

Guy Livingston/TC1994.0009
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck
GL Guy Livingston
Place Fayston, VT
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JB They'll tell us. Okay, well, why don't we start off with your telling me, you told me in the past a little bit about the Irish, that settled here and about them.

GL Scotch Irish, and I guess my a, relation originally you know Livingston come along from the border, of Scotch English border. And a, [.46] they had a big a, reunion or something there, this last year. And among the tenth, largest number of a, common names here in this state, or the country I mean. [1.04]

JB Now, let me ask you.

GL I better start over again on this thing.

JB Well don't worry because a.

GL I got a little bit. Ha! Ha!

JB _____ with that big microphone.

GL Yeah. Ha! Ha!

JB But a, one of the things that I want to ask you about is, the Irish here, that settled here and I think you

told me there were quite a bunch of them, and that they were quite clannish but that they told, stories about Pat and Mike and I think you told me the one about, I don't know, Pat carrying the bricks, fourteen floors.

GL Oh that's my uncle's favorite, yeah.

JB Yeah. But you know just to get a little feeling of the Irish here in, in the region.

GL Oh yeah. [1.54]

JB And the other thing, for radio, is when I ask a question, rather than just say, yes or, you know, try and start with a sentence cause one of the things that we'll be doing is editing, you know, portions. And it's easier to edit a whole sentence.

GL I just need a stick of gum to chew on, my mouth is dry. Ha! Ha!

JB Sure. I'll get some water. How about some water.

MS Oh water. (tape off and then on) [2.26]

JB Okay let's, why don't we start with the Irish here and you know, your family.

MS Well, let's see. [2.40] Way back a lot of the Irish settled in around this section of the state and a,

probably all over Vermont, and they come from Ireland especially after the, the phantom there in 1840. And a, when one come in, the people are all ready here, he'd come in and maybe settle in some, little farm or something, one of them would show up with a cow and tell me, it's his for the keeping, they didn't have hay enough for the winter. Another would bring him, well he called it the runt pig you know. And a, somebody else would bring down the, some edged, eggs to be hatched out. And you go on like that. [3.20] And a, I'd say they just want them, rather than you know, get rid of them, they'd, let them like that and, as each one come in, when he got, _____ a little bit better off, somebody else would move in and just passed in on. [3.35] And a, that's the way they first settled in here. That was you didn't, they didn't act like it was taking charity and.

JB Was there, was there a large group of Irish in Fayston or?

GL Oh yeah there's quite a lot of them. [3.55] There's one up across here, his name was a. (short pause) I can't remember right now.

JB It doesn't matter.

GL But he, yeah. He come down about once in six months, _____ folks used to see him, it's all clear across here at that time, pasture and, fields, clear up to the next road. By Willy Braggs, out there. They'd look up, the first thing in the morning he'd be coming down, and he'd come down, we'd have breakfast with him and go out and set on the porch and visit all day long, have supper and go back, and be about another six months before he come down again. [4.36] McCain was his name, I think it was. And a.

JB One of the things I think you told me was that, sort of the clannishness of the Irish and, that they would, tell stories and jokes on one another.

GL Oh yeah. That and they'd, well the families they were pretty clannish, they might argue and disagree among themselves but a, if one of them got in trouble or something with somebody else, you know, get together.

I know if I had a, a woman tell me that the Livingstons are pretty clannish one time. Ha! Ha! I think that's the way it went with us. [5.24]

JB Was there a big, musical tradition?

MS What? Start_____ move this over a little bit more. You know what I'm hearing a lot is, is a, your hands moving on here.

GL Oh!

MS Ha! Ha! It sounds a little funny in there.

GL Oh yeah. Ah, ha!

JB Because one of the things I'm going to do is ask you about your mother's songs and when she sang them.

GL Oh yeah.

JB That I think is part of the Irish tradition, isn't it? And so I was gonna ask you, you know if there was much singing or? How that?

GL Well you see, they used to have these big barn raisings too. And when they built the barn up where Willy Bragg lives, my uncle was in this twenties. And a, [6.11] when they got, the rafters and everything up, had the barn raising, he walked the ridge pole one end to the other. There's just a open framework. And shortly after that he went to, Toledo, Ohio and he become a small contractor. A building contractor and his favorite joke was about, two Irishman, Pat and Mike. He said that a, Pat come over here to get a

job, and he wrote back to Mike, he says, come over here as quick as you can, he says, I have a wonderful job. He said, all I do is carry a _____ of bricks up, fourteen stories and the man up there does all the work. Of course my uncle was contractor so I got a kick out of that. [6.57] And a, he and a, my Uncle Rob they used to love to tell Irish jokes and laugh about it. Now people are insulted, they, if they hear one you know, or something like that, any race. Polish, or Jewish or what. They feel insulted. But a, they'd tell on themselves and then laugh about it.

JB Now is that your same uncle, you had another uncle that taught, I think you told me, you heard a song just once, left leg, right leg. Right leg, left leg.

GL Oh that was my mother's, [7.34] uncle I think it was. My great uncle. Alfie Sherwin and they were, what you called the last of the, well I guess you call them hill people. Now a days, they had a, real strong accent. Like farty, _____ and stuff like that. [7.52] You don't hear that today. And he, he and his brother went to, Alaska in the gold strike, and he had his feet crushed in the mines, so after that he

swapped shoes, his left shoe went on his right foot
and his vise versa. And a, they were dead broke, so
he and his half brother, was with him, they were, they
would go in the saloon and sing for their supper as
the saying goes. And one of the songs was. You want
me to sing it?

JB Yeah.

GL See how, I got to remember how it goes. Oh he hitched
up his pig and he hitched up his cow,
onnomeydonomeyralley, he hitched up his pig and he
hitched up the cow, onnomedonemeyralley, he hitched up
his pig and he hitched up his cow, and he plowed us
his land to the devil knows how, with a right leg,
left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley.
The devil he came along one say, onodemonomeyralley.
The devil he came along one say, onodemonomeyralley.
The devil he came along one say, he said to come to
take your son away, with a right leg, left leg, upper
leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. Pray mister devil
don't take my son, onodemonomeyralley. Pray mister

devil don't take my son, onodemonomeyralley. Pray
mister devil don't take my son for if you do I'll be
all undone with a right leg, left leg, upper leg,
under leg, onodemonomeyralley. Pray mister devil
pray take my wife, onodemonomeyralley. Oh mister
devil pray take me wife, onodemonomeyralley. Oh
mister devil pray take me wife, she's _____ and
scolded me all of her life, with a right leg, left
leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. The
devil he stuffed her into his sack,
onodemonomeyralley. The devil he stuffed her into his
sack, onodemonomeyralley. The devil he stuffed her
into his sack, and he went down the road with a pack
on his back, with a right leg, left leg, upper leg,
under leg, onodemonomeyralley. The devil he came to a
great big ditch, onodemonomeyralley. The devil he
came to a great big ditch, onodemonomeyralley. The
devil he came to a great big ditch, and said get in
you blamed old witch, with a right leg, left leg,
upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. Nine little
devils were standing there, onodemonomeyralley. Nine
little devils were standing there,

onodemonomeyralley. Nine little devils are standing there, she heisted their foot and kicked them into the fire with a right leg, left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. Nine little devils all rattle their chains, onodemonomeyralley. Nine little devils all rattle their chains, onodemonomeyralley. Nine little devils all rattle their chains, she heisted her foot, she kicked out their brains, with a right leg, left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. [10.43] One little devil peaked over the wall, onodemonomeyralley. One little devil peaked over the wall, onodemonomeyralley. One little devil peaked over the walls, _____ to your _____ or she'll kill us all, with a right leg, left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. [11.00] The devil he stuffed her into his sack, onodemonomeyralley. The devil he stuffed her into his sack, onodemonomeyralley. The devil he stuffed her into his sack and he carried her home with a pack on his back, with a right leg, left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. Oh, it shows that women are better than men, onodemonomeyralley. It shows that

women are better than men, onodemonomeyralley. It shows that women are better than men, they can go through hell and back again with a right leg, left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley.

[11.35] This is all of me tale to have to tell, onodemonomeyralley. This is all in me tail that I have to tell, onodemonomeyralley. This is all in me tail that I have to tell, she killed nineteen devils and conquered hell, with a right leg, left leg, upper leg, under leg, onodemonomeyralley. [11.53] I guess that's it. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Oh what a terrific.

GL I'd forgetting, I almost forgot in two places in there but. Ha! Ha! _____.

JB I think you told me, and maybe I've got it wrong, but, did you tell me you only heard that song once. Or tell me how you learned that song.

GL Oh I heard, I heard them sing it. My folks would visit with them. [12.20] And a, I heard him sing it a couple of times. Something like that registered. Ha! Ha! Sometimes it is, sometimes it don't. Ha! That's why, it been part of another song, some of them

she didn't very often. Not. I might not catch it all.

JB Now tell me a little bit about your mother because she was.

GL Well when she, I remember when I was young, you know. She and her sister and that, would sometimes get together, and then, when they got together, a lot of times they would end up around the organ, usually an organ, you know. Get together and sing these old songs. And a, this Anne I mentioned, down in Bennington, her minds kind of going but I've heard that a, if you a, _____ Wendel is like that and somebody went inside to sing a song, and she got the tune, she. Her mind, you might as well say completely blank and she sang it clear through without missing a word. That's why I suggested that a, you might want to see her, which is, I don't know how much longer she will be with us or anything. [13.18]

JB I did call, and they didn't seem to think a, I don't know, what happened to, why I.

GL Well there's days I guess she doesn't remember anything.

JB Yeah.

GL But a, I have an aunt and uncle, of course, they're way up, and one of them, and they say she was, fairly well that day. [13.40] They might not do anything that, might learn anything or again you might go on, and happen to catch her like I said about that one woman. There's a couple of songs there that she might be able to finish up the verses I don't know.

[13.56]

JB I think you also told me, your mother used to sing as she worked, didn't she?

GL Oh yes.

JB Tell me a little about that.

GL Well, well she was always worked hard. But a, she, during the work she'd take ten steps and she done it in one but she sang a lot. She used to sing quite a lot while she was working. But a. Always worked hard. Back during the depression she had to, hold a, well, you might as well say, pantry full or, cellar full of, can stuff, she canned everything, you know, women had to work hard in those days.

JB Now you also told me, and I'd love you to tell me it

right from the start, cause I have it sort of garbled but, about the, that but, I was gonna ask you about how you first heard about the story of, bringing the first four wheel wagon into the valley.

GL Well my uncle lived up in, I think they called it mountain view farm now, well it used to be the, the first farm, the farm up a, Pigeon Hollow on the way to Mad River Glen, the red house still sits there, and a, his wife died and I think he's kind of lonesome you know and a, I didn't know him that well. I knew him but not to visit with him. But a, I guess he asked my folks if I could come up for a week or something and stay with him, so I went up, and, and he's an old man up in his 80s, it must, pretty well up in his 80s. And a, got talking one day and he says a, I think he said, he said it was his father, it could of been his grandfather, but I think it was his father. He said when he was a, a young man that, he had the first four wheel wagon in the valley. He had it shipped up from New York to Burlington, and he brought it in as far as they could on the other side of the mountain. As far

as any road was concerned. And, his father would, start out first a, brake it on, hike over what's called, the Gap here, McCullough turnpike. Down the other side, he strapped a wheel on his back, or an axle, something like that, one piece a day. And hiked back over the mountain, and when he got back it'd be, dark, sometimes after dark. And he did that until he got all over here. [16.27] He went to each days, and it took him I think a week or ten days to get it all over. And he had the four, the first four wheel wagon in the valley. Before that, usually two wheel cart. And that time, most of their hauling that was done by oxen. You might have a driving horse or something, but most of the heavy work you used oxen. [16.50] But that's the way, they got, the wagon over here.

JB When do you figure that was? I mean, you'd say it was.

GL Well it had to be, I should say, 1840 or later, earlier. This wasn't really that, thickly populated you know up about then. I tried to look back on this place here and, I got back about 1832. And the first, house in Fayston is over where the Vasseurs live. And

I figured this must of been some where between 1800 and 1832. I haven't got all the way back, I can't. I haven't been able to read the deed on the, back that far, I'm gonna have to go back and try it. [17.40]

JB One of the things I want to ask you is some of the changes you've seen here. In the valley or in Fayston?

GL Well, I think the population is something like, two hundred and fifty, three hundred in the valley, in Fayston, right after the war. And a, when I was going in I had enough money so I bought Millbrook lodge, it was Millbrook Lodge now. And a, and in the spring of 1946, I run a new water line in, it was 1900 feet. And it went across Tucker Hill road and up in behind where the, what they called the Fayston store was, right up on the hill there. And it's real good water and, come down and, went to the house with it, and had such a, a head on they called it. It was up so high.
_____ Left the top of it, the pipe, just the six of a shingle nail and it come out full pipe at the bottom. [18.45] And a, the barn across the road

there, the red barn went to the house. And a, George Sawyer lived across the road next to that and he hauled the, the milk cans in. So, Sterling, my cousin there, my father and I started digging, put the water line to the barn, we started in about 8 o'clock in the morning and dug across the lawn, put the pipe and then covered it up, and then we dug across the road. We got it pretty well across the road and, _____ truck come down with a load of logs on it. [19.18] And, there's a, just a straight, flat bed. And a, the a, one of them was Richard Marcum, and the other, I think they called him Uncle Wimple. That's driving it. And they stopped to visit, and a, we laid a couple of planks down, so we could drive across. And Sterling says, and when you start across he says a keep going.

So they started across just the hind wheels go over the ditch, one of us stopped and we had something else to say, the plank broke. But a, we hadn't dug to well a ditch but it's just enough so they couldn't drive back out. So my father had to call a stone puller. [19.59] And we could get a lot of leverage on it, we hitched one, end of the tree, and the other to the

bumper truck. And pulled out that way. So they could use it. And they went by and about between noon and one o'clock George Sawyer come up, and a, we still digging across the road so he parked his truck by the, milk truck by the barn, and said, he wouldn't, there was no hurry, he'd do it, bring it up to his garage later. And we dug across the road and down to the barn, but we covered up across the road. And all the traffic, we had that day was, the mailman come through about eleven o'clock. And he drove around through the yard. And George Sawyer, and that log truck. Up till _____ . Half that is, oh, wait two, three more cars, people went to work in that. But that was it for the day. [20.46] And today you go down there and, there's more than that in five minutes.

Sometimes more than, in fifty seconds or so. Ha! Ha!

MS _____ . (Whispers) [21.18]

JB One of the things I think that you told me for, was with the ski industry.

GL With what? Oh skiing.

JB With the ski industry, there were a lot of people that came in, and they came up here, and they were trying

to get away from something and then they brought up
what they were trying to get away from. [21.38]

GL Well they did they a, when skiing started in, they
come in here and, the first few, they might act like
_____ the natives and got more in here, they
brought up there ways up with them. And that's what
you hear now. You might as well say we don't have any
neighbors any more. [21.59] I haven't been in any
houses around here for years, a lot of them haven't
been in mine. And the only ones I know is a few of
them at, I got acquainted with them when I used to
work up at Mad River Glen in the wintertime. I got a,
oh, three, four of them, live up by me. And a, one,
one fellow he was up in, once in awhile he sees me
outside. And a, there's a, one of the woman neighbors
she happen to see me, she stopped maybe once or twice
a year. [22.34] And that's about all the neighbors
we have out by us now. Of course we used to have a
lot of them when, earlier, when they come up here, and
I don't know why this road is almost straight here
then, go off into the ditch and then come down, tell
me how great neighbors they were and, ask me to pull

them out. But, usually I tell them just, to call down and, cause, well usually I'd put the tractor up for the winter, or else I had something to do on it and, besides, I knew a fellow that, pulled one out, and turned around and sued the one that, one of the skiers turned around and sued him. For whiplash and damage to his car and every thing else. So. [23.13] My boy a couple of years ago he pulled out five of them down there at the turn, mostly because they're going too fast. And I tell them you better quit that or you'll be getting sued. But a.

JB You told me a little bit too before about a, you know how it used to be, you say that there aren't any neighbors now but in the old days was it like that or?
[23.37]

GL No. You went, anywhere, you come in the house, especially when it was near mealtime. And you had to sit down and eat. And, the man in the family, you might as well say, tell the wife well, mother set up another plate. Put on another potato, and they'd insist you'd eat. [24.00] I know when I was about a, fourteen years old, I went to, an uncle of mine was

delivering a horse and wagon, so I rode with him, up to East Warren and my father helped hay there, we just got back from Toledo. And a, so we had supper there, before we come home, so, I set up and had supper. On the way home, we stopped somewhere else. And they insisted we eat. So I set up and I had supper there, and when I got home, mother had me already so I set up and I ate up supper there. Of course I was 14 years old, and I could eat just as much, the last meal, that I could the first. Ha! But I think father did take a little something of that, but. Not too much. Ha! Ha!

[24.45]

JB I also wanted to ask you about, you told me a story about Sugar Thompson.

GL Oh yes a, I a, worked for Clifford T_____. And his daughter [24.59] is a, the wife of Hadley Gaylord Sr. She's about 12, 13 years old when I worked there. And I say around 12. That's a, Clifford died that winter. But he told me this he said that, some fellow he knew was sugaring. And he always left the, the syrup up to the sugarhouse in those days. And he went one morning and some of his syrup was missing, so

he didn't say a thing, he didn't, he didn't even tell his wife. He went on, about seven years and he walked into the general store one day and one of the fellows in there said a, say he said, "you ever find out who stole your syrup?" He says a, "I never did until now." I never told anybody how his syrup come up missing. And that fellow says, his last name was Thompson, and from then until the day he died, he's known as Sugar Thompson. [25.53]

JB Now one of the things that you talked about, before was that the accent was changing and how you, missed it. And, I don't know whether you can describe what the accent is, or what, I wondered if you'd talk a little bit about that.

GL Well I don't know too much, but I know when I was in Toledo, my mother met a woman from Georgia, they just moved up from the south, the first thing the women said to my mother, she says, "what part of the south are you from?" And they got to talking, and the accents were very close, the same. But a, of course it started fading out when I was growing, growing up, and you might as well say it's gone. You might hit a

little bit of it up in the Northeast Kingdom
somewhere. A little lingering. Or back some where
away from the ski areas but. And, or Burlington and
all that, of course, like one old fellow said they
asked him if he ever was out of the state of Vermont.

He said, only once and then I went to Burlington.

Ha! So. Ha! Ha! [27.10]

JB Did your mother have, your mother must of had a
partially an Irish accent than that, that?

GL Well it blended into a southern accent. But most of
them did have something like that. Of course a, I
don't, there's so much Irish on her side as there was
on my father. It's Scotch Irish on that side. And
mother's apt to be, French maybe back somewhere along.

English and there's a little Indian in there
somewhere too. Cause my mother told me one time, that
a, it's her, I guess her great grandmother said, her
great great grandmother, or something like that, was
a, had been a daughter to an Indian chief. And the
chief was a, Black Hawk. [28.02] And she married
into a white man. So. That was just the word of
mouth, so I don't know how, but a, my mother mentioned

that when I was in high school I think it was one day.

We was, something, some subject we had in school and, she said, she heard it, cause that was word of mouth, down through from her grandmother. But she said her grandmother used to brag about it, she was a, descendant from Black Hawk. Ha! Ha!

JB [28.30] Tell me, I think once before you told me about you know sort of kitchen junkets and I think a, you were talking about laying a floor here. Tell me.

GL They're setting out there now. Well, my Uncle John Livingston, my father's older, his older brother, he and Albert Kingsbury, he come along and I must of been logging or what, but they come along and, just had a new floor laid, they just finished it up. When they come along. And a, they had, a board of maple, and a board of birch, they, the light and a dark all the ways across. And a, I said, "we ought to christen the floor." So one of them said, "well, I'll get the crackers." Used cross crackers they used to have. And the other said, "I'll get the oysters and we'll get together with the neighbors." So they went and passed the word around, and, and a I don't know if it

that night or the next night. But they all got together and had a kitchen junket. And they had over 60 people there, just around the neighborhood. And they broke the floor in that way.

JB Tell me a little bit more about that, did they play music, did they move everything, was there dancing or?

[29.46]

GL Oh yes. That's what it was. Yeah. It's mostly square dance. And they'd have a fiddle or something like that, maybe just a fiddle, and if they had an organ they'd have somebody play the organ, and for years they had the, Fred Smith and his mother used to play, his mother played the organ or, or piano and he'd play the, violin, but a, the dances around here, and a, Riley Motely used to _____, used to go off at dances, and the only one now that I know that a, probably could call off, he might not have the, the ones Riley did, is Bobbi Bragg up on, just on Route 14 just out of north Montpelier there, that Bragg farm.

[30.32] He used to do it a lot when he was younger.

And they had a, some dances down Number Nine school just up the hill here. To raise money for the school,

they used to do that quite often. And a, my grandmother and Sterling's father, my Uncle Rob, did some kind of minuet that went back through to Washington's time, and they were the only ones that had it right. But they said, it's, back Washington danced when he was a young man. [30.58] Ha! Ha! That's probably out of existence today you know.

JB Well that was why I was so interested in the songs and, tell me a little bit about how, you've heard your mother singing and how you learned your songs and then I's like to ask you to sing, you know, some of the songs that you've written and what they mean to you.

GL What was the last part?

JB Well let's, let's start with your hearing your mother sing and how you learned her songs and, I mean cause she had, God, you know, she had a tremendous repertoire.

GL Yeah I wish I had it. Ha! Some of it now. Well I'd hear it, and sometimes I'd, I don't know as I really sang along with her but, I sing a lot, but, by myself, and mostly alone. I go out driving car, I never turn the radio on. I, I used to turn it on just once in

awhile, maybe to get the, trading post, when I was going to work or the weather and then I shut it off.

[32.07] But a, every one else, the first thing I do is have that radio going. And it drive me up the wall. Ha! Prit near, I take it, don't say nothing but, when I went myself I usually sing to myself. If you'd call it that. Ha! And a, I try, I'd remember it and that's how I'd remember some of it because I could repeat it, or I'd hear her or something. I never sung, sang to much in a group or anything, I usually let the others ones do it. Something like that I'd remember a little bit better but a. Like a name. Ha! _____ you tell me her name

[32.40] and five minutes later I won't remember it.

JB But you, tell me a little bit about and use the word that it was your mother, but that you heard her singing a lot. Growing up.

GL Oh yeah, she sang quite, she used to sing a lot when she was working.

JB Could you, could you just start with my mother used to sing a lot when I was growing up. Or something, can you say that because we need to know it's your mother.

GL Oh yes. My mother used, she sang a lot, you know in her work or whatever she was doing. Yeah. She sang more than that, she did a gathering, you know, when that, they got together, they would then, her sisters and her brothers and that, but a, most of time she just walk around the house singing, and whatever she was doing. [33.25]

JB And I wondered if you'd sing us a couple of your songs, the girl with the laughing eyes and, also the a, tough kid with a wallop.

GL Yeah, well give them to me so I, I might remember the thing, I kind of look at it as I go along. See I, some of those I haven't sang for a long time. And. I started to write one down yesterday, and I'd switch the versus around.

JB Wait a sec, I had here.

GL Oh those I gave you, I had all copied out so that.

JB Oh yeah. Let's see, I put them over here. [34.02]

GL I copied them out so I'd try to have them right. I didn't know what you, which I hadn't so I had, I knew I had a couple but I had a couple more so, I've got some I haven't finished up or, ha.

JB Was it Billy the girl with the? Yeah.

GL Yeah.

JB Billy and then a, the tough kid, the fighter too.

GL Yeah.

JB Which one do you want to start with.

GL Oh!

JB Here's Billy.

GL Hand me that thing, maybe I can get going here. Let's see.

JB This is Billy here.

GL Oh yeah.

JB And then this is the a, why don't I give you one at a time so.

GL Okay.

JB Why don't you give me the one with, a _____.

GL Maybe that will get me back, into, I know the first line of so isn't go to good.

JB Yup. And tell a little too about a, your interest in, in boxing and that, didn't, didn't you tell me that, you used to box down at the a, the church or the community house or?

GL We used to box down to, where the pull off wheel is now, we had the creamery there. And we boxed upstairs, and we fixed up a ring, my cousin and I Stanley, we fixed up a ring and we took clapboard hearts and nailed them down and used to rope, _____ and we told the fellows, to stay away from the ropes.

But one night they in, [35.33] and took the whole thing down. And Clarence Tucker had the, a portable ring that he, he put on a few professional fights down the Odd Fellows hall down in Waitsfield where'd they have their theater there now. So he was there that night and he told us _____ I'll let you use the ring but he said, "I won't, give it to you and I won't sell it to you." So, I said, "all right," I said, "we'll use the ring and you have free admission from now on."

We passed the hat the first time and, we was gonna give it to the school but they, the principal and I, us we didn't get along too good, he act like he thought, it was a big joke, so we kept the money after that. But we were making more than that than they were. And we all divided even. The fellows that boxed we just, Stanley and I were more or less

promoting them but we, all took the same, right down,
right across, you know everyone got the same, amount.

And a, we boxed down there for awhile and then,
Stanley and I went, was down in Rochester, and they
headed down there to what they called Pierce Hall in
Rochester. And, we had to sell there. And, when you
get right down to it, probably the best, the nicest
fellows in the world is, fighters. It takes awhile to
get, to do it, I had a fellow tell me one time, he
said, "I can't understand it." He said, "I've seen,
you and another in there, or others in there, a couple
of fighters," he said, "go in there" and he said, "you
try and knock each other's head off, and twenty
minutes later," he says, "I seen you outside with the
best of friends." Ha! So I told him you have to be
in there to know, to a, realize it. He said, "that he
could never do it." I said, "you have to be in awhile
before you get to _____ that." [37.17]

JB When you sing that, the one thing that's gonna happen
is, you can't rattle it cause then a.

GL Oh I see, yeah. I'll tell you.

JB But I actually I think you know this one.

GL I might know this one better.

JB Yeah. Here shall I a.

GL Okay. Well, if I make a mistake, can, he can erase some of it out.

JB Oh yeah. There's no worry and we can go back to and, if you forgot something, you know, she, she's magical.

GL You have to be, listening to me. Ha! Ha! [37.50]
Let's see. I'm, why don't I go through one, line of it and then go over.

JB Sure.

GL And that time I'm _____ it. [37.60]

JB Sure.

GL He was just a tough kid with a wallop. Now I'll go back over again. He was just a tough kid with a wallop. A kid that had entered the ring, he was just a tough kid needing money, a kid that could take it and swing. His first fight was with a old timer, who knew every trick in the bag. And he battered the kid's head and body, till he started to buckle and sag. The kid he was days he was groggy, but he still threw one last sweeping right, cut the other flush on the button, t'was a blow that soon ended the fight.

The kid we kept fighting, kept winning. Luck more than skill paid his way. Money streamed through his fingers like water, that flowed from the creek to the bay. Then came the chance of a lifetime, the chance was a crack at the champ. He said if I don't take him over, it's my last fight that you'll ever map. But the eighth round the kid he was reeling, still he would stand there and swing, for a second he made the champ stagger, with a blow that would make your head ring. [39.19] But the twelfth round the kid he was beaten, he just couldn't take any more, but before the count could ever be finished, he'd slowly climb up from the floor. Then the fight it was over, he greatly shook hands with the champ, he said, if it had lasted much longer, he's of surely closed my other lamp. He later collapsed in his corner, and they worked over him all the night. But the heart of the tiger died in him, he was dead by the first morning light. He was just a tough kid with a wallop, a kid that entered the ring, he was just a tough kid with, he was just a tough kid needing money, a kid that could take it was swing. I messed up that last line. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Sing the last, sing the last verse again and.

GL [40.21] Let's see. He was just a tough kid with a wallop. A kid that had entered the ring, he was a tough kid needing money, a kid that could take it and swing.

JB And, did you write this about a particular incident, or?

GL No. My, well we was boxing and that and I just starting in, that's the way I done some of the, _____ things, well you know, while I've know that one reason I, _____ I had a friend of mine, he trained us and a, [41.01] well he did want me to stay with it, he told me in four years time I could be, among the first four, top contenders in the country you know, which I wouldn't of with the war coming along but a. If I got the right trainer and the right manager. Well you don't get those very often. Ha! And I told, yeah, I said, "in four years time I could be walking on my heels." He said, "well" he says, "yeah that's a chance you always take." I said, "well I rather stay with flying so." That's the way, that ended that.
[41.29] I boxed mostly for the sport of it.

JB Do you remember the flying song you wrote?

GL Oh that was two, three of those I guess. Which one do you want?

JB Billy the girl with the laughing eyes.

GL Oh yeah. I made up part, the first and last versus cause. Ha! Ha! See a. [41.55] We were in a, no, let's go over it. We were in a tavern drinking, feeling rather gay, when up a young man staggered and we heard him softly say, hold your glasses steady then lift, and lift, hold your glasses steady and lift them to the skies, where. Na. I better start that all over, again. [42.23.]

JB Okay.

GL Is the first verse all right?

JB Um hum.

GL Let's see. Hold your glasses. (Clearing throat)

JB Why don't you try it a, from the beginning and then you.

GL Okay. I think probably that would work better.

[42.40] We were in a tavern drinking, feeling rather gay, when up a young man staggered, and we heard him softly say, hold your glasses steady then lift them to

the skies, while I tell you of my Billy, a girl with laughing eyes. She was like a flower the dawning, she was like a noon day bride, she was like a rose in the evening, beneath the soft moonlight. In a pair of greasy coveralls with a smudge across her face, she's my pretty by far the girls that are, dressed in silks and lace. At a race or at air meet, at a carnival or fair, it was any parachute jumping, you'd surely find her there. [43.42] Out on the wing she clamored, then laughed to see my face, with a couple shoots strapped to her back, she'd drop off into space. One day as she was falling, like a comet pass the clouds, I saw her shoot had failed her, she was tangled in his _____. [44.07] (clear throat) Oh down I saw her falling, down I saw her go, down I saw her falling, there was nothing I could do. I hurled my ship straight downward, it was a screaming thing, oh nothing now can save her, if she doesn't pull the ring. Her shoot had billowed open, still I gave an anguish moan, for she had _____ a swinging and struck against the stone. [44.43] I heard her softly whisper her eyes were bright with pain, the words came

low and gasping, I'll never fly again. Upon a lonely hill top, up where the wind blows free. Leave me on a hill top, and plant a rose for me. One last impulsive motion, she clasped her hand in mine, one last convulsive shot her, and she crossed the great divide.

Now hold your glasses steady, and lift them to the skies, while we drink a toast to Billy, a girl with laughing eyes. (Clearing throat) I got kind of. Ha!
Ha!

JB Now what, how come you. [45.38]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

GL So.

JB And you um.

GL She's only seventeen when she got killed. [.22]

JB And you, you were involved in flying.

GL Yeah.

JB Tell me a little bit about that.

GL Well, I started flying about, in 36. And I was in and out of it up to about two years ago, and it got so, I guess I had one eye pretty bad, and it got to where we had, a physical is supposed to last for, well I guess

two years, now. And a, it would get so I'd have to take a physical every, every few months, and it cost me more for, I put more time in on physicals than I was flying. [.57] And a, it got pretty expensive, even a small plane you know. And a, if you ain't flying that much, plus I'm getting older and I got sick of all the physicals and. Now a days it's not, flying isn't free, they got, they got it restricted so, it's just like everything else in this country. More _____ of this country _____. _____ . I'll tell you. Ha! The way things are now. [1.24] (short pause)

JB [1.37] When did you first start writing songs, and maybe, yeah.

GL I don't know. Way back. I wrote some when I was, younger but I never, finish any up, I got, well I got about the time I got flying I guess. High school or something.

JB Did your mother ever make up songs or did she just pretty well sing the songs that she'd heard.

GL I think she pretty well, sang the songs that she knew.

JB Do you want to sing any others here, those were the

only two that, that I heard. [2.20]

GL Ah ha.

JB Um.

GL Well I don't know, maybe you want.

JB Barn storming Jack.

GL Well I don't know, I think that, I think I prefer the other one to that.

JB Okay. [2.34]

GL The other one is the last one I wrote.

JB Which the two loves.

GL Yeah.

JB Okay tell me a little bit how you came to write it?

GL Oh, I don't know, of course I'm married you know and, and a, so you can't leave her out. And I like flying.

So. I guess that's it. [2.59] Let me read it through once, because I haven't sang that for a long time. I read through now. (short pause) I might have to go over this again, later because I'm, I haven't. Well I'll try it. [3.30] I might have to do it over. Ha! Give him a job, I'll tell you before he gets done with me. Ha! My throat's been dry this morning, I think I have a touch of tonsillitis or

something.

JB Oh no.

GL I don't get it very often but. Let's see. The hills are mighty high and the clouds hang low, can't see the sky above or the ground below. Compass going wild and my gas is low. All I get is static on the radio. High above where the wind's still free, sirens call to men like me, how do you tell the one you love, how much your heart belongs in the sky above. [4.26] Chills down my back and sweat on my brow, sure do some hurrying but I don't know how, going to meet my maker when it comes my time. Ice on the struts and it looks like rain. High above where the wind's still free. Sirens call for men like me. How do you tell the one you love how much your heart belongs in the sky above. There's a break in the clouds, the fields below, everything cleared up on the radio, now my darling don't you cry, I'll be home with you when the moon rides high. High above where the wind's still free, sirens call to men like me. How do you tell the one you love, how much your heart belongs in the sky above. I guess that's it. Ain't it? [5.31]

JB It sounds good to me. One thing that I haven't asked you about, is, I think you told me that your grandfather started off in this, at this farm. Is that right?

GL My grandfather what?

JB Did your grandfather start here on this farm and then you came back and bought it?

GL Yeah. My father was born in the center of Fayston. I don't know if part of the, he showed me part of the cellar hole or something and a few months later, my grandfather bought this place. 1885. And a, then it, about 1913 it kind of went out of the family for a little while, except for a lot out past here. That he, my father and his brother went to live in Toledo. 27 acres there and it was all clear in those days. They used to take the sheep over there, and leave them. Didn't have to worry about dogs, or anything else. Ha! If they had any dogs, they were farm dogs and they'd go over once a week or a couple of weeks and check them out. And bring them back in the fall. But this a. This a, house here was out of the family for, a, about, I think 1920 something like that. And

I bought it back in 1943. I had the delaying route on the way overseas. And they give you about five days home and I bought it while I was home. [6.57] I already had the, bought the, where a, Millbrook Lodge was. And a, then when Hess and I got married, moved in here in 47. It was the, it'd been more or less vandalized, most of the door had been broke, and the, the windows smashed, and young kids in those days, a young fellow they used to, well I guess they used to like to hear the glass go. They'd fire rocks through windows you know. So we had quite a little fixing up to do.

JB And then you farmed it.

GL Oh yeah we tried to. It was pretty well run down then, and a, farmed it and a, we just trying to build a herd up and a, I never had it built up too big, but the, I guess we've been married about a, 10 years and a, Hester said, she'd do the milking if I'd do the others. So. We had a, milking machine, and she got more milk out of those cows than I ever did. I, I got the feed down and cleaned the stables and she'd do the milking. And then she got to be diabetic, in the

hospital awhile and, it got where, they wouldn't take it in cans anymore and they wanted a bulk tank. And right after the war I bought, what they called the Smith place, over where my daughter, my oldest daughter lives now. And a, there was a hundred, that made a hundred forty acres. This used to be about a hundred and sixty but Ward had bought, all this land across the road and planted the trees. I think in about 1935 and there used to be a pasture here. And a, then when it come to [8.42] bulk tank, and that tank was gonna cost me more than the two places. And, in fact all three places I bought. So, had to kind of let the farming out. Ha! Ha! And they was going to bigger farms all the time and this is still pretty well run down, you know, it. Try to get it up but, going back to, ha. Wilderness. I guess. The rest _____ around here. [9.09]

JB Well tell me a little bit about Wards? And the logging up here in Fayston. How would you characterize the town of Fayston, you know when you were growing up? [9.25]

GL Well I, I was more in Waitsfield and then there was

six years I spent in Toledo. And come back here and, most of the time my folks lived in Waitsfield. They lived up in the, what used to be called the Bragg farm, up to Butternut Hill now, the little house there, and lived down, the house is gone now but down, by a, they used to call it Gallaghers. And Lawrence _____ owned it. And Robert Gallagher has Gallaghers Lumber Company, he lived there, the house is still there, the flat roofed house, and there's a house next to it, they tore it down for a parking lot.

And the Gallagher owned that, and he owned the mill there where they had there, well, a tavern I guess you'd call it and that now. [10.13]

JB Well there was a lot of logging here was there not?

GL A lot of what?

JB Logging and.

GL Yeah quite a lot of logging, and there's a lot of farming. This is, everybody shipped milk some. If you, even if you weren't farming, if you worked out, everyone had a couple of pigs and a cow and a few chickens or something. And a, you didn't buy everything at the store like they do now. Ha! I

guess that's why everybody, you could stop, you always invited into have supper or something.

JB And I think you told me too about a, about how important the ax was, and that, and I wondered, I was trying to get at the story you told me that you, you always had to ask if you picked up an ax.

GL Well, [11.03] yeah back in those days, you was logging that much you had an ax or a _____ that was yours.

[11.07] And somebody wanted it, and he used to ask for it. He didn't, the fellow didn't take it, ha, ha! Very good sometimes. And I had a cousin there, that, Otto Livingston, Sterling's brother, he was a big fellow, about six foot four, and he was supposed to about the strongest man around, and he had a special can, a special handle, long handle on it and everything. And he was a, going through the woods one day and Roy Eurich, _____ father, and I think it's Merle Long, were logging. They cut a [11.40] big, I think it was a birch tree. And they cut it off, and they was trying to roll it over, and they couldn't do it. And some reason or other Otto was passing by, it

must of been the same job and they hollered at him and wanted him to come over and give him a hand. And he said, sure! So he walked over and, hooked the _____ that _____ the log and for Roy, Merle could get theirs in, and he give a heave and rolled the log over.

[12.04] And, they had a, farm, this last place up on Tucker Hill, it's all grown up, there's a, just a big stone there now where the house used to be. It's got the, _____ around the valley here is a, being a stone, it's got the names and stuff going back to 1833 on the stone. And a, in fact I got a, picture of it, here somewhere. And a, let's see, well it's the, barn went in at three different levels, the basement and the where the cows were and the other. And a, in where the cows were they used to put the, the drums of syrup, they a, sold it mostly in bulk in those days. And a, they could back the wagon up, they'd be about three foot above the, floor, and the, it's in the drums, an empty drum was, it weighed 90 pounds. And it held 55 gallons. And Sterling told me, he said, I was trying to reach down and rustling up on end, and _____ said, you want a hand and he reached up and

pulled out one hand, and a, they, used to roll along and a, then a couple of them tried it, rolled up plank, something to get it into the wagon. And Sterling says, "well I think I can handle that." So he reached down, and pulled it up and walked over and rolled it, that drum must of syrup into the wagon. And I figured up there was some where around 700 lbs.

[13.30]

JB It's amazing the stories you hear about a, strong men.

GL Yeah. Yeah.

JB In, you also in, in a, farming here, I remember you telling me that, and you talked about Hester and milking but she'd always been as you told me, kind of a girl that worked inside, and a, she really hayed better than, I mean tell me a little bit about that.

GL Well when we got married she, she worked most of the housework and stuff. She worked out through high school you know. Doing help around the house and stuff but. When we got married by, she'd never worked outside before, and a, so we were married and she went right outside helping me, right out in the fields and

that. And the first thing I think that a, she's helped me put some sections in the mowing machine. I told her to put her hand in a different place, and I thought she'd moved it. And I moved it a little bit and she, I think she still has a scar on the knuckle where she got hit, caught on one of the sections. But she never forgive me cause, instead of sympathizing with them, I said, I swore, that's the way I sympathized. Ha! Ha! I told her that, so. And a, [14.46] a she got out, like I said, she looked up. All our hay was loose, we didn't bail it, and we did most of our own work. I'd stocked this field down to oats, and I had a couple of them tell me, you got those all down, we'll be right up Sunday and help you. Well we cut them all down, and I don't know what Sunday they planned to come but they didn't show up. So, we were about, a week or more getting them in, we had to shake them out, two, three times, cause it rained after that. And he got those in, and a, she can load a, load of hay better than most men, I used to always do the pitching up. [15.24] And a, when it come to plowing, she a, well went and plowed over in

the big field, over in the other place there, used to be the old Smith place, and she got nervous after a couple of hours, but she would go over there and she'd plow straight a furrow and she'd do better than I can, I believe. And a, the same with that and a the paneling we got up there in the kitchen, that black shear paneling, down where my boy has his house on the corner there, there's some black cherry trees. So, we went down with a cross cut saw, she got on one end, and I the other and we cut the trees down, and cut them up, and took them down to, Baird's Mill, he sawed them out, and we sent down to the plant to Grifford, in Jonesville, and they dressed them out, and I got back here and I think 14 years after we got it cut out, it's hard to get them in there. When I had a day off, if I got one on the mountain I, bring a few boards in but, set them by the stove so they'd dry out. [16.20] And a, that's who we put them, we got them up. And a, Willy Bragg had some, and he put, just aired dried and he put them up, and had to do it all over again, cause they dried out so much, they, the tung and groove part, come apart, you know, so far

he had to do it all over again. But I put mine in back of the stove and let them dry for about a week or so. [16.40]

JB Now did you work over at Mad River, when did you work over there?

GL Oh I just got done, I worked there about 30 years, but I just got, or a little over, and I just got done, oh I don't know, four years ago I guess.

JB Well tell me a little bit about the ski area coming in and, and all that. [17.01]

GL Well it didn't change too much, when Mad River come in an then they put a Glen Ellen in, and it started, well Sugarbush it started expanding you know and then Glen Ellen, and a, so it got to be, out for the first, ten, twelve years, there wasn't a house out by us, they had a couple of old farmhouses. And the only time you'd see those fellows was a, deer hunting. And a, then they a, some, fellow and his wife, Davis, they moved in and built a house, and then some others did and, now there's I don't know 40, 50 houses out there. They got a regular development. And they go by here at a, well over the speed limit, lots of times. Ha!

Ha! [17.50] And they don't know you, and we don't know them. Ha! Ha!

JB What kinds of things did you do at Mad River, what was it like working there?

GL It, it was the best of the three ski tows. The a, you can go up there and, when I first went up there they had just the one lift and then they put a t-bar in, and every, there was only, about 20, I'd say about 18, 20 of us working there, that was the _____ and all. [18.17] And a, Roland Palomino run it. He's Austrian, you know, and he's the one that put it in there. And after they sold a certain number of tickets, along, let's say about now. There would be a certain number, a percentage put aside for a bonus, at the end of the year we got a bonus. And they divided it up depending who, what, where you worked. How much you got and how long you been there. They had a kind of a scale like. And a, one year they had a bad year and Roland put up a thousand dollars of his own for a bonus for the help. And a, there was a, some people

named Bakewell, they used to put on a party for the help. It would last couple of hours, on the way home from work we'd stop there and a, you know visit and they'd have, I don't know if they had a beer or not, but they'd have soft drinks. And, sandwiches and stuff like that. And a, those days long gone. Now it's got the, they got four lifts there and, that but a, well I, after I worked there I think a couple of years, I a, when I started in there, the minimum wage was a dollar an hour. And I got a little over that but, I picked a fellow up _____, up by the hill there by, the battle ground they call it. And a, he'd been over visiting, and he said, he was from Stowe. He says, he said, "boy I like this, Mad River," he said. I've never been over here before. He said, "every, everybody knows everyone," he says, the skiers visit with the help and the help, skiers," he says and, I work. I said, "what do you do?" He said, "I work over in Stowe." He said, "I've been there for," I think he said, he worked there for five years. He said, "they take a blanket or something and set in the chair and go up." And he says, "if skiers

don't visit with the help, and the help doesn't say anything to them." And a, a, he said, "that's the way it is." He says, "I couldn't get over it," he said, "how everybody knew everybody up there. Up here and."

Then he asked me how much I was getting. And I said a, I think it was a, yeah I think it was a dollar, thirty-five. That time, but, I worked there a couple of years so. He says, "you are." He says, "I worked at Stowe," he said, this I think he did five years or more. He says, "all I'm getting is a dollar fifteen."

Ha! Ha! I said, "well Roland always paid the help pretty good." [20.48] And I had a fellow come over from, Sugarbush one time, he quit there, and that's when they started to have, pay time and a half, if they worked over 40 hours. He says, "you don't 40 hours, you get 41 hours and the next hour and" he said, the, "that's it." And he said, "I come over here." He says, "they, work more hours but he says the pay is so much better," he says, "the pay is so much better he says, "I'm making more than I ever thought of making it over there." Ha! He was happy, he got a lot bigger check than he, because a, it paid a lot

more and hour, or quite a bit more. Of course now a days, it's leveled out but. Back there. It was a lot better. [21.30] And of course the help knew everybody, and there was a lot of, natives help there, there was quite a lot then. But.

JB What was the major difference between say Sugarbush and, and Mad River?

GL Well they, Sugarbush started out and they called it Mascara Ridge and that and it was supposed to be the jet set and all that. And, some of them get pretty overbearing I know. Ha! Ha! And a, but I never went over there, and I worked over there, I wouldn't, I didn't work to Glen Ellen either, that, of course that was, started more or less on a shoe string, but.

[22.09]

JB What kinds of things did you do at Mad River?

GL Well, I sometimes I worked the bottom for a day or so. And then they put me up to the top, the top was single, there wasn't a, it was during the week, you wouldn't get too many skiers back in those days. They still don't get what they'd like. [22.32] And a,

well, I'm sort of a loner, anyway. And a, lots of days I wouldn't see too many. And a, somebody like Clessen, had him up there, and he prit near go wild, he had to have company around him, but that didn't bother me. And a, I got, we sometimes we'd, read too, I'd sit there in the window and I got where I could read a line and look down and see who was coming, and a, be out there. You're supposed to be out, single. It's a good thing. Cause a, I had to go between the guides, you had to be ready to get that chair. And a.

(short pause) Well some days it was real quiet, the first year or so. It, the, sometimes maybe fifteen, twenty minutes before somebody would come up. And it, when we first went there, [23.33] they shut the lift down, a half or so, so everybody could, go to lunch. And I don't know what they did, what they did at the bottom but it got where, we got paid right through lunchtime, cause we couldn't get off up top. They tried to send somebody around but that didn't work very good. They had to stop, _____ sometimes we'd eat at eleven and sometimes it would two o'clock or so in the afternoon. [23.59] So, but a, it's changed a

lot. The crowds changed, the last year I was there I had a couple come up, had a lodge there, and they said we stood in line for 35 minutes and we didn't know a single person, that was skiing there. And they'd skied there for years. So, the crowd isn't all changed, it's young ones growing up, of course, they get their families started but they don't get back to after they get established, then later on they show up. And then it got expensive, I had a fellow come here and buy a, gallon of syrup, off me one time, and he a, said, "you know I'm up just for the day." He said, "we always used to buy a season ticket up Mad River." But he's up for the day, went over Glen Ellen and a, he says, "it's just too expensive." And he said, "I've got a couple kids in college." He says a, "maybe some day we can get back." But he said, "right now," he said, "we can't afford it." So a. That's, that getting away from, a lot of them out of it. And I've told some, I've said, "well when, even before I got done, all these skiing, I says, "it got to level off." I said a, "there's only so many in the population that's, getting established, and in fact it

probably dropped some." And that, and a, so I said,
"it's a, it's not gonna, expand, it's expanding all
over you know." I said, "it's the same with the
schools too." They keep wanting to expand those. Ha!
Ha! More of that.

JB Well I think we probably tired you out. Ha! You've
done great. Is it as bad as you thought it would be?

GL I don't know, I think maybe it was worse. Ha! Ha!
Ha! Ha! Well no. I. Maybe not quite that bad.

JB It's much harder than you know just sitting at the
kitchen table like we did. But a, you've done really
well. I want to thank you.

GL Okay. [26.06]

MS There's one last thing I need to do before we, get up.
Let me get this out of your way. I just need to, we
all need to sit quietly, for about half a minute. And
record just the silence.

JB And also before you get up, one of the things I forgot
to do, I wanted to take a picture of you with the
microphone too. [26.22] Ha! Ha!

MS Okay. Okay so we'll just sit quietly now. This is
room tone. [26.29] [26.58] That's the end of the

room tone.

JB The room tone is so that. [27.03]

END OF TAPE