

Everett Palmer/TC1994.0005  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

EP        Everett Palmer  
JB        Jane Beck  
EV        Ev Grimes  
MS        Miles Smith  
Place    Waitsfield, VT  
Date     02/04/1994

JB    One of the things I wanted to ask you about were the  
Fullers.

EP    Yeah. I thought, on that one there where I said I got  
a couple of stories.

JB    Oh great, yeah.

EP    I wasn't going, I wasn't mention the last name.

JB    Fine.

EP    I was just gonna say, this is a good friend of mine  
Earl.

JB    That's.

EP    And Steve.

JB    Great. That's fine.

EP    But I though that would be better than to, give.

JB    That's a very good idea.

EP    Their last names.

JB    Yeah. And a, in any, that's fine anywhere.

EP Yeah.

JB And also the other thing is, if you make a mistake or something tell us, and we can cut it out or we can say it over so a. That's the nice thing about a.

EP Well I just thought that.

JB That's a good idea.

EP That a, they might, well perhaps some of their families might, if they heard it or Steve, might not appreciate it you know.

JB Yeah. No, I think that's a. Well maybe we should start a, out, you have down here chores. Why don't we start with that?

EP Well, people used to come and want to go up to the sugarhouse, you know, and see how it was, how far we made it and how it was and so, I used to take and, a take them up, and I'd take them up to the woods, show them the trees, you know where they would tap, and show the old tap holes, where'd they'd grown over and then I'd show them the new tap hole and show they how the pipeline was hitched to the different trees. And then going into a main line, and then I'd take them down to the sugarhouse, and then I would show they the

evaporator, and show them the flues, that set down in the arch so that the flames went through them to which made it boil so fast. So hard. And then I'd take them up into the, our old room.

MS Maybe, maybe I could get you to go back just a tad. I don't know we bumped the mike or something like that.

[025] You were talking about showing them the flues and.

EP Oh yeah. Okay. I would show them the flues, and tell them about how the sap come in and would follow around different partitions so as, and then when it got to the front pad, there's four partitions in that front pad, and it would a, it would a flow, it's gravity feed. It would flow around and then when it got over here to this corner here, it was syrup. And, it took, after the first, draw up which was about three quarters of an hour from the time we start. We'd take off the first batch of syrup and then we'd take it off all day long, every ten, fifteen minutes. Yup. And then I'd take them up into the, our old room, and show them the raw sap and give them a taste of the raw sap. Then I would, give them a taste of the, the sap that

a, had been through the, the oh, might, through the,  
oh, I can't think of the word. [039] Reverse  
osmosis, and then I would open up the door where the  
water from the high roll that was taken out of the  
sap. I would open up that door, so that they could  
have a taste of that clear sap, I mean clear water,  
and it's just as pure, as you could get, it's, and I  
was told by some people from California at this time,  
well you ought to bottle it up and send it out to  
California. Ha! But that sap was, just, I mean that  
water was just as pure as, as can be. And after they  
get that tank filled, that is filled so as the, when  
we get through a boiling at night, it pumped through  
the machine. To flush out the machine. And also  
gives us water down stairs, I got, down where the  
evaporator I got a, a garbage can setting there full  
of water, so we can have water there and we didn't  
have to come up the stairs and bring it down my, my  
daughter-in-law come up with that idea. She said, why  
don't you, put a tank down here so, have it filled  
with water. This water that's being taken out of the,  
our \_\_\_\_\_. [055] And so that's what we did.

JB I want to start back if I may a little farther and a  
get I remember the other day you were telling me about  
as a boy the kinds of chores you did and then  
gradually work into the different ways you, you, the  
different things you've seen, with sugaring. [059]

EP Well, when I was growing up as a young boy, when we  
got home from school we had to change our clothes of  
course. Then the next thing was to, go out and get in  
the, fill the wood box, and then we had a living room  
stove in the front room here, we had to get wood to  
put in the wood box there. To go through the night,  
and enough to do the, during the day. And then, at  
night that was my night job. And then, mornings I  
used to have to go down to the barn, and we had about  
a, oh I'd, I would guess a, ten or a dozen small,  
heifer calves, heifers, and we'd let out two at a time  
and they had, at that time, we had water tank, a big,  
and I would say it was a, ten foot in diameter, set in

this corner of the, of where the, what we used to call young cattle barn. In the corner, and also when that tank was filled with water, then the overflow would go out to another tank outdoors, where they used to lead the horses down to drink, but the cattle was all watered from that tank in the barn, and it was running in there, constantly, all day long. [077] And then the overflow went out, and down in back of the barn. Years back. And then a, I can remember, my dad breaking out the roads, for sugaring you know, to start with, with old oxen. He used to buy, quite a lot of oxen. He'd use them for, three, four years, and then there was a man from down south, I don't know where he come from, I can't remember. But he would come and see my dad, and say, "Warren I'd like to have you, pick me up, perhaps two yokes of oxen, you know." And dad would sell him the pair that he had. And then if there was another farmer that he knew of that had a good pair of oxen, why he would take him out to that place or he'd buy them himself and, and then, I could remember of, is taking one pair and I was old enough to drive them, so we drove them over [091] I,

they had a, a rope across their necks you know to hold them together, and I had this whip where I used to come on, and I drove them to, Waterbury, and there, they would put on the train and went some where south, I don't know, I can't remember the man's name, what, or whereabouts he lived but, he was a man that always bought a, oxen that was all well broken and, I don't know what he did with them either but a. My dad was a, always had a pair of oxen, on the \_\_\_\_\_. And we'd start in, ha, if he had a good [099] a good pair of a, holstein, calves, you know, or durhams, he would raise them and we had another younger brother, we'd break them and use them and until about they got to be about two years old, then dad would use them then for his work, and then in due time he would sell them and we'd start another or he'd go out, I can remember he and the hired man, he'd bought a pair of, of a, well, they was probably two years old, and he bought them from a man up in Warren. And he said, "oh, warren," he says, "these cattle are just what you want. They're well broke and every thing." Well he bought them and brought them home and, took them up in the woods, to

do some, logging with them I guess, well he couldn't get them to do anything, they wouldn't draw you know.

So, I can remember him, he and the hired man, talking about it, noon tey, at the noon, table there when we was eating dinner and telling about. Well I guess we have to educate them a little more, but. He says, "I guess we can do it, young and they'll come along." So that's what he did. And then I, [117] can remember too of his, when he was a, breaking out the roads for the sugar place, was this old oxen, of course they was, they was strong and he'd hitch them onto a sled, what they called a bobsled at that time. Had two beams. And then I would ride them, and my dad would, would take and a, put a walking plow, chain it right onto the side of the, the bobsled and with that mboard, it would plow the snow wider so's it would make a, a wider road then just what the sled did. And he, and then when he turned around, he'd get to the far corner and then he'd turn around and plow the same, but he'd go all through the roads like that. For sugaring. And then, then they came the horses, and the same way with them. And, then the last of

course the last, he didn't, wasn't living at the time when I was sugaring with a tractor. But I've, I've sugared with, with horses, before I had my tractor but a good pair of oxen, or a good pair of horses well broke, if you was, gathering sap, and you happen to be oh, 25, 30 feet ahead of them. And you'd speak to them, and they'd come right up to you, they'd follow the road and they'd come right up and you'd say, woooo, and you'd dump your sap and start off again but, a good pair of horses or oxen, but today them, you can say wooo and stop and get up and all you want to with a tractor, but they won't, this isn't gonna stop it. Start when you, want it to, so you have to, you have to take and use, somebody on the tractor to make it worth while. And now of course the, modern more, modern way is, is, having pipeline and brings it either to the sugarhouse or a tank but with me, I have to, put it into tanks that's scattered around different parts of the woods. And then I have the, two tractors, one man take one and one going in different directions. And, they hitch this pump up to the tank, it's full of sap. Pull the string, and it

will fill that tank why empty that tank in less than five minutes you know, and then they keep going until they get a load. They don't [148] get a load at this tank while they'll go up to the next tank, finish filling out, and then they go to the sugarhouse and then they come back to where they started and left off and that's the way that was, worked.

JB Well now you told me I think that, it was your grandfather, tell me a little bit about him building the sugarhouse or?

EP Well, I, of course I don't know but anyway, back in them days you, well now a days too, you got to have a good foundation to keep this evaporator level. Well of course he, there was a ledge, it runs right through where the sugarhouse is now. And he built that arch right on that ledge and that ledge don't heave. Well if you, build it out here like out here and on the lawn some where, you'd have to go down way below frost level, in order to have it, have cement stay so it wouldn't heave, and then your evaporator wouldn't set level with, on this ledge it never moved. And, of

course back in them days, you had a, instead of a round smoke stack like we got now. It was all made out of brick. Cause there used to be a brick mill down here in the, right across from Merrimark, there used to be a, they used to make brick down there. And that's where the brick from this house up here, going up on the Waitsfield common there, Cat Johnson hill, they call it Cat Johnson's hill. And, those, those brick from that house was made down there. Yup. And, the arches was all made with brick, and the chimney was made with brick, but today, they're all made of metal and a, the rule is for, for the a, heights of the smoke stack, to have it draw, you, it's twice the length of the, of the rate which, with mine it would have to be 28 feet tall. But the chimney just, more or less went through the, roof like a house does now.

But a, back in them days they didn't have the, the new modern way of using the evaporator that we have now, it was a flat bottom, flat bottom pan, with a few partitions in it. And it would be a bubble here, and a bubble there, and another one. If they thought it was, a great thing then that particular pan was made

in Bellows Falls, the name of it was Bellows Falls.  
And it was just a long, long pan, with a few, little  
partitions through it and there's a, the syrup would  
be, they used to take the syrup off it, up it, front  
end of the arches you stand in front of it, and they'd  
take the syrup off there. [188] But it just, why,  
years ago some of them old timers, would go up and  
have an easy chair, like one of these old things you  
know, take up a newspaper, or a book or something and  
they'd throw in some wood, and it would boil away, and  
when it got down to, syrup, why they'd draw it off I  
suppose. But a, now a days you don't have time to sit  
down and read a book, or anything else. But, you're  
right on your toes all the time.

JB Now when you're saying a long time ago, but tell me a  
little bit about, I think you know when the, when that  
was.

EP Well, [198] can you help me out a little mother?

JB Well, what I thought you told me, right, was that the  
sugarhouse was originally built in 1840.

EP Yeah. It was, yeah, the sugarhouse was built, 150  
years ago. And, of course I've had to resile it and

put roof on it. Then I took and we was having so many visitors, I had to, oh I built on an addition, a six feet and then of course when I, put in the ro, I had to have that room, and that is a, a room about six foot square, as I remember now, and that's all insulated, cause you got to keep them pipes from freezing up. And, I've got a door, that goes into the sugarhouse, that I keep shut. And then another one up, it goes up into the tanks, where they are. I keep that door shut so that little room is heat by electric heat, so it won't freeze. [212] When we begin to sugar, we don't keep it on during the winter now, but during the, sugar season, when we start in, then we, turn that little electric button on and that keeps that little room just as warm as can be to keep it from, freezing up all the pipes and all that thing.

JB Well that sugarhouse has seen a lot of changes.

EP Yeah. [216] Oh yeah. Yeah. And of course now I'm, I've when we've been modernizing it, and of course the, I put into it, an oil fired rig, so it's all fired by oil now. And that oil, oh that's, that was one of the, nicest things I ever did do, that and the

ro, if I couldn't have them two things today again. I wouldn't be, I wouldn't do business because it is, it saves so much labor, time, and I was a, the first year I had, my oil. And I was paying the man pretty good wages because that's hard work, well anyway, that oil that I burnt, was less than what I had paid the man to feed that evaporator for me. To do the firing. And when he had worked for me for 12, 14 years, and I got overcome by heat, as I was getting younger. Ha! Ha! So mother got me up out of the pit where I did the firing, and so when men come in with a load of sap, she had one of the young men, stay in the sugarhouse and I used to go out into the woodshed, and stand and coach the boy where to put the wood and how to put it to make it boil the way it should you know. It, there's a lot of a, different, than just throwing wood in, you you got to have, a kind of a knack that you got to have to make it, to make that thing boil and boil it the whole length of it, 14 feet, 4 foot wide.

So you got to place your wood, in a different way rather than just throw it in any old way and. And, to make it do business you had to, so I used to go down

and watch it, and he got to where he could [243] do a darn good job. And I used to pay him good money. But when I couldn't, did change over from oil, my oil bill, was less than what I paid that man. And my brother says to me, before that, he says you're crazy for doing all these things, and a, so last spring he came up the sugarhouse and he said, "well Eric," he said, "I guess you did the right thing." Yup. I was kind of pleased to hear him say that. Ha! Because all the other times he had a, kind of thought that we were foolish, but. At our ages you know to, doing what we're doing but. It's, it's for the good. It's for the good.

JB Now you were talking about ro, and can you, just most people don't know what that means.

EP Well it's a machine, and I really can't tell you, but the idea of the thing they came up with, they used to use them on these big sheep, ships, to purify the water, when there was, they used them moving troops I suppose. And \_\_\_\_\_ of the way. Well that's where it, originated from and now they're using it to, to a, it's the same principal I guess, as a, they did that

only a smaller capacity now my, my ro that I've got now will handle four thousand five hundred taps. And I've got three hundred, thirty six hundred taps. So I told a fellow when I bought it, I always said, I don't want you to sell me something just to sell me something, but I said, I want you to sell me one that's big enough and a little bigger for anything. But I don't want you to, I don't want to scrimp on it, I want it big enough so it will handle what I've, would have. Just not sell me something that's not going to, do the trick and which I did and, it will take care of foreign. Yeah four thousand five hundred taps. Well this goes through that machine at a five hundred pound pressure, and that's taking out a lot of water, and the first year I had it, I screwed that, membrane right down, and I screwed the thing right down so to, make it just as sweet as I could. But it was so sweet it would strangle you to drink it. So now, we're using, we take out 50% of the water, before we boil it. And that keeps pretty, pretty busy, taking off syrup. You, if you got it too sweet, you see, it would get, you couldn't handle it, it would be

a syrup in the back pan, while you want it in the front pan. But it's a, it's better to have it about 50%. And then you've got plenty of time but you're taking off syrup after you get that first time. About every ten, fifteen minutes, all day long.

JB Could you? [290] I think one of the things people don't realize is number one that ro means reverse osmosis, so could you just in case we're, you know, when we use this, we need just a line, so if you could say, ro means, reverse osmosis, and what that does is extract about 50% of the water.

EP Percent of the water. Yeah. That.

JB Could you just say that, in that?

EP That a, what that machine does, it's put through that machine, at five hundred pound pressure. [297] And it's taken out, 50% of that water before we boil it. So now it's, just leaving, oh, the concentrated sap, and the, stream that you want to come out of that is about the size, well, it's about the size of a finger now. But this, this spring I'm gonna have another membrane, a larger one, put on so I'll have a stream coming out of there about as big as my thumb. Or

bigger. And we may be able to, start right in as soon as we, get a couple of loads of sap. So that a, we may not be at that quite so long. And, it's, it's expensive but I think it's a good move. I think it's a good move.

JB The other thing I need to, for you to say is ro means reverse osmosis.

EP Yeah. RO means reverse osmosis. And that's what it's doing. But I can't, for, there's four membranes on it. There's two of them, that's a, I got the better ones. Bigger ones. Cause I, when I first got it I had four, four inch ones. And they did a good job. But I had to wait for it. I had to, wait but now with these two, I got one new one last year, a bigger one, and this year they're gonna put on another bigger one, and they don't give them away it's, gonna cost me \$2500 just for that one. [322] But it's worth it. Over a period of years it's paid for itself. Or it will pay for itself. And I think this is gonna be the, fourth year that I've had it. I think it is. It may be the fifth but I think it's the fourth, but I'm not, quite sure of it. It's, it's really paying for

itself. I would, if I couldn't have, my oil, and that reverse osmosis, I wouldn't sugar. It means that much to me. Yeah.

JB How you doing, am I wearing you out?

EP Nope. No. I'm all right, I hope that I'm doing.

JB You're doing, yeah. I, what I want to ask you, is the other day you were telling me a little bit about you know how you farmed and, and then, your son was helping you, and then he went and worked for Mehuron and how you got out of farming and then how you really zeroed in on sugaring. [338]

EP Well, back when, we was sugaring, I mean, farming, of course this sugar is another good paying proposition, and it's gotten more so every year because a, people are beginning to know what maple syrup is. And we're getting a, a lot of calls for it. And over a period of years, since I've been sugaring since I was, ten years old, and ha, we've been modernizing, oh I would say that a, our business is oh, it's more than doubled, more than doubled and, it's more from word of mouth, we don't do any advertising, or anything like

that. It, I've given people somebody come along I've given them a sample of syrup, a little thing and all those things I think is, been good to a, promote our business, ha, and now a, my wife she makes a raised donuts, and no one comes up to the sugarhouse or goes away with what they've had a dish of syrup, and one of her homemade donuts and once in awhile they'll ask if they can have another one. Which that's all right. But anyway she, makes up quite a few before sugaring, and puts them in the freezer. So, but she used to, make oh when we don't sugar every day, she'd make up a, a batch of two. And have them ready. So it's a, that we could have them but. Anyway now, it's the last thing I got was a microwave. And, ha, I'm telling you, that's a great rig because when she used to take up them a, donuts to treat the crowd, we used to have a, ha, a little two by four well it was a, part of an old evaporator, years ago, used to have it laying up against the, the a [373] side of the arch, to keep a the heat away from her legs, because a, that was when we was using wood, because there was a lot of heat coming out through them bricks, through there and

so we put that pan up that to kind of, keep the heat away from mother's legs cause she's the one that, that draws the syrup off. And a, we used to put, there was a partition in that pan and we used to, she used to a put them on one of these little, cellophane trays, you know, and warm the donuts up, and this, ha, here's another kind of a, good story, there was noon time, or middle of the afternoon, she was to take up pie. And the boys, that was when we was gathering with a, buckets, we didn't have the, the ro then. And we had just the buckets, but for treating the boys or, middle of the afternoon they'd come in, oh three o'clock and she put this pie in on that a, on that partition in there, and it would be just like you'd baked, it come out of the oven. Well this particular.

JB Could you just go back, you hit the thing when you were saying pie and we may want to use it so.

EP Okay. [395] Well.

EV Start the story again.

EP She used to, take up this.

JB Start with the pie?

EV No. No.

JB She wants you to just, when she'd bring up the pie at three o'clock, start there.

EP Okay. When she. (door bell rings)

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

EP When she be a.

MS Let's.

EP They'd come in. The men would.

JB Start in with your talking about bringing out the pies at three o'clock.

EP Oh yeah. Yeah. Well, at three o'clock the boys would come and say well, it's about pie time. And of course one boy would like an apple, apple pie another one, his favorite was chocolate, and another one was a, peach pie or something like that. So she'd try and, make a pie, that one boy or the other, they all liked pie of course. Ha! Ha! And they would look forward to coming in and having that piece of pie, she'd cut it you know and they'd take it on their plate, or some of them would take it right in the fingers and, eat it that way, depending on the pie of course. But anyway, then we had that microwave, and [414] she'd put those donuts into that. And warm them up. And they'd be

just like they come out of the kettle you know. And they, people just, couldn't stand it. Amazing how that was done you know and when we used to put in that pan. But anyway, going back just a little, this a, lady from out of state, and ha, Katherine had just taken this, I think to, (coughing) excuse me. I think it was apple pie at that time, and she'd just taken this pie out, from this partition, from in there and it was just as warm, and just come out of the oven down here. And she put, I can see her today, she put her hands on her hips like a, you mean to tell me that you made that pie? "Oh" I says, "yeah," with a straight face. I says, "yeah, it was baked right here in this." Well then of course I had to confess to her that, that had been frozen up and she put it in there and I says, "this pie is to treat the boys on." And I guess that's one reason why I used to be able to get what kind of help I wanted, you know, they, they'd come one year and every year they'd come back and want to help. [436] I use my help pretty good and I used to pay them good. Still do.

MS Let me get this \_\_\_\_\_. [440] (Noisy) Ready?

EP Yup.

JB One of the other things I'd like you to tell me if you could as I remember noticing the microwave oven is out there but so is the old lantern that. So.

EP Oh yeah. Yeah. Well, of course, when a, I sold a piece of land, and the people that bought it lived way out in the sugarwoods. And they built a road clear out through. Well, of course the power line went right by the sugarhouse. So I, went to the Green Mountain Power Company, and I says, "what's it gonna cost me to hitch on to, on to electric so I can have electric lights down here at the sugarhouse?" And they said, "well we'll figure it up and tell you so."

I was amazed to see cause I failed to, it cost me like the dickens. But it didn't and so I, went all and put in electric, electric lights first, and then I got my ro. And now the, we done away with the, we used to have to use kerosene lanterns up there. And we used to have to boil to, oh eleven, twelve o'clock nights. With them kerosene lanterns. But now with this modern equipment, we can start in, we're down here at the house on a, good day, eight o'clock with

every thing all washed up and ready to go to bed.

Well before we used to have to come down and do chores and then take the old horse and go back up and a, stay till eleven, twelve o'clock or later. To get the sap boiling so they'd have a place a, the next day, that was when we were using wood. But now with this, ro, it is why it's, the time consuming saving on that and I don't have to have so much help. [478] And it's a, a great saving, one way or more ways than one. Yup.

JB Now the other thing I was gonna ask you that you told me the other day was, a, how you, you had been farming and then your son left, and then.

EP Yeah. Well, a, my son was with me, and had a, I had one other man besides him, but anyway. We'd been, I'd been farming and I bought on and, a couple of the other little farms to make this one bigger cause things was getting where we had to have more cattle and, and keep the expenses down. So anyway, my son had been with me for, oh I don't know, all his lifetime. And, he and his wife came up to the house one night, and says, "dad," he says, "I've got a

chance to go down and work to Mehuron's market to cut meat." "Well" I says, "if that's what you want to do, go ahead." [500] And a, he knew what land was being valuable because the ski areas had come in, and we, I'd been approached to sell the farm but I didn't really want to but I finally took and had it surveyed up into ten, and tenth acres. And a, then, as a my son said, you wanted to go to work for cutting meat down in Mehuron's market I took and said, "go ahead."

So I sold out, sold off some of the cattle and some of the cows so that I could, handle it with the, the other man that I had, and from there on we, we've been farm, I was farming and then I got hurt and I had to give it up, so then I, gone into this maple business all together. I mean that's my, main business now. And I can up about a third of my crop up at the sugarhouse, and the rest of it I put in the barrels, and then reopen them and as I want to, as my business increases you know and I don't know what sizes are gonna, going to a sell better, it be quarts or pints or half gallons. Or whatever so. What I do is reheat it up to a hundred and ninety degree down cellar, and

put it in a, in an oven that, will turn any one off,  
as to go into a store and find a rusty looking can on  
top. So this would, by doing it this way, they're  
always bright and shiny and look nice, and it's  
attractive. [535] I don't know, I guess you have  
another question you wanted.

JB Well no, but a, one of the things that I thought that  
was so far sided in a sense was that, when you sold  
this land you.

EP Oh yeah. Yeah after I, I had the farm all surveyed up  
into ten acres well, the sons could see then that,  
that farming wasn't going to be, here in and on our  
property, that long and so he thought he'd  
\_\_\_\_\_ out, which I'm glad he did. But now,  
[547] he's about ready to retire from that because  
he's, he's been down there pretty near 25 years I  
guess. And now he's gonna carry on the, sugar  
business, that I have built up over a period of years  
and so, that's one reason why I've been modernizing  
like I have, to bring it up to more efficient for him  
when he takes over and. And, that's the way that's  
gonna work it. And I'm glad I've done what I've done.

JB Well like you told me, I think, I can't remember how you put it but you put it something like you have to keep up with the times.

EP Oh yeah. You've got, you've kind of got to keep up with a, what's going on and a, outside world and we build up such a good market that you've got to keep that market up and. And, oh, we get some of the nicest letters back from people where we ship syrup. Like today she's taking in two orders today on the phone and then when the mailman comes he's libel to bring in several more. But we ship each, each week, UPS sometimes. Well during the Christmas time we was every day but, now it's either once a week, or twice a week, it depends on the orders that come in. And, I'm glad that Albert is going to carry on, he's taking a big interest and, in it and, we just entered the products out to the farm show. And he got excellent on all the takes of the maple products which was 7 categories, I believe. And a, he's taken a big interest in that, we put, it was all put into his name so that a, because we've had people say, "well I've seen Alberts, did well in the farm show which." And

we've got a, ribbons out here that, over a period of years that I've won. He didn't take in any of the, he didn't get any of the, of the rosettes. Which we have gotten several of them. But his time will come some day. Yeah.

JB One of the other things that a, and I'm looking to thinking the differences that the ski areas have made in the region.

EP Oh yeah. Well the ski areas, back in, well after we get that paper there, I forget, what year it was.

JB About 1948 when they first came here.

EP Yeah I think, I think so that it, when they first started in. And it's made land, valuable, because a lot of these farms are used to sugaring you know, have been sold off. And a, the lumber has been sold off, the trees have been sold off, you know. But a, [616] it made land, land valuable. And a, my mother was approached oh a good many times to sell their sugarplace up there after my dad had died. But she says, "no, I'm keep it for the boys." And I'm glad she has, that's what I'm trying to do too is to, keep it in the family for as long as we can and, it's been

a tradition, in the Palmer family for quite a number  
of years. [629]

JB Now backing up a.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

EP The main reason why my dad give up farming, it was my  
older brother, he had a, well he'd, they had a, a  
school, his class, of the school, had a play this  
particular night, I forget what night, but anyway. He  
was in that play, and they were, asked to take it to  
Northfield to give it over there. Well he was so sick  
he couldn't go so someone else took his place. And a,  
the night before he was in bed, he came from school  
and he stopped into Oscar Eaton's little store. And  
he said, "Mr. Eaton," he said, "I'm awful tired." And  
I, I wish I could get home. Well he said, "I'll see  
to that." [013] So I think, I think he carried him  
home. And he went to bed and he never got out. And  
it struck him all of a sudden of course didn't know,  
and know anything about \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ paralysis, and he

was only sick three days. [016] And he went just like that. And I remember my dad and mother talking the next a, the next, well he was buried on a Sunday and my younger brother came down with it that Monday morning, and I can hear my dad and mother talking, she said, I heard my dad say, "I'm wondering if we're gonna loose them all." [021] That was, my brother and my sister. That was still living and I was. But I had been sick at the same time with Carey, but I had such a fever that I burnt it up and all my life like these a, small diseases like chicken pox, and whopping cough and all, I had, I always had a, an awful high temperature with it. And the doctors always said that that was what, burnt it up. And the same way with, my, my \_\_\_\_\_ paralysis I was sick with him and I got out, up and around, the day that he died. And, from then on it was, well then \_\_\_\_\_ was taken sick a, the next Monday morning after his funeral of course [032] it was private nobody was allowed. And a, then I think it was about a week later, my sister came down with it and my brother he wasn't paralysed, there was two doctors from, from Burlington and our doctor here

in town called them and they came one night about eleven o'clock and I, I was sleeping upstairs and I could hear my brother screaming, terrible, and of course they was injecting that serum, into his spine, and of course he was frightened too. And a small boy he was, I think probably five, six years old, perhaps.

And a, oh how he was screaming. And a, they saved his life. But he did have one leg that never quite developed as large as the other. But he, almost got a, paralysed in one limb but, but anyway they saved his life and then from, our place, he went down to, to a, Steve Joslins. And \_\_\_\_\_ that was his older son, [048] he came down with it and he was paralysed, he lost one limb, I mean a, he was paralysed in one limb.

And then from, from a, \_\_\_\_\_ Joslin's place, [050] they went down to Walter Moriarity's place, and his older daughter she was sick and she had it. And she was paralysed, they got there in time to save their lives. But not their limbs. They lost, each one of them lost a, lost a limb and, this Moriarity girl is still living today. But a, the Joslin boy he passed away a few years back. [055]

JB That's a.

EP But the learned, the doctors claimed they learnt a lot from my folks experience with my older brother, Carey when he died. And it was so hard for dad because after the quarantine was lifted and they fumigated the house, and every thing, and just let my dad and mother ride to town in a buggy people would see them they'd go in the house. And if the children was outdoors, they'd call them in. And that hurt my dad awfully. And that, that went on for, years. Until after a, it got worked out I suppose but every one was so, you can't imagine they was so frightened and the day that he died, our neighbor's daughter, was in that play too. And she stopped into see Carey, and he was asking her about the play. And all this and that, but to think of it the next day, I mean he had died. And of course just think of what that family went through. They, well it figured that, it was, going to go right through you know but she didn't, she didn't come down, evidently at the time of exposure had gone by so that she wasn't exposed. [073]

JB I think the a, that just that absolute fear.

EP Oh I know it and today they, they've got that pretty near licked I guess. But I hope some day they can get cancer and some of these other diseases that's bothering us, I hope that a. Can find a, cure for them some day.

JB One of the things I'd like to ask you to say again if you could because a, in putting this together it, it gets hard, if you could say, what your dad said, about I wonder if it's gonna take awhile. And then, explain that not only had your brother died but you your sister and your other brother were down with it.

EP Yeah. Well, I can remember this, just as plain as it happened this morning. I heard my dad say to my

mother, "I'm wondering if we're gonna lose all three of them." The other three that's living. And that put quite a scare into the rest of us, of course. I was the only one that heard it, but a, since then I've told the sister and the brother about it but a, it was an awful, an awful thing, and then these two doctors came all summer long, and a, they would give Carey, I mean a, Dwight, they would come and inject something into his spine, and then they would a, take samples of him dangling his throat, and then they'd used a syringe to put in his nostrils, and they took all those, all those things and took them back to the laboratory. To their laboratory and the laboratory and checked them and. The same way with me, I mean, when, ha. I was scared to death too and every time I'd see him I'd try and hide and a, anyway, ha. The year that this was going on my dad had a hired man and we had a piece of corn right up here by the, above the house there, over here at the farm house and he and I were cultivating corn with a horse, and hearing Dwight scream when they two doctors came to see him and take all those tests. We just couldn't stand it, and I

can, I can say, this \_\_\_\_\_ name was Fred, [108] he says, Fred said there, he says, "Everett" he says, "let's you and I run to the woods." And so we did, we left the horse and, and a the cultivator up, hitch him to the fence post and we, he and I went up toward the woods where we couldn't hear him cry. I'm telling you it was one of them awful, awful, awful things. [113]

But a, then a, that fall they had a kind of a, a fair down at the school house you know, and a, the children would bring in their pumpkins or squash or whatever and the a, the agriculture teacher would have the boys, had them in shop you know, and a, well anyway, my dad after the corn grown and got ripe, he braided up a, oh a big trace of corn, about a, this long. And, he a, gave it to him and he said, "now you, I'd like to have you take, take this corn down for a display, cause" he says, "you raised it." His son. Which I was pleased to do. And I, I can remember now that, I got a ribbon for it. And then another time, ha, I was quite handy with tools, and I wanted to make a, I wanted to make a, a oh what the, they used to call it a, sled it was a little three beam sled, a,

oh, if you wanted to put a bag of grain on it or something like that. Well anyway, I says to my dad I says, "I'd like to make one of them sleds." Well he says, "there's no reason why you can't." So I went, I went up in the woods, and a, I'd found, well I, dad was working in the woods, and I'd found a crooked tree, you know that had, so I cut it and I took it down to Moriarity's mill, asked him to saw it you know for me, so I could get the runners, well it was so small a stick that they couldn't hold it, on their dogs, to \_\_\_\_\_ it for me. So, so my dad says, "well, you wait." And so one day he took me up to, to a, oh a, Newcomb, Charlie Newcomb and he was wheelwright man and a, he made sleds and whatever you know, he was, a man to help the farmers, you know if a man broke a, a wagon pole or something like that, he'd saw it out and so forth. Well anyway, he went up, dad told him what I was trying to do, well he says, "I've got just what he wants." He'd take and an old, filly, or the woodwork of a, old wheel, you know, and you had to replace and then he says, cut it off so long. And it was all curved up you know round. And, so I made

that, made that sled, and I did it myself. Dad was coaching me all the time. And I put together, we put it together with oh I know the beams was about so high. Which would take about an eight inch bolt. Used them for pins for the, [160] for the a, beams you know, it would be like a, it was made an old, old sled you know. Only back in them days there was pins made out of wood, and some of them was made out of, out of iron. But anyway, I got these eight inch bolts, put them in and of course put them up through the, through the bottom up through and into the rave. And, ha, this particular, and my dad wanted I should enter that into this display down there, cause he says, "you made it." I, want you to take it down. So I did. And ha, the principal, or not the principal but the, the ag teacher there, he was, there now, I can remember there was Ed Jones, Ed, a fellow by the name of Ed Jones, and he's the only one I can remember, now. But there was three judges. And they were all farmers, and of course the ag teacher there had to have, had the boys a, made a, oh a, different things you know, book racks and book cases and what not. And so they were all on

display. Well when we come to, my sled, and of course to the bottom of my sled, I put a, plain, some oh, it was less than half inch, for the bottom you know to lay on that, lay on there and of course I hadn't, I hadn't a done a very good job to have them smooth, you know, across like his to they'd fit tight but there was a crack in it. But anyway, they judged my sled and the judges says, "well I think this one should be the first." And the principal, or not the principal but this ag teacher says, "no," he says, "the reason I don't think it should, is the bolts should be turned down so the nut would be down on the bottom." And, I can see those judges heads going like that, but that didn't make any difference. I mean, they went along, they, they gave me the second place as I remember but.

[191] But I can see them judges today, doing that, but a. My dad was always, coaching me to do things. And, when I was growing up, as a small boy, I was always making carts and bird houses and things like that and he was always coaching me to take my spending money and buy tools. Which that's what I did. And I can remember, going to Montpelier, it was a, oh a,

fellow used to, he had a Model T, and his name was, Livingston, Rob Livingston, no, it was, well anyway his name was Livingston. And you'd call him up, you'd want to go to Montpelier and say, "I'd like a ride to Montpelier." Okay. I'll be down such and such, eight o'clock, that's the time we'd go. He'd take people out, and it was a dollar I believe. [205] For a ride to Montpelier and back again. Back in them days it was a dollar. But, I can remember going and, the driver of the, old Ford was well behind the wheel, I set in the middle, another man set on the other side and then the, back seat I, I think there was three, four people in it. Well anyway, I went out, and my dad says to the, to the a, fellow that was driving the car, he says, "go in with Everett, and help him pick out some tools." So I did, I went in to this hardware store out there. And the first thing I, picked out was a hammer, and I picked me out a, a saw, and then I picked out some bits, small sizes, and I, from a quarter inch up to, about an inch. And then I, I bought a, a little plane, and a, well we had, we had carpenters up there building a porch, and he always

had one of these hand axes and a good deal like a, well a little small ax, but, anyway I bought one of them cause I, could see this, this carpenter over here having one, so I had to have one, well I came home and oh, and got a square and a bit stock. And dad was so pleased, with my purchase, that he said, "I guess we'll let you go again some day." But we didn't have to but. Anyway, to this day, I've got the square, and a, the saw, and some of the bits, [232] and the bit stock. And I think that's, the, old hack, little hand ax that was about that long, the handle was about that long, well that I can't remember what happened to that. I can't remember. And my sled, that my, that I made, my dad helped me make for the, the steers, and a, that went away with the flood. Because we was, we was living there, in the village where, where he \_\_\_\_\_ girls are there. [241] And the sled was, under cover down under the barn and the water come up so high that the, sled went away and, and I never see it after that. Nope. But he was always coaching me, to save my money for tools, and so when I got ready to build this house, I couldn't visually anything on

paper. So I made me a model, and at first I bought me a bench saw. And then, I was having my lumber sawed for this house, and spruce and hemlock, and a, so this particular night, I says to Katherine, I says, "well I can't, we can't visualize anything on paper." So I says, "I'm gonna make me a model." And I made this house from that model. And this represents, is sixty feet long, and it's a, thirty feet wide, so I had a, I've been, I had it, built it up on a, legs you know, so that we could set and work on it. And we built that house from that model. Well it took in a, and knew just how many two by four, the floor joists, and all those and the roof and the rafters. I knew just how many, it was going to take from that model, I, and when I was cutting the, logs for it, I started in in October, I'd take a little book with me, and I had a measure, and I'd measure them right, cut this tree and I, go through it. Well I says, "this will make perhaps three ten by tens, two by tens I would say." And two by six, and two by four, well anyway and I got that all sawed, and I, had it brought home stacked and I took it down to Granville to have a man, plain it

for me, planed it on all four sides, so it was just like boughten lumber only smaller, the boards I used was, well an eight inch board or six or whatever. And I built this house from that. And a, it was a, Mr. Gallager there, he was the one that used to sell, the nails and so forth and he said, "Everett," he said, "that house never blowed down with all the nails you bought." "Well" I says, "I don't intend it to." But anyway, when we got ready to build it, I let the foundation out cement job out to Anderson over in Waterbury. And they come in and put that up and then I started in, building this house, and this particular Sunday, my brother-in-law from over the other side of the mountain married Katherine's sister, and my brother, and his wife from Randolph, they happen to come over to the house, to have dinner that particular day and so, we just the cement poured on this house so I says to my brother-in-law, Gordon. I says, "how do you line up this sill plank?" That goes on top of the cement you know, with the bolts sticking up through. I said, "how do you?" [293] Put those planks on and get them right so they're going. Well he says, "I'll

show you the way I do it after dinner." So after dinner we came over and my brother and he and I, we put on that row of plank along that side of the, and from that day on, either a Saturday or a Sunday, he and his wife come over and he would help me well like when we begun to put up the side walls you know, and he made a, it made a, a bracket for me and sold it to two by fours would all be the same length and he showed me how to put the. (cough) (cough) Excuse me.

(Cough) How to put the, the a, different length of wood into this cradle that he made to, so they'd all be the. And by golly from that Sunday on, he either he, he and his wife either came over on a Saturday, or a Sunday. And he'd say well, come into today. Well he says, I guess I've got enough lined up for you for another week. And, I wouldn't of had the house that I've got now if he hadn't of, although I did, I did know, pretty much what I was trying to do. And when I got my lumber all sawed and, everything I had plenty of everything, a little bit of everything left over. But, that's how I built this house. And he was, I used to call him my teacher. [318] And he said,

"well you're a pretty good scholar too." Ha! And so that's the way we built this house. And, so far it's stayed up.

JB It looks like it's here to stay.

EP And then of course the finishing part here, I had to buy but a, the, the main part of the house, the floors and the side wall, the roof and all that was made out of my own lumber, my own lumber that I cut here on my own farm. But a, the a, finishing there of course I had to oh boy. It saved me quite a few dollars and I didn't know how much it really cost me but, I couldn't, I can't think of it today but. It saved me a good many dollars.

JB One other story you told me a, was about your father and about a horse he had and then eventually that was the horse that.

EP Yeah. He had, he had a, he used to, raise colts, you know, and he'd turn them out on Palmer hill in the spring, somebody else would have a colt they'd want to turn in two so, cause one colt wouldn't stay alone. They'd jump out, or get out, they'd jump out or get out there. They always had to have two, three, colts

the same with cattle too. You've got to have more than one or they wouldn't stay in the pasture.

(Cough) (Cough) [339] But anyway, he got this, horse, it was a gray one, colt.

JB Did you want some water?

EP I could drink some.

JB Yeah. Let me a.

EP Hurry, I wanted to tell about myself.

JB Great. I want you to.

MS Okay. We're rolling.

JB Are we all set?

MS Yeah.

JB Okay we were back [344] a with your father racing the.

EP Yeah well he was trying to get a team together. He'd had an old horse, the name was Ned, and a, he'd raised him up as a colt. And I forgot what the other horse was that he had the side of him but old Ned and old Jim was his favorite horses. Well old Ned ha, I can, hear my, my dad had sent the hired man to Montpelier, with a load of a, he butchered, his hogs off, he had oh I'd say probably eight, six or eight you know. And that was another income that a farmer would raise,

he'd raise two or two, spring and fall, a litter of pigs. And he's raise them up to a, well butchering age. But anyway he sent, he butchered and he sent this hired man to Montpelier and he was to stay overnight. And than come back the next day. Well old Ned, he had a case of colic and the only way that he could get him to leave would to take him out and walk him. Well he come down with it and the hired man called my dad from Montpelier, and said old Ned is sick. Well what should I do? "Well" he says, "you take him, and walk him around." Out there and he'll be all right. And a little while. And he did. Well anyway he kept that horse until he couldn't a, get up in the morning, or he couldn't get up, you know, so he had a neighbor come in and he waited until after we boys had gone to bed. He had his taken care of.

(Coughing) And then they gave him this old Jim horse, he was a big old horse and he'd raised him up as a colt, and that was his, favorite horse.

JB All right, you got to, I see a shaking head. Can you start with the Jim horse?

EP Yeah. Okay.

JB No?

EV Back, back further. [380] There was some, perhaps  
\_\_\_\_\_.

MS Where the fellow called from Montpelier or something.

EV Yeah from when the fellow called from Montpelier,  
okay. Cause there was several coughs.

JB The fellow called from Montpelier.

EP Yeah and, told my dad he said, "oh Jim is sick. What  
should I do?" He said, "well you just take him out,  
and walk him around for awhile." [386] And he'll  
come right out that spell which he did. And then the  
next day he came home. But anyway, my dad was trying  
to get another, young team started and he'd raise this  
Jim horse, as a colt. And I can see him today, going  
up with my dad to salt the cattle and the horses on  
this particular day and, he'd holler come boss, come  
boss. And they'd hear him and they'd come from over  
across the way further. There's a brook over there,  
they'd been over to drink. And this old Jim horse,  
colt, oh he was, oh he was right up down there, he was  
coming right out through. Oh running like the

dickens. He'd lead the whole session. Rather.  
Anyway he was, my dad's pride and joy. So he'd lead,  
and then he bought another gray horse, later on, when  
he used to be listor. And when he was out listing he  
saw a, one of the farmers had this gray horse, gray  
colt, so my dad says, "well you wouldn't sell him,  
would you?" And, "sure." So he bought that gray  
horse to go with this Jim horse. And, brought him  
home and, the run, they'd run away with the drop of  
the hat. Cause they were young but anyway. We kept  
that old Jim horse, after my dad passed away, and, and  
a, we kept that old Jim horse as long as he lived.  
And I was fixing fence, up here, in the spring of the  
year, and I'd driven a fence post in and I had this  
Jim horse, hitched to a wagon, a one horse wagon, and  
I drove my post and we was just getting ready to  
staple the wears on, and old Jim fell down. In the  
shafts. So I said, "well, you're all right, lay  
there." So I finished doing my work, nailing my ware  
onto the posts, so I went along and I got that done  
and I took hold of the limb, reign to this bridle, I  
says, "come on Jim, let's get up." And old Jim didn't

get up. Evidently he had a heart attack or something, and he died right there. Well, I went down to the house and told my mother. And a, she said, "well what are you gonna do." "Well" I says, "we're gonna give old Jim a good burial." I says, "that's what my dad would want." So I did I, I took him, and took the other horse, and brought him over here on the side here and I dug a good, big grave and I put him in it.

Also, two other horses. [438] That I, that I had had in my lifetime. They had died. Natural death. And but I know my dad appreciated it.

JB Now was Jim the horse that ran away with your dad? Is that?

EP Oh yeah he and that other gray one.

JB Well tell me that one, cause you and your brother were involved in that.

EP Yeah. Well, we were living at the village at that time he sold the farm and then he had to take the farm back because he couldn't pay for it. So, the cows it was in well it was after haying, and the pastures was getting short. (Coughing) Excuse me. And so a, he wanted to come up to the house, and he, he wasn't too

good, I mean he was having problems, so Dwight and I came up with a, a little driving horse, and a, he was working around the farm there, doing something I've forgotten now what. Anyway, but dad came up. But he came up with the gray horse, he hitched on to the mowing machine. What he was doing, he was mowing grass, around the fence, cause the cows would stick their heads through the fence and was eating that good grass. Green grass. So my dad was going to mow that, mow that hay that got up oh I don't know probably so high, why and then he was gonna spread and take the manure spreader and spread a load of manure, all along so they wouldn't crowd the fence. So, on this day he was mowing, I heard him, we heard him, holler, and he was way up there next to the woods, and them horses was running away. And a, there was a water bar right up, just above the house, I'm looking about where it was. And when he went over that water bar.

JB Woop. I saw that, yeah. Start back again, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. Ha! Ha! Ha! [477] Start, that you saw a, there was a water bar.

EP Yeah. There was a water bar right up here just about

where I'm looking now. And it was quite deep, well when he went over that water bar with the mowing machine that mowing machine bar was a, cutting grass just like this. Going back and forth. And when he went over that water bar, he got throwed off the mowing machine and he was dragging under the mowing machine. And, my brother and I was in the horse barn's door there. And we see him coming. And I run out, there was a fence coming both ways and a gate here. And luckily there, it was wide enough so that the mowing machine went through. So, we run out there and, I grabbed a fence post, and a, just as they went by, I swung with all my might. And, it stopped them enough, slowed them enough so they run into the horse barn instead of going down the road. [498] Oh I hit

\_\_\_\_\_.

JB Well that all right. Just back up to a, what coming through the, through.

MS Around the fence post.

JB All right. Start with grabbing the fence post.

EP Well I grabbed the fence post and then I swung it with all my might, across their nostrils, you know, in the

head, and it slowed them up enough so they run into the horse barn instead of the, going down the road. Of course the mowing machine was left outside the door cause when they went in with such speed that they did, they broke the harnesses and the whipatures and every thing, but if they'd ever gone down the road, nobody knows what would of happened, you know, there might of been somebody terribly hurt or something, that's when we was living in the village. But a, he never got up, he never got out after that. And he died [515] in, in a, well mother could tell you but I can't. In September I remember. Yup.

JB Do you mind just backing up a hair, and cause you were, you and your brother were young boys.

EP Oh yeah we was just small boys.

JB If you could say a, my brother and I and we were.

EP Well my brother and I was in the horse barn and I don't know what we were doing but we heard him

hollering. From way up in the wood area, up near the woods, and as they came up, there was a kind of a corner, that the road, you know, and when they come around the corner we knew they were, then horses were right in a dead run. And of course he was hanging on the reigns trying to stop them. But, he, he couldn't hold them and finally went over that water bar. It threw him off. And he was dragging in under the mowing machine and that cutter bar was going just as fast as it could go but boy, my brother and I, I know I was the one that run there, and there used to be a, an old pile of, of old fence posts, you know and I, I don't know I just grabbed one that I could swing and I picked it up and when they went by I swung it with all my might, and of course, if I'd been on the other side, then I'd get cut with the mowing machine. But I was on this side of the, what I think it was on old Jim's side, I know it was. And anyway he, they run into the horse barn, which was the old horse, of course they used to live over there anyway but after he'd, sold the farm and went down to the village why, but they'd always lived there and so there was.

That's all they knew enough to do I guess was to go and they went into the barn door, and of course the barn door wasn't big enough to take, take the mowing machine and them. And Dwight and I got in out from under the a, mowing machine and we took him home and he never got out, never got out a bit after that. And then, I never knew it until just two years ago. [562]

There was a boy that didn't have any home. And he was living in, had been living in Middlesex, and he wanted to go to high school, so he came up to Waitsfield and he was, another farmer, up on Route 100 there, he says, "well I need, I need, I can use the boy." I can use the boy to help me here. Well he went there and of course he and I got to be quite friendly in school and he was telling me, the man was kind of abusing him you know, in a way that, things weren't right he was asking him to do things that he shouldn't of been doing on a farm. And so, I came home and I told my dad about it. "Well", he said, "Everett" he says, "tell him to come up to the house." He come up to the house, and dad says, "how would you like to, come live with me?" He says a, "I got, we

got Everett here and his brother." "Well, he says,  
"I'd like it." Well he did and but on his dying just  
before he died, he says to my mother, he says a, write  
Willis a letter or call him, he was working in Mont,  
in Burlington, then, and tell him to come home that I  
want to see him. And he did, he come home, and dad  
called him in, into his bedroom, and he said, "Willis,  
I'd like to have you come and live, live with Della  
there," that was my dad's wife's name, Della, and  
\_\_\_\_\_. [604] He says, "try and, try and get  
along." Don't have any squabbles, try and get along.  
You're, you're the oldest, try and get along. And a,  
he did. And he lived, he lived with us, till he got  
through school, high school, and then, I went over to  
the, agi school over to Randolph, and he went too.  
And after graduation, he went his way and I came home.  
But I never knew that, until oh it was, just a few  
years ago, Willis wrote me a letter and he said, "I  
want to tell you, what your dad told me." I just, I  
just couldn't believe it. But my dad had took that  
boy in and a, he liked the boy and a, that's the way  
that, that worked out and we'd been well he writes to

us and we call one another on the phone. He's still living, he's 80, I think he's 88. [630] And a, I'm a, well I'll be, I'm 86 now, I'll be 87 in May. But anyway, I never knew it until just a few years back, he wrote me a letter and told me all about it. And he told a, my dad told Willis, he said, "I know I'm not gonna get out of bed." But he said, "I'd to have you come and, live with Della, and the boys." And he did, and he stayed, we carried on the, well we had a, we had ten cows, my dad had moved to the village, after he got to the village he was home sick for land, so he went in Irasville, it was fourteen acres of land for sale up there. And he bought it, he paid two thousand dollars for it. And folks thought he'd gone crazy. To pay that much money for that fourteen acres of land. But he wanted it, and he, and then he had, the hay to feed them cows, but after he moved to the village, I can hear him telling, his cousin that came there to, visit him one noon hour, it was dinner time, and he says, you know, I forget what his name was. But anyway he called him the name, he says, you know, he says, I had a, I had to do this cause he said, I

had to keep them boys out of the village. They was out on the street and he says I had to do something to keep them boys out of the village and I knew this, it was the only way to do it, is to have a few cows down here, for them to help take care of and we did, we had, my dad, my mother used to, sell a, milk and every, she knew the pails, they'd bring a pail you know, and they'd they had two pails, and she knew everybody's pail, and she'd put if they wanted a quart every day, why she'd put a quart in, and a cup full. She always put an extra cup full in, so they'd have a good full quart. And they all appreciated that. Ha!

But anyway she had this kitchen table, it was longer than that table there, and it was just covered with different pails and people would come right there to the house at night, and pick up their pails and then a, once a month they'd come pay the bill. And, what the, milk, what milk wasn't sold that way, was separated and then took to the. [699]

END OF TAPE

EP Well to fix, it come fall November, we'd taken all the

cattle, the cows that a, we could put in the barn down there, cause dad had been buying cows and stock, was gonna stock up this barn out here, and I suppose we was gonna come up here and do chores, I don't know, I guess that's probably what he had in mind but anyway, I'd taken down all the cattle, that we could put in there, in the barn and we had the three horses. And a, we had ten head of cattle left up here, out in the field, and it was the first, first snow storm we'd had, back in, oh last of October, first of November, I forget, weren't much snow, but anyway cattle was down here at the corner where, right out here, where the gate used to be and they wanted to get undercover. So this, man up in east Warren, and this Walter Jones that I was talking about, he was my mother's, my dad's administrator. So this fellow up in east Warren went into the store and he says, "Walter," he says, "what are you gonna do with these extra cattle that's up here?" "Well", he says, "I guess we've got to sell them." Well I didn't know it, until after, but anyway he sold, there was fourteen head as I remember and he sold that fourteen head of cattle for one hundred

dollars. That's what the fellow up in, up in east Warren offered him. And I was so upset, to think that, that the man took advantage that I says, "I'll get even with you some day and I did." [027] I did.

(Yawn) I'm gonna tell you what I did. We wanted to put in a furnace, we, my dad had put in a, a woodfired furnace down the cellar in the house down there, it was a one pipe furnace. It would blow the hot air up.

So when we come back up there at the farm, we moved back up there to the farm after I'd got through school, and I said, "we got to have a stove, or a furnace down the cellar, mother." She says, "yes, we should have." "Well" I said, "all right." I'm gonna get even with this man up in east Warren. He was the one that was selling the furnaces. I called him up and I says, "I'd like to buy a furnace. Put in down the cellar", I said, "okay." I'll come down and measure up and see how big it was and he said, I says, yup. I got a cow I want to trade in. [040] And the cow, ha, ha. She, she had a aborted. And I didn't want her in with the rest of them. So she was in the horse barn up here. And I learning from another good

friend, I took and a, I took and a, blew this bag on that cow, up, and she was a beautiful looking with a calf, I had another calf and down at the barn, that I was, well it was a little bull cat and I wasn't gonna keep it anyway. And I had him up there, he come in and I said I want to sell you this cow, I told you on the phone I wanted to sell you a cow. She's, he says, the calf was with her and she had a good big bag, I guess I hit it again.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! Okay. Let's start with, you blew up.

EP Yeah I, I did just as one other good friend might of done, I blew up that bag, so she looked good, yeah. And.

JB Would you mind, cause people won't understand, you better say I blew up the bag with what a bicycle pump or? All right.

EP I had the a, little a, well it was a, the cow got it tit stepped on or something like that, they had a, oh a little vial that they would a, put in a the tit you know and put this pump on the end of it, so that's what I did, I blowed up this, this cow's utter. So she had a good bag. She had a good bag. And I, ha, I

sold the cow for a good price. And he, he agreed on it and took it, and took the cow away. But a, I didn't tell him. And he brought the furnace and delivered it and I, he come took the cow the time he delivered the furnace. And the deal was \_\_\_\_\_, we traded the cow for the furnace. [066] (tape is malfunctioning, in high speed)

EP On each other's shoulder, I remember your sister she was one of them, the, I don't know how many there was in the class, seven or eight, probably, I don't know, six, I can't remember, but there was \_\_\_\_\_ Leno, [071] I remember him, and myself and this lady long, and there was probably Garo Martin, I think, but they, the other one or two I can't remember now and \_\_\_\_\_. [073] Or the day before, and I says, a, you know we was standing up there in front of the black board, and all of a sudden the teacher come out, and grabbed him by the, by the, by the shirt collar, took him out into the cloak room, and she had a, a rubber hose about that long, she went to her desk and got that rubber hose, wang, wang, wang, you could hear

it. Hear her giving that to him. And from then on, I was so scared that my school days was, was ruined and that's, I wanted a good school to, a scholaring school. From then on. Cause I was scared to death and a, and I couldn't remember as, the teacher's name, but he said, yes, he says that was Mrs. Huntley. I said, "God that's right." I says, "I remember now." But I couldn't remember her name. And then he went on to tell, another incident, where, he said the teacher wouldn't believe me but he says I warn't to blame. I was a, defending myself. And she says oh she says she give me an awful clobbering with a rubber hose. And I said, I got to, I've laughed about it and I've tell it and I've laughed about it, and there we was, hadn't seen anybody for a long time. And then we met at to the wayside the other day and, I've laughed about it so many times since then. Just back in them days. But I wasn't a, from then on I wanted a good scholar. And, and I begged my, mother and dad to let me go to this little one room school up here on the corner, it was a mile, up here but, the way they divided it, we went to the, village school and from our place above

we went to that one room school house. And I, all that time I was begging my, people, my folks to, if I couldn't go back up there but no. But I never, oh school, oh I hated school. I hated it. [102] And that's what causing it, but today you know they wouldn't allow that. Ha!

JB Was that Earl Long?

EP Yeah.

JB Yeah. Cause I interviewed him too and I'm gonna try and get him to do this as well.

EP Well you ask him about this.

JB I will. [105]

EP You ask him if he remembers talking and by golly. I've laughed more about it. Cause I was, tried to think of that school teacher. Well Katherine says to me the other night, I was telling about some of these things, and she says a, well what school teacher did you like?

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

EP But there was one that I really, I really did and she helped me a lot but. I presume she's passed on now

but. At the time she was a single girl and, but she helped me, it was in a, I guess it was in the, sixth grade that, when she came into the, teach there in the valley down here at the school and I was in the sixth grade as I remember. [116] She, she really did a lot for me that, I liked that girl. That woman. Yup. And I can remember, I was going over to the agi school, at that time, or it was after I got through school and she was, came to town to visit the people across the road from down where the Teddy Bear store is there, and she seen me. So she called up and says, everyone of you going back to, Randolph. Well as this afternoon some time, this late after, well she says I wonder if I could ride, and I can't remember where I left her off, whether it was Montpelier, or where it was but I say sure. Well, ha, then she went on to tell, she was boarding with some place and one of the boys, men, young men was going over to the ag school with me, and he told her, he says, you know, Palmer, on, it was some mathematic problem or something and she says, Palmer was the one that had the top honor on that. And so she says to me, she says to me, she

says, Everett she says, I believe I helped you when I was in town. I said, I know you did \_\_\_\_\_, I had a lot of respect for you. [137] But a, she, and then she went on to, she says, now you take this little advise from me, she says, you watch that principal, or that a, that a, oh a, teacher, a professor, you just, you just watch him and find out through his talking just what he is putting across to you, and you'll make out all right. And I did. And then another time I can remember we was out to the barn, and we had to judge, he had four cows as I remember it and we had to place them, one, two, three, four. And by golly Everett Palmer was the one that placed them right. But I took that advise from her as, as she told me that fall. Going from, here to Montpelier for, some where I never forgot that. I told Katherine about her a lot of times. She was a good teacher, she was, I liked her. [153]

JB Now how did you place those cows right, what were you doing? [155]

EP Well, well it was for the, well just like they do at

the fairs or anything. They had to have a straight back and their necks was, and they had to have the a, veins, milk veins, had to have good deep milk veins, good chest, plenty of room for a, roughage you know, so that, it wasn't squashed right up together. They had a good built dairy cattle. They'd look, a dairy cow, looks like a wedge, it looked like a wedge. To look at it you know that's one, that's one they're telling, it's, you don't want one that looks perfectly straight and under the belly, across their back, that's more like a beef animal, but a good dairy cow had a good barrel on her, good milking veins, plenty of \_\_\_\_\_ girth, they talked about [168] and a pleasant looking head. But I, I just love to, going over there to agi school, and from there I remember, I remember we was taking our final exams, in June, and there was a fellow from, his name was a, Duffy. From a, from Connecticut. And he came up to, school there and he went into the office and he says to Mr. Judge he was the principal. He said, "I come up and I want to hire a good, dairy boy." [180] Well he says, "I got, I got one that I'll bring into you." So he came,

came to the door and said, "I'd like to see Mr. Palmer." And God I begun to get scared cause I didn't know what I'd done. Ha! Ha! Well anyway I went in to the office and there stood this man, and he says I come up from Connecticut, and I want to hire a good Vermont boy. And Mr. Judge gave me a good, a very good recommendation, and from there I, after graduation I went down there and I worked. I was down there about a year. And then he was taken sick and died so then I came home. And another thing that I did, was the foreman down there, he was after the man had died, I stayed I don't know, probably two, three months after he died or something. [195] But he was putting everything all over this widow, and I stood it as long as I could. He was selling, he was selling cattle out of the barn, unbeknown to her, putting it in his pocket. They was registered cattle, and finally oh I don't a week or ten days before I left. [201] I went to her one night, it was after dark, and the other men had gone home. I went to the door and rapped and she came to the door and I, says, "Mrs. Duffy, I'd like to come in and talk with you a

minute." And I told her. She thanked me very precious. And after a, and on our wedding trip, I took Katherine down there and we stayed over night, with that, with that widow. [209]

JB Did you a tell her about the bicycle pump and how you got back and?

EP No. No. No. No. I. But a, the grain too, this stuffy, would make up a, a grain menu you know like what they, the foreman he wanted his cows fed, well, this foreman there, and he had another fellow working there that was mixing the grain, and he was putting in too much cotton seed, and it was making, it was making a, poor milk. By that I mean a, they was having mastitis, the cows was having mastitis, cause there's too rich a protein. And I kept saying to him, I said, your problem is you're putting too much cotton seed meal into this mixer. Cause we, I knew what the mixes was up at school and how to figure them in rations. And I knew that that was what was doing it.

[228] But a, they wouldn't, he wouldn't listen, well he said, "I'm making milk." Well he did make milk but

some of it was, you couldn't use. Had to be separated. But I finally told her, her but a, after a short time she sold out, she sold. And they were all high registered cattle, I remember while I was there, there was a two year old heifer and he sold that heifer for two thousand dollars, she was going to, back to the island, and a, then there was another, this same man he, he was a, a cattle dealer, or not a cattle dealer, but he had jerseys, and he came to this man, he was a, this man Duffy, he knew cows too. And he called him on the phone and said, I'd like to have you go to some auction, somewhere in Connecticut there somewhere, and buy so many cows for me. [247] And he did, and that's when he, he never got out of bed after that, he warn't. Oh he was sick I guess in a way, but he, he never got out of bed from that either. But, anyway, he sold, he sold this heifer for two thousand dollars, and then he sold another cow for twenty five hundred dollars, and another one for I think it was three, four thousand dollars. We had to take them down and they were put on the cars, to go somewhere I don't know where they would of been shipped but. I

can remember them days just as, and I learned a lot, I, and this Judd was the principal. And he always used to empathize, he says, learn all you can boys, at the other man's expense. [252] Which was true. And I learned a lot, being down there that year, that I was, down there working. Yup. But all those things I, I oh I. I treasure. And then after I got back home here, she wrote me a nice letter after that, after I'd come home. And, home here, I don't know two, three months. But from there, I, then I come home, took over the farm, over here. Yeah.

JB Now I should get to, you had um. [264] [20.29]

EP Maybe I'm taking up more of your.

JB No.

MS Five minutes on this tape.

JB Um, well you wanted to tell a couple of stories. Are you tired?

EP No.

JB You were gonna talk about a, well you had that story about Earl and, 1929 the big depression, getting married in 31, you fell like doing that or?

EP Yeah. Yeah.

JB Um.

MS Getting a little chilly.

JB And then, [21.10] you talked about this, keeping up with the times, we had wanted, yeah you did talk about that. Yeah. So it's a, and then 1947 the first ski area in the valley made land valuable, I guess we talk about that.

EP Yeah we. It did, it made land very valuable because a lot of these farms was taken up.

JB Are you set there, or? Oh, okay, here we go. So a, well we've got 1929, the big depression and then 1931, getting married. Start.

EP Well, what day did you say it was the depression? A, the ski area?

JB 1948.

EP Yeah in.

JB 47.

EP That was 47, well of course the ski area begun to come in up here in Fayston, and our town representative was a, was a, was Walter Gaylord and anyway he wanted to get, the idea of how people felt here in the valley about, having this ski area come in because the, this

Raymond Gadd, was it Katherine?

K Yeah.

EP Had had a meeting.

JB Yeah actually it was, wasn't it Damond Gadd.

EP Yeah, that's it. Damond Gadd he had a, he called everyone that wanted to to come to this meeting down at the church, and a, he got up and he told, he says, "if this ski area goes through, within so many years there's gonna be so many farmers go out of business."

[23.15] And another so many years, another bunch is going out of business. And I sat side of the, the man side of him and I kind of, nudged him and I said, he's full of baloney. But by golly, it turned out as that man predicted. That a, it made land valuable, and people that wanted to they, they sold their farms and for building lots and what not. And it's just what happened. And a, so, when I, well after the son had said that he was going to leave and, and go to cut meat I felt that, that was the best thing of us to do.

So I decided that I would do the same thing, so I had the land all surveyed up into ten a tenth acres. And I sold it to, in that size lots, and I had it in the

deed that they could subdivide it once, but it got to be equal. It couldn't be, they couldn't keep one acre and sell the rest. They could sell it in two parcels if they wanted to, they could keep one, five acres but it all had to be equal and that's the way I sold all that land. And everybody was, been happy and there's just one person that's ever subdivided it. And that's the way I, set that up. [24.51]

JB And I think you also told me, I don't know whether it was true of all the land but you also kept the sugaring.

EP Yeah. I.

JB Will you talk about that.

EP Yeah, I, when it was out of state people that came and wanted to buy land, and of course I was approached first to buy the whole farm, but that I didn't want to do. Then I, they come to me and wanted to know that, would you sell me a house lot. And I said, "well, I don't want really want to because I said, I want to keep my sugar right. I want to keep sugaring." Well that's not gonna be any problem at all. We'd like to

buy a piece of your land, and we'll give you the sugar rights. And so I did and also the rights to cut the dying trees for the wood for the sugarhouse and so that was the way all that land was sold. I had a, sugar rights and so that's, and all the land has been sold. All I own now is just what's around this house.

I think it's four acres left yeah. That I own. The rest of it has all been, it's made land valuable.

[26.09] Put a few dollars in my pocket, too. Ha! Ha! Ha! But anyway, I'm, I'm glad I did it, and at first, I sold that \_\_\_\_\_ hill lot, [26.22] and that was the, last piece of land that I ever thought would sell. And I didn't think it would sell. And that was the first piece of land that I sold. And, how that came about, I was a, talking with Anna Whiteside, you probably know her. And a, she came and said, boy, I says, I'll show you that piece of property up there, on a lowery day, and she called me up one day and she said, do you call this a lowery day and I said, I sure do. It was kind of a misty day. And you couldn't hay or anything like that. Well she said, I've got, a person here that, that a, would, wants to buy about

what land you got up there. And well I said, "okay, I'll, I'll go up and." Anyway I went up and she went around the boundary of it. The next day she called up and Everett she said, "I've taken an offer." On that property up there. Well I knew at the time, that I was gonna let her have it. Or let her sell it to this man, but I said, no I want to think about it, I think a, I want to think about it. And all the time I knew that I was gonna sell it to her. But, in due time I called her up and I says, yes, I guess I'll sell it to you. And by golly, she came up and bought the whole, the whole lot and that was the first one. And then I sold all the other ones here on this farm. [28.08]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

EP A fence was more or less, the boundary line, but when you come to, get right down to put it on paper, you had to know, so the first thing I did was, the first thing I did was to have it, all surveyed up into ten and tenth acres. The land. And then I knew where the boundaries was. And from then on that's, was very simple. [.51]

JB Is it all set now or?

MS Yup.

JB Do you want to try, 1941 is it?

EP Well that's when we got married. Ha! Yeah. Well,  
when that. Hun?

JB I got the wrong year.

EP Oh! Well anyway when that, how we happen to get acquainted was I was going over to the agi school and he brother was going over to the agi school too. And my sister was teaching school over in her, district. And she was boarding with Katherine's folks. And a, so when we was over to the agi school, her brother invited me to come home with him over the weekend. And also I could see my sister and so forth. And at that time I had a, a Model T Ford, and so that made a good transportation, to go over so. He and I went over and, and then I met Katherine, and for I said, it was 8 years but she says it was only five that we corresponded back and forth, and a, if I wanted to go to see her in the wintertime, I'd take the stage down

here to Waitsfield to Middlesex, take the train, go to Winooski, and then change cars there, and go to Burlington, and then from Burlington I'd take the train there, to Virginia. Which it would take all day to get there. And another all day to get back.

[2.56] And, about, this was back in the wintertime when you couldn't drive and it was winter and that's when we got to going with one another. And then when she got through high school, she went to Castleton, \_\_\_\_\_ school [315] Castleton, I believe it was Castleton \_\_\_\_\_ School, and I had a, gone down to, to Connecticut to work, and so that I came home, it seems as though I came home that Christmas, I'd been down there six months or more. Came home Christmas and, so I walked over this Willis, was living with us, he happen to be there to, and he carried me up to, the foot of Lincoln mountain, and I walked over to Lincoln mountain the other side and went, and her father met me, over the other side, and I, oh God I was lame, the next day I couldn't hardly walk. Ha! Ha! But I'll never forget it, but anyway. The same way coming home, he, he met me up to the foot of the mountain

when I come home, it was agreed on what time and, so I come back over the mountain. [4.26] And then we were, we were married in 42, I guess it was. Hun? 31, all right. And, it was a home wedding, she was married at her home. And a, we went on our wedding trip we, we went down to, Connecticut, and that's when we visited the, this place where, I had worked. We were gone, I don't know a week, ten days, a week ten days, well anyway, we came back, we'd got back to a, where was Fred. \_\_\_\_\_. We got back from Connecticut back up to South Ryegate, oh, in the evening, [5.23] so we stopped at her cousins, and stayed overnight there, and we was speaking about it just the other night. It's a wonder we're both her today. Because, we started out in the morning right after we'd had breakfast headed for her home. And I heard the train whistle. But I didn't pay no attention. We was visiting, and I drove right up to, the train went by me, just as I got there by the track. And it's just a wonder we didn't get killed, boy it was right there. I didn't, we weren't, weren't paying attention, we were visiting, and we hadn't paid

any attention, hadn't, we heard, I heard the thing,  
whistle blowing but I didn't pay no attention, until  
whoosh, that train went by. [6.17] But we was  
speaking about that just the other night here, we sat  
here and it's a wonder we're both here today. Yup.

JB And then you had a, and then I'll let you off the  
hook, cause I think.

EP Then we had, we had four children. We had four  
children, one, the oldest one was Joyce and she lives  
in Montpelier, a school teacher. And then Dalbert was  
the second one, and then Lois, and she's a hygienist,  
down, works in Massachusetts. Has ever since she got  
out of college. And our younger daughter she's in  
Connecticut. A housewife. And that's, and Joyce is,  
going to retire this coming June, so she had a good  
life. [7.11] We've had, how many grandchildren?

K Ten.

EP Ten grandchildren we got, twelve great grandchildren  
and two more on the road. She was addressing,  
addressing a, oh valentine cards the other day, this  
morning to the, great grandchildren. I says well  
what's your hurry, I says, 14th is the. Well she

looked at the calendar she says I guess I am a little bit ahead of time. Ha! But that, says I got the job done. Ha! Ha! But anyway. But the kids all went to school to their choice. Dalbert went over to Randolph, Joyce went to the Johnson teachers, Lois went up to UVM, and so did the younger one Carol, she was a, she a, majored in a.

K Champlain. Carol went to Champlain.

EP Yeah. [8.23] Accounting course. But then that's, and they're all with us today.

EV His hand is banging on something.

JB Your hand. I was gonna ask you to, the story you were gonna tell me about a your friend.

EP Oh yeah. I got, I got two friends and I'm gonna call one Earl, and I'm gonna call the other one, Steve. I'm not gonna mention their, their second name, but a, Earl was the seller, Steve was the buyer. Steve had oh 3, 4 cows in the village, and he wanted another one. And some how or other, this Earl learned about it and so they both got together and he says, "I've got, a nice, a nice holstein cow. And she's, she's got a nice bag." And Steve says, "well I'd like to

see her." So they agree on a day that they were gonna to visit her. Visit that cow, or see the cow. And in the meantime this Earl he was kind of a \_\_\_\_\_ fellow too, but he was, he was a good fellow, he was, he was a good friend of mine, too. Well anyway he [10.04] he had blowed up this cow's utter, so she looked, oh she looked like a good one and she was, she was. A nice looking animal. And this Steve bought her. Well run along, a few days later and he see this Earl, he says, "by gosh Earl," he says, "what happened to that cows anyway?" Well he says, "I told you'd she give a nice little mess of milk." Ha! And that's what he had done, he had got hold of this nice looking cow and she didn't have much of an utter, so he, pumped her up. Pumped the utter right up. Swelled her bag right out here good. But anyways. That's the way that story came about and there was no hard feelings, but they both was a good friend of mine. I had to tell that story because it was true one. And this same Earl, came to me after we got married, and I had butchered a, an animal, a cow, and we'd taken care of two quarters and we'd had, the other two quarters

out in the wood shed, and they hung there quite  
awhile. [11.28]

JB And you can't, can't bang it. Ha! Ha! Ha! You're  
giving her a thrombosis in the head. Ha! Ha! Let's  
back up to, when did the banging start.

MS The beginning of the story.

JB All right. The same friend.

EP Oh the same friend came to me this Earl came to me, in  
the fall of the year it was, I'd say it was, oh  
probably last of October or middle of November, it was  
when, the weather was cool and a, that's when you do  
your butchering, it would be to take it when it was  
cool weather, well anyway, my \_\_\_\_\_, we butchered this  
animal, this cow and I'd hung, we'd taken care of two  
quarters and the other two quarters was hanging up in  
the wood shed. Out. And I had forgot about them, and  
then finally I went out one day and Earl happen to  
come there and we'd asked him into dinner, and a I  
said, come out to the wood shed a minute Earl I want  
to show you something. Well this, [12.35] this meat  
had hung there so long that it had, it had begun to,

show a little mold on it. Which today, was just curing it, but I, being young I didn't realize it, so I says to Earl I says, I says I'm afraid this meat here is spoiled. Well he says, "no I don't think so." He says, "Everett" he says, "it looks pretty good to me." Well I says, "if you can use it, you're welcome to this hind quarter." Well now, knowing today, that, he got a quarter of darn good meat but I, I don't regret it one bit, he was a good friend. Another time he said, I had, back when I lost, I'd lost a horse, I'd lost a horse I had to buy another one, so I called up this Earl, cause he was, he was a good friend of mine, and he knew horses. So I says, "will you go to Montpelier with me to buy a pair of horses?" And he says, "sure, I'll go with you." So, I went out with him and we went up to Farnhams he was a man that used to go west and he'd come home with a car load of green horses. [14.12] They was broken and ready to work you know. So I went in and but before, before we went, Earl says to me, he says, "now, I'm going, willing to go with you, but if something goes wrong" he says, "you won't come cry

babying to me will you?" And I says, "no sir, I won't come cry babying to you." It's just between Farnham and I. So, he took me out and, and Earl says to this Farnham, he says, "well this young man wants to buy a pair of horses." But I'm gonna tell you he's got one horse to home, he wants to trade in. And I'd say the horse was probably worth a hundred and thirty five dollars. That's okay. But I says, he also tells me the, this was in hard times too you remember, he also tells me that he hasn't got a, too much money.

[15.18] And all he has to depend on his milk checks.

Well that's all right. I guess we can do that. So they went in and, they picked out this pair of horses, it was, a nice pair of horses, it was young and oh there was, I guess they weighed about 2400 and that's what I wanted was a pair of horses weighed about 2400.

But knowing what I do today I'd of got a bigger pair.

Heavy. But anyway, I bought them and I walked them all the way home. And coming through the village there, I don't know, three, four, old men said well Everett you got a nice pair of horses. Keep them looking like that. Well I says, "I'm gonna try to."

Well we had one, one of them died with me, well I's had a, I had it four, five years but anyways one. I don't know, I didn't have her opened up to find out, buy anyways, she died naturally. But anyway Earl said to me never, whatever happens he says don't come cry babying to me. And I said, "no I won't." And I didn't. Ha! But he was a good friend of mine.

JB Now I'm gonna ask you one more thing, and then we're done.

EP Okay.

JB And again, watch the pounding.

EP Okay.

JB Cause it reverberates on this thing in here so that a. But I wanted to ask you about life here during the depression.

EP Oh golly, [17.06] Well that was, that was, tough. And I think President Roosevelt called, closed every thing. Closed the banks. Everything. And I think it, I was thinking of Katherine, I says I think it was closed for about a month. What they called a bank holidays. They closed the banks. No money going in, no money coming out, nobody had any money anyway only

perhaps some of the older people had some stashed away but, anyway, Katherine and I were young, and I went down to, down to Walter Jones, he run the, country store, there was three other stores in town, but he run a country store. And I went down and I says, "Mr. Jones," I says, "of course you know the holiday." "Yup." I says, "we got to have, I haven't, we haven't got any money laid aside. And I don't know what we gonna do." Well he says, "the way I'm gonna handle it, I'll handle it with you." He says, "I will, you get what you want, and then I'll write it, I O U and you sign it. And then when this holiday thing is over with, then we'll go from there." Which that's the way we got our provisions to live on during that month of holidays, the banks was closed why no money anybody. And it was, it was tough and. I remember taking a, we raised quite a few potatoes, that, that a, fall, and I was taking potatoes to Montpelier, and a, I took them all out in trade, and things that a, was scarce, this was during the war too. Things was scarce. He'd throw this, this merchant would throw them into a box when I would go out he'd present this

box with me and then I'd buy sugar and flour and what not. And, we had that, but, the farmer themselves, got by, we could live, we had our own eggs, we had our own poultry to kill and a, beef you know, you'd kill your own beef, and your pork the same way. [20.13] But money was, very short, everybody was helping one another, one way or another and, but I can remember this Walter Jones, he was, he was a good man and, and he was well liked in the valley. And this, I don't know how he, how the people worked it out but, with us, that was the way he did it and nothing come out of it, I mean we, paid our bill off in due time. [20.42]

JB Well you've sure seen a lot of changes.

EP Oh gosh yes. I don't want to go back to some of them.

Ha! Ha! But a, some of them was good old times. But it's, it was hard work. I don't want to see another depression, and I hope we never do see one. But I though, of course right now the times are hard but, people are existing I guess some of them but. There's a lot of unemployed, but I don't care, I don't care, there's some folks, are just, are better able to work than I am. Will sit right on, getting money from

welfare or some other thing and they'd rather take that than to do an honest day's work. [21.34] And folks are, we're spoiled, when the, when the government took over and the state took over, our town affairs, in such a way, as this, every town had a, overseer of the poor. And that overseer of the poor in each town, knew who needed assistance. And they would help them. And give them, provisions and so forth but, now everybody when the state takes and they hand out these food stamps, some of them folks just depend on it, I think. They just don't want to work and. Well they can get the, free things for nothing then why work. The government is, the same way I guess, in a way. But we're in a, we're in an awful mess today, and I hope some day we could, can get to the bottom of it. [22.41]

JB That's a good place to end. Perfect. I thank you, I hope we haven't. Oh I know one thing we have to do. Yeah I forgot about that.

MS One thing we have to do before everybody gets up. I just have to record a little bit of silence. Let's get this out of your way here.

JB This is so they can edit. [23.01]

MS Okay this is a Everett Palmer room tone. Everett  
Palmer room tone, take two. Okay that's the end of  
room tone. [24.05] Great okay, now we'll go.

JB Oh have we frozen you out. Ha! Ha!

K I just remembered I hadn't \_\_\_\_\_.

END OF TAPE TWO