

Alice DeLong/TC1994.0014  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB        Jane Beck  
AD        Alice DeLong  
EV        Ev Grimes  
MS        Miles Smith  
Place     Middlesex, VT  
Date      03/11/1994

JB    You sort of describing how things were, how you grew  
      up, which helps sort of, describe how things were.

AD    Well I grew up on a farm in South Duxbury way up on  
      the hill, the last house on the road.    [.29]  
      Probably, a mile and a quarter from the church, and  
      about the same distance from the, school. We had a  
      farm, as I remember with, we had the cows the  
      chickens, hens, pigs and all the things that went with  
      it, we were, our own meat, our own crops, other than  
      just I can't remember dad going to the store very  
      often when he did if he wanted a major purchase it had  
      to be in Waterbury which was about oh a little over  
      six miles away. Or down to Moretown village where

they had, more of an assortment of stores than they've got now. Let's see they had, two or three, they had two anyway and I'm not too sure but what three, and the third one I think they called the, grain mill or something like that, I know I used to go with dad down to that, building and that's where he picked up the grain for the, for the critters. And then I can remember in bringing it home, climbing up the shed stairs, as we called it, and it was an open place up above the wood shed, and he had a long, oh I don't know what you'd call it, I think if I remember right, it had four compartments, and it would hold, probably each compartment would easily hold more than a, a bag full of grain. And I can remember that he had corn meal and he had what he called provender, and he had what, he had his own oats that he threshed out that he fed the critters. [2.14] And I remember the little potatoes that they raised. Tiny little potatoes, that, mother couldn't use, but he carefully kept every single one of them and then he cook them up, grandmother cooked them up in a big old kettle, and, and feed them to the hogs along with the so called

swill. And a, [2.32] of course we had some milk and it was things when a table scraps from the table and so on but I can't ever remember dad just feeding the pigs, dish water like some, people said that swill was. But I can't ever remember dad doing that. And, once in awhile we, one of us, well I was the oldest and then my sister, the two of us got a little older and once in a great while, we would go to Moretown with him. And with mother too, but not very often. And all we could have for a treat was a, one of those round packets of nickel wafers. And then we couldn't have only just a few at a time. But back up on the farm, [3.23] I remember World War I time, and I have a picture of it, that dad raised wheat, to help out in the war effort and of course for our own flour. And he had to take it clear to Randolph, I think, to have it ground. And I remember him being gone, all night, and I was supposed to kind of help out with the chores a little bit, and I was probably ten, or twelve then.

But I have a picture of my sister and myself sitting at the foot of a, what do you call it? A bundle of, of wheat that he had bundled up. Sheaves. Yeah I

guess that's what they called it. And, then we, oh, growing up, well, I can remember early that we were, I was supposed, my sister hated the outdoors. She hated the animals, she didn't like them, she wanted to be in the house. And willingly help mother. And, I can remember going after the cows, and that's before I was 12 years old, cause that's when we moved off the farm.

And I remembered dad screaming and yelling at me and I didn't know what in the world he was yelling at.

And it seems the neighbors bull had got out and ha, ha, it was behind me. And I was between the cows and that bull and dad was yelling at me to run fast, and roll under the fence and come across lots. Ha! Ha!

And I didn't hear it. I didn't know what he was hollering about. But we got, I got out of it all right. And, I can remember going after the cows, and in what they called fly time, the cows would hang way back on, and in the, last acre we had. Up back in the hemlocks to get out of the flies and, and a, my goodness it would be almost dark before I'd get those cows down. [5.27] And it was always weighed heavy on me that I got to get every one of those cows. And,

then I helped on the farm, I was dad's hired man. He gave me the nickname Lindy after a song that I liked that he sang. And, I can remember cutting up the ensilage. I can remember having to tromp it down in the silo which was inside the barn. How I hated it, cause that ensilage would come down on top of my head and it was in my clothes and all over me and some of it hurt. It came down with such force. And I, [6.10] you got leg weary and so on but a, that was all part of it. And then I remember helping with the haying, I remember raking. And after, and tumbling, tumbling the hay, and after I got over, got older, then I pitched on some of the hay. But I think the thing that I hated above all was dragging that, what they called a bull rake around. [6.40] And I don't know if you've ever seen a bull rake.

JB Describe one.

AD It's what, four or five feet long, and probably stands about, a foot with all these teeth in it, and you raked it around to be sure you got up all the

scatterings so to speak. And that was a job I hated, I always wanted to ride the, the dump, oh, yeah dump rake. And, I tried it and tired it but my feet, my legs weren't long enough, so that I could, so that I could work the mechanism. And then I tried standing up and all kinds of things so I could do it and of course I did that behind dad's back when he wasn't listen, watching. Ha! And he was doing something else. Ha! And, I'd climb up on the rack and, and try it. The only thing he wouldn't let me do at all, he wouldn't let me have anything to do with the mowing machine, he said it was too dangerous. And I always resented that but I lived. And then it came time to put in the crops and I remember sitting down in the, helping dad cut the potatoes just right. And being careful that there were so many, the eyes were, that I at least the piece I had and that's where I learned to eat raw potatoes. And I swear I ate more raw potatoes. Ha! Ha! I quartered the potatoes and then eat the middle out. Until dad got sick of it and, and he thought I was eating, he didn't mind if I ate a few but if I ate half a bushel, that was too much. And,

then I remember getting the potatoes in. And along about [8.22] spring probably along about this time, down the cellar I would have to go and we'd sit there in that cellar by lantern light and, sprout the potatoes. Take off the, sprouts that had, formed. And that's a job that I didn't like, either. I could think of a lot more romantic things. Then it came spring time and, and the corn we had a lot of potatoes, it was good potato land. And some, one of the valley farmers, hired field, a field so that because his, his land was a little too damp and so, dad let him have part of the field to raise his potatoes on. And, then corn time, had a lot of corn and a lot of oats. And it come time to cultivate the corn, and, and it was a walking cultivator, and it took somebody usually it was easier to have, for somebody to lead the horse. Then it was for the farmer to try to hold on to the cultivator and, and a, guide the horse at the same time. Some horses were pretty good but other horses didn't know the difference between the top of Camel's Hump and the Atlantic Ocean I guess. They'll travel anywhere.

Well this particular farm horse we had, he was awfully good, but he would lean his head on you, well I wasn't old enough to take all that weight. And I could stand it a little while, well then dad hit on the idea of my, riding him horseback. [10.01] Well all I would have was a, old bran sack or a remnant of a horse blanket or something. And I remember that I, cultivated two days in a row. And the second, night or afternoon, when it was time to get off and do the chores, I couldn't walk. The horse was as broad as a barn. Ha! And my legs just wouldn't function. And he had to pick me up and take me up to the house and, but he had let me go I suppose I guess a few minutes I'd of been all right. I can remember that. [10.33]

And I remember too he was absolutely deathly afraid of snakes. He dreaded haying, because he was afraid he'd see a snake. And I, didn't mind snakes at all. But he was deathly afraid of, maybe it was because just inside I, I was just paying him back for something, who knows. But, he dreaded haying. I think he, out distance any miler or if he happen to find one it a, some where in the hay. And then we,



when the haying time came, I was the one that was, to tramp the hay down, and then as it got higher and higher, and it had to go into the, under the slant of the roof, I can remember bumping my head a good many times and a, the nails that stuck out, the holy horror of the nails, and it. That was something I didn't care too much about. And my one, great, hate, which to this day stays with me, is the, those days they didn't know about keeping the hens cooped up, so that a, they didn't use so much energy. And ours always ran loose just like the neighbors did. And I remember we were supposed to go barefoot a, all the kids did except one family in the whole community, who's children didn't go barefoot in the summer. [12.13] But I loved to go barefoot. All but one thing, and that's the \_\_\_\_\_ that the hens left behind, one of my earliest memories is, sitting right down where I was and screaming my head off. My mother coming running to see what the matter is. And the matter was, ha, ha, I just stepped in some hen cack. And, I just sat there screaming. Ha! And how I hated that. I never liked the hens too well anyway. In a way

but. I liked the eggs and I liked the chicken and the chicken and dumplings mother made. [12.49]

EV Excuse me, would you please start again from, where you sat down and screamed for your mother. There was some kind of thump or something.

JB Oh it's probably your foot, which. Ha!

EV Yes that was what it was.

JB Ha! Ha!

EV Could you start from that part of the story again.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! [13.03]

EV Thanks.

AD Ha! Ha! I've forgotten now what I said.

JB Well you were talking about a, how you didn't like stepping in the hen cack.

AD Oh that I said, I remembered once I did and I was barefoot and I sat down and screaming my head off and mother came running and that's what she found, I'd stepped in some hen, hen cack. As we called it. Ha! Ha! There are lots of other words for it but. We settled on hen cack. And I remember watching the hens. To see where they, stole our nests. [13.44] And they stole them in some crazy places. And then I.

JB Would you, a number of other people have talked about  
hen stealing nests and just describe what you mean a  
hen stealing a nest. [14.00]

AD Well the hen houses always had, boxes or some kind of  
a convenience where well they put, that they put hay  
in the bottom of it to make enticing for the hens and  
and a, I firmly believe that when the hen got around  
to think about spring and off-springs, that it was  
just nature taking over and they'd go anywhere. They,  
I, my husband tells about this hen that stole its nest  
and they looked and looked and looked for it, and they  
finally found it in the carriage house. It was the  
front section of the, of the horse stable that they  
used to put their sleighs and wagons in, and that hen  
had got up and stolen its nest on the sleigh. [14.48]

Seat, it as a nice soft place. And a, why they'd  
steal their nest under rose bushes or some where and,  
and then I was supposed to watch to see where the hen  
went, well the, they said, watch for the hen when it  
cackled. Ha! Well the hen would cackle over every  
little stupid thing and, because a hen isn't noted for

the brains it had. [15.15] It's supposed to of had.

And, sometimes we'd find, six, eight, or more eggs and then the problem, did you dare use them. And how were we gonna tell if the, if they were okay. Some claim that you shake them and you could tell that way, other claim that you could put them in the water and if they would float, they were. Well others just didn't take the chance, they just, chucked them, and wouldn't, wouldn't even try. But all of the, that was a stupid thing to do in a way. Because all of the a, hen flocks that I know of, had a, roosters with them.

So if they wanted to reproduce their hen crop why, the potential was there. And.

JB One of the, explain what you meant by the hen cackling cause I think that didn't the hen used to cackle every time she laid an egg.

AD Yeah. Yeah the hen cacked. It was just plain hen manure. Ha! Ha!

JB But a, when a hen cackled, wasn't she supposed to of had.

AD Laid an egg.

JB Yeah. Just explain that.

AD Yeah but you stop to think about it, I may not be right, but I, hope I am. When the female of the specie has a baby, there's pain, connected with it, why isn't that hens cackle not joy over what she's accomplished, but the discomfort she had while she was laying the stupid egg. I like to think of it that way. But I may be just as crazy as the hen.

JB You also spoke about a, I think it, the bull coming after you. How did you get out of the situation?

AD It didn't bother me any. Cause I didn't know it, didn't even know it was behind me until I got clear down to the lane, for dad to let the bars down and, then up at the head of the lane I looked back and there was that bull pawing around. No I didn't know it was behind me. It didn't scare me really I don't remember that I was scared. [17.54] Another thing I hated when I went after the cows is when I, was barefoot and step on a thistle that I hadn't happen to see. That bothered me a little bit. But I helped dad

with, I think I was about 12 years old when, he gave me the milk pail and, and he says okay, you're ready now, you can start the other end of the barn and milk, milk up to where I am. Before that each of us, or not each of us I had a lard pail, and he'd allow us to what he called striped the cow. And after he'd milked it down to, I guess as far as he wanted to or something I don't know what his, his saturation point was. Then he'd say come on now, you can get your lard pail and you can, you can strip the cow and I'd get a little out of it, not much but we'd get, some, well I suppose after he thought that I, had accomplished that enough well then I could go and, to milking. How I hated milking when the cows came in in the summertime and it had rained and they were soaking, sopping wet, and they, the, you talk about a dog smelling when it, when they get wet. Ha! Ha! You ought to milk a cow when they're wet. [19.22] And then, I can remember when I was quite small, dad would tell me to hold the tail of the cow while he was milking so it, because the tail of the cow was just the right height so it would just swush right around the milker's head and,

sometimes it wasn't too pleasant. Especially if they got into the burdocks or it was like getting hit with a club because their tail would be a solid mass of burdocks and other, sticky weed seeds. And, finally dad strung a wire, clear, the whole length of the barn, just the right height so the cows would under easily. And then he, wove wire around and made hooks so that each one of the cows tails were hung on those hooks. Well then it was my job to go in and, hang the cow's tails up, on the, on those hooks. And I remember we had one cow, she gave a lot of milk, if she hadn't dad would of killed her. She would step and step and step and step and sometimes she'd step high enough so that she'd tip the milk pail over. And that didn't help dad's disposition, one single bit. He nicknamed her something that I can't mention. Ha! Ha! The old so and so. Ha! Ha! Ha! [20.54] But I thought it was an enact description. And a, oh dear what else do you want? Oh, wintertime. When it came time to a, to a, well go to school in the winter, they, I don't remember them rolling that road. I don't remember what the circumstances were but I do

know that they rolled the Ward hill road here. There used to be a, a shed over here, right at the turn, where they kept the roller during the summertime and then in the wintertime they would use it. But I don't ever remember that happening upon our road. And, but dad sometimes would take the front sled of his a, well his big sled, you know there would be two sleds and he'd take the front sled and once in awhile he'd hitch the, the plow to it, the plow that he used to plow the fields. And then other times he would, take a spruce trees and chain them to the runners of the, to each runner of the front sled, and then weight the sled down partly with his own weight but with other weights that, I've forgotten, bags of grain or something, I've forgotten what. But it would make only just a, well it would only pack the snow down it really didn't move it. [22.28 And I can remember, remember us trying to go to church at this time of the year, March, and I remember the, the horses, couldn't use that, well the formal road any more, because the a, what you'd call the wheel track was way up, and if you got off that the least little bit then the sleigh tipped over. And



I remember one come, once coming home from church it did tip over. Ha! Ha! But, mother had decided not to try it on the ruts, she went, she went one side of it.

And the sleigh broke in, one side and so we were at the north pole and south pole and, then I remember too.

JB When, when you were at the north pole and the south pole I take it the, the sleigh tipped over.

AD Yeah. Ha! Ha!

JB Describe that.

AD The sleigh was up here and we were down south. Ha! Out of the sleigh in the snow. I don't remember how we, how the horse took that, I don't know if it, raised a ruckus or not I can't seem to remember about that, I can just remember getting tumbled out of the sleigh and here the sleigh was tipped up on its side and we were, entirely out of it and. Ha! Ha! And in the snow. [23.58] And then I remember when, we'd have blizzards. And, part way up our road, I'd say about a third up our road, as I call it from the main road, which isn't the main road now it's a side road.

[24.17] Probably about a third of the way up, there

was kind of a steep hill and then it leveled off a little bit, and turned a little bit to the right well right on top of that hill, as the, the wind seemed to have a, I don't know a dance all its own and just over the brow of that hill, would be drifts like you wouldn't believe and I can remember once dad coming down to what we call the main road, which was, as I said the side road, and the snow was so deep that, let's see I was in the first grade. Yes I was in the first grade. The snow was so deep that I no way could I make any headway. As we got towards the brow of that hill. So dad would just, practically stand in his own, foot steps and try to tramp it down for me. Well it was too deep and I was too short legged and, so he, he gave up. And he says, I tell you what. He says, "you get up on top here," and he says, "you just roll up." So I rolled up the rest of the hill to get. And I remember that. [25.29] I, I don't know, I don't.

JB You had to walk to school then.

AD Oh boy. We didn't miss school anymore than we missed

church. I remember some wise acre had told dad that he was missing the boat entirely. That instead of getting leaves or sawdust, no not leaves, he used spruce and hemlock boughs, instead of using those boughs for banking he was missing the boat to use horse manure. Well my mother didn't quite like the idea of that horse manure. But she wasn't the kind to make too much of a fuss, and so it froze of course and then as it was, thawing out in the spring it didn't smell too good. But I remember that I told mother that I was sick. And it was a nice sun shiny day and it was quite warm. And, [26.36] dad had put some boards on top of the, well rough old boards that he had on top of the horse manure. And I went out there and, and laid down on those boards in the sun and oh I was the sickest girl in nine kingdoms. Well after a few minutes I heard all about being sick, and I went off to playing with my dog, I never did that again. Never tried it again. Mother didn't like it one little bit. And that's one of the times I saw her really upset to thing that, I suppose partly, well no that isn't the worse time. Back when I was, of course

they had to boil their clothes, they had great big boilers and they'd put the clothes on it, the white ones and boil them. And then, we took the clothes out with what they called a clothes stick, of which I have an old one out there hanging up. And, mother had, lifted the boiler and, I'm taking the clothes out of the boiler and then lifted the boiler off the stove because it was dinner time and she set it out in the woodshed. And I had found, I had found where the, mother cat had hidden her kittens, so I came down to, from the, woodshed where they had the grain, and woodshed chamber they called it. And had two of the kittens, well I was just I think mother would of had a fit if she'd ever known I'd gone up those stairs, cause I was such a little tad. Well I'd seen her, lifting the clothes up and down and, and so I wanted to wash the kittens. So I chose that hot water, to wash those kittens, well of course we weren't bothered with those kittens, after that. Ha! Ha! And mother was so horrified. I don't think she ever got over that. When she discovered what I'd done, that, that was pretty hard to take. [28.43] But my, my idea was

all right, I'd seen mother doing the same thing to the clothes so why couldn't you do it to the cats. Oh dear. Part of growing up.

JB When a, one of the things a, when you describe, what am I trying to say. You were in a sense playing hookey, but it didn't come across. That you were trying to play hookey. So what I wondered if you.

AD Oh I knew I was lying to mother, I was very aware of that. Even if I was in the first grade I knew I was pulling a thumpy as they tell about. But a, I thought the joke was kind of on me cause just after a few minutes I forgot I was sick. But I was awful sick. Oh. I was just, I don't think I was gonna live very much longer. Ha! And it didn't take long to forget it. Oh! But in a way life was very much more simple, my husband and I spent quite a few hours talking about it, and thinking back of the things that we did as kids. And thinking what would happen to our parents today, if the quote authorities saw what we were

doing. They'd call it slave labor, they'd call it forest labor, they'd call it all kinds of things, we were all doing it except that one family. And, never did anyone say anything different, never did they say that, they were abused, we all took it for granted, I can't remember that we had a, well kid fashion we, well I don't want to go after the cows now. [30.44] Just like any kid would, but it was, there was no paddling or no, punishment. We just knew we had to do it eventually just like the girl had, knew she had to do the dishes eventually, she could get to the little house out back and sit on the round hole. Ha! Ha! Until you know when. But still the dishes were there.

And I can't ever remember that any of us were, were coused, or punished or set to bed cause we didn't do it, it was just a, our way of life. [31.20] And I don't think it hurt any of us. And one thing, my father, our wood lot was quite a ways away from the house, and dad instead of spending the time to cut all the, well he would cut the, the little branches that were, you couldn't use for wood, and just leave them there. But, then the little, what they called the

small wood that you'd used in the kitchen stove. It made a lot of trips to go back up and get it so dad caught on to it, that, if he, if he trimmed the tree just right, he could bring the whole trunk down plus all the branches attached to it, and cut them off, cut them up when he got down to the house. So, of course I had to go every thing he did, even to try to use a scythe behind his back. Ha! Ha! Which didn't work. And after awhile I got so I could do it. You'd stand off to one side, you'd watch the tree as it was rolling, and, and you knew after you'd gone over it, over the root a few times, you knew just when it was going to roll, and you just stayed off one side of it.

Well I can just imagine what some of these, do gooders, quote, unquote, would say now if they ever saw me with a team of horses with that tree rolling behind me. And then dad had an International engine, it was taller than he as I remember it. You had to crank it to start it. And he had what he called a drag saw rig. And that's where you could roll a log on and cut it up into stove lengths and then of course it had to be split afterwards. And then he had a

circular saw rig which was, which was used to cut up the little branches. [33.12] And for the smaller wood, and how I used to behind his back try to crank that engine. I couldn't crank it of course fast enough but I certainly, why I spent more hours behind dad's back, trying to start that thing. Ha! Ha! And he had an ensilage cutter, his own ensilage cutter. And after I got a little older I was supposed to, to hand on some of those bundles of corn because when we cut the corn, we didn't just cut it, and let it fall willy, nilly. We cut it, in bundles and then it was easy to pick up. And you were, woo on to you if you didn't lay those bundles on to the flat bottomed wagon [33.57] body just right. So that they could be picked up, very quickly. And because the one that was operating the, that was pushing it into the, corn cutter didn't think much of standing there and doing nothing. And, dad, got so, got well he was one of the few that had all that machinery. And, he would a, exchange work with others to cut corn, or he would a, go cutting a, stove wood, sometimes he was gone to Waitsfield and went, as far away as Waitsfield, and



he, he was kind of contracted ahead of time to go.  
And then I was more or less responsible for the  
chores. And my uncle would come, to spell dad out  
during that time. And I was supposed to kind of watch  
out for him and, see that he, did it the way dad  
wanted me to. And of course I was just that age so  
that, if my uncle did the least little thing different  
than dad did I had a fit. [35.07] But, my uncle  
wasn't, too thorough anyway. He was kind of, do it  
now and never mind what happens later. I never liked  
him very well but. Anyway that didn't help matters  
any. Ha! Ha! Cause I thought he was kind of slip  
shod.

JB Tell me too about, a, you I think lived with your  
grandmother.

AD Oh my great grandmother, the farm where we lived was  
my great grandmothers. And a, her husband had died,  
oh quite a number of years before. And if dad would  
make a home for her, he could have the farm

eventually. Well as she got older and more cantankerous, I guess there's such a word dad could see that, things weren't gonna turn out the way they were supposed to, so when I was about, 13 or so and he left the farm and came down here to the house on the corner. And, just did, day work, day labor after that. But my great grandmother was something else. I've often said that I hope had lost his pattern when he made her. [36.33] Nothing was ever right that mother did. She disliked mother terribly because mother represented another generation. And old gram wasn't about to give up any of her old, ways. I remember once, my brother had a, was just a wee baby, I think he was born in 1980, 18. And, I remember mother had been ironing, and, and my brother needed his, diapers changed and mother put her, put him up on the ironing board, and I remember gram \_\_\_\_\_ having a, having an absolute fit, because mother put that up on, because that meant a death in the family. And she went off into [37.24] the, sitting room as they called it. And she didn't want to see, my brother up there on that ironing board. And, I think maybe one thing

would be interesting, is part of the farm house on the backside on the northwest corner. The coldest part of the house was what they called the buttery. And most of the old farmhouses had what was called the buttery.

Which is a, hyphenated word, for buttery. When they, back in 1850s and 60s, an awful lot of butter was made on these farms, literally and one farm literally over two tons of butter was made in a year. That is documented on the, 1850 census. And they had, well it was like a hallway in the middle of the, room and then there were these wide shelves on either side, and at the end was this window, not a very large window. And there was the shelf under the window and, and then one under it. And I remember the bottom shelf didn't have a space under it, it was, it had been boarded up in front and made kind of, well ornate in a way. But their pickles went in there and besides, all this a, cream, they had large tin, I guess they were tin pans.

Maybe two and a half inches high or so. [39.04]

And, then the milk was supposed to set and they had these a, scoop things, well, probably as big, as two men's hands together. With a, holes in the top part

next to the handle. And you skim the cream off and put it into a, special place, there and that's where the buttery part came, they, they used, had pans and pans of this milk spread out on these shelves and then when the butter came, some people had salt that they, that they a, after they made the butter they put the, the butter down in this salt. To keep it cold. And dad told about a man that lived over the other end of town. He, he picked up the butter, and it would be in big containers. It wouldn't be in pounds like we think of it now. And these people caught on to putting salt in the middle of their butter. So that their butter would weigh more. And dad described the little spoon like ladle, that this man had to stick down in the middle of the butter to see if it were truly butter or partly salt. And I, I never heard of that, until long after when dad was telling me about this man. And how he would [40.32] test the butter. And you never got the smell, you never got that oily rancid smell, out of that, which they later called a pantry. It was always, that smell always stayed with it. And of course those shelves after they got to

using them, for pantries, they were wonderful, you could store, half a store up on those shelves and that's where you kept you, well that's where you kept your bread box and that's where you kept your donut jar and that's where you kept your cookie jar, but for refrigeration, we had a, a well and if I remember right, dad said it was 18 feet deep. And he had a pail, a chain that was just right so that, the pail didn't, dip any water. But you put your butter and your milk that you wanted to keep sweet, down in that, well but we weren't allowed to go and drag up anything up out of the well. It was too deep and how were they gonna get us out if we fell in. But don't think for a minute that we didn't, take time to peak down there and see how high the well was. Ha! Well! [41.48]

JB One of the things that I wanted to ask you was, or a couple of things, one is to sort of describe the difference of Warren and Waitsfield and Fayston and Moretown.

AD As I, as it relates to me personally you mean?

JB As you would describe them.

AD Well I went to Waitsfield High School, in fact part of one year I walked all the way from this corner my sister and I up to Waitsfield and can you picture any high school kids doing it today. Well anyway we did it. And, I, am quite sure I knew every family in that town. My mother came from there. And I'm quite sure and I'm not stretching it, that I knew every family. I didn't know Warren so much because we didn't travel any. I'd never seen Montpelier, until I was teaching school. To know that it was Montpelier. I, the first time I saw Burlington my boyfriend at that time, there was an air show down there and you could take a, a plane ride and that's the first time I'd ever seen Burlington. Had no idea what it was. I'd never been to Burlington. Until I went out there to UVM. Teacher's training. I, to go back to Montpelier I didn't know Montpelier, really, until after I'd taught a couple of years and got my own car. And then I didn't know one street from another. It was just like going to a foreign country. And a, we didn't get to go too much. I didn't know anybody in Warren. I didn't, I knew, practically no one in Fayston. Well I

guess you'd have to sum it up, my world was just, more or less South Duxbury. [43.57] And, until I got to teaching, and got, but there were very, very few cars even when I went to, started in at UVM the lady, the daughter with whom I boarded myself, we boarded ourselves together there, and at UVM, she had a car, and, and not very often but once in awhile she'd come get us and take us back. But it was, few and far between. In other words, when I first got my car, which my second year of teaching, which it must of been about, 34, or 35 some where in there. They didn't plow the roads, when I started, I went over the hill and left my car at the, foot of Crosset hill and I had a rural school way back up on Crosset hill. And had to walk from there up. And, the milk truck at that time the farmers around brought their milk down to Route 100 and he would pick the milk up and went around through Middlesex way and come up to Waterbury to the creamery there in Waterbury, and he would, he wouldn't leave the wheel track. I was the one that got stuck every single morning. He wouldn't leave the wheel tracks. So then I figured that I had to get up

an hour early, to use the road before he did. He would never stop to help me, he just trundle right along, I think he enjoyed it. Really. And, knowing him.

JB Now you told me. [45.48]

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

SIDE TWO

AD Something about this fire, I'm not gonna have one.

JB Right. Sorry. Actually about the chickadees but I also want to ask you about your father, your father's saying about the lilypad.

AD [.20] Well we had a neighbor, a lady neighbor, and you, if she were around, nobody else got a chance to say a word. And I remember one time, she was visiting with dad, and he was just standing there and couldn't get a word in edge wise, and I remember he turned, after she'd gone, he turned to mother and he said, well I'll call her Grace. He says, "Grace got a tongue just like a lily pad leave hasn't she mom?" He says, "it's hitched in the middle and it waggles all around." And I never forgot it because it did kind of describe her but I've met others since then that that



applies to. [1.04] Also. I don't know if I'm included. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB And you were saying too about the chickadees predicting the weather.

AD Oh a. This I've noticed it's, we've had oh for years before Eldon died and, and so on, we had the, feeders out there and we've noticed that, that the chickadees will flock, to the, to the feeder a day, usually on an average of a day and a night before there's a, snowstorm. And I've watched it particularly since Eldon died, maybe cause I don't have anything much else to do. And it is true. I, I've told people that it was gonna storm and, well this is a, that's not what the weather report says. Well I said, "just wait and see." Maybe it won't storm a lot but I don't mean that they just feed, they just come and feed but they're frantically feeding, as if they got the store, store some food up some where or else a, gorge themselves ready for the storm but I don't think it's the later, I think it's the former. But I've seen them. Not the, nuthatches, just the chickadees.  
[2.27] And it's getting to the time now where they're

not gonna feed together, amiably, they're gonna, scrap. The red squirrels have started to scrapping. I saw one this morning out back having a, merry go round.

JB Now you told me about teaching school, and a, I think I remember the story of, the boys you started off by telling me that the flies were as thick as spatter.

AD Yeah.

JB Which I thought was a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ about the snake and I wondered if you'd tell me that again.

AD Well [3.09] that was my very first day of teaching. Up there at school and, and it was, that long drawer in the front of the desk. I don't know, what ever, what hovering angel was strattled my neck but, I happen to open the draw just a little bit and there was this snake's head popped out. Well I knew instantly what had happened. I'm not too sure what I'd of done it myself back. Ha! Ha! Ha! In my hay day. But, I just shut the drawer and said, nothing. But after school, I had two big boys, in the upper grades, of course I had all eight grades and probably eight grades in between. [3.56] And, the windows

were all open, cause of course it was the first, it was September, and no screens on the doors or windows or anything, and the flies thick, and so I asked these two boys if they just soon stay after school. And they looked at each other, they wondered and, I said it in just the, nicest voice I could muster up. And, so I wadded up some paper in the waste paper basket, asked them if they'd swat some flies, and I let them swat flies for a few minutes and, and then I said, "well, I don't know how many for you to swat," I says, "I don't know if the snake will even eat them but" I says, "I can't stand it to have that snake there in that desk drawer, without anything to eat." And that's all I said. That's all I had to say. I never had another snake in there. Ha! Ha! It wasn't a long snake. And thank goodness I'm not afraid of them cause of, some people I know, would of, jumped off of the desk and done a hootchy coochy dance.

JB Explain if you would, because what we're, remember that this is radio, explain that the boys brought the snake and.

AD I don't know that they did it.

JB Well. Explain the situation.

AD I just assumed that before school started, some time along, but I can't picture when it could of happened, that snake was, but I wouldn't put it pass some of the fathers to have done it. [5.32]

JB Explain though that you're teaching school, and you happen to find this snake in the drawer.

AD Well it was my first day of school, and, and school had already started. For the day. And a, I don't know I just went to the desk for something, kind of early in the school day and there was that snake head popped out at me. But I said, I just shut the drawer and said nothing. Till after school, I tried just about the same thing, the teacher that they'd had before me. Was the gentlest little soul that ever lived. All the kids were little dears and she'd hold the younger ones in her lap, like a mother would and, she nicknamed them, her Daisy and her Violet and, her Buttercup and all that kind. Well I had, I had an intuition that things, were rather odd. I guess I'll have to put it that way. And it wasn't very long,

before I found out how odd they were. It seems that, that the boys would say that they wanted to go up in the woods, which was across the field just a little ways up back but they had to go up quite a rise. And they knew leeks were up there, and they knew that this teacher that they had didn't like the smell of leeks.

So they'd, entice the younger ones up, and get them to, taste the leeks and of course, get back in the school room and smell was enough to raise the roof. And, [7.11] at that time they had the WPA nurse, what is, what did WPA stand for? Public, I don't, I've forgotten what it stood for but, part of the WPA was to have a nurse in the schools. Well they had a, an Irish lady, she was very nice, she was older. That was the nurse. And she'd come periodically. Well that day that they got filled up on those leeks, I went to the door when she wrapped and I whispered to her and I said, "Rose, those, some of those kids smell to high heaven." I said, "the, the big boys have taken them up in the woods to get leeks." And fed them leeks, and I says, "their voice, or their breath smells horrible." And a, I said, "they think the

world of you, just say, slip something in that will make them ashamed, maybe." Of course she looked at their throats, you know with that little wooden paddle and, she got to some of them you know, and as she got towards the big boys you know, then she laid it on a little thicker. Well I thought well, Rose I'll, I'll add the benediction. So, just as I dismissed the, group, the kids that night, I said, "you know, by the way," I said, "you two older boys if there's anymore smell of leeks in this school house, I'm gonna hold you entirely responsible." Good night! [8.54] Well they didn't know what I meant by that and I guess by that time they thought I was kind of an unknown quantity. And they, but I never had any more but oh lordy that day did it. It was hot and, humid and did it ever smell. And I hate the smell of onions. Ha! Ha! And garlic anyway. Ha! Ha! Ha! [9.15]

JB Now you had another story about a, I think it was maybe over in Randolph, and the little girl.

AD Oh and the skunks?

JB Tell me that story.

AD Well the school house was on a tiny little plateau

tight to the road, I don't believe there were more than four feet between the front door and the road, and then it dipped down, into a valley like, and rose immediately on the same level that the school house was, on a hill that was kind of like a loaf of bread.

Well I let the first, second and third grade out. I only had eight students there. I let the first, second and third grade out and that was, in the fall and again the windows were all open. And it was, hot and muggy. And, the next [10.13] thing I knew I could smell skunk and at the same time I could smell skunk I heard this ungodly screaming. Well of course I ran to the door to see what it was. And by that time, some, she and some of her pals had got her back up into the, little school yard so to speak. And, the skunk had let go and she got it right on the side of the face and it, partly in her eye and her, I could see the oily stuff right on her hair, right next to her eye and she couldn't open her eye and she was rubbing her eye. Which scared me. And I said, "what happened?" Well they said that Pauline had seen this a, mother skunk and her little ones, and she run right down that

little hill, right down into that valley, and met the old mother skunk head on. And got a good spraying for her pains. So I tried to send her home and her bigger brother was in the sixth grade. And nope he says, "I'm not gonna take her."

MS Can you stop one second? [11.10] Something the water pump or the heat or something, just turned on here.

JB See they hear things.

EV It's all clear now.

AD Well it would have to be the water pump.

MS Yeah.

EV Yeah. That must of been what it was.

AD Funny there's no water running any where. [11.24]  
(short pause) Oh! Could it be the freezer?

MS No it was. I had, I guess I left the faucet on just real, real low, I heard it when I went in there. It was my fault I guess.

AD Ah ha! Ha! Ha!

JB So where should we back up to.

EV Sorry about that, is hasn't been that long, do you mind starting the story from the beginning again?

JB Ha! Ha! Ha!



EV Thanks.

JB Just describe that you're teaching school in Randolph.

AD It was Roxbury.

JB Oh excuse me, Roxbury.

AD Well anyway she went head on.

JB Well let's back up and start just say you're teaching school in Roxbury.

AD Do you want the whole, details?

JB Just the, it was a story. Yeah.

AD Yes I was teaching in Roxbury. And had just eight students, I let the first, second and third grade out to play and it was a, a hot, humid, fall day, and all of a sudden I heard this terrible screaming and I smelt the skunk before I heard the screaming. And went, rushed out to see what was going on and here was this girl and her pals and. I could see the oily stuff running off her hair and it got in her eyes and she was rubbing her eye and, I guess I said scared me. And, I tried to get her brother to take her home. But first I found out that she'd seen this mother skunk and her little ones and ran right up to it.

And, and a, that's when she got sprayed, so I tried to get her brother to send her, to take her home, they lived only a short distance from the school. And her brother said I'm not going to. And I says, "well you've got to." I said, "I don't know what to do with her." I said, "she might have to go to the, doctor."

"Well I'm not going to." Well I said, "you've got to and that's all there is to it." And so he finally. I said, "why is it that you won't take her?" And he says, "because she got in a skunk last night and my father said, he'd kill her if she ever got in another one." And I guess he, thought his father meant what he said. So the next morning, the girl was back again. And I remember the first thing in the morning, an arithmetic paper, I though she doesn't smell a bit.

And I couldn't believe it. So I asked her brother what her mother did. Oh my mother took her out to the barn and washed her hair in gasoline. And I thought oh, why did I ever ask. But it didn't, and furthermore it didn't smell of gasoline and I don't know what that mother ever did. That's before I ever knew about tomato. [14.18] But, anyway and your

father didn't, evidently didn't find out about it and.

But I never in my life, saw as many skunks as I did that fall and spring that I taught there in Roxbury. I boarded at this farmhouse and every, it seems as if every time I moved there was a skunk some where. But that's beside the point. [14.44]

JB Now I'd like you to tell me a little bit about how you, you viewed the change in the valley. Or this area I think you told me, electricity and telephone didn't come in, and I think probably this valley has changed more than any other area. And I'd just like you to tell me about it.

AD What's your boundary, do you mean from, from a Warren through to Waterbury?

JB Um hum. And Moretown.

AD Of course the a, as cars became more plentiful and people could begin to move about more readily than there would be more stores. [15.37] Some places the stores would like down to Moretown the stores had to give way to, to a, to a, a bigger stores. Outside

like Montpelier, then people you heard people going to Burlington to do some of their shopping which was absolutely unheard of, when I was younger. It was common, then the movies, common to go to the movies. And, and a, well, I guess I'd have to start with the depression years. Things were really tight, during the depression years and as the depression lessened, then people traveled more because maybe to, to jobs, and maybe to, because things had loosened up some. And, cars were a little more plentiful. I can't remember just when they became much more plentiful. People visited more. Actually. Than they do now. Even if they, at that time if they used a horse and buggy they really, visited a, more than they did and of course the first of my, teaching and so, the first of my, well as I call it being on earth the first time. They had the stage that went from Warren, Waitsfield, down to Middlesex to meet the cars as they called the train. [17.15] A, then that gave way. Over to Waterbury they had the bus, what they called, it was a, it was a made over sort of rig but, it was called a bus, and that went, to Burlington. It took

people to Burlington. I don't remember if it was daily or not. But a, the means of getting around was nothing like it is today. Even though things did loosen up as far as a, transportation was concerned. It wasn't, certainly wasn't any over night deal. When I first went to high school, it was very seldom that we met a, a car, either way. And, I walked some of the time, other times I, I used the horse, and the fellow down to Moretown, took two or three with him up to Waitsfield to high school and he used a horse. And, it was probably the last year in high school, that people began to have more cars as I remember it, because I remember how, how some of the high school, boys especially, all the shenanigans they went through to con the car out of their old mans. So they could, take their girl on a date but it wasn't, too often and it was only a few. That had the cars that had that, they could have that privilege. And then of course as we went on, more and more cars and as I remember it there weren't as many new cars, as there were the so called second hand cars, that were, around. [19.08] I don't, of course buses were unheard of. When they

started raising, taking buses up to Sugarbush, and Mad River, it was a sight. People remarked about it.

Like, like going to the, airport and seeing their first airplane to see the buses, come through, back and forth, it was a, it was a, unusual sight. And people remarked about it. But now it's old hat.

Taxis, never in the world did I hear of a taxi around here. You, you hired somebody to take you, beg, borrowed or whatever to get somebody to take you if you didn't have a car. I don't, trucks, never in the world did we see any of these trucks like we see now.

They were, pretty small potatoes compared to what you see now. And very few of them. As far as they're getting their logs to the mill, way back when I was in high school, a lot of them dragged their logs down to the mill. By that I mean that they had what they called a bobsled, it was very heavily built, heavy runners, heavy cross pieces, and they would chain the logs up on to that, single sled and the logs with their team and the logs would drag, behind boy it made good sliding, the kids, I don't know how my sister and I are even alive today. The chances we took. But boy

when they'd go through with those logs, and it would, the friction would freeze it, we, we had some merry old rides. The school was right over here and, and more than once we made believe that we couldn't stop our sled and ended up way down in Moretown. Ha! Ha! We had the pump as we called it, like the dickens across the flat our here but there was just barely slope enough so, with a little luck we could make it.

[21.30] And I can't remember what the teacher swallowed it, hook line and sinker. But I got off the subject didn't I? I forgotten what you asked me.

JB Well I was asking you about change and really what caused the change, and how you saw the change.

AD Two things, the economy opened up some and the valley became a recreation area which turned us into primarily a service area. [22.04] As I see it, it's made, our younger population, younger population into a service people, and that, and a, then seasonal, quite seasonal though. And, I don't see, I don't see the chance for the young people in most instances, to, to rise up in the company so to speak, to, to better themselves, other than to be just, and being

seasonable, seasonal, I'll get it some day. Then there will be times that they're laid off. And then they have to go on a, oh what do you call it? What is it you call it? When they, get help from the, state? Workmen's.

JB Comp.

AD It was something. And then they're right back again hoping that there's gonna be a good season next year, season. And a, that they can a, have work all season. I've often wondered, I'd often wished that I had the exact figures on that, another thing that bothers me about is that, that when I was in the regional planning commission I never could get any figures, about how many people came in, built a house, bought the land and built a house with no intention what so ever of staying. Only long enough to, to well, just long enough to take the curse off maybe. Then sell it for a heck of a profit and move on. [24.06] That makes it just that much further out of reach of any local person. And when they bought the land to begin with, they bought it at such a high price that none of



the, well I'm saying it too strongly, but few of the local, young people could even think of buying and, any land, and if they could, it would take all their money for their land and then what have they for their house. For their building. And that seems to be a cycle that bothers me. I know that a selectman in the town of Fayston, told me when I was on the planning commission, that a, they, that some people that come in and built further up and further up on a back road, and they wanted the road widened. They've got to have it widened cause they couldn't get their sophisticated road equipment through that narrow, through that narrow road. [25.04] Well none of those land owners would sell even a few, well sixteen feet we'll say, to enlarge the road, with, with a price that was any where near reasonable and the town just didn't have the money to buy it. Well then of course they're in the dog house because these people up the road are, strattling the neck all the time. And, a, somebody was here just the night be, well Saturday night, and just ripping the, world apart as far as Act 250 was concerned. Blaming everything, that's gone wrong on

Act 250, well that bothers me. Because, it isn't true. If they stop and, and study the law, the way it was intended, they'd find it wasn't true. It's, I hate to say this but, the biggest problem with it now is all these splinter, fractions that want to come in and be heard. If I don't know, I can't say this, for the public. Because I get my head, I'd get beheaded. But if you want to edit it.

JB Go ahead.

AD I big percentage of these people, that are spoiling Act 250, are these newcomers. [26.40] Either they're newcomers and pushing their recreation, or they're newcomers and trying to protect a mountain some where that they like the view of, or it, it's, if you get right down to the very fine sand. They're, they're a, asking for party status, for selfish reasons. Because there's so many times they've just stopped, just started a, an organization, just to fight this particular thing that may come up. And they, they're cursing the Act 250, well we'll take the, we'll take the Walmart down there in Williston. They're, oh dear that should come in, even here, I hear people say it

should come in, we have, we should have the chance to go down there and, and a, trade at a place like that.

They aren't stopping to, oh because it will, oh, x-number of people will be hired there, but they're not taking into consideration how many other places are going out of business because of them, and how many people are going out of work because of them. [27.58]

JB What would you say brought the change to the valley?

AD Money. Just the simple, money.

JB And what brought the money in?

AD The developers. The buyers that could afford second, third, fourth home. A good example of this is when Governor Snelling was governor, they had a bad year, up and the snow, in the ski area, and they were right strattled his neck, to give them some sort of a subsidy, some sort of a special treatment. Why. And Governor, Governor Snelling got a, reprimanded in a way for saying well why did you invest all your money.

So that you're on the brink of going bankrupt of you have already. He says I suppose that any business knew that they had to have at least a three year backlog, to see them through. Well that's what they

told, my even in a little working business like my husband and I had. They said, be sure you've got a three year backlog. It takes that time. Well they, expected instantaneous riches I guess. And.

JB Was it, did the change start when the ski areas first started, was that the first of it? Sort of explain that a little to me.

AD Well because the, we had, well we hadn't been out of the depression too many years and then had come World War II, and a, it just seems as if it was, oh heaven scent manner, and, and they didn't look ahead. They didn't look, they didn't have, the towns weren't ready for it. They didn't.

EV They weren't ready for it.

AD They weren't ready for the influx of the people and the change that had come. [30.12] The buildings for example, when, when the old timers built a building, they built it with the idea it was gonna last for generations. Do you know what the, what the life, when I was on the planning commission, they told us

the life of these average buildings are, 20 years. So you, and I questioned it, and then all of a sudden I walked into, into this new store that they made up the, the Berline, oh million dollar boo boo that they call it. And, they had pails all over that store. It was in the a, oh let's see Grant or Kreske was in there, I can't remember which, and I said, "what's the matter?" To one of the, girls. And she says, "well just look, this place is leaking something terrible."

So I went down to the, I knew this man down at a, I'd worked with him, down at Capitol Stationers, and just at that time, they were, that great hullabaloo, to build that a, oh all kinds of things, up on top of the hill, by the hospital. And up in there. And, I said, "have they, how is that coming?" Well he said, "they've been, brought pressure on us to move out of Montpelier and go up there." But he says, "nothing doing," he says, "I won't move into a place like that," he says, "there's only a twenty year sort of guarantee on the building." He says, "they're just not built." And a, well they're just not built to stay, they're just built quick and get out. Well then

somebody came and wanted a tour, up through Sugarbush, and it was something this time of the year. And we got almost up to the top there, and I told him to stop. I said, "I, I just wanted to point something out to you." The entire side of that house well it was not a house, condominium, was entirely covered with a, icicles. Where the water had backed up, and gone down that entire side, which I knew it had, it hadn't been properly roofed, it hadn't been properly built. And I said, "what are you supposed they're doing inside?" He didn't want to say anything, he didn't want to stop, he didn't want me to know.

[32.42] And, he didn't want me to ask any questions.

And then all these roads that have been built, had to be built, and then comes the demand that there will be a fire, protection, then comes the demand for more and bigger schools. Then comes the command for, well it even effects our libraries. It effects our schools, it effects our stores. It effects our, it effects our very life. It effects every thing. There's a good example now. People like myself, can't afford, if I ran out of wood I couldn't afford to buy the wood.

They're charging any where from \$116 to a \$125 a cord for green wet wood. And, and a, I, I wanted my roof shoveled off, and the man that does it works all day and, and a, I figured it needed to be shoveled off, he wouldn't have time after work, and it would, had to be done last Monday. And, so I called up the, another nephew and asked him if he knew anyone that would come down and shovel it off. He says, "yes, there's a man up in Waitsfield, that gets \$25 an hour." To shovel off your roof. And I says, "well how much would he charge probably for shoveling off my roofs?" Well he said, "probably cost you a \$125 to a \$150." I says, "well, I can mop up my floors easier than that." Ha! Ha! But and then a, there was a, this lady was here, I said, "is that true," well she says, "I know this man about who he's talking." And he does get that amount but he says, she says, "that's not out of line." Because she says, "there's a sign up in the, in the Grand Union store up in, Waitsfield, that says the same thing. That they'll shovel off the roof, an average roof, for a \$100. Well golly you can't do that very many times with what you've got to buy a new

roof or a new house. Ha!

JB You before when we talked, you had some very real distinctions between the native Vermonters and the people that had moved in, and you told me, explained about the attitudes, and how they were different.

AD Of course I was teaching up in Warren, at the time that, that Mad River started and it left a very bad taste in everybody's mind, but still that magic word money, it was gonna mean jobs, it was gonna mean less taxes for the town, the town wouldn't have to pay any taxes to speak of if you got all this in, which of course turned out to be hogwash. And, a, they were all gung hoe for it, well the local men that were hired did not belong to the union. But these people that were doing the building brought in from out of state union people. And I have, there was one girl that I had in probably the 7th or 8th grade, and she came to school this morning all upset. She said that there were some people that were up there on that job where her father was, that wouldn't work at all.

[36.11] I says, "what do you mean they won't work at all?" Well, she says, "I don't know what it's, really



she said, "but they said that they weren't gonna work with any, I've forgotten the word she used but it, dawned on me immediately that, that they were using a word that really meant scabs. You know in the, in the a, strike situation. So I asked her some more questions, they said, yes, that's true. That they, that these union men would sit back and, and wouldn't have anything to do with the, oh the, hum. With the a, a.

JB You can stop here. Do you want to get?

AD Yeah I got to get up. I got. [36.54] I did what I always do.

JB Let me see your lip, yeah.

AD I pulled the skin off my lip.

JB And then we're done. [[37.04]

AD Any of you want to learn to dowse so you can tell about it.

JB I don't have the talent there.

MS Ha! Ha! You never know it could come in handy.

AD Every body has.

JB Really.

AD All they got to do is believe, concentrate and

believe.

JB Well let's finish on the a, the difference because  
you're very good on that I think. [37.30]

AD Well people, there's a lot of people, they'd say I'm  
prejudiced. But it's the changes that I've seen that  
I've tried to, in our town meetings, every body says  
the same thing and WCAX-TV had a series on, the  
different towns, if you, if you heard any of them,  
they all said the same thing. [37.52] That these  
people had changed, they'd taken, they changed the  
town and taken it over. They all said the, maybe not  
in those exact brutal words but they all said, about  
the same thing. And.

MS If you're done with that tissue. I don't, I just, I  
can hear it rattling, I know, I know you want to do it  
but. Are you okay. We can stop more.

AD Oh I'm gonna live.

MA Okay.

JB Ha! Ha! [38.18] You were saying about the girl that  
said that a, her father I guess was working at  
Sugarbush.

AD No that was before Sugarbush, that was a.

JB Was that Mad River.

AD Very early in the ski, business.

JB I hadn't heard that.

AD And a, my husband was working up to Warren in the Bowen and Hunter mill, and that's after Sugarbush got started. And a, the manager, boss, foreman, of the mill that was running for Bowen and Hunter, somebody, some body official from Sugarbush came down, and my husband overheard it all. And he asked the mill man if he would a, freeze the wages. Cause he didn't want, them to pay any more per hour, down there at the mill then they were paying up on the, up at Sugarbush. And in no uncertain terms, the manager told him to go to hell. He was gonna pay his help what they deserved. [39.24] And, this attitude that we don't know any, that we Vermonters don't know anything. Drives me to, I don't hear it so much now because I'm not circulating around and I believe I think they, that they've, that the newcomers have settled in more, and we, we have, are sitting back, and taking it, well

as a matter of course now. We, just like the bad weather, we've got to put up with it. I don't, as I say I'm not circulating as much as it was but I know in my own town meeting and I've asked two people since I don't go to my town meeting anymore. My parents would roll over in their graves if they knew it. Because the town meeting to them was, was a, well almost like going to church and going to school it was, you didn't miss town meeting, and I go there now, and I find little clicks, of the newcomers. Not always but, I find them once in awhile. And they've picked out their own candidates before the town meeting even comes. Amongst their own group. And, then, there may be enough of them so that they, that they a, make it. And I will not go and vote for somebody that I don't know how long they've lived in this town because our voting laws have changed which are ridiculous. If you practically go through the town now and stop and get your car filled up with gas, your, and take the Freeman's oath, you're a, voter. And, these people that come in new they don't know the traditions of the towns, they don't know the, the

laws, they haven't been in Vermont to know, but they've got an ax to grind. They want the school bus to come right to their door. Or they want a kindergarten, or they want a child care center or they want this or that or the other thing. And, I don't know, I just, I just. For instance a, one town meeting I went to, as I don't know how familiar you are with the town meetings but they nominate the, the candidate from the floor. Well this lady hadn't been in town very long, and it was for the selectman which drives me nuts, calling them select board. To me it's a, it's a, it's a, uncomplimentary to call it a select board. It's like going out in the lumber yard and picking out the best board you want. [42.12] And a, she, she addressed the moderator, and I think we had two, nominations, and seconds. And a, she, asked the moderator could each one of them that had been elected. Or I don't mean elected, nominated. Please describe what the selectman was supposed to do. Well it didn't take me long, I'd been auditor for several years and that year a new book had just come out on the duties and, and so on of the selectmen. That book

was maybe a quarter of an inch thick. Well it didn't get me long to get on my two American feet and tell her that I was very much afraid that there didn't any of us have time to, go through all that, about the. She didn't make any argument but that's so typical of them that. [43.11] The last town meeting I went to, it was, that really turned me off, I didn't have any interest to go again. It just, there again it was, more or less, newcomers that were holding the, holding the upper hands or whatever you want to call it.

JB Let me ask you now, about dowsing, and you told me I want to back up before I even get to your husband and you. But you told me an interesting story about your mother-in-law's death. You said she wasn't interested in dowsing.

AD Well that was because of religion.

JB But then she had, a hand or something that.

AD Oh yeah. A. But she didn't, no way did he connect that with dowsing. No way what so ever. See my daughter is, I guess, she's gone beyond just the dowsing with a stick or a rod or a pendulum, she does most of hers mentally. And I asked her once I says,

"how in the world did you get to that point?" She says, "we all can." She says, "there's nothing to it anymore than dowsing." And I says, "what do you mean?" She says, "well," she says, "you can be working around doing dishes or something and some crazy thought will come into your mind. Stop. Right then and there. How did that happen to come to my mind, what does it mean?" And she says, "that happen, that will happen hundreds of times during the day that we don't even think of." Disconnected. And she says, "it, that's all part of it." She says, "we'd only give praying a chance to work." She says, "you'd be surprised how much it would do for us." And a, a, when I told her the story, of what mom DeLong had told me, about a, her mother was on her death bed, and she knew it. And she was sitting with her mother, and she said, this hand came, kind of came down and hovered over her mother, and then, almost the next instant, her mother had, expired. Well I was telling Jeannette about it, a, my daughter and she began to laugh. She says, "you know," she says, " gram DeLong had this ability." If she had only allowed it, and her

religion hadn't got in her. [46.05]

END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

SIDE THREE

AD Strange, I can't think of the word, just a minute.

[.14] I've got problems.

JB Okay. Almost done. I just wanted to a, I don't know where that goes.

MS Yeah. Thank you.

JB Is that okay.

MS Yup.

JB But I'm interested in this story because I think it's, probably where the gift comes down. Right. No.

AD It's no gift. We've all got it. [.36] We've all got it. If we'd only. If we'd only a, the Indians had it.

JB Now this was.

AD And we all, we've all, we've all got it, if we'd only stop our lives long enough to listen. And a, I don't know how to say it. [1.03] It's just, our subconscious I guess. If we'd give it a chance. For instance I was telling my daughter about the doctor. To whom I go. He's very temperamental and lots of



people, people either think the world of him or they just cannot abide him. This, I hope this will help. Off the record. And, I was terribly sick here a year ago. And my daughter went over with me to his office.

And she told me the last time she was here, which was just about 2 or 3 weeks ago. She says, "you know that man has got, she says, maybe he's got a dirty disposition but he's got the faculty of subconsciously, well sensing what's wrong with you." She says, "that's why he's a good doctor." [2.00] And he is, he's noted all around for, for what's the word, diag.

JB Diagnosis.

AD Yes. That he's exceptional on that. And a, she says that's the reason. And if you've said that to him, that it was his subconscious he could picture I think he'd blast you into the next world.

JB Now I think you told me that your husband's father could also dowse and.

AD Oh yes. Yeah.

JB Tell me a little bit about that.

AD Almost every body. When you get right down to.

MS Now can I stop you for one moment, I keep hearing this  
a, tissue rattling around, you want to, I got a clean  
handkerchief.

AD No. No. Let her bleed. I thought I had it corralled  
so it wouldn't make a noise.

MS Ha! Ha! Ha! Okay. Sorry.

JB I just wanted to a, now, your husband's father dowsed  
and then your husband was really exceptional.

AD Oh yeah.

JB Tell me a little bit about your husband.

AD Well he, he a, a newspaper reporter was coming to see  
him in September before he died which would be 1990.  
And he was all to pieces. [3.24] Because underneath  
he had a, he was a big hunk of inferiority complex  
and, well he says I'm not famous enough for that kind  
of business and I says, just, just it was evening and  
I said, just let sit here and spend the evening and  
make a list of all the ones for whom you've dowsed. I  
said, that's diverting the water veins, that's the  
whole slew. And we got over three hundred and fifty.  
Successful ones. And a, I guess the surprised him a  
little bit. And, he was, good at it. [4.00]

JB How did he start, when did he start?

AD On our own spring down here.

JB Yeah tell me that.

AD Well when my father gave me just, gave us this little triangle of land up here, to begin with and, and a, we needed the spring so, the only place you could find any water was down here at the foot of the hill that is, unless you dug, two, three, four, five hundred feet. And so our spring was down at the foot of the hill. And that's the first time that he really seriously dowsed for anybody. Other than just, well maybe to kind of show off or, somebody else was kind of dowsing and, and he might of dowsed with him. That kind of got him started, and then after I don't know, it just, just grew like topsy, just, somebody would hear about it and, ask him, somebody else would hear about it and ask him and, and a, so he got to be quite, well known I guess. And he, from way back we attended the a, dowsing conventions up to Danville. We always thought that he was one of the, one of the a, oh what do you call it? Very first one, charter members. And we asked one time and they said no. His

name wasn't on the charter which we never understood because he certainly was there at the, very beginning.

[5.32] But, that's beside the point. And they have, they have a, dowers, hall of fame so to speak, they had the picture of the dowser and a resume of his life as a dowser, right along with the picture. And a, at the fall wind, oh the fall in September after he died, they had, well the, little ceremony and has his a, picture in and a, resume there in the so called hall of fame. Dowers hall of fame. But the dowsing it, oh how that has changed. It, it would take volumes I guess to, to describe how that changed from just maybe 25 or 30 people up to, any where from a thousand to, two or three thousand now and they branched out into all kinds of, what we might call weird things, that you just can't, picture. Being in the dowsing, picture and an awful lot of it that I don't understand. [6.44]

JB Now he could find, he initially found where the graves went, would you tell me about that?

AD Well the, that was later on, a lady came up. Well

I've got to back up further. He was a, because he, we lived near here and this cemetery is a, an association run one, not town run, he was asked to be well to oversee the graves and digging of them and see that they were dug at the right place and all that. Well he was up there overseeing this grave to see if it, if it was okay and everything was going all right. And this lady came along and I think he said, she was a grandmother. She hadn't been there for years and, and she couldn't tell where her granddaughter had, her little granddaughter had been buried. [7.36] Well Eldon said that the, idea thought went through his mind quick, well if I can, ask to find water, maybe I can find that grave. And he says, I took a chance. And I was awful surprised when he told me because he was adamant that he wouldn't try anything else. Only for water. That was his thing. And he says, just tell me what the child's name was and he says, let me go on from there. Well he did, she did. He did, she did tell him the child's name, and his rods led him right to the grave. And crossed right there in the, and it was unmarked, no sign at all. And I guess she

must of found out afterwards because I know Eldon told me that, that it was the right place. So it must be somebody else in the family co-aberrated it, I don't know. Well from there on he, he would try it, for instance if the lot was full. And it looked like just room enough, see when the old pine boxes went in, you could take a little more narrow, but now, the pine boxes are, are rotted. You've got to, take that into consideration. And, nobody wants to, dig into an existing occupied grave. So he thought well if it will work, why can't I find the boundary of the existing grave, and see if there's room enough for the new cement vaults and so forth. [9.09] And he could test that out, he could stay right there with a grave digger. Until it, till it was done, and, and he didn't say much of anything until he tested it quite a few times. And, he found he was, accurate so then other towns asked him. Waitsfield asked him, Wolcott asked him, Northfield Falls. Can't remember others. And, a, the grave digger that does the one up here, he and his brother does the one in Northfield and Northfield Falls and they said, each time it had

proved out all right because I asked them just a little while ago. If, if they'd ever, run across. Bumped up against a boo boo that Eldon had, and they said no.

JB Now did he have anything to do with the aquifer?

AD Up there to Warren?

JB In Waitsfield. Or where ever it is.

AD It's up in Waitsfield. The dowsers are told not to touch an aquifer under any condition. That's, practically in their code of ethics. Cause you can effect the water supply for miles around. You see it's like a fountain, it comes up, and spreads all over the place. [10.34]

MS Could you say that again. You bumped the microphone.  
It's like a fountain.

JB Ha! Ha! It's like a fountain. Just say that.

AD It's like a fountain. It just bubbles up. And no knowing where those streams go off on, where they spread to. [10.49] And I think they're opening up a terrible can of worms. If they let that woman go, there again, just what I told you, she doesn't give a darn about the town. She wants the roll but she

wants, she wants permission to put trucks over that road, which is a dirt road, and big trucks like that we know what's gonna happen. Especially this time of the year and in the fall. And all she wants is the money she can get out of it. She can't, if she can't have, her own way she's gonna develop all that acreage. And then that will be another great burden, on the town of Warren. And here comes Act 250 again, and all the, malarkey that goes with it. It's a never ending cycle. Well to go back to the aquifer. They don't call it an aquifer, they call it a dome.

[11.44] And your, I know my daughter has a, run across a dome and she said, no way I won't touch it with a ten foot pole. She says, no way will I have anything to do with it, not that one but this, these people wanted, I guess they bought some land and they wanted a, water supply. [12.05] She says you just don't touch them. Because they can be, they can be so strong you can't cap them.

JB What dome was she involved in?

AD I don't know one some where up around where she lives, up in Stowe or Morrisville or Wolcott somewhere up in



there. But she's the one that told us that they would, told my husband and I that they, that they died in the wool dowser, wouldn't touch them. That really knows his, you know that, that belongs to the dowers association. And got some, background other than just their personal background. That they've, their personal experiences.

JB Does your daughter dowse then as well?

AD Oh yes. I can call her up on the phone and ask her if, if a, oh what will I say? There's a house going over on the flat, I said, can you, do you see that there's any a, water supply near by? She'll tell you. She dowses mentally. I can't do it, I don't even. [13.14] She teaches, she's taught, I think 7 or 8 years she teaches one of the workshops every, they have school up there for the first three days and then it goes into a convention. And she, had been teaching basic dowsing, up until this last year. She says, she told me she was going to, teach her workshop this time was how to dowse for a horse. I says, a horse. Yes

she says a horse. And, I, she's been taking riding lessons. Western style. And I said, I can't picture that. And she just laughed, she didn't say anything more. Well when their newsletter came out, I got a grasp of what was going on. If you want to turn this off I'll show you the newsletter so you'll get a grasp of what. But I guess I can sum it up if you don't want to. [14.12] The, you can ask if the horse is good around children, and it will tell you. She had a horse, I got to back up. She had dowsed a horse, the horse that she rode, and the, riding lessons. And then she asked the owner if what she'd found out were true. And it was, well another time a horse had something wrong with it and she dowsed, just dowsed the rods there and the rods will stop where the problem is. Well she told the owner and then the owner called the vet and the vet told her that it, she found the spot it was right. I can't remember what it was. Well, then it seems that, that a, she asked if it was, you know, if it was afraid of men, or afraid of women, and there are horses that are desperately afraid of one sex or the other. My niece had a horse

up here that was absolutely scared of a man. You couldn't ride that horse if there was a man around.

[15.19] And a dogs, if, if they had a calm eye, if they were nervous, and all that, so that before you bought the horse, you had all these answers. Well, I was kind of tongue and cheek, but, after I got that newsletter I thought well you better just, shut up your mouth and, sit back and see what develops. Well by popular demand she's to be back next year with the same class. And, the same topic. But it's fascinating. Now these chambers, if I had my life to live over again, I would find out more about these chambers because they are not, figments of somebody's imagination. They are, prehistoric, they are, right.

They, they were, you find them only in the Connecticut valley. [16.21] Well that's and you don't find them where the first settlers were. Necessarily. You do some. But if you trace them down you'll always always find that they're pivotal point is something to do with solstice. Or solstice. Whoever you want to pronounce it. Every single time.

And that can't be a coincidence. And it just

intrigues the dickens out of me. I would like to.

JB Well you'll have to live your life over.

AD Yeah. I'll come back and \_\_\_\_\_ some people. [17.00]

JB I think we're about done, I think we've pestered you just about long enough. And I really thank you for.

AD I rubbed my toes together here, every little while forgetting what I was doing I hope that didn't get in there.

MS Ha! Ha! [17.22]

JB Yeah. Oh! Oh! There was one other thing I wanted to ask you about. You told two coffin stories last time, one the coffin story about the man who let the cat out and the other one I think the man kept his coffin and fell asleep in it, and shocked every body.

AD Oh! Ha! Ha! Ha! Well up where Eldon lived, up on the Lincoln mountain road, there was this elderly lady, she was a peppery little human being and then this man who would become a widow and been a widow for long time. Nobody liked him. He, he was something else. He was all, had his nose in everybody's business, and making trouble and nobody liked him finally those two got married. Well long after they should of known

better. Then they moved down into the village, and Eldon said well, the lady he says, always been our next door neighbor he says, maybe we better stop in and, and just say hello. And, so we did. And she says, you want to see something? And says, that dam fool of mine has built his own, coffin. She says, you won't believe it when you see it. Well she sputtered all the way out to the, well what used to be the carriage barn. And there set up on, saw horses, was this cement, it must of been about, two, three inches thick, and down in the bottom, in the bottom corner right next, to where you stood, as you went in, was this round hole, and I says, what's the hole for? She says, the dam fool, she says, to let the cat out. Ha! Ha! Ha! I couldn't believe what I heard. Well let's see the other one. Oh the other one was.

JB Just finish that off for me and a, explain that a, cause I don't think it came across quite clear. Was that the hole was in the coffin to let the cat out.

AD Yes. The hole was in the coffin to let the cat out. Well I think she let the cat out, really for how many

brains her husband had. Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! I thought Eldon would die before he could get out of there. [19.47] And coming home he says, the dam fool. Ha! Ha! I laughed. Well then the other one was, it was over in, the a, man of the house would drive his horse down into Waterbury, and, and pick up some, hootch as he called it. And by the time he got home he was, barely sitting in his sleigh or buggy which ever it was. Well this particular time, the ladies had met up there, in the, community for some reason which I don't remember and they knew that he'd gone to Waterbury. [20.28] But they didn't pay too much attention and all of a sudden there was this unearthly yell. I can't think of the, wife's name, I'll call her Jane. And yelled bloody murder for Jane to come. Well Jane went running out into what was called the summer kitchen. A back kitchen. And a, a, he had bought his a, coffin before that, and brought it home and he'd put that up on, some kind of, not saw horses but some kind of blocks or something, and he'd crawled up in there and in his drunken condition, he says, I wanted you to see how I'd look when I was laid

out and dad said he no more than got it out and he  
passed out. Ha! Ha! Ha! And there he was. Ha!  
Sleeping off his drunk in his own coffin. Ha! Ha!

JB And then the other thing I don't think you said on  
tape was, what your grandmother, or great grandmother  
used to have you kids do for the \_\_\_\_\_.

[21.38]

AD Oh she had all kinds of crazy things, one was that,  
our dirtiest, stinkiest, stocking, that we, she could  
possible get hold of, was not to go into the washing,  
it was supposed to be saved, well some of our  
stockings were pretty loud because we had those heavy  
cotton stockings and those old stocking supporters  
that held them up and we'd run through the barn and  
the barnyard and what have you and some of them were  
pretty strong. Well that was her cure for sore  
throat. You were supposed to put that dirty, nasty  
stinking part on your throat and that was supposed to  
cure your sore throat. [22.14] And a, she had worm  
wood, it was a, shrub like thing, and woo on to dad if  
he moved any of it down, she made tea out of that and  
I've forgotten what that was supposed to cure. I knew

catnip was supposed to cure. And tansy she had that was supposed to cure. And I don't know what all, well she had all these home remedies that were supposed to cure of this and that and other. And we lived up on the hill like and quite a steep hill down to what we called a gate, and that was the gate to the next door neighbors a, property. And we were supposed to go down there, the first snow storm, and cold, you used to try to insist that we go down there and run down there barefoot because that was supposed to cure a, I suppose season our feet so we wouldn't get [23.06]

\_\_\_\_\_, which was just opposite of what, what was supposed to happen I guess. I can't remember what she used to use those two things, I knew the catnip tea that was to make you sweat, if you were coming down a cold, or something, put some catnip in with, hot water, and then a little sugar and you drank that hot, it really good, good I used to like it, I, we used to use it at home. Just to heat us up if we were cold. [23.46] Like a tea. But not as a medicine.

JB And I think you also told me about green, blackberry.

Roots was it? Steeped. For diarrhea or something.



AD Oh yes. A blackberry was supposed to, blackberry roots were, were brewed up, to a, it's supposed to stop diarrhea and that's where, that's where the a, later on when they could buy brandy, readily, the black, blackberry brandy was supposed to, see that's where it came from, the blackberry brandy was supposed to, well I got news for them it doesn't work. [24.30]  
Ha! Ha! Ha! Along with a lot of other things, these things that are supposed to work.

JB Okay, I think we're done is there anything you particularly want to say? [24.47]

AD I might sum it up that some of the old things were, pretty tedious. But some of the old things, were a lot of more honest than anything we're getting today.  
There's just too much talk today. This Whitewater business is a good example. Why talk about it, till we know some facts, why all this millions of words and mileage of black ink, when we really don't know what's going on.

JB Okay there's just one other ghastly thing we have to do. [25.46]

END OF TAPE