sure whether the cow that I was milking was stretching to get something more out of the manger where she eating or what but, she, she knocked me over and, I went on to the floor and she stepped forward and stepped on the fleshy part of my

leg, and it hurt me so that a, later on the imprint of her, of her hoof, was right on my leg there for quite some time. So that's probably the reason that I never forgot it. [065] Now as I say that home was, our home was, one with a lot of, of love I guess, we meant so much to each other as children we grew up and a, I think about the times that a, in going to school it was two and a half miles from where we lived to the, to the school house. And, I know we looked forward to it a lot but one of the, some of the time that I remember especially was when my brother and I, for, we were probably in fourth through the sixth or seventh grade something like that. We walked all the time to school. And we'd get up early in the morning and leave about seven-thirty, and get there by nine, we'd get there by nine, school began at nine. But we a, we were janitors, some of the time, and we had to get there to start the fire, well you can imagine the cold room, in starting those fires up. But that was a center of a, of the community. For the parents and for, for us and so many things took place. It's hard to believe but, there was probably ten or a dozen in,

in the general attendance over the years, and a, actually some of them, hard, were not as well off as some of the rest of us. And they came to school barefooted, so. You can imagine how things would change between now as far as getting to school, and back and the transportation that we, that we offer today. [086]

JB One of the things I wanted you to tell was the story of, of your grandfather coming here and how he and then Fred came over five years later and how they met. [090]

EE Yes, my grandfather came over from Germany in the, middle 1880s as I recall. He a, came into New York, and it was at the time, at that time that they, I'm not sure whether you'd say farmed out, foreigners that came to this country or not but, there were applications made by people within various communities that needed help or needed someone. And he, he came into New York and then was a, came to live in a farm on what is now known as Tucker Hill. And he, he worked there on the farm for a number of years, and

then he met my grandmother during the, the period of time and they were married. And, I'm not sure exactly what the arrangements were but somehow they'd saved enough money so they bought this farm, and how my Uncle Fred came over I think about four or five years after that as I recall. And the story goes that a, my grandfather had bought the farm and Uncle Fred came to one of the neighbors just over the hill as we always used to speak about it, it's probably a mile apart. And it's said that a, [108] they really didn't know that one another was so close. And there was a party fence that divided the different parties and they a, had a mutual agreement that they'd fix the fence together. And they, then the family story goes that they, the farmer who lived on the side that my Uncle Fred lived on, was at, asked him to go to this certain place to meet whoever came from the other side. And, a, it happened to be according to what we understand that the two brothers met at this place that we call the gate where they begin to a fix the fence. And that was the first time that, that they knew that each other was such a, so close to each other. [117] And.

JB I think it's just an incredible story.

EE It is.

JB One of the things that that you told me. Again, sort of the isolation in the wintertime, how glad you were to see the mailman and the, you know that.

EE Yes. A. And, as I say we lived a sort of a, a life that was pretty much local in addition to the fruits and vegetables and things that we, we were not, an unusual family, most of the families did this a, provided for the winter and so forth, they, they bought a, flour by the hundred pounds and sugar by the hundred pounds, and there was no need to go to the stores many times and, lots of times it was, it would be more than a week before they'd come down off the hill and go to the stores. And a, [131] we a.

JB You, I mean, you.

EE Okay cut here now. I've lost my trend of what you asked me about.

JB Well, at one point you told me about.

EE Oh, I know. I know.

JB You know coming the mailman coming, and the store keeper, I mean these were the people that had news and



a.

EE Oh yes. As you know the postal service in those days was, done by horse and buggy, and horse and sleigh. And, we knew about what time that a, the mailman arrived and we had about maybe a half a mile to walk to the mail box, and a, we'd always get the news of Mary Daily Times at the time was a paper that we mostly looked at here and of course the news spread but, the other means of communication was by the telephone lines. Well the telephone lines were much different than they are today. The first ones that I recall came over the hill from the Fayston side, to the Warren side, and it was our responsibility each, each patron had to maintain the telephone line from their property to the next property. Well, we had a, quite a, quite a distance there, this half mile or so that we had to maintain there was always some brush coming down on it or shorting it out, or something like that and we'd have to trip well, as youngsters we thought it was a great thrill to go over that a line

and if found something that was the matter well we solved the problem. [153] Another thing very interesting about these telephone lines was the fact the, you had about a, on anywhere from six or eight or up to the teens of patrons on the same line. And each had a number, well each number that was run on the a, on the line you could hear. Well, there was a lot of people and then there's there's we was talking about the news. They were ready to find out whatever happened so, you'd always hear click, click, click. The different people picking up the receivers to see what was going on. Well, that was true about a lot of news but, some of the a, we'd have to space, ladies I guess, they like to gossip and they'd got on the lines and you could hear them and they'd stay on by time and time there. Somebody would try to want to, wanted to use it for some business, it was sometimes impossible. So you can just imagine the, what took place. And they tell the a, they tell the story about a, Clarence Strong who a, lived in this neighborhood here. Of how early one morning he wanted to use the line and he went to the phone and there were two ladies talking

and one of them said she just made these cookies and put them in her oven. And a, he hung up because he was busy and a, his bark was bigger than his bite. His, he was a coarse voice fellow. And if you talked with him, he'd almost scare you. Well he went about his work and he came back ten minutes or so later, and they were still on talking. [175] So he went back to work again, and, and came back and they were still on the phone. Well he got pretty well upset. And he just about exhausted himself and he finally he a, he heard them and he went to the phone and he snuffed a little like that and he says, "I smell something burning." And this lady says, "Oh my land, my cookies may be burning in my oven." So. So a, they tell another one about a, with all [182] these, ha, ha. On the telephone about a, it happen to be my brother-in-law, and a, there was about a dozen or fourteen on this line that he was on and he wanted, wanted to use the telephone, well we had a certain a, lady that a, would get on the phone and be there, a long, long time and takes a long, long time with those she was talking with. Sometime they would run out of conversation

and, and a they'd just be waiting to get a second, a second breath and you wouldn't even know they were on there. Well, my brother-in-law couldn't get the phone but finally heard them talking and he finally said in, he says a, this lady had the reputation of being on a lot. He said, called her by name and says, "I wish you'd get off the line so I could use it." So, and she did. So. Ha! Ha!

JB The Clarence Strong story I think is a terrific story but would you mind ending it by saying you know that after he sniffed, that the women hung up and he was able to use the phone. Because sometimes when you use a story you have to close it better.

EE Yeah.

JB So just go back and say, you know he got fed up and then end it.

EE [199] Yes.

JB It's okay, the nice thing is that tape just keeps.

EE When after, when Mr. Strong sniffed on the phone, and said, "I smell something burning." He says, they whirled and said, "my land sake, my, my cookies must be burning in the oven." Then they hung up and Mr.

Strong had the use of the phone.

JB Perfect. The other day too you were talking a, there are a couple of things I'm gonna ask you, one is to sort of map out the change, the changes, and the changes in the farms and the other thing I was gonna to ask you about is you talked about because there was more time people knew where the white violets and the purple ones were and so forth. So a, why don't we maybe start with, the change in the farms.

EE The change in the farm. [214] Yes I was brought up on the hill farm, what we term a hill farm, it would be impossible to farm in the present day agriculture.

And we had probably averaged around twelve or fourteen milking cows plus some young stock and, so forth, and every thing milking was done by hand, at the time when I was very small, no one shipped milk. Each town, Warren, Waitsfield, Moretown all had what the called creameries. And, the milk was separated, run through a separator and the cream separator and

the cream was, was taken once or twice a week to the creameries. Where they a churned it into butter. And then there's usually a mill, Warren had a mill that made butter tubs, and they packed that butter into these tubs and it was shipped off by rail. And the rail out of Warren usually was in Roxbury, it went over Roxbury mountain, well, Waitsfield went to Middlesex when that was shipped out of there. And it wasn't until quite a few years after that, that the a, demand for fluid milk came into existence and that made quite a change. Well the still milk by hand some of them but some of them had what they called Delco milk, Delco plants that generated current for milking machines. And that brought on, quite a, a demand for milk and then it was put in cans, that had to cool it early in the morning and then, and then bring it to the stations and it was shipped out that way, that was shipped out on milk trains that they called to Boston in the great, the greater Metropolitan areas. And each time that that happened, the creameries went out of existence, and a lot of those creameries were bought and owned by the, the farmers that shipped the

milk there. And they had stock in it, a lot of them over the state lost it, all their money because the failed that. So then of course as we come a, as the years went by, the cans were mostly shipped, the cans of milk were shipped out, but then came the bulk tanks, and when the bulk tanks came along, that hit some of the smaller producers real hard because of the investment and so forth, and a number of farms went out then, and that's when the farms begin to grow larger instead of, a dozen or fifteen cows, it went to thirty, and then now we have I guess the average must be sixty or seventy. And the means of a, transportation and supplying to these greater areas is, is taken care of through trucks rather than the rail. So we've seen quite a revolution in the, in the dairy industry. [256] Especially that was Vermont held on to this position in the production of dairy products and it's rated high for many, many years. It still does, as far as the total production but it's a, it's a revolution that took place over those periods, periods of years. And, getting back to, our school days and life on the farm there as a youngster. And

going to school as I mentioned earlier, was a, a different way of life than we see today. As I say my brother and I walked for a number of years, it was two and a half miles back and forth, when the, our younger brothers and sisters sometimes my folks took them with the wagon or sleigh and, and took them down and then brought them back, at night and school was out at four o'clock during the, during the winter it was out at three-thirty. But we started out when it was just getting daylight, seven-thirty. To go and a, and then by the time you come back it was pretty much the same.

One of the things that I remember especially in the home that, when we were youngsters growing up that, the family would all gather around and my mother would read different stories, Robinson Crusoe, Alaska stories, the Eskimos, other, other parts of the world and so forth that were, were of interest to us. But walking back and forth especially after the snow had gone, but we had lots of fun in the wintertime skiing, we skied differently than we do now. The skis were made locally, and we skied in the open, open fields and, we made jumps, but a, your skis were not, you



didn't have bindings or anything, they were just a strap that you tuck your toes in and sometimes you lost your skis and they'd take off through the field and you'd have to go get them. And chase them. But, the thing that I guess I'll, I'll always remember is certain trees, a birch tree or a maple tree or some different varieties and how they stood as we walked back and forth from school. Not only on back and forth on the road but we spent a lot of times just roaming around the farm and a, and the hills and you got to know those certain trees and certain areas, we got, we knew where, where the impaticas grew, where may flowers grew. Where the different violets, the blue, the yellow the white violets. The attituns. Because there, they don't grow every where. There are places where they're more susceptible to growth than others. And, we also knew from over the hills and places where, certain animals lived, whether people believe it or not but, like a fox for instance, you will find a fox in a certain area, and it's just a natural for them. [302] That's where they'll be. And then when they take off and run there's certain

areas that they run, well it's the same way about a lot of different animals so that a, there's a lot of nature out there that I'm, I feel that a, maybe the young people today don't have an opportunity to take advantage of what nature affords them.

JB Do you want to take a break?

EE Yeah. [308] I guess so.

JB I mean it's, it gets a, water first?

EE No I guess I'm set.

JB Okay. Shall we try the long trail?

EE Yes. I mentioned the fact that we did a lot of walking, and through the fields, through the woods, as part of, part of our, just enjoyment, and that we had as, as young people. Youngsters we actually were.

And that's why I guess we learned to love and appreciate nature, such as it is. One of the things that we sort of looked forward to and, and did it quite a number of times was hiking on the Long Trail.

My brother and some of our friends went several times, and one time I recall my mother and father and my brother and a, a couple of, of good friends of my

folks a, the Newalls, who he was a, commissioner of education in Massachusetts and had a, had a summer camp here in the area. And both of them were, were quite in age, but yet they just loved it. They were real happy nice people and, and my folks enjoyed them, and we all went and hiked, hiked through the Long Trail from Glen Ellen through to Camel's Hump and it was over a period of time and I remember it, how it rained and so forth, and we got soaked and then we had to dry out at the, at the camps that night and one of the last times that I was probably, 12, 14 years old, their son and my brother and I and, were on the Long Trail and we camped out at the foot of Camel's Hump and a, we at night we with flashlights we hiked up to the top of the, of the crest to where you could see both, east and west, well you could north too but one of the things that I remember, there were a, it was a time that there weren't all that many cars, not anywhere near like it is today. And you could set up there and there was not a, not a sound that could be heard anywhere except the, if there's such a thing as a sound of silence, that's all that there was. [350]

But you looked in the distance one way and you could see these little, little round lights, that were really small as you can imagine, in the distant like that, on, going down Route 7, or going back Route 7, and the same way on Route 2 from Burlington to Waterbury. It was a setting that a, will always, will always a stay with me as far as that goes.

JB That's, that's good. Yeah.

EE I know it, I had the other one but I.

JB What?

EE The next one I was gonna go onto but I forgot what it was. Ha!

JB Oh, no don't. We can.

EE Oh I know what it was. [360]

JB What?

EE Um, the change that I've seen through life I often think about them, coming from the a, home that I was brought up in and school, and a, how things in our immediate area meant so much to us, as we look back at it, at that time we didn't think about it when we were

young and see the changes that were taking place, the means of communication, and the changes were taking place I mentioned the electricity, from where we had to keep, what milk, we had we kept it hooked in a, in the water tubs. Water tubs is what we called them, because most of the, most of the homes had a, a spring where the water ran into the kitchen usually and the water tub is where the supply of water was. No electricity at the time and let's see what electricity has done over those years, to now, just about everything that we have we depend on electricity, I don't think people appreciate the value of the electric current that we have to do what we have today. And I think of all the changes that have taken place as far as education and transportation and what's happened. It's happened so, slowly and it's sort of a creeping sort of a situation and life was slower at those, at least that's the way it seemed to me, back in those times. But today we, it's a, a rush, and rush and rush and they say that a, that the a, rush hour is when, when the vehicles are almost a stand still on their way out of the, out of the

cities. Coming up through the years and a lot of my life's been involved or around, around agriculture, when I was small, my, before I ever reached 14, I was involved in 4-H and the dairying industry and so forth and a lot of my life has been with, in agriculture. And, the values of agriculture and see the changes, that have taken, that have taken place. And of course after we, came back here in 1948 and bought our first farm, we had about [404] 30 cows at the time of it and a, we a, had had the cows plus we raised 6 or 7 acres of potatoes, and then we had the sugaring operation, and a, each one of them proved out to be a successful, a successful, to us for us. And things changed a lot since then, we had to, in order to meet the, in order to meet the cost of, of operation and to make a successful operation we had to make those changes but getting larger. When we finally sold the farm we were milking the average milker around 80 some animals at that time. Around the barn stainless steel milking, milking and all stainless steel cooling and so forth.

We out of those 6 or 7 acres my wife's folks lived close to us, in fact where we are living now and a,

their son lived, close by too and a, after about 40 years we bought a, my wife's brother's farm, added it our farm. And then later bought the farm here so we had three farms that were contiguous. Just to make the operation a successful operation. We went further into the potato business and developed a root and most of it in central Vermont here to where we packed potatoes. When we first started out, I had a pickup and I had about, I think I had 900 pounds of potatoes in burlap, hundred pound bags, and I sold them to some of the local merchants in Waterbury and locally here and from that we went on to, that grew into demand because we had a product if I do say so, that was hard to a, not to recognize the quality of the product that we had, and we, we could of raised a lot more because we had a truck on the road so we delivered in Montpelier and Waterbury, and had a fine, had a fine operation. Really successful. But and we also sold, had the maple and we sold a lot of maple products. Syrup. Through those same avenues. [447] And we built up a business and we still, still maintain the maple, as far as the potato was concerned, the potato

business, when the a, ski area began to develop, it did develop, we employed in the picking time and some grading and so forth, packaging, we employed some local help. Especially the ladies and the, in the fall in the picking, when we were digging and picking.

And, when the ski area moved in some of them, got permanent employment there, hours were seasonal, and they went to work there so it was sort of difficult to, to get the labor that we needed and many times it ended up so that the family with our children who were in school, we were having to work evenings to finish getting the load of potatoes ready to a, to be a, shipped out, taken, delivered to the stores. So it sort of discouraged us there so we a, built a hundred and thirty-six feet onto our dairy barn and carried on that a, operation until we sold in 89.

JB So in other words, you got out of the potato business or a?

EE Yes. [475] Because of the, because of the a, inability I guess in many instances to have a supply of labor. We just felt that a, we, our time would be better spent if we concentrated more on the dairy



industry and we gave up a real good operation, the potato business because of these factors, one of the main factors anyway was the, was the a, availability of labor to do the job that we, that was necessary to be done.

JB What are the major changes that you see good and bad that a, the ski industry brought in?

EE Um hum. A, the ski industry, the year that we came here in 1948, was the first year I believe that a, Mad River Glen was in operation, and it was a disaster that year, the snow there was, just not enough snow and it was really bad and some of the ones who had come here was only a few. Had to find employment somewhere else because it was such, such a bad year. Since then it's changed, and a, people coming have bought up tracks of land, new homes, they built new homes, and a lot of real estate has taken, has changed hands. And, we've, we've always felt that it, it's a certainly helped the economy over all. Employment, like I spoke about, why it shifted from our needs to needs of the ski slopes and so forth and a, it a,

brought about and it's grown, then came on Sugarbush itself, it's changed the a, the restaurants, have been come into operation, this permanent help at the ski areas during the summer, and certainly a, as far as the economy over all it's, it's improved, it's changed, I don't know how you can, evaluate it but a, economically in dollars and sense, it's certainly, it certainly helped out. [527] Even though at times they've had some bad seasons. The a, price of property had changed immensely, people with financial means, have come here and if they, if they recognized the beauty, of what we have in the community, and they loved, they loved that atmosphere that a, prevailed, the sad part about the thing is as many of us see it, is that, there were many people who came here for a reason not only the natural beauty but, the people, and the, the life in which they would like to live themselves after they've left to their variety, and after a certain amount of time, they haven't been able to forget what they came from, and we're, we're being changed slowly but surely, I guess you would say. That the, you see a different philosophy among the

people all together. They talk about the natives and, and the flatlanders. And a, there's certainly not saying that they aren't good people, they're good people, but what they really came here for and what they wanted to maintain, is being destroyed. [559]

JB Can you give, I think once before you've talked about this and you were able to give a, was it the example of the school that you gave the different attitudes? I think you told me that, the, in school meetings the natives wanted to do the work themselves, and the people that came in tended to want to hire somebody and there was always that different kind of attitude toward a.

EE \_\_\_\_\_ But I told you about a, [575] maintaining the roads. If you recall.

JB Yeah.

EE See some of the, things that have changed immensely they sort of say, living in the old farm that we were on, living in the town, it wasn't any different there then it is, as it was in other towns in the rural areas. The roads certainly weren't the, the structure that they are today in winter of course we had a horse

and buggy and horse and sleighs and so forth. The a, the roads were such that, the people themselves would maintain them, this is a hard thing to believe but, they would draw gravel, they would turn ditches and they'd call them into culverts, they'd sometimes if the rain washed it out they'd draw gravel, with the horses on sled and bring it again. And, and a sometimes the town would hire them to even pay for their taxes so the roads were such that a, they were maintained to, to a major degree by the people who lived on those town, on those roads. And of course that's, that's changed immensely, immensely. And a, people knew that in order to, not in order to survive but they just took it as a, matter of course, that they had an obligation to, to provide some of these services that a, today there wouldn't be heard of, the people just expect someone else to do it. And a, it was the same, same thing in our schools, in our little rural school.

MS Maybe we should go back and get the part about the road, again, about how.

EE I wondered if I was getting it right.

JB No. No. There was. There was.

MS The ovens. She was putting something in the oven and it was clanking around.

EE Oh!

JB It's amazing these microphones are so sensitive.

EE Okay. The structure of the roads it required back in the time of the horse and buggy certainly were less than what's required now with the, the vehicle the traffic and obstruction, cars and so forth, and a lot of the roads were maintained by the people who lived within, on those roads. They draw gravel, they, where they needed it, they'd turn the water into the ditches. [635] and a, they didn't wait for, for the town, the town didn't have all that much money to a, to spend on them, and in many instances the roads, from out on grand hollow where we lived were, sometimes they'd get together the different neighbors and just a, work to maintain those roads, and a, the same way in the wintertime, there wasn't any great need for a, a lot of maintenance in the sleighs that went back and forth and the wagon, and the sleds, sometimes there wasn't any road there at all, they

just knew where it was and they went some, later on they, they rolled them. And we went on top of the snow, rather than having it plowed out. So they didn't, that's, the town afterwards as time went on, they appropriated money and assumed the responsibility but the people back at that time, knew as far as it, as far as life was concerned that a, they had responsibility, a personal responsibility to do some of these things.

JB That's a good point. [667] The other thing that you told me about.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

JB And a that whole story about how people took skiers into their homes and then the tax bureau came down but.

EE Oh yeah, yeah.

JB That, I'd like to get that in here.

EE You'd like to get that one. Okay. [004] The year

that we came back in 1948 and as I refer to what a disaster the first year, the opening of Mad River Glen. That changed somewhat, and the next few years the skiers found out the a, about Mad River Glen and a, I guess later on, a little later on Sugarbush. And a, they flocked in here, not the number that do now but, certainly a lot more than they anticipated, and a, the a, facilities to offer them housing and, and a provide restaurants and so forth didn't meet the demand. And a, in order to help out the situation some of the households from the homes that, registered, they didn't register, they said to the chamber of commerce we, we'll help you out, and, and my wife did was one of the ones that did and they a, you used to have, they used to come here and sometimes they'd come without any reservations, and a, they a, would stay in the various homes and we, we for several years, this is what we did until they a, until more facilities were available. But one of the strange things that, that a, I guess changed my wife's mind was that, some of the, one year toward the end of the year as I recall, we had a visit by a couple of

gentlemen from the tax department who said that they understood that she was taking skiers and a, in order to have it, she had to register and she had to pay this a, this tax. [028] And a, that sort of changed things quite a lot and even they, they were, they'd come to talk with us and then they even found out because she had her capacity all that she could take care of, we asked one of the neighbors if they would, take a couple for one night, or two nights I've forgotten exactly what it, what it was And a, somehow they found out that a, that they'd gone there to stay overnight, and they even went to see her, and told her that same thing, and I guess the thing that really irked us the most was the fact that, for a measly few dollars and so forth, the tax department sent not one, but two, people out to, check up and to a, register and take, and require the funds for whatever it may be. And it's sort of irritating to us to think that it needed two, instead of just one but, that's the government. [040]

JB Well said. Ha! Ha! Let me look at my notes here, let me see what else a, oh! One thing I forgot to ask you



was the roll of music in your family.

EE Ha! Ha! Ha! Oh at home there was, well even in school I guess we always were some how or other we always a, enjoyed music and, had aunt over who was a nurse who came to, on vacations and in different times oft to home. And she was always bringing new songs, new music, and we liked it and so it was a, well always a time for learning a new song. And a, it was the same way I guess all the way down through the years and as we went to high school, and, and a, oh, naturally I liked to sing, and a, we developed some, some friendships and a, one of them that a I've had a lot of pleasure singing was somebody I think they're gonna hear about, a little later on is Bob Gove and he and I are about the same age and all during these years at different occasions, we've a song together and still are. We used to sing on the streets and a, in Waitsfield during high school just in the corner, just to have fun and so forth, and. And, the old barber shops we spent some time there singing and a, it's just a, been an enjoyable part of a, I guess our life. And this is sort of, therapy I guess for anyone

who enjoys things like that. [062]

JB Well I must say I think a, you know the talent here,  
is a, quite incredible.

EE So you did hear the.

JB Yeah.

EE Yeah. Well, it's been a lot of enjoyment. Yeah.

EV There are two things that \_\_\_\_\_, what about  
this rolling roads, I've never seen them roll the  
roads. [070] Would you explain how that worked?

EE Um hum. Rolling the roads, was a, probably a cylinder  
type of a wooden cylinder, probably some of them  
varied in size but, I would say, the cylinder was  
about a, six feet in diameter made of wood. And that  
turned. The horse a, the horse drawn and that turned  
and packed the, packed the snow down so that a, the  
sleigh and the, and the horses could walk on top of  
it. And that was packed down, usually with a four  
horse team that they had, it was quite a big heavy,  
heavy piece of equipment.

JB I always heard they rolled the roads first with the  
people that had the best hard cider, is that true,  
that's what Sterling was telling me. Ha! Ha!

EE I don't think there's any, any question about the fact that, in those times, not everybody but, quite a number of people had put in a barrel or two of cider and they knew how to process it and so on and so forth and there's no doubt but what those that rolled the roads, there's no question, in fact I've seen it. Ha!

To where they were offered a drink of hard cider and in appreciation for rolling the roads because it was difficult, going through the snow at that time. So I guess that was the fringe benefit. [090]

JB Sterling had some great stories about that, in fact he told me that a, they used to heat up the hot cider with pepper.

EE Yeah. Pepper. Ginger I've heard of that but. Maybe, maybe he used something a little stronger. Ha! Ha!

JB Well he told me about somebody that had, that had home brew that he, he claimed he didn't know what was in that. One of the things the way you put it before was the new people coming in with the new philosophy and you told me that they spent money faster, they were not as conservative, they, and they thought they had to hire somebody to do something, and I just wondered

if you sort rephrase all that.

EE Yes. One of the changes that I've witnessed and have been concerned to me. [100] Generally speaking, in the older years, the whole society, were more conservative and as I say, a lot of things were done by individuals which now are done by voluntarily which are now done by elected officers and so forth and one of things that I've noticed that a, a number of the people that have come from different areas is, I hardly believe that they've had very much experience in town government and this municipal government. And a, they sort of feel that, or it's, they're inclined to believe that most anything that sounds good that they want, that they should have. And they don't realize that taxes have to be raised to, to take care of those costs and so forth. Yeah. It's, it's very noticeable, that they don't take into, they think somebody else is going to pay for it and, and they'll vote for things without taking into consideration somebody has got to pay for, got to pay the bill. And that seems to be one of the big changes that I see in the whole philosophy of, of the area. And in our town

meeting down here there's hardly a thing that's proposed in the last few years but what they voted for and yet when they get around to be assessed our taxes, they wonder why their taxes or so high. They don't take into consideration that a, it's all well and good, we can't have everything for everybody and I think maybe that's why we find nationwide that there's more, more of a change now, more of a concern, for a, being more conservative. Which ever party there seems to one wants to do more than the other now which was, changed the liberal element I think.

JB The other day we also talked a little bit about how you got involved and very naturally so from farming to pol, local politics to department of agriculture and I, I wondered if you just sort of, fill us in a little bit about that.

EE Yes. When I came back here, we had to keep our nose to the grindstone pretty well because a, to make it successful which we did and, than I, first was elected to the a, school board which I served for nine years and I've seen a lot of changes since then and as far

as education and after my nine years there I went, I was elected to, to the board of selectmen, to where I served another 18 years. And since then I've been a trustee of the cemetery funds up until the present time. But during those early years, also naturally was a member of farm bureau, and a, spend several years as vice-president of the Vermont Farm Bureau. And I guess a, because not only my local philosophy but my general philosophy as far as I'm concerned, [147] helped me become a state representative to the house of representatives in 1965. And a, was fortunate, I guess I was saying and I've seen a number of very important pieces of the legislation which gained, pretty good, real support and were enacted. And my work with the farmers and so forth, my fourth term in legislature, Governor Davis asked me to serve as commissioner of agriculture which I did for four years. And then a, we were maintaining the farm, if it hadn't been for my family, to which I deserve, which I extend an awful lot of credit to, that my wife and a, all the children who helped out a, in every way and in carrying out the farm, I a, after two years

more I went back in and served two more years as, as commissioner of agriculture, too. [163] And a, all this adds up to a, I served I don't know how many years on the state, agricultural and conservation stabilization committee. And my last two years I was, state director of a, the Farmers Home Administration for the State of Vermont, New Hampshire and the Virgin Islands. So, it's been a tremendous, tremendous education, the life that I've enjoyed and in order to do that again I'd say that, it's one of those instances, what can we done if you, really have a family and you work together because if it hadn't been for my family and what they did so that I could do what I did and I'd like to feel that I not only did it for them, but I also like to feel that I did it for not only my community but our society in general.

[177]

JB One the things I always felt is that coming out of the farming tradition you brought so much to the legislature, do you want to talk a little bit about you know, some of the bills that came out of your, really your background. [180]

EE Yes one the ones that, that the legislation that I proposed as just too early but, over the it's materialized. That is, I think it was my first session in legislation that I proposed a bill to tax land according to use. And I was successful in getting it through the house, but it was something new and a new approach and a, it died there. But others have picked it up since then and it's become a reality today so I really, I really enjoyed that. The success of, the success of it. One of the ones I was successful in is getting the a, personal property tax on, on agricultural, on animals and on agricultural land, not agricultural land but personal property like cattle, pigs, sheeps and so on. That became a law. [196] I being a, being a hunter and a fisherman, and so forth I, introduced a bill that a, so that we were bothered about cars parking in driveways and so on and so forth, that was passed so that there's a fine now on the books, the laws that says that anyone parks in their driveway they can be fined X number of dollars and so forth. Oh I don't know a number of them that I.



JB I think that's the strength though of a, the legislature that.

EE Oh yeah. I served in the last, in the last big legislature where every town and I was chairman of the committee that defended the Vermont constitution during that time. And I fought real strong, hard to maintain the big legislature. Because no matter what they a, said, about some of the older ones smoking and, didn't vote, didn't get in there only to vote and so forth, there was the common sense that prevailed then, they may not, in every piece of legislation and every debate and so forth but there's certainly value in representation from those small municipalities I guess. And I lost out, or I lost out, we lost out \_\_\_\_\_ it and a [217] but a I always felt glad that I had the, and I did take the stand that we did.

Cause I think it's a, I think there's something that was, it's changed immensely, a lot of the things that they said, they said it would be less expensive, and better legislatures and such things as that, which I entirely disagree with, and we know it's tremendously expensive compared to what it used to be. And I don't

think that we have any better legislation coming out than we did back at those times. [224] One thing that I was real proud of in my first year I was elected to trustee the University of Vermont, the first freshman legislature and. So that was good.

JB You've had a, quite a career. [228] If you could stand it, I would like you to say again, just because we'll be coming back to this over and over throughout, putting the program together. What you told me before that you didn't believe that there would ever be a generation that will witness the changes that you've seen. [233] Just about in those words.

EE Yeah. Yes as I think back over the years, and especially now as I look back over, and I see the changes, all the changes that took place, like we spoke about the electricity, we spoke about the meetings.

MS Maybe we could hold up one second, there's some little clock that's beeping again. It beeped an hour ago.  
Ha! It's playing a little tune for us.

JB We're almost done. This will be your, swan song and

finale. Ha! Ha!

EE It's done.

MS Okay.

EE It's done now.

MS So if you start again, please. Thanks.

EE As I [242], as I look back over the years and see all the changes from what we talked about electricity, the means of travel, the methods of education, all the scientific knowledge that has taken place, technology too, our trip to the moon, the means of agriculture, farming, government and how it operates, and all the changes have taken place, it's a, it's a tremendous experience and whether or not a, the changes to take place in the future will ever equal what I've seen I, I doubt.

JB One thing I didn't ask you was, one of the things I think that leads to all this is the lateness that electricity came through here, and a.

EE Oh yeah.

JB And maybe you should just you know give the year or roughly.

EE Yeah I recall we were speaking of, we spoken about

electricity several times during the last few minutes, here and I recall electricity first coming into Warren I guess it was in Waitsfield, but a, my grandfather on my mother's side lived in Warren and we used to go with her as kids. And I recall the first thing that they had, the chain, the cord I guess you'd call it, coming down and in the middle of the a room. And on the end of that was a fixture, and a bulb with a little, hand of it to where it was going, it was the first, you turned that on and I thought what a wonderful thing that was. And that same time when that electricity came in, they used to have a, a box, it was elevated on some poles as the entrance into Warren, and every night they had an individual who went up there and switched the lights on, they put on the street lights and in the morning he shut it off. And how many years that went on I'm not sure. But if you think about, if you think about that, as where we were talking about just having lanterns and, and a lamps and so forth, then the electricity came on, and all the things that we've got today, clocks, refrigerators, razors, I often said in our operation

of the farm, we couldn't do a think in the morning without the electricity. Everything, every motor went on the cooling, the milking, our grading potatoes and all that was done by electric. So, what's happened in the use of electricity is just, unbelievable. [282]

JB What year did it come in here?

EE Through here. I'm not sure, what year, what year it was. Now that was later than they came up the valley.

But through here it was, after my wife's folks came here that they each had to pay so much for so many, so many years in order for them to put it through. But if you look back at it, it's not all that a long time ago, and in another sense it's a long time. [290]

JB Yeah. Yeah.

MS We didn't quite make it.

JB What are you, or have you had it.

EE Maybe a minute to.

JB Yeah let, we should talk about that because, because you had a, great ball team here.

EE Oh yes we did. We had, we even played ball at a, at our little school down there, where the girls played with us and everything and then, we went on to have a

Warren 4-H ball team versus Waitsfield, 4-H ball team.

And I'm telling you that was a lot of excitement and the parents, the parents that participated in, and there was all sorts of cheering and so forth. Well, after we went to high school and a, a bunch of us, and even though the school was only about 70, 70 students, the year that we had our best team we, we beat Montpelier, we beat some of the bigger teams around so, we were really proud of it and we, a number of us stuck together and we, we had a local, semi-pro team.

And, I a, played with those for a number of years back at those times, we went on, we were defeated in the state championship one to nothing but a, after, after I got through school and so forth I didn't play many games but we had, we certainly had a lot of fun over there. Bob Gove, Elwin Neland and a, played for a long long time but the summer pro team there was just, a number of us that a, maybe there were a little higher caliber, and had a little, a little bit better team, we had a number of people that came some from Rutland, some from Barre, and some farther south. It was the valley team, the Valley Cubs. Yup. And a lot

of it.

JB Did you want to get that thing about the a,  
electricity again or was that okay?

MS I'm not sure quite where we came, where we were when  
it came in. Um.

JB I think we've talked.

EV I think it was okay. I think.

JB I think we've talked a lot about that.

EV \_\_\_\_\_.

JB Okay. Well, you done good. Ha! Ha! I hope you're  
not, ha, ha. Drained and exhausted. Ha!

EE No. [327]

JB Is there anything you'd, you'd like to say.

EE No. I.

JB You feel what?

EE Let's see. What do I. For saying what I did, I'm not  
one who, who likes to brag.

JB I know you don't.

EE And it bothers me so much. Saying some of the things  
I did but it's been, a, as I look back over it, I  
guess it's a, I sort of feel that a, I should let  
people know or I should let not only just keep it to

myself what an experience it's been, my life has been, I know others have had probably more exciting and more rewarding and all that but I just a, it's a, and how it's, how it's been made possible.

JB I think that's very.

EE I know, this is the thing that will, well, should I of said that, I know it will go through my mind, after your gone. Ha! Ha!

JB Well just remember in putting this together, we're looking to put everybody's best foot forward. And we're not you know looking to, put words into anybody's mouth. So, and we're looking to put together a radio show that you'll be proud you were part of, we're not looking for you know to make people look small or big or just as, as they see it. And a, I think that's our obligation and, and in but when you ask somebody to participate and in presenting the a, you know the value. Do you think we should a, characterize Warren and Waitsfield, Moretown and Fayston, as places. [356] The differences.

EE There's been differences but, I all, I think I would say that I've always looked at them as a community.



Like I spoke about the 4-H club team from Warren and the 4-H club from Waitsfield, the same way in Boy Scouts as I remember. What that's part of, of living, I mean, surely one neighborhood versus another neighbor. The a, when I formed the a, when I formed the Rotary I started Rotary here, we took in the four, four towns, cause I think they have so many things in, in common, and I, it's different than it used to be, I mean, one community means of communication of the big thing. Yeah. Like each town has their obligations to carry on their government, and so forth. But, and other ways that they are pretty much, one problem is just as much for one as it is for another. So they have their individual interest and so on and so forth but. And a, you'd see that working with, it's like men working on the school board, we tried for years, it was stretch of road that reached from 100 into Fayston, we, tried for a long time to get Fayston to plow that road, so that we wouldn't have to do half of it and they do half of it and we'd swap somewhere else. But, we never succeeded. Ha! Ha! Ha! [387]

JB Well one of the things I've often thought is a,

Moretown was different because in a sense it was a, a company town kind of thing and Warren was, a much more rural so to speak then, and sort of looked toward Waitsfield as the center town.

EE Um hum.

JB Kind of thing.

EE Well, that's the one that you, Warren when I was a youngster, Warren the traffic all went over Roxbury mountain, not all, but a major portion of it, the mail came over that way, they went over that way for to get their grain ground. They came on the train over there and they came over here, the runners, they used to call them runners, salesmen and so forth, they came over that, Waitsfield came the other way. [400] I don't know where Fayston did come from. \_\_\_\_\_ I guess. Ha! Ha! But, Fayston I remember when they were so financially a strapped, that they had to borrow money from a citizen of the town to pay the teachers. And now where are they, one of the richest towns in the state of Vermont. Now that is known, that's the truth.

MS Could you say that line again. You bumped into the

microphone there. They're one the richest.

EE Oh I didn't know you were a. Ha! Ha! But Fayston when I was probably 14 years old or so, about that time, they were so, they were so strapped for funds, to operate the town, that they couldn't even pay the teachers. And they borrowed money from one of the citizens, or one of the citizens volunteered to loan them the money, to pay the teachers, now today, and in every sense of the word, if you look at the values, they're one of the richest towns in the state of Vermont.

JB And that's because of the ski industry or?

EE The ski industry. The ski industry alone. Nothing else was a factor there.

JB Now the other day, you were talking about the ski industry and a, you know, the fact that it wasn't really a sure kind of, and you had a couple of other, ideas, I wonder if you just elaborate. [431]

EE Yes. The ski industry and here again, this is where I was involved in legislature and I had some, good sources of information, who provided me, the ski industry in general are not, not over productive. As

far as being financially sound. There, we have so many of them and that we, that a, in operation that there aren't all that many who are a financial success. And a, that makes in a very unstable economic base. Now when we had everybody had a farm, you were pretty sure and you have something to that you could a, come back on, and you had a stable economy, and we saw this develop. It's a very unstable one, weather conditions and other conditions can have a great effect upon it. And that's why from my point of view, that we ought to try and get some industry, some business in here that gives more stability as far as the area that we have.

JB And you mentioned an idea the other day, and what I'm trying to do, I don't know whether we'll use it or not, but, it's, if I do interview the woman it's a nice lead into, so.

EE Okay. [458] This is why, at first I didn't get involved because I know having been in office and so forth, in town office. I'd like to rely upon the a, knowledge and ability of the town officials. But, the luckily the, aquafire that's provides something in

excess of a thousand gallons of water a minute that has been discovered here in town, and a, they've been in the process for about four years trying to work out something so that the, let's see, they could get the permits to start up the, the operation. And it's bogged down, and so, I said well it's unfortunate that such a circumstance has arisen. And I think that we ought to do whatever we possible can to get this on line so they get in operation and we'll have a some where they've been saying 50 or 60 new jobs. [477] And I've been trying some what in a, in sort of a, playing a role and trying to get the officials together with the individual, so that a, this can become a reality.

JB Just a, to crystalize it, a little bit, how would 50 or 60 jobs just describe who they would relate to the aquafire thing.

EE Well, you have 50 or 60 jobs and from what I understand that what it requires for an operation like that, are well paying jobs. And, the a establishment of the business itself, the tax basis is one of the big things that that would be, that would bring

dollars and dollar into the town. And, the, the employment of x number, 50 or 60, or 40 whatever, whatever it is maybe more. Just, automatically means that that much business for the service stations, the grocery stores, the restaurants, the people coming here from elsewhere to tourists too. That's an unusual aquafire. [502] So it just adds to the a, adds to the base, economic base of the whole area.

JB Explain what you mean by an aquafire and would this be kind of a water plant or? [506] What?

MS I guess I don't understand what it is? I missed the, I got the water part but I don't know what are you gonna do with it? I missed that. I didn't hear about this idea so.

EE Okay. I've been concerned about water, drinking water, portable water, and I think people all over are, should be concerned because there's such a demand on it at the present time, to be pure water, and we're doing all sorts of means to purify water. Well this aquafire is nothing but a, a well, or a supply of water that would hit by drilling and it just pours right out of it, at in excess of a thousand gallons a

minutes, if you can imagine how much that is. And, but that would develop into is a bottling plant, for pure water, and also probably would develop into a flavored water, and land knows what they, what they would produce out of this supply of water. This, there's a number of water systems but I believe they said this was the largest aquafire east of the Mississippi River.

JB It's a pretty interesting a.

EE Did you notice, Vermont Pure, maybe you haven't noticed because I've been thinking about it, Vermont Pure, has a big advertisement in the paper, it said that they were gonna be supplying the water for the Boston marathon, this next year, and for something, in New York too. So, you see that's a, yeah. It's a maybe a, maybe it's an industry in it's infancy and yet it's pretty well started. And I just feel they should take advantage of an opportunity that most people don't have, and most communities don't have.

JB I think it's something we definitely should explore and a, in the interviewing. Listen you've been terrific and I a, I'm sorry a, we put you, through so

much but a, we, we got just what we wanted.

EE You did.

JB Yeah.

EE Okay. Very good.

JB Really. And we'll weave it together, I meant again I,  
I'll leave you the country store. [555]

END OF TAPE