

Edgar Tremblay/TC1994.0051  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck  
ET Edgar Tremblay  
Place Waitsfield, VT  
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JB And you're comments on what the valley was like when you came here, the farming and you know how it, why you had to stop and then the same whole thing with the land use and the aquifer. [.30] You guys set?

MS Any time yup. Any time.

JB Okay well, why don't we start with you, the other day you described the valley, you know with the farms and so forth, when you first came here, if you could start by saying.

ET We came here.

JB Yeah and, and when it was, you know.

ET Well, [.50] the way we got here to the valley was my brother and I were both in the service. My brother was in Patten's troops and he went through the battle of the bulge and I was in the Pacific, and.

MS Could we just a, move this over a little bit, sorry.

[1.10]

ET Shall we start over?

MS Yes. Please. Not until I sit down. Okay.

ET The way my brother and I got here to the valley was after we got out of the service, he was in the, in the European theater, and had been with Patten's troops, and we had corresponded off and on while we was in the service. I was in the Pacific, and I ended up, I went through the Philippines and the Northern Islands and ended up in Korea.

MS Sorry. We're hearing too much of this.

ET All right.

MS Ha! Ha!

JB The awful thing about this, is you're gonna notice things.

ET Shall we start over again?

MS Yes please.

ET All right.

JB Sorry.

ET No.

MS Okay. [2.04]

ET The way I arrived in the valley was after I was discharged from the service and my brother and I had been corresponding, he was a, in the European theater with Patten's troops and I was in the Pacific theater and I been through the Philippines and through Hiroshima and Okinawa and ended up in Korea after the Japanese had surrendered. And in December of 46, I came back to the states to California and across country and we were both discharged in the same month.

And after we got together we discussed what we had been hoping to do while we was corresponding in the service. And we had decided maybe we ought to go farming. [3.03] So we begin to follow the ads in the newspapers and we ended up in Waitsfield, cause Waitsfield had a quite a large farm that we was interested in, and it was in our price range or we felt it was. So we came to Waitsfield and we met Mr. Jones who had his farm in the paper for sale and he told us what his, it was, the acres, and the stock

that was included, and a, we was trying to figure out a way to finance it. But, he had previously talked to some guy, and told him, before when he left for the service that if he came back and you still had the farm he might, he would sell it to him. So he felt that we had to have a binder of some kind so he let me, asked us to give him a cash payment on the farm of ten dollars. So this was a written agreement, so that he would be honest with the person he had promised the farm to. Or promised that he would, that he would a listen to him and listen to him and see if he could sell the farm to him. So we started from that, and then when we went to the bank we got in a double GI, which was the first double GI in Vermont. Which means that, they would give us twice the credit towards our back loan, then they would one GI. So, the finances went through and we arrived here in the spring, and at that time about all that was going around here, was lumbering, and a agriculture and a, since they needed a lot of produce and food for the, to feed Europe under the Marshall plan, the government was buying some crops like a, string beans and corn. And so

forth and we was encouraged to a, grow these products [5.20] besides our dairying to help us finance our business. But the main business in the valley was lumbering and sugaring and a dairying. And of course like I said there was some produce that was grown, there was potatoes, a lot of potatoes grown in the valley and we grew string beans and we grew, we grew soldier beans which is a baking bean. And as the years, we done pretty well farming for the first eight or ten years and then as a, the equipment began to change, and the methods of farming we find, we found we're gonna have to keep investing more and more money. And a, after awhile we realized that a, we would have to invest more money that what we originally paid for the farm, if we continued because we knew that we'd have to buy bulk tanks, and combines, and redo our stables. [6.30] So just before this happened I bought my brother out, and when I begin to investigate to see what we'll have to do to modernize our farm, I felt it was too great an investment for the return. So then I a, kept some of my stock and I raised some stock and sold it and sold

hay, but a, there wasn't much of a return on that. So I slowly began, was forced to a, sell parts of my farm off, to development to get enough return to pay the taxes and make a living. [7.14] And I think that this is what's happen to a good many farmers today. Cause they found that the return wasn't great enough to pay the taxes and to be able to live. So, we changed, we a, started taking skiers as a lodge to help and on the side I started doing plumbing. So we took skiers for a number of years and we a, remodeled our house and put in more bathrooms and rooms. And a, for a number of years we took skiers. But of course that was just the winter business so in the summertime I worked at the hardware store downtown and done plumbing down there. [7.56] They run a plumbing business. And after a few years I went into business for myself. By today I find that the controls are so bad, or I say so strict I should say is that, you can't make a living on your land any how, because of restrictions. And, I've talked to people around here and by the time they get done a, going through all the necessary permits and so forth, they already

restricted to where they're not in charge of their own business any more. And we keep reading it in the paper every day. And yesterday I was reading in the paper where a guy couldn't build a large dairy barn up in Fairfax I think it was. And every day we keep reading things like this. Here in this community we have somebody with a large aquifer that could very well get the investment to build a bottling plant to employ anywhere from 25 to 40 people and we have people in the area that have fought it so that, so that the a, they fought it to the extent that it can't be done now. And a, to me if we're gonna make a living on our land, and if we're gonna have a constitutional rights like what we fought for all during World War II, they got to, I feel that they have to a, take the shackles off the people that's all. We have plenty of skilled people in this state and you have a lot of hard working people. But they have such controls over every thing in development that a, I don't know who we're gonna make a living. The state of Vermont has been taking less and less taxes in every year even though they're increasing the

tax rate constantly and the towns are the same, and where they have the county tax it's the same. [10.03]

Two years ago, I sold a part of the lot that this house stands on, two and a half acres to my son. And the following spring I got my tax bill and after they had subtracted the amount that the lot was worth, that I sold to my son, I paid more taxes than I did the previous year. And this can't be, I feel that we're reaching the point, the saturation point in taxation, where every time you raise the taxes a little more, you put more and more people in poverty. And a, it's gonna reach the point where people are gonna get discouraged and they'll do like a lot of other countries and the working people will just either rebel or sit around and not do anything. And this has been shown in Russia. [10.58] Three years ago we sent food to Russia, and they had so much food it was rotting in the field. I saw pictures in the paper where there's meats and everything throwed the side the road. Because these collective farmers or whatever they were, just wouldn't do, just wouldn't continue raising the food for the people in the city,



cause they didn't get anything for doing it. Or whatever it was, they got, they got discouraged in the manner in which they were treated to the extent that they wouldn't do it any more they just rebelled. And, it may not reach that point for awhile but eventually I feel it will. [11.32] Once small example of that is, the income tax and you and I have heard it and everybody have heard it where a, somebody will say to you, I could of worked Saturday, but the government took 75 or 80 percent of it so I felt I just to well stay to home. Or occasionally you'll hear somebody say, I could of worked a lot of overtime this week but I didn't because I would of got less pay than if I hadn't. So some of them things have got to be straightened out. Because as a democracy and a private enterprise, it's a, you're incentive is driven by what you make and how you're treated, and if it reaches the point where people find that most of their money goes to somebody else when they're the ones that work to earn it, you'll get some type of rebelling. How it will take place I don't know. Maybe it will just be silent and people just won't do, or carry on

the effort that they should to keep the country, to keep the country in a position where they can do all these things that they're talking about wanting to do.

[12.39]

JB I think you told me by way of example when you started out you had a couple of teams and a tractor.

ET Yup.

JB And I think you made the, you started to make the point that, well like these were very efficient and the amount of money for the combine and so forth.

ET Yeah well, when we first started farming we started with two teams of horses and we had an old 1928 farmall trailway. And a, of course, they weren't, they didn't take many repairs and most of the effort was with labor, where you had to have a man to drive them and do the work. But when we first started [13.20] farming it a, was a number of years you couldn't get machinery cause it went to Europe but then when it started coming in, they begin to convert the, silage choppers, and bailers and so forth and then, the price began to go up. And a, it increased,

it increased the cost of farming by many folds. And of course the price of milk didn't keep up with it. And every time you'd get a surplus of milk, the price would go down. So, it did, this is one of the reasons that farming is gone out. And there are a lot of people feel that a, they should support farming and, supports haven't worked. I was in there when they gave a few supports out but I feel that it was used in a lot of ways to hold the prices down. [14.15]

Because a, the government had all kinds of commodities that they bought from a little of nothing for the farmers and then every time the price started to go up they'd throw in on the market. To depress it.

Another thing is, a lot of people don't realize it, but the millions of dollars and billions of dollars that are put in the farm in agricultural programs in Washington, don't go directly to the farmers. All the school lunches and all the non profitable institutions that got commodities from the government got them for nothing, but they was charged against the farm bill.

And a lot of people don't realize that. But the farmers out of what a lot of people thought was a

subsidy, were feeding all the schools in the country.

And a lot of a, [15.05] soup kitchens or whatever they were, non profitable institutions and so forth a lot of, government institutions and all got free food that way. And they, they was all charged to the farm program. And I think that a, this is a misunderstanding I, it's hard for me to, argue what it ought to be charged to but certainly it didn't benefit the farmer directly and a when the government got a big enough surplus if something started to go up two cents, they'd throw a bunch of it on the market, to depress the market. Or that or they'd give to a foreign country.

JB When you, when the skiing first came in is that when the farms started going out or was there a relationship between the two.

ET I don't know if there was a relationship I think that just a happened in that manner that a, the people from down country were looking for some recreation during the winter, and I think that people that were had enough foresight to start these ski areas, they were the lucky ones, where the skiers started coming and

you had a recreation, a recreation business. If you stop to think there's not much people can do in the wintertime. In the summertime even around the cities they go out the city a little ways and they'll hike trails and climb mountains and do white water canoeing or, or have a motor boats on a small lake or something like this. But in the wintertime they can't do any of that. And so they look for other ways to, for recreation and skiing was one that happen to a blossom in a hurry.

JB Now it was the skiing [16.51] thought that brought the people and \_\_\_\_\_?

ET Oh yeah, there's no doubt about it but when the ski areas come in and people really started coming to the ski areas there's a lot of people that came up here with money and invested in chalets and developments and so forth, and that of course stimulated the price of property in the whole area. And a, it forced some people to sell their property in that, when the appraisers go around, if somebody has sold a piece of property, within the neighborhood for twice what it

usually sold for two, three times, they use that as a figure in their appraisals. And of course a, whether you liked it or not and you lived in your little old house like you always had, you kept paying more and more taxes because they figured that if you did sell you could sell it for more money. [17.42] But as long as you stayed there, you didn't benefit much by it. And but I would think that this holds to probably all through the state of Vermont. And today they call Waitsfield a rich town. And a, I don't think, and I don't think they can a continue doing that because I think the price of property have leveled off quite a lot. They put in a the state offices in the complex in Waterbury and I believe that houses and apartments in Waterbury and probably now bringing more money than they are right here in the valley. And a, because of the fact that they put so many state workers in there and they're not too far from Montpelier and they're not too far from a Burlington, or the ski areas. And the last I knew they was getting an awful lot more state aid than some of these other surrounding towns and a I think that sooner or later they got to start

realizing that they're catching up with everybody  
else. [18.48]

JB The other day you were talking a little bit about the  
economic base in Waitsfield with the telephone  
company, with Mad River Canoe, and all but with the  
telephone company a.

ET Well the telephone company is an awful good business,  
they're good to their people, but, I was trying to  
point out the fact [19.11] that there's differences in  
businesses and it's necessary to have the telephone  
company but they don't bring any money in. All they  
do is give a service to the people that are in the  
area. And so all they're doing is recycling the same  
money that's already here. Now if you had a water  
plant in here and they were shipping water to  
different parts of the states, they would be bringing  
money in the valley. Mad River Canoe is one of the  
small businesses we have in Waitsfield and they employ  
a few people, and they ship everything they make  
outside the state or outside the town anyhow and a, of  
course this brings money in. I think you have to have

an industry [19.54] where you're selling something outside the community so that you bring money into the community. So it gives you more revenue and builds up the economy. There's a lot of services that are here that all they do is service the community and I don't think that brings in any money into the community. They're necessary and so forth but what we need is a good, a good business and employ a bunch of people and a, bring some money into the community. To build up our economic base. And this way also they would have people spending money in the community and they would have a tax base if they build any, any of factories or anything of this sort or have equipment in the area, this would help our tax base, right now the only thing we got that I can think of off hand is a, is Mad River Canoe. Right in Waitsfield. [20.48] Manufacturers.

And this, this water deal, I think would be fantastic because it would be the cleanest industry in the world. If you're just bottling something you're not, mixing a bunch of chemicals or you're not burning a lot of fuel to manufacture something. You just bottle and ship out. And a, if you spill a little on the



ground it's not gonna contaminate anything. [21.15]

There's a lot of things that could bring more, and it would also keep all this area open where the, where the well heads are. And that's I understand is between 16, 17 hundred acres. So, you know this is something to think about. (coughing)

JB What? Don't worry. You can cough all you want.

ET They just cut it out, that's all.

JB Yeah. [21.51] In, in talking about this, (more coughing) I guess my next question is, you know, why are people against it and who's against it and a those kinds of questions.

ET It's difficult to me, for me to understand it, because basically I feel it's a constitutional right. The 4th amendment of the constitution reads, in part that no state will pass any law that abridges a person's right to life, liberty or property. The, the a, six article on the constitution, the second section, says that

when, when it's a, when the state law and the federal law or the constitution there's a conflict between the two, the constitution is superior. [22.52] You know and, and you could go through the constitution and see dozens of places that this applies. I can't understand where people find a difference between the different articles of the constitution or the different amendments. I think one is just as important as the other, maybe to different people see, now you can say what you want to, but if you take the first article of the constitution gives you your religious rights, you're freedom of speech, and it gives you freedom of the press. [23.31] If anyone of them, anybody tries to deny you of them, every body is up in the air. But they don't seem to think about the others that don't seem to probably effect as many people. All, as many people I guess, every day. As these do, they seem to forget about them. You know. It's, to me, it isn't just, and a, when they say that a, it doesn't matter, it does matter, because a, in the sixth article of the constitution they call that the lynch pin. The law of superiority. And they

claim if you start breaking that, the whole constitution will fall to pieces and that's why they call it the lynch pin. Is that, the quickest you start \_\_\_\_\_ in a part of it, the first thing we know, [24.29] our constitution won't be effected at all and then we'll be like a, all the other countries of the world. The thing I think that makes this country unique is that a, we have these laws to protect a person whether they're rich or poor, or whether they're, no matter what their religion is, and no matter what they want to say. They have a right to speak, and have the right to their own religion and so forth and so many other things. It's the frame work of our whole civilization here in the United States. And if we don't abide by it, or if we don't like it, we can do like they done so many other times, we can bring it up to the people and have an amendment. Cause there's 26 amendments. And, there's enough people to a, there was enough people that felt that this should be changed and it was changed. And a, it takes 75% of the states to change an amendment, to a, pass an amendment so a, it's got to be strong, it

can't be only a small percentage of the people. And a, this is what I fear most of anything, is that this country won't be what it was, if this continues because we'll be like so many other countries, as quick as we get somebody that has a little power, or is dominate over somebody else, they're gonna use their own laws. And they're gonna interrupt their power the way they feel like it and this is the way other countries went down the road as far as I'm concerned or whether it's Castro or whether it was places in Europe or whether it's Haiti. Now, [26.12] we'll holler about Haiti right now, and we say they didn't go according to their constitution, because they put this new president in, and they said that a, according to their own constitution down there, that a, we have their elected president right here in this country. Ha! Well, if we feel so strong about that, what about our constitution? What about when you want to do something with your property, and you go down to get a permit to build a house on it, and the board sits there and you say you got to put three maple trees, on a certain side of your house, and they have

to be of a given size. You know. Is this your constitutional rights? This is somebody's own, I think this is somebody's own feelings. How they'd like to have the house but you should be able to use your property I think if it's not a safety hazard to anybody or a health hazard to anybody and most any way you want to. It might look ugly if I painted this house brown, but technically it should be my business.

Maybe I like brown. Maybe 90% of the people don't like brown but it's my property and if I wanted it brown I think I should have the right to have it brown. You know. [27.23] And a, that's the way I feel about it and, and it isn't worth destroying all our constitutional rights or our constitutional rights, we're starting to abridge the constitution, a little at a time this way till we've eroded it to the extent that we don't have a democracy like it was recognized during the time of Lincoln or even 20 years ago. Lincoln said it's up to us to make sure that all these people didn't die in vein, whether it was D-Day or whether it was on Okinawa, on whether it was in \_\_\_\_\_dor, or the \_\_\_\_\_ Pass or a million other

places, there were Pork Chop Hill you know. The a,  
this is the way I feel about it, I feel very strong  
about it and I feel that every man that went in the  
service was sent there under the laws of the  
constitution. It's the power of the constitution that  
lets our elected officials do all this. [28.18] And  
you may find, that maybe, they were sent and sometimes  
to fight a bad war, or it wasn't justified or  
something. That wasn't the individual, that wasn't  
the citizens of this country, they were the guys in  
Washington that got the wrong signals. But they used  
the power of the constitution to send our men, to  
fight to defend that constitution and their rights.  
[28.46] And they should keep them. They should have  
them, if they want to change them, there's ways in the  
constitution to do it and I think that that's the way  
it should be done.

JB Now, it's, is there a noise I hear?

MS Yeah.

JB Do we have to worry about it? [29.02] You had told  
me I think that the town on this issue, divided along  
different lines and I wondered if you'd talk about

that.

ET Well, I think mostly that the a, the people are divided along a, people that have come in in recent years, and some of it maybe a first generation but I think that maybe it was inherited by their parents, or it came down through this way.

JB Let's stop a sec cause that's important [29.42] and I want you to.

ET But the people that are pushing it the most, are people that have moved here in recent years. And I don't know it seems to me that a lot of these people are in citizen committees and boards. And feel that they have they've been endowed with the power of a dictator or something. Because I've heard rumors of stuff that has been said, on the planning commission that to me it's just mind boggling. Where it's almost a, \_\_\_\_\_. Where they go [30.19] there and they'll say well, if you let us cross your property with a path we're giving you a permit to build your house. Well, I think that's bribery. Now I heard one even worse, about a week ago, I went to a place to work and

this young couple had bought about 40 acres of land in Warren. And it was divided by a big gully and there was about 17 or 18 acres on one side of the gully and on the side they wanted to, the remainder was on the side that they wanted to build. But they wanted to cut some timber off the 17 acre piece and one of the guys on the board said, well I'll be able to view that from my area from where I live, and we're gonna have you bring a forester in or bring somebody in to spot, show you what to selectively cut cause I don't want to look at an area that's, clear cut or not well groomed.

And furthermore, you won't be able to build on that in the future at any time in the future. Well, I don't know what would give the board the authority to tell a person they could never build on their land.

[31.34] To me that's mind boggling. I think that's a, I don't know where they get the authority. A state don't have a right to do that, without having people without buying it. They don't have a right, they can take, they can condemn your land but they got to, they got to appraise it and give you an honest and fair price for it. Well you got the board and they just



tell you you can't use your, you can't ever build on your land, and a, I don't know what reason they gave him for it but this is what I understood from the young lady. And I said this is got to be crazy, I don't know what kind of a country this is turning into but it doesn't make much sense.

JB Now tell me just a, if you can basically the people that have moved in, tell me sort of what they stand for, or what their attitude is? [32.35]

ET Well, when they got down there, they want complete domination of all the property in the area. By that I mean, they'll come to these board meetings and on the development of this water and plant, some of them even have suggested that a, if it was done, they have to give a financial account, account of all the money every year so they could determine what they could force them to do. Like putting in a pipeline or whatever else you know. Because there was some question about when something like this could be done or how much it would cost, now they wanted to, have a, a review of the books every year. Now that I see,

that's none of their business. I understand that over in Randolph, Vermont Pure that last year they lost a lot of money. They hope since it's grown, it's a growing industry I assume, that they'll make up for it. But a cause it's a going business, it's a good business but of course they've expanded it quite a lot, I think they're in 22 states now. They're probably spending money then they have coming in trying to expand their business. But a, so it's very labor intensive. And it takes an awful investment to get something like that going. [34.02] And I understand that if you're not, if you don't know enough about the business to get shelf space and so forth, and be able to distribute it. That a, you probably could never do anything with it. But if you're savvy enough in the business so that you can get shelf space and know how to distribute and get, you know get it out where people will buy it it a, you'll do all right but it's got to be, I would think it would have to be, an awful big business. [34.30] Because you certainly ain't gonna make a lot of money on a bottle of water, you may make two, three cents or

something like that, so it means you'd have to put quite a lot of water out. But over in Vermont Pure they done a, we had people from here go over there, and they'd use anywheres from two, to seven truck loads a day and they're in 22 states. So a truck load of water, of a, 2500 gallons or whatever it is, fills a lot of bottles. You know it's a, it's, I think people have a, over estimated how much water it takes to do it. I don't think that, I don't think you'd use any more water in the business like that hardly than you would on a big dairy farm for every cow a drink six, seven gallons of water every day. And then you use it for washing every thing and you use in the family for the families, two, three families on a farm see. I think you probably use as much water that way prit near as you would with a bottling plant. You know cause you're out, you use a lot of water on the farms.

JB Well why are people against this? [35.43]

ET Well they, you got a lot of, a lot of these people think that it's gonna effect them. Some of them don't want to see three, four truck loads go down the road

in front of their house. And that's one of the biggest objections I think. And they have stated that. And a of course Vpirg out here, [36.05] Vpirg fights every thing there is. And Mel Heron lives up on that hill, and she's been fighting this from the word go. And when she ain't here, she's out either in Burlington fighting the incinerator, or in Rutland fighting, she fought Vicon until she knocked them out of business. Ha! And then she'd been in, she's been up to palisades, she's fought that. She's fought the withdrawal of the Mad River water. She's fought the Central Vermont solid waste. And a, she's a professional, well that's what they are, Vpirg. It's supposed to be an interest group.

JB What's it stand for?

ET Vermont. Vermont Public Interest Research or I don't know I'm not sure but a, a Nadirs Raider started that. and he started with college kids. See. And a, he went up to the college to begin with to start it, he went up to the college and each kid paid so much of his interest if he went to that. And that's the way he got it started and I think they got it all over.

In every state I think you know. And it's a public, it's supposed to be a public interest research group or something. And they try to tell every body how they ought to run their business and how every body else ought to run their business. And she came right out of college and she's been on there ever since.

[37.38] And a, the, it's like the environmental groups.

JB One of the things that you expressed before was people like Ed Eurich or the farmers really are a hundred percent behind this, the water.

ET Most of the local people and the people that really understand business I think are for this. And the particular people that feel that, we got to have something to live by, and we got to preserve farms. And we got to preserve our rights. The whole thing goes together, as far as I'm concerned you know. And Ed Eurich was in agriculture all his life, he was the commissioner of agriculture under three governors, and

it seemed like he could understand as much as anybody how our economy runs in the agricultural area. And a, [38.40] I think a lot of people in this town, that oppose it, are either people that just come in, or else people that work here and live in Montpelier. It's getting to be a bed town. And they don't want anybody to do anything out here to disturb a, their nice summer homes, or they don't want to be effected by anything that might be going on around here, have it effect them. And a, they want it to be strictly a bed town. And I, you know there are a lot of people that work the national lines, they work for the government, the state offices out there for the government. And a, some of them even go to Burlington from here, to work. And a, I think there's a number of them and with them and the people that have moved in in recent years, that have come in from all over, feel that now they got their house and what they want to do, nobody else would do anything to interfere with their vision or, they, the noise pollution or the odor pollution now they got. Noise pollution, odor pollution or eight pollution, you know this is, they

keep coming up with new pollutions. And a, they don't want, I think there's in some respect you got to, you feel they're self-centered cause they look at only their area. The, and they got a great small telescopic view as far as I'm concerned. And a, they, as far, guys like Ed Eurich and I, and Sterling Livingston that died last winter, and a, these people you talk to, aren't gonna benefit by this. We're all men in our seventies, but through history and having lived in this area, as long as we have, I think this is the way we come to reasoning the way we do, I don't know why a we keep saying history repeats itself, and it does. And it don't start with a great big bang when some country goes to pieces, it starts a little at a time. [40.58] And a, as you keep eroding, some of the things that keep up the economy and your, and people's liberties, and so forth, after awhile you reach the point where the whole dam lets go and then you're in trouble. It a, it happens in Russia, in happened in a lot of small countries, it's happening in Cuba today. All you have to do is keep reading and finding out how destitute they're getting now that

they \_\_\_\_\_ Russia, [41.27] and how the people feel there, and how they keep trying to get across to this country and you realize that maybe a, communism and socialism isn't what it is all supposed to have been.

I assume theoretically if you could do just what is supposed to as a communist, or a socialist, every thing would be hokey dory. It don't work that way. Human beings aren't that way. If you work all day today, and the person next to you don't do anything and when they get done, they pay him as much as they do you. Or that you work hard after work at night, and they take your benefits and give them to somebody else, there's resentment. And a, people loose their incentive. After awhile, it happens every place. And I talked to some body the other day in this area, and they was from Sweden, I think, Norway, Sweden I guess it was, and she says to me I know just what you mean.

I come from Sweden and nobody wants to work up there, because every body gets paid the same. Or get the same benefits or something. And she says it's got to the point that people just don't work up there. So, there's a lot to think about, and I think that history



repeats itself and we're going through a cycle that if we don't swing, the pendulum don't swing back the other way, that we're gonna continue going until there's a rebellion of some kind. How it will take place, I don't know, it will be just demonstrations or they start blowing each other up or do like they do up in Northern Ireland I don't know. [43.06] But, I just hope that the legislature and the state begins to realize that something drastic has to be done all we're all be in a grid lock. They keep raising the taxes and getting less and less, every year, and trying to initiate more and more programs and it just can't be done.

JB How do you think a skiing has effected the valley and I was thinking here Ed Eurich told me that you used to raise potatoes, and used to be able to get. Well I guess like you did with beans, local help and then suddenly you couldn't get that help any more and you had to.

ET Well I did the whole economy has changed. I think agriculture has changed. I think that as a, methods has changed and your equipment is bigger and bigger,

transportation is better, the processing is all better. So I can remember when a, milk had to come in within a certain area, when I was a kid all the milk from this area went to Boston, and the milk from the Champlain valley went to New York. And that was about the limit. You couldn't get it from California over here. But today you can ship fruit, you can ship vegetables, you can store them, or, you can ship dairy products. And keep them them fresh. [44.48] So this has made an awful lot of difference see, and storage, and transportation and so, you're getting competition from areas that can do things a lot cheaper because they have greater expenses of meadows and farms and they can use bigger and bigger equipment, where you can't on these hill farms. You know. When you go down to, when you go down these areas where they have a piece of equipment that plants ten, twelve rows, and you go to places like Idaho where you can't see the other end of a row. They can do it cheaper. They can use the equipment to do it cheaper. They have much labor, less labor. So, this is kind of knock these areas out and in particular hill farms. Little more

and more all the time. And so, this has been the process and now they, you a, I can remember when all you heard around here was a, Maine potatoes. And today, if you stop and think about it, we hear an awful lot about. [45.58]

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

SIDE TWO

ET Labor deal, partly is because you just can't keep up, with the, with labor. In farm marketing, the way you are up here, and raising, raising farm produce see. It's almost impossible you can't get somebody around here for \$4 \$5 an hour, and if you did you probably still couldn't make a living. Raising farm produce. There's a lot of reasons for it. Now some of it, some of it I assume is, is the a, even though see like in dairying, you ever stop and think about dairying. You can milk cows year round. [.41] And you have a long enough period to raise crops, to produce and keep your cows and produce milk year round. If you go south of here, say you're going to the Carolinas, you could raise probably two crops down there. So why couldn't you ship up here now, vadalia onions were on the

market a month and a half ago, weren't they? A month ago. So there's the first crop right there. Well there's no reason why they couldn't raise another crop or two between now and fall. Up here you can't do that. You know. It's impossible to raise two crops up here in this country and a, there's a lot of things that you didn't use to be able to raise that you can now up here, only because that they've been able to hybrid a, of hybrid seed and cross of all kinds so they shorten the season. When I was young, it, corn didn't always mature, and it didn't always mature because it was corn that took 85, 90 days for it to mature. And today you can get corn that matures in 65 days. And you can get a lot of vegetables the same way see. But you still can't raise two crops up here, of potatoes or, onions or whatever you might but you go south of here, and west they got such great expense there. I think there's areas out there that they raise two crops and west they got such great expense there, I think there's areas out there that they raise two crops. I don't know that the season I guess the season is longer. But a, [2.16] they had winter

wheat, and I think after they harvest the wheat I think they have time for another crop cause that comes in in the spring pretty early. But I don't know about that. But it's the whole cycle, of farming has changed, through mechanism, through the processing, or refrigeration, transportation, you know. In the wintertime they send stuff here from Europe out of the greenhouses, they ship it over by plane.

MS Could you go back about the whole cycle of the farming, you hit the microphone or something like that.

ET Oh.

JB That was a good, a good statement.

ET Well.

MS Okay.

ET Yeah. Farming had changed a lot in recent years, do to the fact that the, the processing, you have a, refrigeration, you have a, better transportation and that has made an awful lot of difference because it expanded the market, it comes in, they ship cheeses and in the wintertime, from Europe, and in the

wintertime you can go in these stores here, and have tomatoes, ripe tomatoes that are shipped in from Europe. And a, that's, them are all greenhouse tomatoes. And a, so, I think that farming had changed an awful lot through the years through, through all these different ways of handling, and producing food.

[3.43] And a, so a, and another thing is that they produce so much more on the same acreage. When I was a child I can remember my brother was in an agricultural class and he raised a half acre of potatoes for his project. And he got two hundred and twenty five bushel of potatoes to the acre. And they thought that was a fantastic crop. A number of years ago when I first came in the valley here, Ed Eurich was raising potatoes and I read where he was in the seven hundred club, that meant he raised as many as seven hundred bushel to the acre. Due to chemical fertilizers, hybrids and so forth. So, you know and they done the same with dairy. [4.32] A cow will produce a lot more today than we did back years ago. It is phenomenal what they do with some of these animals today they, and I can't quote you the figures

but, back when I was farming, if you had a cow that gave three or four hundred pounds of butterfat a year, you had a, awful good dairy animal. And today they surpassed, in fact, today butterfat ain't worth that much. But they have cows I guess that give over twenty, well over twenty pounds of milk a year now. And a, years ago, it wasn't like that. You didn't have the proper feeds, you didn't have ways of testing the proteins in your feeds and so forth. And all the studies that they've done in these universities, like UVM agricultural college and all, and these experiments have done an awful lot and another thing that has changed, dairying a lot, is in, is breeding. See. Artificial insemination. Artificial insemination has given them the power to take a blood strain in an animal that's very protective, and being able to ship their semen anywheres in the world. To reproduce. And years ago you didn't have that.

[5.51] It was just within a small area, if you got an animal that a, carried off, that a, had good characteristics that could carry you out to their offsprings, a, it was just within the small area. But

today, they take that semen and they can ship it anywheres. Cause they can preserve it. And a, this is, this has made an awful lot of difference in dairying. See. And a, today they also use the same as what, veto fertilization they done that, they're doing that in animals today. And a, if they have a very outstanding dame now, they can produce from her by taking her eggs. Before they used to use it just with the male, they could do it just with the male, but now they do it both ways. And they're so, I understand that there's a cow up here in Mont, East Montpelier that's worth over a million dollars because of that. So, there's an awful lot of changes going on in agriculture, and all these things tend to bring the price down in this area because it enlarges the market for every body else it also increases the production.

[7.02] So that makes the market different.

JB And how has skiing effected the character of the valley?

ET Oh you have a, you have a lot of different types of people who come in, we had a lot of nice people come in, and a, but they bring in a lot of money and they



spend a lot of money. But, it's like it is all over the world, you got good ones, and you got bad ones. You got some people today trying to take advantage of it and it brings in, and you have so many a, people going through here, that it brings in the drugs, the drugs and the thieves and all this. [7.44] But, that's all through the country. And this is due to transportation. A guy could be here tomorrow and he could be in California tomorrow night. See so, I think that, that I don't think you could ever avoid that. And I think people these type of people drift areas, where they feel they got a better opportunity to apply their trade. Whether they're pick pockets or what, you know.

JB If this bottling plant could go through, what do you see it, in all the best circumstances, how do you see it effecting the community? [8.24]

ET Oh I think it, I think it for one thing, it would employ some people, but I don't know very much about it, how it could be detrimental. Because in the first place it shouldn't pollute the air in any way.

Because you're not using chemicals, you're not gonna use a lot of energy, like you do in processing some manufacturing goods. It's gonna preserve the, the 1700 to 2000 acres up there, they won't be able to, develop that or. And so forth. [9.04] So I don't know where you could have any negative effect. And, if I was to choose one industry in a community, I would choose that, I think over any other thing that you could do, I don't know where you could find anything that would benefit the community any more than that, that keeping 1700 to 2000 acres open without development. And having industry that doesn't pollute the community, and in case of accidents all you do is spill water in the road. You know you spill a little water, I don't see where there's very much detrimental to me, I can't understand that some of them feel that you're gonna drain all the water out from under the ground but a, they've done all kinds of hydraulic studies and, hydrologists and a, the state has and she's filled out all the requirements of the state, which is considerable. [10.05] And a, the state has the authority to come in at any time and

monitor the system. Or, if there's any complaints about anybody being a, shortage, there being a shortage of water, they can come right in and check it and make sure. That it's not her system that's doing it. So, to me I don't know why but a, the people that think that they're gonna keep this community straight by them having dictatorial powers over it, all they're gonna do is keep anybody from investing any money in here. And a, people are gonna have to pay more and more taxes to continue what they got. And not only that but the kids that we work so hard to educate over here, they won't stay in these communities cause there's nothing to do. We'll do like we done years ago, we'll be exporting them to New York city and Buffalo or, anywhere else that they can find work. And that's the sad part of about it. [11.12] So, I just a, don't know, I just feel that a, that if something don't happen that all these bad things are gonna come about. I don't think I'm pessimistic either. I think it's a, that a, it's a, these are facts. Historical facts. It happened in the past, I don't know why we should feel they ain't gonna happen

again.

JB I would think you said it, \_\_\_\_\_.

ET Yeah. [11.45] Shall I tell the story about Bisby.

JB I would want that very much.

ET Yeah. Well, after I closed the ski lodge, or after we started, we sold the farm, or the dairy, and we started in the ski business, I filled my summers working for Doc Bisby. [12.07] Who was a native of this community and a, I think he must of got that nick name by working with his uncle. And every body in the community called him Doc Bisby. And when I was working for him I guess he was over 70 years old, and he done a lot of community service. He used to help the scouts and the church auxiliary and a, the community clubs and he was a Mason, anybody wanted a job done to help the community he was there to help them. [12.44] And in the store we had a lot of people coming in and of course skiers were coming in then, and every year there would be change over in managers or sales, and up in the Sugarbush area there was a, a ski chalet out there, they call it Shushbush.

It was like a little motel and it had 8, 10 units in it. Most every year they'd have a new management. So, this particular fall, this young man came in to see us, and he got to know Doc and he wanted Doc to fix him up some keys because he was afraid that they lost a lot of keys in the past and he was afraid every Tom, Dick and Harry would have a key to the units. So Doc made him some keys and he went up, left the store, and a few days later he come back and he says to Doc, he says, "say doc," he says. "Some of them keys don't work very good." He says, "I've worked on them some but I can't seem to get them to work proper." So he says, "I wonder if you have time, if I could drive you up there, and bring you back if you would just fix the keys up for me." So Doc says, "sure," he said. So Doc went up to Sugarbush to help the young man out. And the young man was, married and I think they was gonna have their first child. And after Doc got back down to the store, he was telling me this story. And he says, "you know, Ed," he says, "when we was coming down, he was telling me about his wife that was about six months along, and he wondered if I would take her

case." Ha! Ha! Ha! And I said, I said, Doc looks at me and he says, "you know Ed" he says, "we do about every thing but we're not gonna take on maternity cases." Ha! Ha! [14.44] So that's the way that went. See.

JB You were talking about a nick name and a.

ET Doc Bisby.

JB Yeah but a, before when you told me, I think he, you thought it had come, he helped his uncle.

ET I think his uncle was a veterinarian. And he had worked with his uncle and he used to go out with him when he was a kid, to the farms. That's the way I understood it all came about. And they called him Doc Bisby and the name stuck with him. And a, down here, every body knew him as Doc Bisby. And a, he was a native of this area, he was born here and he spent his childhood, part of his childhood in Barre. And he knew Governor Davis very well. You know from when he was a young man. Yup. But he was a, fantastic man and he done a lot for this community and these people are all gone now. And sometimes I think they're all

looking for each other. But, and then we was talking about the stores. When I first came in the valley [15.45] down here, McHeuron, E. R. MrHeuron had a country store. A grocery store. And a, twice a week, they would get on the phone and call in the surrounding community to find out to pick up people's grocery orders. Some people would call into the store, and if they didn't call in, I guess the store would check back with them. But they had one person all he'd do, he had a, a van, and he would a, pick up all the orders on a given route and then he'd go out through the community and deliver them. And there was one old gentleman up in East Warren called in one morning and put in his grocery order and he said, "I would like a can of axle grease." And, they delivered his groceries and later on he called the store and he said, "I ordered a can of axle grease," he says, "to grease the wheels of my manure spreader, and you sent me x-lax." He said, "I didn't want anything to fill the spreader up, I wanted something to grease the wheels." Ha! Ha! Ha! Ha! So they used to do that but a few years later they had to discontinue it because

of the economy I guess. But they didn't do enough  
business that way with the super markets coming in,  
and all evidently to pay him to do it. [17.23]

(Coughing)

JB That's a great story, well I think we've done great.  
ET(Cough) Well I hope so. I hope it didn't hurt  
anybody.

JB No. I don't think it hurt anybody. Let's, did you  
get everything okay?

EV Ah!

JB Do you want that a story about the vet again?

EV Yeah the Doc Bisby story. [17.41]

JB What happened was a, in the explanation of the name  
it, it got lost because I asked the question.

ET Yeah.

JB Can you stand doing that again?

ET Yeah oh yeah.

JB Oh great.

ET When I first moved to the valley here, we had a, a  
general store in Waitsfield on Bridge street by the  
covered bridge, it was run by E. R. McHeuron, and back



in those days, a lot of these stores used to deliver groceries, and a, there was, they had one man that picked up orders over the telephone and every, every other day and he had two, three different routes. And after he picked up the orders he would put them together and he had a van, and he put them in his van and go around through the country and deliver his orders. This was routine with him. [18.45] One morning he was filling out one of them orders and there was a gentleman way up in East Warren a farmer, and he ordered a can of axle grease, besides his other groceries and stuff that he had ordered. And somebody had miss understood him. And after they delivered the order, he called the store back, and he said, "you guys sent me some x-lax instead of axle grease." He says, "I wanted some grease to grease the wheels under my manure spreader, I didn't want something to fill it up with." Ha! Ha! Ha! So, you used to get, today I guess you get the same kind of misunderstandings sometimes. Ha! Ha! Misinterpretations, I do. And in particular with our computers today because if you get a number wrong, it throws the whole thing off. As a

plumber one time I ordered a, I thought I was ordering a white toilet, and it came in blue and I says why it'd come in blue, well he says, on the end you put a six instead of a seven. Ha! Ha! It had about six digits you know. Ha! Ha! Ha!

JB The other one was a, actually what they wanted was the Doc Bisby story with the explanation of his nick name.

ET Oh!

JB But going around with the vet.

ET Oh yeah. [20.04] After we, after we sold our dairy, I begin to work in the summertime at a hardware store in Waitsfield. And it was owned by Doc Bisby and his son Bob. Well every body in town called Clarence Bisby, Doc Bisby and I understand it when he was in the Barre area, growing up that a, he went around with his uncle who was a veterinarian and they got so they called him Doc. People did and, and it was a nick name that stuck to him all his life. Well working there in the store we done about every thing there was, and we used to make keys and do all kinds of plumbing. And a, one day this young man came down from Sugarbush and he was the new manager for a chalet

up there. They called it Sushbush. And they had 6, 7 units like a little motel units. And he wanted some keys made, because he was afraid there was a lot of keys out, and that anybody might go into the units at any time. So Doc made him up some keys and he went home. And a few days later he came back, and he says to Doc, he says, "say Doc," he says, "I went up there and them keys don't work very good." He said, "if you would go up and see if you can get them to fit, I'll drive you up there and ride you back." [21.42] So Doc wasn't too busy so he says, "okay." So he went up and he got all the keys fixed, well this new manager was a man that hadn't been married very long and his wife was expecting and she was about six months along.

So after Doc got back down to the store, he came to me and he said, "listen Ed," he says, "we do about everything here," "but" he said "this young man told me that his wife was about six months along and he wanted me to take the case." And he says, " I decided, I decided that we could do about every thing but we're not gonna take on maternity cases." Ha! Ha! So a, he got the guy all straightened out and this is

one thing he wouldn't do for him. Ha! But, he, every body in town knew him as Doc and I guess that's, that stuck with him all his life. And he must of, it must of started when he was very young evidently. [22.43]

JB That's a great story.

ET But they did. People used to come in, with old lanterns, golf shoes that the crux was gone out of, you know and we'd have to put them in. And, old, old pieces of equipment that come out of old, old houses you know, dry sinks, or they'd want drains for that or, a cap to cover a drain up, you know or, a million little things that you couldn't buy or fix any other way. And we run a, we run the plumbing, we run a plumbing business and a hardware store, and we had a sheet metal shop see. So we done a lot of these odds and ends for people.

JB I talked with his daughter I guess it was a, Marion Wallis, and a, she said he was a great story teller.

ET Well, Marion a, Marion Wallis.

JB She was Marion Bisby I think.

ET Okay. Yeah there were a lot of Bisbys around here and I can't quite.

JB Maybe I'm wrong.

ET Yeah I think so, she might of known about him because the Wallis lived down here and the brothers are, are, were born and brought up down here. And they was about Doc Bisby's age. See but they might of known about it see, but there were a lot of Bisbys around here, he had a lot of relatives around here.

JB Well I think you're done. You did just great.

ET Well I hope it does some good. But I don't know.

JB I think it will. [24.12]

MS Are we, are we finished?

JB Yeah I think.

MS Oh okay.

JB We'll, we'll do a.

MS Okay.

JB Maybe this.

MS I'm gonna move the mike back over.

ET Okay. [24.18]

JB And this.

MS We're gonna, we're gonna do just a, a little bit of room tone, so we're just gonna sit quietly for about half a minute is all.

ET So you get some tape.

MS Right. Exactly.

JB This is when editing.

MS Completely silent please. [24.31] This is room tone.

END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE END OF INTERVIEW