

Rupert Blair/TC1994.0010
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck
RB Rupert Blair
MS Miles Smith
EV Ev Grimes
Place Warren, VT
Date 03/03/1994

JB This place because it has been in your family.

RB Um hum.

JB A considerable amount of time, and then what I'd like
you to do is, for you to give me a thumb nail sketch
of Warren as well as, you know the changes over the
years. [.22]

RB How long a time do you a?

JB _____.

RB Have you allotted to this?

JB We got all night.

RB Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!

RB It would take quite awhile to enumerate all the

changes. [.34] Now that was, I was born here and I never knew enough to get away. My grandfather moved here from, beyond _____. [.45] In 1896, I think it was March, March 19th I think. I've heard my mother tell that a, when they moved up here, the snow was so deep that they couldn't go up the main road. And they had a, horse road, up across the field from the, and the lower place _____ where Tom lives. [1.08] They come across the field and up, but below the mail box, that I, where it is now, the road had eroded, to the point that a, the bank of the south side which was, the side the wind usually blew was four, five feet high and it, well you just kept, cruding it off and eventually get off the road completely. So they, it's easier to make a new road and nobody cared. So they came across up here, and they went down our driveway and they had, another, another way to get around, they cut, just above the house here, in fact you can still see the, the mark up in the pasture where the, some of the old timers, prepared it for [1.55] winter road. As a, a furrow plowed up one side and it leveled off, and that was

the way our neighbors got up to their place. But they moved here in, 1896 in March. Which is, almost 97 years, I think we're lacking a few days of being 97 years ago they came here. It a, it coincided with my uncle's 21st birthday, or thereabouts. I suspect it was an effort by my grandfather to keep the boy to home. I rather suspect that. And, no research or, ha, ha! Projection could ever tell you you did but, that was the effort and he, he worked for I think a, a few months up to Barre, and then he came home here, took over the farm and they a, they apparently left things about as they were until about 1900. And then they begin to make improvements and, and changes and one of the pictures that, is taken I think _____ will use it in her book, that shows, [3.16] looking up from down below here. And then there's another one looking down from, from up in back. That a, it shows it right after they did the renovations, it was quite considerable. They built 40 feet more on the end of the barn, which was actually an old New England barn, with a roof on, the way that it usually wasn't but used hand hewed timbers. And they just extended the,

the 30 x 40 foot barn so the barn eventually came to 40 x 70. And it's still there. And they redid the house to some extent, I don't, I don't know just what they did to it, they built a, the addition on, well I call it the old kitchen but, a long time it was the kitchen. [4.07] And they, they did considerable work in that shed to begin with I guess. And there was a door that went out the back as well as out the front but, I only a, remember their telling me how it, how it was an, well it's still a little vague. And, in 1901 they put in, the pipe, the pipe from the spring up. The spring is up on the hill, and they come down as far as the road with a three quarter inch iron pipe, in 1901. And in 1902 they started again and they came, came the rest of the way into the house. And the water ran, here in a, 35 gallon crock I think it was. It was out in the, in the kitchen. Typical, farm kitchen. It was a, we always called it the water barrel. And that a, that t-offed the, three quarter inch line, and then in the cellar with a valve to create pressure, enough in the, in the house here to, well to get a flow of water. I remember the, when I

was a kid they used to, my uncle would be down stairs turning the valve, and my grandmother and grandfather and my mother would be hollered down to how much more to turn it so they, you'd get the right amount of water running out of the, three eights lead pipe I think it was, that the water came up. Lead pipe was, was quite prevalent that time. It probably explains my, lack of mental development. Ha! Ha! I drank water out of that lead pipe. Ha! Can never forgive them for that either. [5.54] I'm not sure the rest of them would. Ha! Ha! And then the water ran into a stock tank, out here, in the barn yard, I understand the priority was, to water the animals. Getting water to the house was secondary. If you didn't have water enough in the house you got out to the, water troth and, as they called it and, you get a pail of water. That was the only a, use we had for water was, washing vegetables and drinking, and washing the dishwater, washing the dishes and washing your hand in the old black sink. [6.33]

JB How many cows at that point? Did you have cows?

MS I'm listening.

RB Yeah they came.

JB Wait a sec.

MS Okay, I'm picking up a lot of this. This noise so.
Your hands.

RB Watch it. Ha! Ha! Okay.

MS Yeah. [6.49]

RB Ha! Tape them to yourself, stick them in your
pockets. Ha! Ha! Ha!

RB I'm sorry about that. I'll try to do better, I don't
promise I will but I'll try.

MS Okidoke.

RB That don't you come in and yell at me again.

MS Yup. Will do.

RB Ha! Ha! I can't talk without waving my hands. Ha!
Ha! Well, I think I can strain them to that extent.
But a, [7.20] I don't know, I think when they came
they probably had a few cows on the farm, and they
likely brought some with them, actually my grandfather
had a, the old subsistence farm up on the hill where
you had, three or four cows, an ox or two, maybe a
driving horse, pigs, sheep, and they had every thing

that they, they needed for existence, they raised potatoes, they raised their own grain, he had a big vegetable garden, and sugared. Really wasn't much more you needed. He did sell, a few logs, and they cut off the land and, skidded down with the old ox probably. Sugared a little, and that was so, and of course they, everybody had hens. [8.25] I remember my mother always used to figure on having 25 hens. She hit 25, to begin with, order, well either they set the hens the old hen stole the nest and come out with some but they, they tried to maintain, 20 to 25 hens which gave them all the eggs they needed, for the home use and a few to sell, barter. So it was actually we were self-sufficient. Which as I, as I can best determine it, that was a, the typical way of living in Vermont at that time, when they come down here they went, went more for specializing. They a, they got a few more cows and I guess they bought a bigger horse too. A bigger horses. A pair of what we used to call western horses. [9.17] And they had a driving horse. My grandfather wasn't big on driving horse, he, he always thought they were more of a nuisance than they

were good, he wanted to go any place, he'd go ahead and walk. He didn't have to put up his horse and when he got there he didn't have to get the horse ready and before he went. He a, he tells a story of walking to, Bolton, from up, behind Berkeley where they lived and helping his father-in-law hay in the afternoon. But a, that made a good long day. But I've heard, I've heard that rumor that he got up at daylight, and walked to, _____. [10.09] They lived at the foot of honey hollow, what's now the, the F_____ery farm. [10.18]

JB Which is about how many miles?

RB Oh, I have no idea, it's, probably, I'd say 25 miles. And I don't think it's any less than that. So that was a, but a, in fact he, he went for a walk in great, in a great way, he couldn't be bothered with a, with messing with a horse, he wanted to go the village he'd walk over the hill. (Clear throat) And a, I think he died when he was, well 86, almost 87. And he'd walk down to the village church the summer before, up over

the hill and down, and he had been, he helped on the farm, pretty much the same as he always had, a little slower probably but a. [11.23] (short pause)

Perhaps that was why he lived so long, I don't know but a, he's always been very active. Very slim, tall, an angular man I'd guess you'd say. My grandmother was, short, stocky lady and I remember both of them, it amazes me that I stop to think that he was born in 1839. I was 80, he was eight years old when I was born. And a, to think that I, I knew him for six years, and he, he used to tell the, tell the kid a lot of things he used to do when he was a boy and a, as I a, as I think about it imagine that I have talked with a man who was born in 1839. The country was young then. I don't know who was president. I haven't looked up but there hadn't been very many. And a, my grandmother was, grew up down at the foot of the honey hollow. I've heard her tell about when she was a girl at home she had to, to go up and turn the cheeses and grease them every day, they had racks up and they, well in the, well the cheese room up over the kitchen. And it was a girl's job to go up every, every day

and, and smear tallow on the cheeses. And turn them over. That was the way it was. Another job the girls did, I've heard my mother tell this story that, I don't think I remember my grandmother telling it but a, when, when she was a girl at home, probably, she was born 1845, she likely was, ten years old, her father went down to, to Richmond, and bought a coal oil lamp, and he _____ the thing out. [13.38] Just an old kerosene light as we look at it now. But they were accustomed to, to using tallow candles that were, were made out of tallow, they dried out of their own, their own beef or mutton or whatever. And she was afraid of that, that was a dangerous contraption, that coal oil she didn't trust it. And he mother wouldn't have a thing to do with it. So she had to help her father trim the light and a, and light it. I don't know if her mother washed the chimney, or not. Ha! I know my grandmother always used to, object to washing it, a kerosene lamp chimney, she said the best thing to do that with was newspaper. Wipe it out with a newspaper, to shine. [14.30] I don't, well there's one up there, it doesn't shine but I guess I didn't

wipe it out with a newspaper. Ha! Ha! But that was the, I can remember as a kid she would always do that and, and the lanterns were the same way, of course we had the, the old kerosene lantern that we carried to the barn. And, if she wanted me, if she wanted a globe cleaned up, she would, she would polish it with a newspaper. I can either recommend or condemn it but that's a, I wouldn't dispute her either. Of course little kids don't dispute their grandmothers. Ha! Ha!

[15.10]

JB Well it must of been a, something else, having to.

(phone rings) Whoops!

RB That will do it again. (Ring)

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! Your, I was asking you about a, milking and so forth, with just lanterns, I mean what was, you must of, well what was it like growing up, on the farm when you were small?

RB Well a, we didn't get electricity here until 1946. We had the, the carbide gas lights, I think we put them in, in 39 which were well an improvement, a considerable improvement. But I spent a good many hours, sitting under a cow with a kerosene lantern

hanging up on a, on a post in the barn, and I am not sure but there is a post down there in the barn now where the, with a nail any where we used to hang the lantern. [16.13] No every where you went you took a lantern with you and. Which a, shouldn't do this here now but they tell the old farmer that a, this kinney is a, he's a hired man cause he wanted to borrow his lantern to go courting. Oh you're a coward. [16.37]

He said one thing when I went courting, I never took a lantern with me. Yes and look what you got. Ha!
Ha! Ha! So. Ha!

JB You had a phrase when I came in here that I liked, and I'd love you to use it in context about a, the pigs. You know throwing a.

RB Oh!

JB The pigs squeal the loudest when you throw.

RB Um hum. Well one thing, there was a man who was complaining the law enforcement was a, was too hard on him and they were salting him out, he'd been used badly. Discriminated against. And, a, in order to a, sort of soften the blow, I, and defend myself I, reminded him that a, if you throw a stone into a herd

of hogs, the one that squeals probably is the one that got hit. [17.37]

JB Okay. Tell me a little bit more about growing up here. What I'm trying to get at is, a description of how it was and then eventually how it is today.
[17.58]

RB Well I think a, this time of year we probably more conscious of it, the school vacation had nothing to do with Easter, that doesn't mean that they, the people in town weren't Christian, but Easter had nothing to do with it. It was the weather. The boys, all, were expected to help their parents, in sugaring. They rolled the roads and there would be a build up of, three, maybe four feet of snow in some places, in the

road and they just rolled it over and packed it down and you walk on top of it. I've had that experience with the path down here, in the, front yard sometimes I don't shovel it, I walk on the top and discover that the path is higher than the rest of the snow is when it a, begins to thaw a little but a. As soon as the breakup came, that was the word they used, as soon as the breakup came, you, you were in. You couldn't get out. You couldn't get out with a team. Try to drive a horse on that a, soft snow that, they'd go in, into the belly they used to say. And, it wasn't easy walking on it for humans. [19.20] And so there would be a time when you couldn't get to school if you wanted to. And, it was, it was left up to the school directors, to determine when the a, when the sugaring vacation started, usually four or five weeks. But when it broke up in the spring, so that sugaring was about to begin and you couldn't possibly get out anyway. That's when the sugaring vacation started. And as we moved away from the a, the agricultural period, well it coincided with Easter. And, they had the Easter vacation, in fact I went to school up in

Montpelier during this a period between 33 and 36, and I was amazed that they called it Easter vacation, up there. As far as I was concerned it was sugaring vacation. We got three weeks of Easter, and a fellow got cheated a little on that we usually got four or five. Ha! Ha! Ha! But a, by the time you, by the time you got back, the mud would be pretty well dried up, it would be tolerable, you could get through no problem. [20.30] I can remember probably when I was seven or eight years old, we used to have in the wintertime take the milk down to, the truck, down at the, what we called the guide board, it's the three corners or the end of Plunkton road now I guess, best describe it. I couldn't lift a can of milk and my uncle was blind he couldn't see to drive the horse so we were a team. I, he would load up the sled, and then the milk cans there, I think a, I think a can would hold ten gallons, that would be about 85 pounds.

And then the can itself weighed 27 pounds so a, you had a, you had quite a sizable lift for a little kid, so a, he would go with me and I would drive the horse when he got down to the place to unload it, he'd take

the a, the milk out, set it on the ground there and the truck would come to get it, and we'd pick up the three cans that we'd, taken down the day before. Well no, we had the can one day, there was one, one waiting for us, and there was one of the truck. So we had, we had to have nine cans to, for, so he put up the, put the cans back in the sled, or the old buggy, or old express wagon, an express wagon is a, refer to is, well the, the pickup equivalent of the buggy, the little space behind the seat. Design purpose to carry, carry loads. Probably it set back there four feet behind the seat. Where as a buggy you only had, well a couple anyway. [22.34] The a, well in fact that same express wagon is over, to Shelburne, now a, a good friend of mine bought himself a, bought himself a horse, he wanted to live the old fashioned way. He lives out on Shelburne Point, right across, well right across the road from, _____. You turn, you [23.02] go down to the end of the road and turn right and you, you go into Shelburne shipyard, and you, you keep going to the left and through the, through a little gate and you come to, Radkins place. Very

interesting, awful nice fellow but a, he chooses to, to lead a, lead a different life. Less restricted. I a, I laughed at him a little he, he bought himself a, horse, old bonesy. And he wanted to get the a, get the wagon so he could draw his produce up to the streets of Shelburne and sell it at the market. And a, I, I had no problem, he was there, and the barn had sit there since, sometime in the 30s and old Radiken got old Bonesy and he, he used to take his, his vegetables up there and I accused him of wanting to get the girls for a ride but he never, he never gave me a good answer on that either. Ha! Ha! But a, he got to feeling sorry for old bonsey cause he didn't have any company. So then he went and, he bought a, couple of cows, keep bonesy company. [24.28] Well then he over did it, he had a, he had to cut some hay for them. So he, then he had to buy a tractor to cut the hay, to keep the horse, and after he got the, he got the tractor and he had to have a mowing machine and a, the rake and a bailer, all of which he added to his expense, and he had to buy himself a truck to draw it in on. Then he had to build himself a barn to keep

them all in. Ha! Ha! Ha! Well one thing leads to another. Ha! Ha! And that, you know you, we laugh at that, but that comes very close to the way that agriculture grows. I can remember here when we had just a pair of horses, we got along just fine. Had an old one gas engine for power to run the, the corn chopper. And the threshing machine, and the saw rig.

In fact I wish I had it now, we, I have this thing with an old gas engine, you might of seen, this one setting out here in the yard, I belonged to the, gas engine club, but a, life was relatively simple. You had ten or a dozen cows, what one man could handle, very nicely. And one man could milk them very nicely.

A lot handier if you get the boy to help you but a. It's all right, it was still possible. [25.54] And then, it seemed like it would be easier farming if you had a tractor. So you up and bought a tractor. That means we had to have, had to have more hay, had to raise some corn for silage, little more corn. In order to support the tractor, you, you got to have two or three more cows anyway, you can't, you can't get away with anything less, so then if you get the

tractor you need a, bigger set of plows and you need a bigger set of harrows, and you need another rubber tired wagon to go with it, and then if you're gonna raise more corn, you need a corn harvester. And if you're gonna have the corn harvester, you need a blower to blow it into the silo and then after you get all that you discover your in debt a little so you, you go to do more you get so you're just as far behind as you were in the first place. And I seen this go on right up through to the, the point of having 50 or 60 cows, 4 tractors, and a forage harvester and a bailer, a bail carrier, and all the, all the a, improvement we've had, didn't live any better than you did before.

[27.14] You spent most of your time, worrying about a, the overhead, and paying a salary to the banker that had, he had taken in as a partner. And don't kid yourself when you, when you start to expand more than you can, can pay for out of, current expen, current income, you are taking on the bank as a partner. And then you get paid. [27.43] A, that's like I've heard them tell in the old, mills they a, the, a man with any money to go into a business in a mill or

something, could be fairly sure that no matter, no matter what, the partner he took on, was going to take a living out of the, out of whether he contributed anything or not. So that, they warned anybody if they, be sure their partner was going to, going to pull his weight. Because he was going to have, he was going to live on the, on it anyway. [28.24] But, we were just as happy then growing up, we didn't know what a, we didn't know what laid ahead. A good thing I guess. It was good, I look back on it, I think of a lot of. A lot of good times I had. Like a, I courted my wife on snow shoes, the, the roads were impossible and she lived down, oh she was boarding down, down at the foot of a, the top of pike hill, where the two houses, one across the road from the other, I think Richard _____ lives there now, she taught school up to east Warren, [29.07] and boarded down there, and no way I get a car through either, didn't plow the roads then, in 37, 38, so I, I went courting on snow shoes.

I a, I didn't take a lantern but I come out all right. Ha! Ha! And a, I was telling that a, same thing to a, a man who lives in, on the same, same

area, I think his name is, Hal Geiger. He came from Wisconsin. And we were exchanging interesting tales, that you know. I did the same thing only I went on skis she lived in the farm up above. Ha! Ha! Our place. But a, they didn't start plowing the road here until well the late 30s, they plowed with a horse, they had a, had a pair of sleds with a, well with a plow if you will and a wing on it. So they could make one track that you could get through, if you're going to meet anybody you had to arrange for it quite a ways ahead of time. And I think 1940 the town bought a, a _____ tractor with a, with a plow on it. [30.26]

And that was the first _____, the only used that for, probably ten years or so and then they, they got a big four wheel drive truck and they used that for awhile.

[30.38] But, up until 38, 39, 40 the roads were not plowed. I started driving a car in 1935, and my uncle couldn't see to drive and he, he liked to go places, and when the boy became 16, he, not through generosity, but through his own, his own desires he bought a car. And the boy could a, sometimes borrow it, when he didn't want to go. Ha! Ha! So I look

back on it now I, I think how things have changed and then you stop and think they really haven't changed that much either. I think he, I think in '36 he bought a 1936 Chevrolet, sedan, previous to that he bought a '33. But I think it was \$672 he paid for the Chevrolet sedan. And, when I was going to school I, in Montpelier, the a, and they had a, work program, sometimes I could find a little, a little work spading gardens, or, sift the ashes, that's something you don't hear of much more now but, sifting the clinkers out of the ashes. 25 cents an hour. I could go down here to Roy Long's, where the Warren store is now, and you could get a, six gallons of gas for a dollar. Then you go down to, kerosene Joe Buskey, you could get the, Richfield gasoline which was a little lower grade I guess we called it the bootlegged gasoline and the old Chevy when you tried to pull back, if you pulled it down, it would, it would knock a little but a it was cheaper. [32.34] But I had to work four hours to get that dollar to buy either six or seven gallons of gas. And now the kids that are, out speeding cars now, if any of them are, I think it's

probably working McDonald's now but a, they can, they can buy more gasoline for four hours work than I could. So a, actually nothing has changed, they just put a zero on the end of everything. And that isn't too bad a, an estimate of how much things used to cost either. When somebody tells you how, how cheap they were just put another zero on you get it up to, today's money. I wonder how long it will be before you have to put two of them on but. Ha! I worry about that. Ha! Ha! [33.27]

JB Now I think you told me in the past and I'd love you to describe it again, Warren, east Warren was originally bigger than Warren and explain how it was then that, that Warren became more the center of things.

RB Well of course east Warren was on the a, on the old county road, and I got into a, flap with the town historian about whether the old county road used to go. But the county road came through east Warren and out over the hill to Granville, down through, a, to

what we call the hill road to Granville, to Hancock.

It a, interestingly enough a, went to Lord's Tavern in Hancock which was on the, the county road that a, or toll, toll road that was I think a year or two before that, had been a, set up by legislature to get from Middlebury to over the mountain to Woodstock. You've probably been across it. But the a, legislature in 1805 I think it was, authorized a survey of a road from the north of Mad River to Lord's Tavern in Hancock. And, I got that information from a, a library in Montpelier. It was a, I think two o'clock in the afternoon on the 8th day of November in 1805. But the survey was done in 1807. And the, it, it is a complete a, complete record of the survey is in book one in the town of Warren, and Waitsfield has the same one. I didn't go to Moretown, I, I was satisfied that it was all the same. And, I a, I scaled it off as best I could with my, my crude way of, of scaling and drawing, but interestingly enough when I got on the same scale as the topal maps, I transferred it on to a, a piece of plastic, I laid it on the topal map and you could follow it right through from, I only went as

far as the height of land in Granville, yet. I'm going farther someday but that's, that satisfied my curiosity. And it, it tells about coming up through, Moretown, it went on the back side of what we call the back side of the river, it came up a, to where the power dam is now and then it followed on the backside of the river, across from Austins there was a house across the bridge and that same, on the same road I would presume, as you come up another mile or so, and road comes out by the a, the new bridge they just put in. Then it follows up through you can see where the, they zig zag, they go through in between the a, the ledges and Moretown and then it goes up through over the, over the back road, and it comes to, Moretown and Waitsfield town line. It tells about going to the, a man's barn there, it tells about going through, a, at the church in Waitsfield, the church in Waitsfield is referred to as the, the church up on the, the common.

Which is, which was very close to where the cemetery is now. That was one of the mile markers. And then they came right through over the a, the commons road, and as you watch the survey, when they came to the big

dip, by Broadvilles, you can see where they only went just a short distance each time and they went by, by the level, and you could see they went, short distances, they couldn't go and then you get on the level, they'd go for a long ways. But they went down, and up and you can follow it almost exactly. And it went through east Warren four corners. And then it goes out through here and, out over the hill and, it, I went as far as the height of land. And they mentioned it out here where Blueberry Lake is, mile marker 18 I guess. We call it mile marker they called it a, mile 18. They put in their stake. And, I don't know what they did but it was the, the 18 miles stake they said it was a, in a beaver meadow. Which we, we remember as Gold Swamp up there. But a, I, I accosted our town historian that I didn't believe the a, the theory that a, the county road went over and under the mountain. And I, I think I have the a, have the map to prove it. Of course it was, I'm about in the same fix was an old fellow Mr. Whitcomb lived down here, on what we call the Whitcomb farm, now. And a, he can tell you the world was flat and he had the map to

prove it, so I'm, I'm about the same situation. Ha!

Ha! He was. However I think my map was a little more accurate than his was. Ha! Ha! [39.18]

JB Now but east Warren then was.

RB We were the center of town. Nothing had been happening. Well this was the agricultural area. And this was where everybody traveled. It wasn't until a, they needed power, the industrial revolution, I guess you would say, that people lived down, down there and made, made use of the water. There were four dams down there. In the village. They got, just recently I got a picture of a, Warren village taken from, from the west side, just, just above where the, Route 100 relocated road is. And it shows the, it shows the village, the house beside the post office, was, was rather adjacent to a dam, you can't see the dam but you can see the reflection of the building in the, in the pond. And a, I'm particularly enthused about that because I have been telling people in our town here, historians and others, that she contended there never was a bandstand down there, and I, I know I, I was a

little kid I saw one. And that was before my mind got a, filled up with unessential details, there was, there was room for, for that there in limited space but a, ha. I, I have got a picture of that bandstand.

But it's, it's an extremely good picture of the town of Warren. And the house that's beside the, the post office now, the one with the _____ roof, [41.03] it shows that in its original state as a barn across from the old Warren, or the, well Carol Livincock's apartments, it used to be old Warren, or Vermont Store. Freeman Store previous to that. I knew it as Will Freeman's Store. There's one of the places where you could, where my uncle would got and sit, and sit there and visit and I thought one of the greatest experiences of the world to go down there and listen to the men tell their stories. [41.32] Of course the old timers are all gone. You know. Ha!

JB Why was that such a great experience? I've heard other people say that but, what made that?

RB You were a man among men. You grew up a little when you could, you could sit in the, in the company of your peers, and listen to stories that a, of their

accomplishments. [42.01] That's the only thing I can think of. But it was an interesting thing for a kid.

Didn't get there very often, but a, they would sit around the old, stove with spokes of yarn and chew tobacco and. And tell their yarns of things, and not the, not necessarily the type of yarns that a, that you'd hear on television. But they were, the things they had done, the accomplishments. The way things, or the way things used to be. Ha! Ha! _____, I know it's hard to say that. But there were a lot of a, [42.44] a lot of fellows come down there, they didn't have television to watch. In fact I think it's an improvement over television but, how you could come down and, well just a gathering, socially, a social place. I remember a, the old squire on, WDEV, he was telling of all the old, the old characters, that used to be around town and he felt sorry that, the young people growing up didn't have that privilege of meeting the old timers. And then his last _____, perhaps they do. [43.21] Ha! Ha! And a, I've done my best to preserve that situation. Ha! Ha!

JB I want to also ask you, to tell me the story of, the

yellow painted hack, cause I think we're gonna be able to get Earl to sing some of that.

RB You've got, the words to it?

JB Yeah. Yeah. And I gave him those. And he, he had remembered bits of it as well.

RB Um hum.

JB But a, I was thinking it might be nice to sort of have an explanation of the song. [44.00]

RB Well it originated, I think the, I think the school up here in east Warren was, built in 1896 wasn't it. Or 1898, and as all, all school building projects go it ran over a little. I think it cost them \$1100 dollars to build that. I was volunteer labor they had. And, the town appropriated a thousand dollars to build a school house, a two story school house, and I think the final bill was, around \$1100. Caused some consignment by people who didn't want to do it the first place. The original school was across the road, just north of the, the Campbell house, and there's a picture of, donated by Rudolph Elliot, in the Valley Reporter this week that shows the old Campbell house. And, I think it's almost exactly where the, the

telephone, booth is, where the. [45.14] (pause)

That's what happens to people that don't mind their own business.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! So anyway this, this a school was.

RB The old school house was a, just, just north of that and I say about where the telephone boxes are now, toward Thelma Rickert's place. Until DeFrees cleaned up the, the field and pushed the stones out, you could see the foundation of the old school house. And I heard Frank Levitt tell about it going to school up there. He said the sun would shine in under the door.

And it was that loose I guess. But they built the new school house, anyway and that building was taken down, what was done with it, I don't know. But a, as a result of all of the, all the complaints about how much. [46.19]

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

RB Oh!

JB The cat stuff. Ha! Ha! Ha!

RB Ha! Ha! This is a, this is _____ puppy food, ha, I had. Ha! Ha!

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [.15]

RB Do you want to throw her out or what?

JB No. No. That's okay. Go ahead. So somebody had
their.

RB It was a, Wilson Averill was one of the school board
members, and a, there was Aaron Estey, that lived,
lived in a little house right beside the school house,
and there was another, he had a brother, I believe,
and one Sunday morning, _____ Bitty Egan and Alden
Foley, Bitty Egan lived over, well on the, on the
[.54] Senore road now. About where, the good fellow
house is. And, Alden Foley was another good old
Irishman who lived up on cider hill. Walt
_____berg, that was my great uncle of mine, he
married my grandmother's, sister. And he lived some
where on the, on the corner there. [1.21] One Sunday
morning early Bitty Egan and Alden Foley, Walter
_____berg, old Tom, old Tom was Tom Egan, Bitty
Egan's husband, old Tom and his dog Jack went tromping
down the clover to look the school house over, and

they drove out around to the school house by a, Aaron Estey's field, and then it goes along, whiskey they had no lack. But it all originated from a, from the flap about building the school house, here in east Warren, where the east Warren grocery is now. [1.56]

I have a remembrance I couldn't understand it at the time but, now I, I can see it very plainly, at the same time there was, it was three, or four, characters, and not old characters, they were, just characters, in Warren village who were, quite, quite adept at poetry and music. One of them being, Jess McAllister who was the son of my grandfather's sister.

[2.32] I'm not bragging about this, I'm not ashamed of it either, but a, and a, Art Hartshorn which was a, Paul's great, great uncle I guess. They went, they went to, they wrote the yellow painted hack, and a, there's a Ryan Ward, you see Mrs. Lovett lived up above here, John and Ellen, and their daughter went down to school, down here at the old four corners, in fact they had two daughters, Linda and Grace. Well a, the Lovetts' were a little afraid that they, their daughter Grace was a, attracted to the, school master.

And probably for good reason. [3.33] However she was the younger one of the two and they thought it would be much more appropriate if the older one, would a, would get a close to him so a, things didn't so their way and they kept her home, well she got loose and they locked her into a bedroom. Well she got out and she went down to the school house, she went down to school. Well, a, Ellen followed her down, and a, John was working on the, his a, _____ lot cutting wood up on the mountain. Well he sent somebody up there to, to get him and they had a real riot. [4.20] And it was recorded in the riot of Warren which is, written in the same, in my mother's hand writing, I didn't a, until everybody was a, was dead and gone who were close to that I, I kind of kept it under, under guard but a, it seemed like too much history to, to keep forever so a, I allowed it to be, be seen again. But a, my mother remembered all this, she was in school at that time. She was one of the younger ones. But a, to get back to my original thing here that a, one day Mr. and Mrs. Lovett came down by and he had just painted his wagon, and the, the wasn't too uncommon, a

bright yellow, for the wheels of a wagon was, he made it look a little good and the black, black seat, box.

They drove in and, my grandmother had rather a slight sense of humor and, she said, to Mrs. Lovette. "Ha, you got the yellow painted hack." [5.35] Everything was all quiet after that Mrs. Lovett wouldn't have anything more to say. I couldn't understand why she, was in such a tiff. She obviously was upset and mad.

And my grandmother eventually went back into the house as I remember. Ha! Ha! But a, [5.57] after I read that, I can see, I read the yellow painted hack, and understood more of what happened. I could understand the incident that I saw out here in the back yard that didn't make any sense to me at all at the time. Ha! Ha! Ha! [6.10]

JB Now do you think Mrs. Lovett had a, you know, some reason for a, being worried about the insinuation.

RB She eventually married him.

JB She.

RB Grace married the, him eventually.

JB No, no, no, no. The yellow painted hack, you said Mrs. Lovett was upset when your grandmother referred

to the wagon she was in as the yellow painted hack.

RB Yeah.

JB Was there any more too it, than that?

RB Well of course it was both written by the same, the same group. And.

JB No what I mean is, was it, had Mrs. Lovett been involved in any graft, or?

RB No she was, she was a, she was involved only in the dispute with a, with the school, I think they had a real riot. If you will. They called in, they had to call in the selectman to, or selectman to a, quiet the, _____ I guess. [7.21] But a, the yellow painted hack was referring to the other school up there and it probably came, about the same time. Maybe a little before but a, the reference to that seemed to upset Mrs. Lovett. She, Mrs. Lovett had a, had a, quite a, nose for news, she had a, telephone actually only one I've known on this line, one of the candlestick phones, where you could set the thing on the, on the table and you could, you could sit in the

chair and hold the receiver. If you wanted to ring it you had to get up and ring the, ring it on the box up there but a. She, she had her binoculars and a, a picture window, the first window I ever happen to see.

Still up there in that house too. And a, she would sit up there and every time the telephone rang, she would, she would get the news. [8.31] Party line, and it was a live version of your soaps. Ha! Ha! But a, not too much. I can remember now this pasture between here and there, used to be all open over as far as the hardwood. The spruces well I, I have to admit that I was, a, so lazy as to let the spruce grow in on the pasture. It didn't seem to important to me but a, I can remember Mrs. Lovett getting after my uncle because he was letting those trees grow up, and she couldn't see down here any more. [9.17] It interfered with her view. Ha! We used to have a postman, you know that, well he would get here about noon, and then often my mother would ask him into, to have a hot dinner with us, and now and then my uncle would ask him if he would like a glass of cider. Which of course wasn't the thing for a, mail carrier

to do but a, there as long as he didn't do in excess, it wasn't anybody's business. However, she didn't feel that same way about it, she suspected what was happening, and he wouldn't be here more than 5 minutes before she'd call up and wanted to know if he was coming up. [10.00] And ____ can remember as I, oh I was probably was nine or ten years old I went up there and, my uncle sent me up on some errand, from one neighbor to another and, I wrapped on the door and, Mrs. Lovett came to the door and, and I told her what, what the message was I had, and John he was, he was getting along in years, kind of inclined to go to sleep, sometime after dinner, and well probably about my age. And a, a, he was deaf, and he had a, rather an unusual speaking, most of them had a, thing that went over the ear, but his was a long black tube with a mouth piece on one end and a little thing on the other end you stick into his ear. Well he was sitting there, asleep probably when she started, she stuck that in his ear and told him what she had on her mind along with, the news of the day or something, and [11.07] I was standing out in front of him a ways, and

his eyes kind of opened, he grinned and looked at me and winked, and I can't hear ma but sometimes I hear more than I wanted to. Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Well I think I remember too you had a story about Tom and Bitty Egan. When, Tom died. Was it? [11.30] And the funeral. Was that you, maybe that was a, Earl maybe.

RB I think that was. There is one here that's a, you can cut this off if you don't like it. It seems that somebody went there, to Egans and a, they had had a, spot just a few minutes before that and he'd a, he got mad and he'd throw some _____ on her. [12.00] And she complained, she said the time he used me last night, and he threw _____ on me this morning. [12.08] Ha! Ha! Ha! But there is a, there is a story about his having an auction.

JB I haven't heard that.

RB And, he bid almost everything back. The auction. I guess if he didn't want to sell it, why you have your auction for? He says, my God, I just wondered how much I was worth. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB Okay, would you describe for me a little bit, one of

the things that we're gonna need in this program is sort of to characterize Warren and Waitsfield and Fayston, and Moretown. How would you describe all those towns? Separately.

RB Separately. Well Waitsfield was the a, was the center of the hub of the, of the valley, the same as it is now. It wasn't as dependent with transportation being as slow as it was. But all of the a, oh it breaks my heart to say this, all of, all the major business was probably in, in Waitsfield. So far as the merchants, and such. We had them here in Warren, but, they were bigger and a, probably more attractive in Waitsfield. And we had our blacksmith here in east Warren, they had a blacksmith shop in Warren village, probably had three, four down to Waitsfield, in fact they had two in Warren village. [13.52] We had, well general stores, grocery stores weren't heard of in those days. Just a store. Didn't even say general store. Just a store. You expected to buy anything you needed at the store. You go there and swap your eggs, your butter, and a, buy the things you need like baking powder.

Soda. Sugar maybe, and maybe a few buttons. Thread.

I have known my mother to buy cloth. Down at the old IGA is the last, the last one that a, the last name was attached to it, Neal's IGA, previous to that it was a, Park and Ford's store, and previous to that it was a, Spaulding's Store. But a, I can remember they had, they had cloth and, on the shelves, not much of course but, but if you wanted to, if you really wanted a, wanted any dry goods, you'd go to Waitsfield, and they had their undertaker, their furniture store down there and, um. Probably compared much the same as the valley stores do in Montpelier. [15.13] The satellites, used, the term we use now is, well they were adequate but a, if you really wanted to get a good assortment, you go to the, go to the center, and it was about the same, as going here to Waitsfield. We didn't have a hardware as such here. And they had, they had a hardware, a tin shop, and you used to make tin syrup cans down there. And we had our, our wood mills, at one time we had the, we had the bowl mill here at one time. In fact the bowl mill equipment was designed by Hemingway which I think it was a, a

ancestor of a, Wakefield. Either he was an ancestor or a, business partner of Waitsfield's a, grandfather or father. And then the, it burned or they moved it, moved it down to, to Granville, but that started here in, in Warren. And they had, they had smaller businesses but a, there again the, we were the manufacturing area, and not so much the mercantile center. But that all, that all came after the, they got to need it for water power. In fact they, I've heard the rumor that a, the road that used to go to Warren, from east Warren, was down over what we called the dump road and a, in order to qualify for a post office in the village, they had to build the road down the, down the brook which was longer and they gave them distance enough so that a, they could qualify for a post office in Warren. That's only as I have, heard the rumor. [17.21]

JB So when you were growing up, it was mostly, farms up here and then Warren was sort of a mill town, is that?

RB A mill town, a center, yes.

JB Could you, just sort of give that in, you know your own words. Just sort of a brief description of east

Warren and it's relationship to Warren.

RB Well east Warren had lost a lot of its, position as center of the, center of the community, the post office was gone, the a, the church was falling into disrepair, the school house was there and, and operating, that is after, after the one down here was discontinued again. And I say, again, as the story goes without, back to later but a, they had a skimming station up here, a creamery if you will. A place where farmers could take their milk and, and get it separated, and sell their cream and a, and take the skim milk back to feed their hogs and, and their calves. Thus originated the term, keep pigs and make your own butter. And they, which was, it made a lot of sense because a, if you made butter you had a, skim milk left over. So you put in a barrel and let it sour which made it better feed for pigs and, and to

raise pigs and a, you had the butter to sell. But a, we laugh at that term now, or, maybe we don't anymore, maybe we don't use it anymore but it used, it used to be a term that, tell me in my mind their own business, why don't you keep, keep pigs and make your own butter. [19.13] That was a, was an expression I, I heard a good many times when I was growing up. And, mind your own business. A, but there was a skimming station up there, and that, that had, had gone down by the time I had, come to know Warren. And it had pretty much, pretty much lost it's position, the Campbell house was still standing. And there was a, Jim Carlin house which was torn down, the other houses had burned, [19.53] the Esteys' house was there, I think it was vacant at the time. So there was actually just, two or three farms around the corner, Art Wobis and Fred Elliot were the ones that a, were predominant and then the Sommerville farm, Ricketts' farm, Thelma Ricketts' family, her name was Somerville, and a, she stayed there and her, she and her husband ran the old farm but a, those were the, the three main, main residents of Warren, east Warren

at the time that I was growing up. The a, Lucy Moriarity house, a little yellow house up on the Roxbury road, that was vacant, and the church was falling in disrepair, I went to that church once. I think it was 1928, such a matter. Why I remembered a, I think Thelma and Albert Neil were married in 1928 and I can remember walking up and a, Albert had just gone up to pick up his girlfriend Thelma, so to go to church with him, he had an old, Chevrolet coup, I thought it was kind of a racy looking car then. To see him out taking the girls for a ride, I thought it was a, was the real romantic thing. I guess it was, he married her that year. Ha! Ha! And I think it was 28, I swear, but that was [21.19] the last, last service I think it was held in it. So the Warren is, east Warren is pretty much a, deteriorated that time and all of the center had moved to Warren village. [21.34] Which a, was, well supported by a, by the mills and the mills each, probably, they ran from 12 to 20 people. They were usually a high bred, high bred was a word they used then. They were, they were steam mill they called them but a, they used water

power, to a, to turn the mill most of the time, and if they, they didn't have water power then they'd, they'd use the steam. So they could work the men year round.

But a, they were referred to as steam mills, I can remember, two whistles, that you'd hear at noon, and seven o'clock, you can, on a, well on a stormy morning, or the right kind of a morning, you could hear the whistles, very, very plainly. One was a, Brook's mill and Warren Novelty Company, and the other was a, Bowen and Hunters, or Ford and Parker's, wrong way to, Parker and Ford, however they used it that way, I don't know but, that was the way it went, I don't know if Parker was predominate partner of what but. They a, they had what's the old, well it's the dirt roads now. The old bobbin mill, which they sold to Bowen and Hunter. [23.05] And then there was the clapboard mill, I think I may have showed you a picture of my great uncle standing in front of the, one of the clapboard mills. There's another picture of, at the lower end of the village, of the grist mill, and right across the river from that, was what they called the old board mill, there's pictures

showing that to and its a, its position some probably, in the early teens. In went out in the 27 flood and never was replaced. But that, that got water power from the, from a dam that a, you could still see the remnants of the dam a few years ago. And the, pen stock went under the road. Turned the grist mill. I can remember going down to the, the grist mill and my uncle, with my uncle. And seeing the a, [24.06] a, well seeing the big stones down under. And there was a, the thing that intrigued me, a long cylinder if you will, tube, and under that tube, was a four, four or five compartments they all, all in a, planed, _____ planed lumber. And little, [24.35] the little shoots at the bottom where you could fill a bag. And pull your, the thing you slide out, and fill the bag, and I, I remember a funny looking thing with a belt with cups on it, going up. And I, I inquired my uncle explained to me how it worked. That a, that belt with cups on it went down to the, to the stone, and as a, as a, the flour was ground, it would, it would come up on those cups, and drop into this long tube. Which started out with a, with a fine mesh, out of the fine

mesh, would come the fine flour. And it was, it was tipped so that it, it would gradually work its way down and you get a little coarser flour, and a little coarser and you finally the bran at the end. And that would explain why those, well it looked like a big cupboard with doors on it and little a, little shoots to fill the bag at the bottom. I remember how slippery the floor used to be too. And, they had a, well a typical dolly to carry bags on, I never understand the a, the scales they had there, now we had a set of scales up here on the farm, but they had one with two bars on it, couldn't understand it.

[26.04] But a, the first bar you, you weighed your bag and the, and boards that you, you set on, on the rack that held the bag, and the other, the other one you weighed the, what was in the, in the bag. And they had this, a, well this wheel barrel if you will, that would, with a steel plate on the bottom you slip under the bag and you could wheel it around and take it out and there was a, it was an incline where you could go up on to the platform and you, you could, wheel out the edge of the platform and just dump it

into the wagon. You don't have to lift it. But I can remember how, how slippery the floor was, there and as the years went by I, I used to go to dances once in awhile, and a, hardwood floor, if you throw a little cornmeal on it, it made it dusty but it, oh it was beautifully slippery. Ha! Ha! [26.56]

JB I often heard it said that Warren was a rough and tumble town, was, was it characterized as that, and if so why?

RB You must of heard that from Waitsfield. [27.10] Ha! Ha! Ha! A, Waitsfield always looked upon us and I don't mean it in a derogatory manner, I, it doesn't look that way to me I didn't, I don't really care. But a, they were the center of town and they were the elite, they, they were the, they were the center. And, the rough old farmers and wood cutters and things, came from the surrounding area, came from the hills, and a, there was a time, when the a, International Paper Company was, was cutting logs off what is now government land. Well the loggers had, they had a rough, a rough life and they were inclined to live a little rough. [27.56] But a, they stay in

and work in the lumber camp all winter, if you come out in the spring you know, no strange thing you might be a little rowdy. Ha! Ha! But the always felt that we were the, with the out, outside, I guess probably it's, subsided a little now, sometimes I, I think I detect a little, feeling that they're perhaps a little, little more refined than we are. They got the _____ barn anyway. Ha! Ha! [28.41]

JB Well I think I've also heard it said about Fayston as well.

RB Well Fayston didn't fare any better than Warren did. For the same reason. They were the center of town, they lived off of us. They lived off our trade. They didn't have much business of their own, they had, they had farms yes. But a, their industry a, a, within the town they had one mill. Or well two mills. A board mill and a grist mill. They were good ones, but they didn't have the water power that they have above. They had a, they had Irasville, and Fayston. But all the water power was in Fayston. Or right on the, edge of Fayston. So Waitsfield village didn't a, well they had no choice, they were the, the mercantile center.

JB Now what about Irasville? Was that separate from
Waitsfield, in those days?

RB A, Irasville had a store, and a church. I don't know
about the school house, I presume they had a school
house too. But they, they were just in the edge of
the manufacturing industry. Cause the history of
Waitsfield there, that green book that was, will tell
you a, some what of the history, as, a, as perceived
by Jones.

JB But I was wondering, if as a kid, when you were
growing up, if you distinguished between Irasville
and, and Waitsfield?

RB They were two separate. [30.35] Communities.
Actually, Waitsfield, Irasville wasn't, wasn't too
much different than east Warren. They had lost a,
well, maybe they never had it, they had a church
there, which was closed. They had a store there that,
which was operating, the old mile store, he, he got
the business coming down out of Fayston. He had a
little jump on the rest of them, he, he got to them
first. They were coming down, he was, he was a
neighbor grocery for a, for Fayston. [31.10]

Actually that a, Irasville was actually the village, the village that should of been attached to Fayston but they, it was over the border. Ha! Ha! That's as I see it. I don't tell you these things as facts that's the way they appear to me. If anybody else sees them otherwise well that's. No problem.

JB Now what about Moretown?

RB A, well Moretown was a, was so far away that we didn't have much, much association with it, it wasn't until transportation got better, we had no reason to go to Moretown. We had the same things they had. They were a manufacturing community, they had water power. Some people call it, Ward town. But a, an important part of Moretown is, is farther down the, down the road to. _____ville, [32.06] _____ville, hum, rock bridge, is a part of Moretown, that's almost in Waterbury, in fact it's the corner of Moretown is right by the a, right by the new bridge I think. But a, there was good water power and that's, I suspect that's how that a, Moretown, grew to be. They had two, two grocery stores, and they had quite sizable mills, at the time both run by Ward and, not always.

[32.52] But we didn't have much, much to do with Moretown, they were too far off. We were like the old fellow from Maine that, after he went to Boston, they asked him, "what he thought of Boston?" Well, Boston was all right, but too far off, never amount to anything. And a, that way we were about the same with Moretown. It wasn't until we, well we started drawing sawdust. Or, selling, selling hardwood logs. That we ever gave much, business to Moretown.

JB Now I've always heard that Moretown was sort of a company town.

RB A, I said sometimes it's referred to as Ward town. Because that's a, that's something that happens to anybody who, is the only business in town. If they, if they own the, the two, if they own the biggest industry and Ward owned both of the mills, and he ran a store, that was a, that's enough to, to give them the distinction of being, being a company. A company town. They had the same, the same distinction that the old mining towns used to be. And Warren a, has Sugarbush. [34.26] They, they are suffering under the same thing, there are people who hear, who make

their living off Sugarbush, couldn't exist without them, but since they're the only business in town, they feel compelled to, well look upon them as the a, the one that is to blame for all of their misfortunes.

[34.54] You'll see a lot of resistance for Sugarbush here in the valley I'm sure as you're, and that a, this is a company town and.

JB Now what's you take of this?

RB A, I think it was very fortunate to have the ski industry, if it wasn't for the ski industry after the way the, the agriculture and the logging industry, lumber industry has gone a, we'd be giving this back to the Indians if they'd take it. [35.30] Ha! Ha! We wouldn't even fair as well as they do up in the Northeast Kingdom. At least that's my, my assessment, I think we're very fortunate to have it. As being a town official I've had some, some considerable dickering with Sugarbush. A, they're consistent, hard nosed, as any business has to be. Sometimes I've, thought it was necessary to get them pinned down to whatever they had agreed to do. But a, it seemed to me that sometimes they, were a little careful about

what they agreed to or careful of what, of how they did of what they had agreed to, but yes they're, they're consistently hard nosed as any business has to be. And they have taken some pretty hard, hard wraps.

Part of it being because that there is a jealousy that they're, they're doing something that a, well interferes with other people's plans. There are those here in the valley a, who would like to keep it just the way it is. They wouldn't even move, mind if some people moved out or, business slowed down a little as long as they were left alone in a quiet, peaceful resort community with, with all the amenities that you, you get from it, but they don't take in consideration that that's what brought those amenities here. And that's what keeps them here. At least that's my, my view of it. Somebody else, some other one. No problem that's my opinion and a. It's only an opinion, there's no emotion involved in it. I can argue with anybody for, for a long time about that but I hope I can, go away friends and smiling. Maybe come up on the other side of the question next time. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB I guess it was Mad River that first came in here but, give me sort of your perceptions of, maybe it didn't bring changes, maybe the changes came later, I don't know but, when did the valley begin to change? As the farms went out, what caused to farms to go out, was it as early as, the flood was it the depression, you know, what was sort of the catalyst? [38.05]

RB Well it's a little hard to say on that one I, I guess during the depression everybody had a piece of land sort of dug in and, stayed there and did the best they could and survived, somebody asked me how did the depression hit you folks up here in Vermont, scarcely noticed it, every thing was always so hard, to make a living up here, we never noticed the depression until some of the fellows come up from down country and told us there was one going on. But we were, [38.34] we were pretty self-sufficient. It's more bartering community or, a bartering way of life then it was a, a cash way of life. We had everything we needed. If we didn't we made arrangements to get it. If you have

your eggs, your meat, your potatoes, grain to feed the horse, you didn't have to buy any a, any gasoline or, diesel fuel. You have everything you needed. Or if you didn't need it, if you didn't have it, you could, at least get along without it. So a, no actually a, it wasn't a bad place to live during the depression. I think probably World War II, was about the high point. When everybody was encouraged to, to do all they could, and I think everybody did. [39.35] And then when that was passed a, everybody had geared up to get bigger and bigger, some of the smaller ones swallowed up, some of the other ones and, some got a job in the, in industries and, once they get a taste of, an eight hour day it's kind of hard to come back on the farm. Of course in World War I, they had that little song, What you gonna do one they have seen Pari. How you gonna keep them down on the farm once they have seen Pari? Oh this, you can change the situation a little but a, that's, that's about the way it went, after they had a job and in a defense plant after the war, they weren't willing to come back and, live on the farm. A few did yes but a. Generally

speaking, there was a trend away from the farms, by the mid-forties. [40.37] And a, the farm economy hasn't been anything to brag about. Since 50. We've had our ups and downs some seem, some seem like a, a few, a few moments of prosperity but a, then you, had a decline again. One of the things that sort of, puzzled me, in the early fifties they were buying butter and cheese and farm produce, and when the storage a, facilities were full, then they started dumping it back on the market. So you're competing with yourself and years previous. It depressed the, the price of it and a, there's a lot of competing foods too. There was a time when that butter was, would stand on its own as well as milk. Then along comes oleo. And along comes coca-cola or all those and, they are in competition with us. And farmers aren't organized well enough to do their own advertising. Probably a quarter of what you pay for a bottle of, of coke goes into advertising to tell you, how smart you were to have bought in the first place, or how much you were gonna want the next bottle but a. Milk not so. It's, they're beginning to advertise

but a, it's too little too late. [42.16] That's as I see it.

JB And about that time then the skiing also started up did it not?

RB The skiing came, well the, I think they started the, Mad River, just previous to the war. 1940, or 41. And then they, they were partially done, then it was discontinued until the end of the war. And then that a, well as soon as the war was over the, they started building again, and they went back into business in 46 or 47. Possibly as late as 48, I don't think so. I think 47. And, that didn't make much of an impact up here, we were, we were too far off and it wasn't big enough to, to bring any, any measured change, it made a change in Fayston yes. Route 17 got to be, be quite a, quit a center. I don't know when the McCullough turnpike did get, get built. I doubt if it ever would of been built if it hadn't been for, Mad River.

[43.34] Yeah McCullough dreamed of that back in, well back in the 20s, and I think it came up before the legislature every, every year until 53 I think it was. That they decided to build the last part of it. The

first one was a, the other side was built by the CCC's. I think Perry Merrill had a, a big hand in getting that done. He was a, probably one of the, one of the greatest a, go getters for the state of Vermont, that has ever been around. He was sort of my idle. I don't know, involved in the ski business but a, the way that he operated, he got what he went out for. Granville gulf was having a hard time, or, the highway department was having a hard time getting the road through Granville gulf and there were people who wanted to leave it exactly as it was and he, he got into it, as an interested person in the forestry department and, well he was sort of a, mediated the thing and they got, they got the paved road and the, and a widened road down through there. I don't think anybody ever noticed the difference after, after it was built but there were those who were terrible opposed to it. They wanted, a little old dirt road right down through the, through the gulf just the way it always had been. In fact I think that's probably the same philosophy that keeps us, well constantly in turmoil. Ha! Ha! You're in Warren, there are those

who don't want to see any change, and those who, feel that change is necessary.

JB What about all that stuff about the aquifer? [45.45]

RB I'm not on the popular side of that. I think that a, Virginia Houston perhaps has her faults, but she has.
[46.05]

END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

SIDE THREE

JB Is that going? Okay.

RB My feeling is that free enterprise made this the greatest country in the world, and we have had restrictions put on now so that we are, almost down to the third world. [.27] I am not a fan of zoning. I think there should be responsible growth, but give the business man the men who, who have a commitment, have their money on the line. And the only restriction I would see, don't tread on your neighbor. And a, if that was the only restriction, in fact I got into a, a discussion down here to, the candidates meeting, there was a zoning change to be made and I, I challenge you to suspend zoning for five years and let the business community build what they see fit. The only

restriction is take care of your own sewage, take care of your own parking, and don't infringe on the right of way. [1.33] That's more, that a, even though I'm saying, suspend zoning, that is making zoning more restricted than it is now. I don't like to see the town have to spend a hundred thousand dollars to, make a parking lot for Anne, for Mrs. Lippencott. [1.57]

JB Is that what's happening?

RB The only business there. And there has been suggestions we spent a hundred thousand dollars on, on parking for the village. I don't much like, we already agreed to spend ten thousand. And a, that isn't going to be, be a drop in the bucket. [2.24] The Warren store is, is a growing business, a good business. But I don't think that a, the rest of the community should be, asked to subsidize it. I don't think the, town should be asked to, to put in a, sewage system for the town, I think that the people in the village core should do that themselves. The town should cooperate. But I think it should be, a consumer, or not consumer, a customer, privately owned and privately funded. Just how are we going to, to

deal with the, people up in Sugarbush who have spent billions I guess I can say on sewage. Sewage treatment plant. And then take their taxes and go down street and buy, and build a, a sewage system for, a competing community if you will. [3.36] For which they get no benefit at all. Something that a, could cause considerable problem. If I lived up there I would scream louder than anybody you know of. Sound like my uncle, he was blind, he lived up here on the hill, and he used to complain bitterly because they had the street lights in Warren village. It wasn't _____, there again he couldn't see anyway. [4.03] (Coughing) But that's a. I think jealousy or a, petty peeve, resistance to change, God knows I'm, as resistant to change as any of them but a, some things you have to put up with. But I feel a lot of people are against any, any thing of that, they don't want trucks going by their house. I thought we built roads for that purpose. If the roads aren't adequate to carry the, the traffic, taxes, I guess some of their taxes but they will have a broader tax base that they're taxes aren't going to go up any. And if a

truck goes by their house and make a noise well. It might employ their sons, their daughters. It's gonna make a bigger, better healthier community.

JB Now what is it that a, that she's proposing?

RB She's proposing a water, a water bottling plant. And they're, you want to talk to Edgar Trembly about this. Maybe you have. If you didn't you should. Cause he can, he can express himself very eloquently. A nice fellow. Very smart man, I would a, I would recommend that you get his opinion anyway. And he'll probably take as pretty long a tape as I will. Ha! Ha! Ha!

[5.50] But a, no we're a growing community, not as prosperous as I wish as we were and we're not as prosperous as I think we could be. The town of, the village of Warren is, it's just about strangled. It used to be a beautiful town. And anytime the thing has gone out, it has been so difficult to replace it that it hasn't been worth the effort. Or else they've been, required to, make such drastic, and to me, unfeasible changes that a, nothing ever happens. This a, I feel quite sure that, the Picture Inn would of

been replaced [6.44] had it not been all the restrictions and setbacks and. As it stands now a it's an eye sore. But Warren used to be a beautiful village. And you know they had, we had a, we had four or five mills. And there's four dams on the river, the fishing was better then than it is now. Swimming was better. You could used to dive off the roof of the covered bridge. That's when they let them take the gravel out of the river. And another thing I gripe about, the unnecessary regulations. We try to take the gravel out of the river to lower the river beds so that a, it wouldn't wash out our road. The, the sand bars got up so it's throwing the river against the, against the riff raf for the road on the west side above, or yeah above the covered bridge. And eventually we're going to have problem but we spent \$2800 just for engineering, to apply for a permit to take the gravel out of the river and we were denied. [8.02] Why it took two men to come out and look it I still can't figure out but a. I think we're over regulated. In fact I think the whole country is. This country was built on free enterprise and a,

regulations perhaps weren't as strict as they ought to be but a. If anybody is held responsible for their actions I don't see why, I think you have to prove a long time ahead of time that you a, you couldn't possibly in the world do any damage. There should be injunctions yes if somebody is doing something that's detrimental to the rest of the community or, the health, or health of other people but a. To make them prove, years ahead that it is never going to happen, not all of those theories are correct.

JB What when you say when Mad River came in, it didn't make much of a dent, but apparently then was it Sugarbush coming in then that really a, starting changing things?

RB Sugarbush changed things for us tremendously. Of course Sugarbush is a much bigger, operation than the Mad River. Damen Gadd came here with, an awful lot of money, a lot of enthusiasm, and a lot of followers. And he built a, mascara mountain as some people would refer to it. But whatever, it was the, the destination of the jet set. And you came here, to ski

and show off your, your attire. [10.04] He, he built it into something that was a, it was real, real good.

And it had a lot different a, well atmosphere. It had some poor management, for a aggressive business management but a, I think the business management was a, more attuned to industrial and it was, recreational. And you can do things with a, a piece of machinery or, raw material that you can't do with a, with people. They resent it. [11.02] Even though you intend to fleece them once they get here, you mustn't make it too obvious. Ha! Ha! Ha! The ski area that I, I take off my hat to Walt Elliot, he on a shoe string, built Sugarbush North, Glen Ellen, now Walt didn't have a nickel to put into it, and he, he got together financing, rather scant financing too but he got together financing enough to do it. And he built a, a ski area that a, at least rivals, Sugarbush South they call it now. Sugarbush North is the other place, it's Glen Ellen but, I think that a, I think his judgment was good. It cost him his business, his wife and his, eventually a life but a. He on a shoe string, built a tremendous resort, interesting enough

Damen Gadd built a house right at the foot of the hill, whether he was, was attracted to the area or whether he liked to be, where he could watch it I don't know. I don't say that in, in any way against Damen Gadd. I thought the world of Damen Gadd.

[12.42] He just passed away this last, last spring. But a, he did it with, with finances that were already there, it was his own maybe. But a, Walt had a better location I believe. And he, he did it on almost nothing. I take off my hat to anybody that can, can do such a great, great piece of work on, on such a small budget. Couldn't of done it now, he couldn't of even got his permits. He probably spent more or would of had now had to spend more on permits to do what he did that he did to build it. [13.38] No way we could prove it, but a. That's my opinion.

JB Was he one of the Elliot's from here?

RB No. No he came from, a, I think somewhere around the Boston area. It might of been Connecticut but.

JB Now when, when Sugarbush opened up, did you notice a difference, how did it effect you? [14.14]

RB Well I was listor at the time, and a, the grand list

grew, by leaps and bounds I guess. In 1946, when I became listor, I think our grand list was, about four thousand dollars, that was on a, about a, 30% evaluation. The, the state insisted on 100% evaluation they never got it but a. I think there are about 80% evaluation now and, oh the grand list is almost two million, it went over two million at one time. [15.15] But a, the tax base increased, exponentially they call it. Ha! Ha! Now we, we would have a hundred houses a year added to, our grand list, and of course as the grand list goes, goes up, your tax rate goes down. And we're, at last year we were at a dollar nine. Which I think compares with, very favorably with other, other towns, of course that isn't all, all accurate, we have, a grand list that a, is based on an inflated value, a house in this area would go for a hundred thousand, in the Northeast Kingdom would only go for fifty. Just for the fact it sits here, in the ski area. But even, even a two eighteen grand list, our tax rate wouldn't be that hard. It takes, about 50 cents on the dollar to run the town. The rest of it is schools, which of course

is always a.

JB Ed Eurich said to me, that he believes and your pretty much contemporary I would think that he has seen probably the greatest changes in his lifetime that he figures have occurred. How does that statement sit with you? [17.16]

RB Well Ed is one who's opinion I, I value greatly. He grew up almost on the mountain up there. And a, I can't imagine any, any greater change occurring than has occurred in the last 40 years. I can't see how it could. I would be frightened if I thought it might. Ha! But a, I would have the utmost respect for Ed's opinion. In fact I call Ed for an opinion last night, I, about a lodge matter. We concurred and went to work on it and, bore fruit. We have, we both belong to the same Masonic Lodge and, we have a candidate that a, has been ready, ready and waiting for the degree. And a, we have another candidate who's, who's brother-in-law I think it is, is a, grand master of the state of New York. And they're coming over, he's coming over to, to see him made a master mason. And the a, the master had just determined that he would

wait until after, after the big occasion to, to bring this other young candidate into the lodge. Ed and I a, talked about it we agreed that it's time for the old gray beards to get together and a, and apply a little pressure on the, on the present master, even though he, he should be the, the last word, we thought it would do no harm to apply pressure, whatever it would take to make it happen. Ha! Ha! [19.30] And if we agreed we should and a. We, well I was the spokesperson for it. But I knew he had his support so I felt very, very strong in making the statements and a, yeah we, we got our way. Ha! Ha!

JB Let me ask you another thing about a, your farm here. And a, the changes you've gone through and a, I guess maybe how you felt when you sold your cattle and then the next step. [20.14]

RB Well a, my grandfather originally bought it, over the course of years it went to my uncle and my mother, when they were gone it just, I was the only living heir, it a, it came to me. I, I owned it on the other hand a, I guess I would say I had the use of it.

Something I never, I never paid out cash for. I would a, would argue anybody that said I didn't pay anything for it. I gave quite a number of years of my life.

But I got something in return but a. Yes I think I earned it. [21.20] From a, from the time I got out of high school in 37 until, well until my mother eventually passed away in 64 and my uncle passed away in 52, some where along the way, I never knew why when the, when the management of it transferred, as I got older and a, became more aggressive, or got more of his confidence, maybe both, the management of it was turned over to me. After it came in my mother's name she pretty much, let me have free reign on it. And when Kenny got out of college, I wasn't, I wasn't sure that I wanted to continue in the business. I was having trouble with allergy. In fact I have, have quite a serious asthma problem, if I don't, if I don't take my medicine and a. I was giving consideration of, sort of doing something else that was, less troublesome to me. Now I guess the Navy uses, put it, putting in moth balls, but a, Kenny thought when he got out of college he'd took a course down to

Burlington and, in animal husbandry, dairy technology, so dairy science I guess it's. And he thought he's like to try it. [23.07] So he, he came back and a, when it became apparent that he was really sincere, and wasn't going to be here a year and then, go on, we began to make it, make a transfer and a, as the older animals matured and left the herd, and the young ones come in, the calves born were his. So a, through attrition, he eventually owned the, owned the animals and, and well, after Melba passed away a, I did the, I did the last step. I turned the deed over to him. To a, own the farm. Reserving for myself a, life interest, not in just the house, but in order to avoid the a, subdivision regulations, I, I have a life lease on the entire property, I can do anything I wanted with it. With his permission and, I have veto power on anything he might want to do. With the understanding that a, if I, needed extra care that he would try to see that I got it. I couldn't really afford to, without him, him operating the farm, I didn't want to operate it myself. And I didn't really want the shenanigan of paying the taxes and the

insurance and the upkeep. So a, I turned it over to him and I a, I'm just a renter here without rent.

[25.00] I have the right to cut my own wood and do sugaring and, well I'm the a, resident tour guide for the deer or two. Ha! Ha! And I thoroughly enjoy it but. I don't have any obligation. More than to look after myself. And that I intend to do as long as I can and. And I hope I might be able to continue to do that as long as I need. Ha! Ha! I'd like to die with my boots on, I wear my boots all the time and I can to make it easy for the Lord. Ha! Ha! [25.40]

JB How did you come to?

MS Um. (long pause)

JB I'm trying to get from the [25.58] cows to the deer and then a, because I think that's an interesting, you know as far as you're going out, they're taking different turns. And this is a different turn. I think and yet.

RB Ah, well I think probably we aren't experiencing anything different than the, the sheep farmers did in the.

JB Exactly.

RB In 1850.

JB And that's what I want, I'd love you to say that when he gets a set up.

MS We're rolling.

JB Okay. Yeah so. A little bit about how we got from the cows to the deer and how you see that in the transition. [26.35]

RB Well a, it became apparent that, the dairy industry from anything we could discover in the next ten years, was only going to get worse. We came to that conclusion, back in the, in the mid, mid-80s. And it was after some, some discussion, soul searching and mashing of teeth. That a, there was going to be very little, future in a, in producing milk. I haven't yet seen any indication that we were wrong. [27.17]
Somebody asked me about it, I said, "well, we sold our cows we figured that a, if you're gonna starve to death there's no use in wearing out your clothes while you're doing it. And it a, it was a, grasping at straws, that the, herd buy-out, came about. We hoped

it might do something but it didn't. So a year or two later, we a, decided to do it on our own. We sold, part of them for, for dairy and the rest of it, the rest of them went for beef but a, it isn't something you feel good about doing, on the other hand a, you don't need a hundred pets either. Ha! [28.06] So a, we decided that it was time to, time to make the change. We sold the animals and, sold off the milk equipment and what, what we were going to, have to discount substantially should we ever decide to go back in again. Now everything is all intact. Given the, month time we could be milking cows again. I don't think we ever will but a, it's like, they once, how you keep them down on the farm once you've seen Pari, but once they've worked for an eight hour day, or retired, it's kind of hard to convince them to come back at it again. I had a lot of fun at it, a lot of fond memories. I don't want to go back again. I think I noticed particularly when I, I came home, I come home late in an evening and a, or, late in an afternoon, that known to be evening, and to think that I had, four, five hours of work ahead of me, no matter

how tired I was. So a, we made a decision that, it wasn't a, a pleasant decision it was a business decision. When you can see you can no longer do anything and a. And live on it. You have the hard decision of what, what can I do in place of it. So we, _____ ourselves of cows [29.54] and they, and the equipment that was related to the cows, that would depreciate, the bulk tank, the milking machines. Barn cleaner. One tractor. Harrows. We still have, but not, we, the excess that we would normally of had. We still got the hay, if anybody wants to rent pastures, we will rent them and we haven't had much luck at it lately but it's no big deal. And a, about that time the state of Vermont, allowed people to, to raise fallow deer, previous to that, it had been, against the regulations to have any deer. [30.50] So they, they allowed people to have deer and we, well why not. It is actually no different than the beef operation. But instead of having a, a thousand pound units, you have hundred pound units. The conversion rates are very similar. Your fencing is, is considerably more, it costs about a dollar a foot to build a fence. And

you, you figure, ten acres square how, how many dollars would it take and then the, there was a man on the other side of town who, he's in the, restaurant business, I guess, he thought he'd like to get into it and so he and Kenny formed a partnership and they're still operating on the partnership. Kenny furnishes the fence and the land, and the care, and he bought the, bought the original animals. [32.00] And a, well they've had to make adjustments along the way as a, as the animals increased, bought ten bred females and, and bought a, herd sire, now I think they counted 42. This was in four years and, next July 1st, he should have, oh close to 60. No, probably not quite, because there's, half a dozen. [32.40]

END OF SIDE THREE, TAPE TWO

SIDE FOUR

RB I would presume that, he might go a hundred maybe a hundred and fifty, all depending on, on economics of it. [.16] There is a market for meat. I predict

there will be for quite some time, and it's, it's substantially greater than the demand for beef. The price is, is quite a lot higher, because you have more, more trouble with the, with managing it and catching it. Trying to catch those is a game all in itself, and it's so special you have to do it by means of shoots and alleys. Just to keep converging them, on the other hand, if something spooks them they start coming back down through and you stand, you've got a herd of twenty deer ahead of you, and they, they turn around and start coming back, and they're, they're travelling a speed about 40 miles an hour, you begin to back up against the fence just as tight as you can.

Ha! Ha! [1.20] Ha! Ha! It's, it's quite a thing to, to see a, a swarm if you will, ha, ha coming. Ha! Ha! And when they run, they, they can develop almost forty miles an hour. We have, the old buck had a piece of wire on his horn and I thought I had him and well he turned around and started coming back with his head down more or less and, about a, twelve feet of wire, trailing behind him or going with him. [1.57] All these sprangles sticking out and a, I got pretty

small up against the fence there while he was going by. Ha! Ha! I finally did get him tangled up so I a, I cut the wire off. He got tangled on a, piece of machinery out there and, with some difficulty I got it. [2.20] I learned a lot about a, about their habits, and it went fine as long as, as long as the entire horn wound up in the, in the wire and was caught on the, on the old arrow. He only had a circle of probably three of four feet he could travel. And I could reach him with a bull cutter, and I could cut the wire. I got all but the base of the horn. And then he had a lot more territory he about an eight foot circle. And I couldn't catch him. So I'll throw a rope on him, I'd throw the rope, try to get over his horn and he'd stand and watch the rope coming and he'd take his horn to one side and miss it. But each time I threw that, it would irritated him. And I, I got so concentrated on throwing the rope that I, I forgot that I was within his, his circle. And he came right across the circle and, put his horn, his web horn right against my chest and my, my shoulder and they were sore for quite a little while. But I went over

backwards there is an expression they used for, a thing like that. Ha! Ha! Ha! [3.28] But I eventually got him wound up with a rope and once his head was down, once they're caught, they give right up. I suspect that's, what happens to a native deer when they, get off the trail and they're exhausted, they just, just give up and die, it isn't worth it. But he, when he got his head down, and I threw the rope on him he just got wound up and go round and round in a circles and he eventually got wound up so his head was tied down and then there was, there's no problem he just gave right up. I finish cutting the wire off, and his head was pinned down under the harrow by the rope and a, I had some reservations, just how I was going to, how I was going to get him out of there and still be safe. Somebody said to me one time, how did you feel about it? About it, you afraid of him? I said, "yeah I was afraid of him, but." I, I was thinking the last part of it, I didn't care if I killed the old bastard and he felt just the same about me. Ha! Ha! Ha! [4.44] Ha! Ha! But, I eventually flipped the harrow over and got the rope

off his neck and well I held the harrow up there, so that I could a, could of at least have something to hide behind. But he had no intention of stopping fighting, but he was so tickled to death to get free, he probably figured he beat me because, he got away from me. I felt the same way, I beat him because I got the wire enough, I got away from him. Ha! Ha! But a, he, he got more blood on me than, out of me than I got out of him. He pushed me over to the harrow and he skinned on my hand and my elbow and tore my britches, and made my chest a, my shoulders and chest sore, and skinned my nose but a. Ha! Ha! Ha! I felt pretty good about that after it was all over with, anybody that could a, could have an open heart operation, and still come back at almost 75 and, and fight a battle like that I thought I was in pretty good shape. Ha! Ha!

JB Well that's a, tough one. I have, I was just looking here to see, what a, we had to cover, one, one story I was gonna, do you remember the story you told me about Dwight Palmer? And milking? [6.04]

RB Try Floyd on that one.

JB Hum.

RB Try Floyd on that one. That's his.

JB Oh is that Floyd. Okay I will.

RB He told me that story but a, it's his story.

JB Okay. I'll ask him.

RB And I certainly couldn't compete with him in telling it.

JB I also remember a, oh you had another expression that I liked. About a, what is it when the mare switches her tail.

RB Oh that's, that's particular, that's predicting the weather.

JB Yeah. Yeah.

RB When the old mare switches her tail, you're gonna get wet. Ha! Ha! Ha! [6.55]

JB And you had a, comment too about a, we were talking about folk medicine and a, your mother used to feed you burdock tea.

RB My grandmother.

JB Okay.

RB She made me go out and dig it up. Something that went like digging your own grave. Burdock root tea. I, I

can see I was much better I tried to make her see I was much better after the first week of it cause I didn't care about going through that again, burdock, well it taste just like it smells. I used to have sulfur molasses, that was along the same category. I think it's sulfur molasses got a little edge on it, actually. It taste a little sweet. Ha! Ha! [7.45]

JB I think we've just about covered everything I must of, pooped you out too.

RB I don't notice it.

JB You don't notice it. Let's see, oh, one of the, well we sort of got, we've gotten this, you talked about a, Bowen and Hunter cutting off a sugarwoods, and it being kind of an escape hatch, but I think you've covered the farming.

RB Well a, Bowen and Hunter was particularly, vulnerable there was a time, after Bowen and Hunter bought the a, Parker and Ford mill, that they had, they offered a good market for a, for sugar maples. [8.42] And there was some people who, were real upset with them, because they offered such a good price for the lumber that a, it induced people to cut off the sugarplace

and they thought that was a, terrible thing to do.

[8.56] And then, they were criticized for it.

Privately I think they were gonna cut off the sugarplace anyway because it wasn't possible, that was a, that was a way for them to get out of it but a, it wasn't always perceived that way. They, they were considered as a culprit because they, they attempted the farmers into cutting off their sugar place.

Probably I think anybody that tries to, to make a, profit sugaring is out of their mind anyway. But. Have to have two, three hundred trees just for fun. When I feel like sugaring and, well I had a little touch of it here a week or so ago but a, I soon got over that. When I feel like sugaring, I go up and tap the trees. And a, when it begins to smell like somebody boiling up their socks, I get sick of it I just drop the pipe into the brook and, clean up my rig and go up and pull the taps. Ha! Ha! [9.54]

JB Well I think we're just about done. Unless, Ev do you have a? Did you make notes about things you needed completed?

EV I just want to know what the burdock root tea was

supposed to do for you? Was it a tonic?

RB A spring tonic. [10.13] It a, did the same, did the same thing as, sulfur and molasses, and I still think the sulfur and molasses as a little better flavor than that was. If you knew what a burdock smelled like, well that tasted just like it. Bitter, sour.

JB I think you told me that, that she would give it, to you whenever you looked peaked and then you would recover as soon as.

RB Yes. That was peaked.

JB I wonder if you'd say it that way cause I.

RB That was her expression, if any, if anybody didn't look well, they looked peaked. [10.49] Whatever that was, but a, apparently she could tell. If I didn't appear to be looking well she'd give me some of that.

And some castor oil, if you looked peaked you get some castor oil if you weren't careful. You'd be surprised how it will spruce you up. Speaking of castor oil, it makes me think is, one of the stories that a, it probably doesn't mean anything to you but, a it seems these two old fellows they had this skimming station up here, and they had a, had around

the country and these two fellows would, had been taking their milk to the skimming station every, every day or two, they'd, they would go to the, skimming station, and take their milk up and well it seems that, they'd known each other for years, but they weren't really, really chummy so they stop and visit, and going up, one time when a hauler dealer said "you ever have a horse with a colic?" Yup had one last spring. He said, "what did you do for him?" I gave him castor oil. Went on for a week or so, and they happen to meet again. And he happen to think of it, "how's your horse?" He died. Ha! Mine did too. Ha! Ha! Ha! [12.11] Ha! Ha! Speaking of castor oil, made me think of it.

JB Yes. It's not a, I was never too fond of that either.

RB He, you'd be surprised how the little kid knows he's gonna get it, how, how it will spruce him up something. And keep him away from his grandmother.
Ha! Ha!

JB You had one expression, that I though was, well I don't know whether it was an expression but one thing that you told me before was, one generation doesn't

learn to well from another, we have to learn by
experience which I thought was pretty sage advise.

RB Well I think that's true. I'm not gonna, you stop and
think about it, you know they had a coke problem up,
back in the early 1900s, that's how they got the coca
cola started, because it made people feel better with
that a, coke in it. And then, they finally passed
over that and generations passed and they forgot it
and, darn if they aren't at it again. Ha! Ha! But a,
no I, I'm quite convinced even from my own experience,
I hesitate to tell you all the things I didn't listen
to that a, I heard but I could tell you some that my
kids didn't listen to when I told them. I tried to
tell them once, it's, it helps your standing a lot.
[13.44] They don't listen to you then, well, even
though you don't say a word, they'll think of it
later. I a, I can think of things that were told me
that a, I didn't believe at the time but a, they were
right. [14.06] And that's which is a lot like the
story I'm sure you've heard it and, boy said he was,
he was amazed when he come back from college after
four years how much the old man had learned. Ha! Ha!

Ha!

JB I think we did end on that and. [14.30] I guess
we're gonna need a.

MS Okay.

JB The quiet.

MS Just like before, we'll just record a little bit of
the silence sitting here. Before we jump up. A.
[14.45] This is.

JB This is, we have to be quiet cause this is when, when
we're editing, when Ev edits, they use some of this to
piece it in.

MS So we'll just sit quietly for about half a minute.
This is a, this is Rupert Blair room tone. [15.09]
[15.53] And that's the end of the room tone.

JB It sounds like it's blowing some out there.

MS Does it?

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [16.02]

END OF SIDE FOUR, END OF INTERVIEW