

George Carpenter/TC1994.0056  
Mad River Valley Project/VFC1991.0004

JB Jane Beck  
GC George Carpenter  
MA Marla  
MS Miles Smith  
Place Mad River Valley, VT  
Date 06/22/1994

JB All sit quietly, without saying a word, and it's  
called room tone, and they use that to edit what you  
say. [.17] You know if you have false starts or.

GC Well I don't think the.

JB So that's what I'm all.

?? You're not on yet, you're okay.

JB We'll warn you. Don't worry, we'll warn you.

MS We're ready when you are.

JB But, the kinds of things really that I'm interested in  
are some of your memories, you know, what, what this  
place was like.

GC She's got them written right down here, you should  
have somebody that talks like Marla that they can  
understand and.

JB I can understand you pretty well. [.58]

GC I talk through my nose. Ha! You know.

JB I don't know about that. Ha! Ha! But a, some of your memories, what it was like growing up here, what are the changes, your feeling about the land, some of the issues too. And, and also um, I understand from talking with Marla that, that your mother had summer visitors, and then you've had skiers.

GC Yeah but I don't want to talk about the people, those are stories that are, that wouldn't go on the radio, you know. [1.49]

JB Okay, well. We don't, you know, that's.

GC Marla got the questions, you gonna ask?

MA Well no, I had talked to Jane about some of the things you had talked about and, you know pretty much I had started out asking you when the house was built, I think. [2.04]

GC I don't, I don't even remember what you asked me, you asked me the questions and I could answer but, to remember and talk.

JB Well I actually a, know about a couple too and I.

GC You do, well.

MA And tonight you told me some interesting things, you told me the name of the man that delivered the mail,

God knows when, then Griffin, a pet Griffin.

GC Yeah but you can't go on and talk on this thing and talk about that, without mixing everything all up.

MA Heck, well yeah, well for what she wants but I mean that was the delivery of the mail with the horse and buggy, I thought it was pretty interesting.

JB Yeah and Marla was telling me I mean one of your memories about the horse that was swimming.

MA Old Jack. [2.46] Swimming in the flood.

JB In the flood.

GC Yes.

JB So what I'm looking for are some reminiscences, some of the things that you remember which will show how this place was.

GC You've got to, I've got to start if I was gonna tell, I'd have to start back in 1920, born in 1920, what did they have, \$25 million dollar debt. Now what are you, billions.

JB Yes.

GC That was a, when woman's rights were passed in 1920. And a.

JB Oh! I'm glad my husband isn't here. Ha! Ha! Well

what if we started with this farm and a, what the valley was like when you were growing up here. And it doesn't have to be in every detail but you know there were x number of farms, they were small farms or whatever.

GC You got the items I could go by somewhat?

MA Yeah, can you read my writing?

GC I'd forget where I am, I'd be up in 1940 and be back in 1920.

JB That's all right, but don't, don't worry about a, that so much.

GC I think a.

MA I think we have the year there, you said your mother started taking quests in 1929.

GC Yeah but they were, you got every thing all, things would all be mixed up, you'd have to have a round table talk to get it, get on after, you'd have to.

JB Okay well what if we just say start with you as a young boy and what you had to do on the farm and what the farm was like.

GC Well, a young fellow. When I started out young father took me up on the brick road, give me a \_\_\_\_\_.

He says now we'll go to church you know. [5.04] I went down the church steps and knocked his hat off and \_\_\_\_\_ said I hit the preacher but I don't remember hitting the preacher but. So you got to start, it was mostly work, that's all I can tell you. And then we played ball after chores. Baseball. I don't think anybody wants to know what a, I don't think anything personal should come into it, I think it should go into a, something of the area. [5.34]

JB Well I.

MS I have a good sound of you rattling paper around. Ha!  
Ha!

JB He can hear anything with a.

MS I can hear all this stuff, so thank you.

JB Well I don't know how not to, I think you need people's stories a little bit to make some kind of, you know, a point. And if we could, you know sell me your reminiscences or what it was like you know the kinds of chores you did or, or an incident that happened, this program will, will jump from different voices, and you know people will have told about how it was on their farm. [6.24] So that there will be a

number of different voices, I mean Rupert will maybe talk about a, being the eyes for his uncle. He has a, a whole thing about how a farm started small and then the machinery coming in and you got bigger and the machinery got more expensive and it cycle and cycled and cycled and he wasn't really sure that we were any farther ahead today. I mean we might use that, I don't know exactly what we're gonna use, but what we're trying to do is get different people's stories about life, what life was like here, how it's changed, and look at that. I don't know how it's gonna come out. I a.

GC All chores and baseball. [7.24] Played baseball, I loved baseball. I did chores and then, of course I guess out of a, New York, the boys would a, we'd play three old cat out here after chores. About all you had to do, the older people all they do is, sit and there was a resting period at the time, in the summer, they'd take their guests and they'd sit, would sit around and, eat dinner and say what time is supper, you know. You had to work in the garden, get in the garden. That a, oh, and then of course the a artists

the fellow that worked for a, Saturday Evening Post, Peterson drew the buildings, [8.25] by hand and they drew the mountains over here, they a. I wouldn't know what to say.

JB Well tell me about a, one of things I understand about a farm is that there are all, you have to do a number of different kinds of things, to bring in income.

GC Hand milking. It started our hand milking when we were kids, my father had a milking machine pump. Didn't like it so the kids come along and milk by hand. So horses, you worked the horses all day long, had the hay loader, father had a hay loader we had to pitch the hay off the hay loader, you had a side \_\_\_\_\_rake. [9.23] Most neighbors, we had a dump rake, rake scatterings but a, he come up with the hay loader and mostly wood, and rope, wasn't too much steel on the old hay loader. To repair the wood work, or repaired everything, the sleds or wood shod, every thing of that sort. And then a, steel come along, was a dollar a pound, later on in years, now I don't know what it figures, I haven't figured up by the pound

what it cost now. But a, [10.00] bigger, always growing bigger. Milking machines, come along when we got to 28 cows we had to get a milking machine, you had to have the cooler to cool the milk, we used to get the ice, put it in the ice house, put the sawdust on the ice and pack it and the people from the city would put their beer on it and sit there and when we go in with a load of hay into the barn with the horses, the old a girl come up sitting there drinking a can of beer, breaking Vermont laws you know, that was in 31, 32, and I wouldn't want to, I kind of liked that breaking Vermont laws cause a Roosevelt he broke them right off after that in a hurry. But all the farmers back Roosevelt had a started the a agricultural started. Of course Bisby and a we had a, Bisby in the soil conservation, we had Ed Jones was the commissioner of agriculture, and they a got us out of \_\_\_\_\_ disease, there's another word for that a, [11.24] I can't a you got a, the cattle all loose their calves you know and we always called it bangs disease but a, we'd drive the cows down over the hill and father would a blame us for knocking the calves

out from chasing them. And Roosevelt and Ed Jones and all the boys got together and the cattle were loosing half the calves. They still have problems but a that started in 32 we cleaned the herds up around here.

[11.58] So a, I wouldn't know what to say, I know they did a lot of good Roosevelt went in there and he started some good programs but they kept right on taking the money you know. Now they've gotten to be a nothing but a thievery and that sort of thing. You wouldn't like me to say that you know.

JB You can say anything.

GC Some of the, well I'm not afraid I tell how's the fever doing today you know. Why not. But a.

JB Well when you started farming here, you had 20 cows and did you have chickens and pigs and all kinds.

GC Everybody lived that way, they started out and then they started shipping cream, had creamery over in the valley, and then a we had a creamery in Moretown, they shipped cream. Smith, Smith took the butter tubs and the maple sugar, and the old cooper shop, \_\_\_\_\_ built a house with 19 rooms to have a lot of children, didn't have a chick nor child and down and make butter

tubs all night down there in the coopershop. [13.24]

So a, but Smith had a, horse, a double team of horses, and then the fellow that used to barber, the barber used to tell us about how he used to carry the places he used to stop at, he'd go down to South Royalton I think down that area to the railroad and then Middlesex, they'd bring grain back from Middlesex. And a, then along in that time they a made shoes out of the leather that a, tanned with the hemlock bark, come off the hill up here, Ward used to get big piles of hemlock bark. He a, shipped that on the railroad, that went by horse team. At that time the granite sheds you know the horses were all, all the granite was brought down out of the, oh. I wouldn't know what to say I don't know nothing about a. [14.36]

JB Tell me a little bit about Moretown, cause that was a different kind of town in that.

GC That was the same, a lot of towns, Moretown was about the same. We had a, Marla was talking tonight, the a, H. L. Ward started in Dellsville, Duxbury, Dellsville up in there. And then the store was moved down and

with the 27 flood, next to the creamery, took the store away and then they moved down to another store or built it, whatever I don't remember. [15.15] I know there were two stores there. And.

JB But didn't, didn't Wards, they did all the logging and the lumbering and they sort of owned.

GC Everybody brought their lumber to them. They a, they run the saw mill, they hired the help to run the sawmills and then a they'd set the farms some of the small farms that went out, they when times got hard they'd set them out to trees and I said one time thought, Burton I said God I got to borrow money, he said I have to borrow money too. So he had to borrow money but he'd borrow money, buy them out. [16.00] And he'd set the fields out to trees and take a couple of cows if he had them, father had a nice holstein cow, had to sell it to pay the grocery bill but, he kept right on working just the same. But a, he had to borrow money and but he, had a lot of land, bought the land when it was, when the rest of us couldn't, I guess. But they started up in Dellville the H. L. Ward and then Burton took over, Herb Ward, Herb Ward

was a town clerk, couldn't sleep there, one of the boys, I forget the town clerk's name. In there, before Herb. There was the, Herb Ward farm right there across the store, in Moretown, beside the church, he about \_\_\_\_\_ off \_\_\_\_\_ than I am now, he was right between two churches, I got five churches around me here and I have to be careful of Saint Peter, I can't sing anyway so I don't care, I get up there and wrap on his door, just cause I can't sing I hope he helps me in. But, that's the way it goes I guess. [17.28] Well.

JB Tell me about your, was it your mother that began ringing a, people in the summertime, did you run this as?

GC Yeah the large house, she's fixing up a room, every year she'd fix up another room. Bring in a dozen, fourteen people. Girls got three dollars and a half a week. Let's see, they had, oh she charged a eight dollars a week, I think. Three meals a day. The girls got three and a half, and what. I remember the old a, father swapped the oldsmobile he swapped 50 acres, it was supposed to have been 75, 50 acres. 50

acre lot. He swapped it for the oldsmobile. 29 olds.

And that a, mother run that tipped it over the brook and the fellow tipped it back up, fifty cents. Go raspberring and knocked the wheel off hitting the rut and it stuck out in the road and, but a, father drove oxen and the Model T Fords stop on a dime but he got in a three speed car, and he'd drive to Montpelier and Lowell and home in reverse. So a, [19.04] they'd laugh at him some, the kids walking on the road they'd a, look out here comes, father, father thingamajig, I guess they called him. But he was a good old fellow in a way. Somebody would push him off in a ditch, he had to walk downtown and get somebody to pull him out.

I don't want to say too much about that though.

JB Well what, what, where would the people come from that would come and stay here, was that?

GC New York. The roads were all dirt, take them, they'd start 4:30 in the morning and they'd get here five o'clock at night but a. Some of them would get lost on Lincoln mountain and have to turn around, there wasn't much of a road up there then. But they had an old graham page, a couple old maids. They always come

back. Graham page would give them some trouble but there were a couple of them still around always fixing up those antiques. They a.

JB So the valley has always appealed to people from away. In a sense.

GC Oh I believe it, Mrs. Stafford, took guests, on a, Waitsfield common with her mother. Oh a Mrs. Joslin, there was a lot, I can't name all of them, there's quite a number and then there was a, Drew, I think a, the Drew boys, their mother up in Warren. They're quite a number of places that took a, they started it.

[20.56] I don't think I'd get into that too much. Well we had ice, we had a, cutting ice out of the Mad River, it wasn't fit to drink, mother would use it in the icebox and it wasn't fit to drink. We'd put a damn in the brook, damned the brook up and good water and had good ice. And I guess Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Tucker I think a took guests up there and they built a damn, damned up the brook, I think they were, quite a number of them up through here took guests when times were hard. [21.48] Went from, yeah we went from cream separate the cream, I'm not gonna talk about

that too much. Uncle Harry he'd a, stop he'd go out, night hawking, stop and get a drink of cream, and the frog would jump out of the water tub into the cream can and father would take it downtown, and old Barney Griffith would laugh like heck at him about the frog jumping out of the and the next time you go down and say, you got another frog here. So, that's the way it went with the put the cream can in a watertub, take it to the creamery. Yup. I don't know. [22.39]

JB Tell me about the flood here.

GC The flood.

JB Yeah.

GC It was flooded. [22.51] It was flooded, the valley was flooded there's was one bridge, the guy down here says there's one bridge left in Moretown. Casey bridge was the only bridge left. I don't remember what bridge was left in Moretown, I never got away. I know it took the one down below here it took it out. The little brook bridge. 27 flood. People stay right there in the house so water right up within an inch of the kitchen floor, stay right there they wouldn't leave, they wouldn't come up here and, but the house

stayed. And then, 38, they lost their chickens and the calves went down the river. But 27 was hard, those chickens was still in the road, the 27 flood the chickens were in the road. The guests would be in a hurry to go to a movie and the old Irishman set out on the porch and a car would go by there goes two more chickens for Sweenard. They'd get a couple. They'd be dusting themselves in the road. They think they have potholes now they ought to have the dust holes then. I guess chickens did a lot of work for them instead of the dam fever up here. But, I don't know let's see 27 flood. They a, it wasn't as bad here you get a lot of that down Chittenden county, down around the railroad. Nobody would believe the old guy used to stop in here and have coffee but he was out there in a boat, out in a boat picking up people and water all piled down through Chittenden there you know as, we had enough of it. Yeah. I couldn't tell you much about the 27 flood, no. [25.03]

JB Well I think Marla told me that a.

GC Oh father probably should tell you about father getting old Jack over to the covered bridge, yeah.

Walter Gaylord drove the school bus, Hap's father. Father kept calling the school and they wouldn't let them out, they didn't know what was going on up there, and we was getting water down here, we had five brooks emptying up there, they only had one little brook. Well the difference, they just didn't know what was going on. [25.45] Father was born and brought up right there the covered bridge and he knew, when the water was getting high, he knew when the water was getting high. Yup. A lot more water down further down the river you go the more water you get you know that you go down Lake Champlain we'd pass every thing down to them if we can. They got enough down there of their own, they got the dog manure in the city and they got the a car wash down on the side of the lake there, I bet a dollar they don't run it into the but I call them right up down there to, they get an article in the Free Press, I call them right up and I say, you's blaming the farmers, you old dogs, the dog food is the biggest business in the country, you know up to the store, you got a, that's a big business. But a, I like it here they're building houses up back of me and

it boils up out of the ground, just rolls down the brook all I have to do is dam the brook up and damn it right up and catch a lot. Comes down the brook, and the field will grow all the faster. Used to get the free fertilizer down the river, and they dug all the gravel out of the river and taking it and don't get any more free fertilizer now. [27.15] Have to go buy it.

JB I just want to finish with the flood and you were talking about your was it your father and the old horse?

GC Yeah. He a big old Jack, old.

JB Tell me that.

GC \_\_\_\_\_. Well he just met the a bus, the old truck there at the bridge and brought them across to the water, that's all. A low spot. And the water was high and the Jack was tall, that's all. Sister was large and the boys were bigger, the heavy boys last load, take three loads, you know. And put the heavy ones on last to hold the wheels down. They were sitting up on the top of the buggy seat I guess a couple of them the last trip through. But a, a small

item. (Barking) Ha! Ha! Ha! Sic them dog.

JB Ha! Ha! Ha! And the hurricane was worse than than the  
27 flood here?

GC No I don't think so. Of course bridges were older.  
[28.26] And they a, or wooden, wooden, you know logs  
and plank, plank bridges and all that, they wash out  
easier. A lot of them, of course a lot of them  
cement, I guess. Some of them getting to be cement.  
But a, damn, damn in Moretown, Moriarity built that  
that stood the 27 flood, the water just goes over the  
top of them. They were built, he knew how to build  
them. But Moretown I think Casey bridge was the only.  
A fellow down here told me that Casey bridge was the  
only one that stayed. I don't know. I don't know the  
old Benedict had a farm across Wards store there, he  
owned up over the hill and we hate it. And I mowed it  
and the neighbor bailed it and set it out to trees,  
there was a fellow out there cutting wood and he  
wouldn't believe me, he'd, trees are high now you  
know, he wouldn't believe I mowed hay there. Dick  
shot an eight, ten, twelve point deer going across in  
front of his camp you know and, nobody would believe a

hay field at that time. [30.01] Fayston all grown up the brush and trees and, set out trees and Fayston pasture. Set out trees here, five thousand at a time.

The lady says I don't like trees with any bob wire on them you know. That's what you get from citizen soup, they don't know what the hang you're talking about. Cause they won't talk to you, they go try to make trouble in town somewhere. You know what I mean. But, I don't say too much about that.

JB What are the biggest changes that you've seen in your lifetime, here? [30.46]

GC Bigger, yeah that would be a, no that would be a, that would be a, a mechanical genius would cause, mechanical geniuses would cause a change. You got to feed the people. I got to have bigger tractors, you got to have better machinery, better tanks, cooling equipment in order to have a good product for the people. They got to be, of course you got to have old gramp there to start it all and then a, I won't say. They go to school, you know. Got to go to school and learn and a lot of them go to Brooks electrical, some mechanical, whatever. But it gets more expensive.

Farming can't, well farming it's hard for a farmer to keep up with it. [32.10] You take time off and a try to raise a family and the family gets ahead of them before the a cows do, that's all. So I don't know what would a I bought on a couple meadows, you try to find better land you know the machinery is, you only farm the good land. Oh, I don't know.

JB Well according to Vassar, he says that, the river bottom land is is much better than where he's farming, where he was farming up in Fayston. He said he only grew rocks.

GC Well we got a, we're on, we're on rocky, now wait a minute here, we're on Washington County topsoil. You can call it what you damn might of but it's the top of the mountain and a rocks all the way down through. I found a way to a crush them, get rid of them. You got a citizen's suit against you to shut you off. You put them on the river bank and pretty soon they're in the middle of the river. And you've got a brook. The river will a and stones, the water and stones will fight each other, water will stay in a brook, but stones won't. Or keep working down. Well, you can go

anyway you want to on that but it's got to a, come  
down the river sometime, some how. [33.54]

JB Do you think that the attitude toward land has changed  
from how you felt, how you feel about it, having been  
on this particular piece of land, over the years.

GC Well I always try to make it better. You always. Old  
farmers love the land they a, the feel of the soil and  
of course become rocking chair farming. It's become  
rocking chair farming, you used to have to harness the  
horse, throw the harness on and walk behind the horses  
we didn't have no hip problem, maybe because I was  
younger. But a you sit square in a tractor, you're  
gonna rock back and forth and wear your hip out and  
you haven't gotten no grease fitting, you haven't got  
any oil fitting, you're gonna wear it out and go get a  
new one. That's all I can tell you. [35.01]

JB Well Vassar also told me that a, well and he very much  
believes in mowing forward and a getting tractors and  
so forth but he also pointed out that when the  
tractors came in it was two steps forward and one step  
back, because his whole family no longer were involved  
in farming. And the mechanized machinery made it

easier to farm but the family no longer all worked together at it. [35.41]

GC He can tip a tractor over easier Bob Spike tipped a tractor over easier up there but we got some side hills here too. A lot of places up in the hills can tip a tractor over awful easy. I don't know how his land was. But we can tip them over if we want to. Well that a become rocking chair, that's become rocking chair, I just pick on my neighbor, rocking chair farming back and forth with the old tractor you know and you rock back and forth and you wear your hips out and the automobile everybody's in the hospital getting new hips. It's got to be the vibration of the square seats. I think. I don't know. I think a, I think I better keep quiet.

JB Well you love this land, and.

GC Oh yeah. Farming.

JB And I would think that you would want to see this farm go on in your family. And. [37.04]

GC It's not possible. It's not possible you got to, well one or two can operate a small farm and then you got to have a bigger farm you go to three, and then you

can start hiring help, if you're lucky enough to a,  
intelligent enough to hang on to every thing you have.

[37.30] I don't know what does cause that.

Intelligence I guess.

JB Isn't it the, the changes in farming that that you've  
seen and the situation of different values.

GC Taxes, taxes I go on taxes I shouldn't get on taxes, I  
swore. Nope. Father, I got his tax accounts was \$78  
and they dropped from \$84 to \$78 in 1908. You don't  
see them drop today. They go up 15% they go up \$750  
dollars to you. You go from a, what have them done  
with all the money that's a they've gone into thievery  
with it, that's why I call it the thievery they've  
taken the money and use it all up. They don't know,  
you got to have better roads, you got to have better  
buses. You got to have better children, I don't know  
how they get them. Ha! Ha! Ha! [38.52]

JB How did a skiing change the valley?

GC Had to go with it. Had to go with it that's all. Had  
a big house the little lady in the house got to have  
curtains in the windows, you got to have paper on the

walls, got to have better, better equipment, got to go with it. That's all I can say. They got tar roads up in the ski area, you got to have tar roads. Well you haven't got to but a lot of them do. Route 100 tarred and gravel used right out of the river on Route 100. That was tarred only a what 40, 50 years ago probably. But. That gravel all come right out of the Mad River. It had to come off the top of the mountain some where. [40.01] Out of the fields. Shifted and washed gravel you know, they kept shoveling it until it's gone. The old farmer keeps farming and the boy says he'll give you a million dollars, the old timers used to tell in the paper there, had a million dollars what would you do with it, and he says, I'd probably still be farming until it's gone. It's prit near the truth. And that was a, I saw that 30, 40 years ago. That's prit near the truth. They a, keep farming until it's gone. If they aren't careful. They've gone from horses, I like horses. Yeah. Couldn't can't do it with horses, I don't I say you can't you might be able some things you might do with horses but, you wouldn't be able to feed a, eight ten million

people in a city and no way. More milk, more milk boy, more milk. The old Irishman used to spit on the edge of the porch. [41.23] See them old horses go down through the field there, go after more milk boys, more milk. Got to have more milk. You know, milk they use for, pancakes you use in baking and it's a lot of manufactured milk. And, I think I don't believe manufactured milk is they pay enough for manufactured milk. That's what a I think they beat the farmer terribly on that I don't know. [42.01] I don't figure those things out. I'll let, I'll let Rupert figure that out. He or Ellen figure that out, I'll let Ellen Rupert figure that out. They're a couple of politicians you know, they can figure one that out.

JB Well since the time you've been here, there were how many farms, when you first started as a boy farming, the whole valley was farms?

GC Moretown, Moretown to Waitsfield village, what we figure that out, 25 farms. 25 farms, I think and a most of them were, had a cream or chickens or, one fellow had the old bull, he used to drive town with.

Guests like to take a picture of him, you know driving the old bull up the road. Couldn't blame them for that.

JB Ot oh.

MS Can you say that again without the paper thought.

GC Ha! Ha! They got me out of that.

MA Here. The good years.

JB So they would, well tell me that again. How many, the number of farms.

GC 25, I think we figured. And, around 20 there were 20 shipping milk I think when they first started in 27 along in there they started shipping milk. It went up to about 27 I believe from Moretown to Waitsfield. But. [43.47]

JB And when did that start to change? When did the farms start going out? And why?

GC Been changing right along. Been going out right along. I bought on two farms, when they're cheap you couldn't give, when I bought those places you couldn't give land away. A fellow lost his wife he come down and he wanted I should buy his land, that was in 48, 50 couldn't give the land away at that time. And then

a, we a you ask for change, that was a change, I bought on the farm and then the land started going up, I should of bought on 20 farms at that time. Yeah that was the change right there. Same way in Killington and all the ski areas, they a, they took the little farms, somebody would buy the house, pay more for it than they could make farming and so they went, I think that was the biggest change. But they built, they built that a, condominiums all gone into the ski area which that's good business for them, a few people come back out on the east side of the river but they don't too many come out here anymore. Why buses used to come through not, not any more they want to, they want to sleep on the side of the slope, and boys raise cane. Girls, girls like to raise the devil and then a, oh. How is that Marla? I've forgot how that goes.

MA You always said that the girls caused the trouble.

GC Well they a. Boys will be boys, you let the girls pick on them and hell is to pay. That's all I can say. Ha! Ha! Ha! That's the way it should be.

[46.16]

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

SIDE TWO

GC Go right up if they want to. [.08]

JB So from 25. [.13] (short pause)

GC There's six or seven still here I believe. Shipping milk there's four or five but a, well a beef farm and sheep farm, one of the best farmers in the valley he's got sheep and a heifers, the best boy in the valley. They get in the wood pile, he says I got wood, help me split it you know. He's a good boy. Shipping milk, he don't ship milk and a, five, six, seven shipping milk, in the whole valley. [1.10] Might be one in Moretown, and have two, let's say two or three in Moretown. The valley there's a, seven or eight. That's the whole valley but a, twenty five right between Moretown and Waitsfield.

JB I figure that you probably have seen the biggest changes in your life, than any of us, I mean you've lived through that time.

GC Change from horses to tractors after the war. [1.56]  
Didn't like to wait for the horses to stop and rest on the hill. Get sick of waiting for them to rest.

Ha! Ha!

JB When did you first get electricity here? Weren't you.

GC Father, father had a delco. Delco plant. And a, oh a twenty four by thirty six battery, turn the light off you wouldn't try it on, you'd turn it on but you'd turn it off, you didn't leave them on. And then a, then the neighbors all got electricity, one got it for, seven, seven I think seven dollars. From about a, prit near a mile. And father had delco and the other neighbor took on, eleven dollars, and then the power company come in and says we got a program where you can hitch on. And they got him to sell his delco plant. Three dollars. He didn't use all that, he didn't use all the three dollars, he a, three dollars a month. And not a, not an hour, three dollars a month. Ha! Ha! Ha! But, that a, telephone, they go up on the hill two houses, I think that was around two dollars a month, have the crank on the wall and.

[3.46] I guess those are, seem like good times but I probably, probably they're better now, you probably get more out of, I don't like paying \$7000 or, all the other taxes to the help and all that and. I don't

know what we are paying. Dorothy could tell you. It must be up there pretty well. I imagine Rupert and Marilyn are farming. They probably could lower them a little bit, if they get in there. I think Rupert could. I don't know about Allen here, whether he could lower them or not I think he'd probably raise them, he's farming, he's the best farmer in the valley. [4.40] Milking.

JB Rupert's got deer now. Rupert has deer.

GC Oh yeah. He's got a, trailer park and everything they made a lot of trouble for him didn't they? I think they made a lot of trouble for Rupert and.

JB The DeFrees are farming.

GC DeFrees. Oh yeah, they run, they run them, they farm the whole, Rochester and Warren both I guess. Half of Waitsfield probably. Yup. They make a lot of it. Got to.

JB There's a story about a, I can't remember whether it was Rupert or, I guess it was Clessen Eurich that told me the story that you reminded me of when you were talking about the telephone, about Clarence Strong. Remember that? [5.53]

GC I remember Clarence. You heard about Clarence?  
Rupert, telling you?

JB Rupert, Clessent.

GC He was telling about the Clarence he had one of the first radios you know, he had the ear phones, but a, they'd take on Clarence, they wouldn't pick on him long, he'd pick back. You had to feed his horses at noon, he wouldn't stay, he'd, his mother's wife and mother are sisters. And he come down here and stay and have dinner but he had to go back right after dinner and feed his horses. [6.36] He took good care of his horses, yeah. Raised potatoes, he raised potatoes, somebody called him up and say, how many potatoes you got this year, half an acre. How many? You wouldn't believe it, you know, and he'd tell them.  
He was a Scotchman, he'd speak right up, he wasn't afraid to speak up. They're all good old boys.  
Clarence and the neighbor up pasturing in Fayston, Clarence's brother. Old timer.

JB I talked with his daughter, Mrs. Goodyear isn't she Clarence's daughter?

GC Whats?

JB Mrs. Goodyear?

GC Ina.

JB Yes. [7.32]

GC Ina. Oh! Clarence's daughter sure that's Clarence's daughter. Yup. (short pause)

JB What do you think about this aquifer?

GC I got a couple wells. You'll find somebody wants some water, let me know. I can fill. I got the best tasting water in the country, boy I feed, what we'd feed a hundred and twenty five people. We were licensed for a hundred and twenty five, I think. Or more. I could run quite a lot of water out there in that tank, I could have a couple of tanks, I can give them a tank, every couple of days. [8.40] That's what I think about it. I think I have a right to sell it, I can't, if I can't get any guests in here, I better use the wells for something. And hers runs free, I got to pump it, electricity, I don't know that that's right. Ha! I better shut up, probably. Ha! Ha! Hers runs right out of the ground. Pressure. That's not, an aquifer, yeah you'd call them aquifer

but there's one up on Moretown common runs, a hundred, oh it runs a lot of water. Boy they had a hard time shutting that one off. It's right up there in the corner of the brook. Just as good as any, just as much an aquifer as anything else, that's a real. A fellow got sued for a, calling these artisan wells and we have to pump them with electricity. [9.40] And they run free, that's a free artisan, that's a real artisan. So a. That's what I think about it. They run free, you know, if you, you got to drill them but, the guy with the, well the spring, the water running off a hill that's a. I got a couple old farm springs. I could help the well. I can pump with electricity and help it along with the spring. When the spring started getting a little bit low I'd know it, you know. I don't believe it would. I think the a, your pressure is up hill on a spring isn't it? In the oval. And water, isn't the pressure of water in an oval? I wouldn't want to say what to think about an aquifer. It's a free country, I know it's, I've always pruned trees and grown trees and took good care of them. You got to cut them. I'm out of, I'm out of

cash. The banks won't lend me the money, you get a milk check, you got to keep that milk check, see the farmer's got to keep the milk check going to the bank.

The minute you're income stops, you don't get any more money from the bank, the bank comes in and forecloses and takes your farm for nothing. So they've got to continue, they better have either a lot of money behind them or have a good milk check plus some money behind them. Cause the bank won't lend you any money if you don't have an income going in there.

That's why, we're hit here. Hit hard. You've got to have an income going to the bank or the bank, the only thing they'll give you now is a, card, what kind of card call that?

JB I don't have one. Ha!

GC They all have them.

JB I don't understand.

GC They all have them cards, they buy cars on them, them cards. They got, what is that card, they call that card, what do you call that card?

JB You mean that you stick in the machine?

GC Yeah they got a little machine. Got the little

machine card, they always ski on it.

JB Oh the credit card.

GC The ski on it now, they, it's a big business. [12.13]

A lot of the skiing, there's, that's one of the biggest changes I've seen. We used to get the checks used to come in, the money come, reserve, now they come in and a, we have to give them a cheaper price to get them. Or work harder to get them. And, you have to take a credit card, credit card charges 4%, I don't know just how that is, Dorothy would know. But a, we have to pay 4% on that credit card. And then if we take out money on a credit card we got to pay a, 15, 18, 24% or something. The bank will lend you that kind of money anytime you want it. They love that.

[13.09] We have some banker on my back. I'd like to get a hold of the guy that put Roger in the bank. In the jail. Roger Lussier. I bought a tractor from Roger over in Westford, come all the way from Westford on a tractor, an old tractor and a couple of wagons, one on top of the other, come all the way, I couldn't get my corn any other way. No other way and I bought it at auction, and they use me right. He come over

here one day and got to have my money, and I says a,  
God I think we can get it for you. We gave him some  
of it. And Roger used me well. I wouldn't even have  
my corn and my silo if it hadn't been for Roger. And  
I'll give him a good word any day and. He probably a,  
I can't believe that man ever did any body any harm.

[14.09] I like Roger. I bought a few cows of him, at  
auction. Yup. To me Roger was one of the good ones.

Billings had, he Billings is judge, he had to, jail  
him I guess or, the federal man took him. Billings  
had to, he had the papers in front of him he's the  
judge.

JB Yeah that was just yesterday, wasn't it, or a couple  
of days ago. That just happened yesterday didn't it?  
He was sentenced.

GC They a, Billings had to, about yesterday, but that's  
been going on awhile.

JB Yeah.

GC But a. (short pause) Well I'm sure Roger wouldn't  
let me take the tractor if I wasn't gonna pay him some  
day. The way of business at that time. I don't see,  
what else he got into I don't know. Ha! Ha! I don't

know his business. Ha! But.

JB In the old days here, was business done pretty much on a hand shake?

GC It still is. Certain people you better know them.

Yup. If you don't shake hands with a guy don't.

Yeah, they'll, you don't shake hands with them, they'll take you for a citizen suit or something.

JB They're a lot of citizen suits every time you turn around here.

GC I don't know too many, I know of quite a number, an article in the Burlington Free Press, that three weeks ago, did you read that? [16.22] Three weeks ago or something, there was an article. I've called them right up and told them, it seemed good to see a decent article in the paper. Of person from California wrote that article. You should get it, you should get it.

JB Which article are you talking about?

GC There's a lot of them but it was in on the, editorial page in the Burlington Free Press. And a fellow from California was the first one that wrote that, I think some other papers wrote it. And it's on the environment. On that sort of thing.

JB When did your, was it your father or your grandfather that bought this farm?

GC My father.

JB And he bought it when?

GC Father around, father's mother, they, they lived where Bertha is now, Tucker. And they bought it in 1893.

September. Oak trees out there come from top \_\_\_\_\_ out there. [17.50] Around six or seven thousand dollars, something like that. Can't do it today, you got to go to the bankers and get some credit cards.

JB And from the start did they do logging, sugaring, a number of different things to bring in money to run the place? To make the place pay.

GC I didn't get the first of that, that a.

JB Did they do logging in winter, and a?

GC Well, logging is getting to be a larger, bigger scale.

JB But in the old days?

GC Oh yeah. Log all winter for wood. We still burn wood. Electricity and oil the whole thing, gas we buy it all. Send the gas man, the oil man, send them all to Florida and we still burn wood. But, yeah we used

to a, log some wood, take the logs to Ward he wouldn't put them down the hole why he couldn't get them out. One fellow there he put them down the hole where father couldn't get them out. And he never did get his pay you know. Yup. Always was. Logging and lumbering was one of the biggest, always was, lumbering and the farm, lumbering and a, went to milk, we got into milk vicious. Milk has gotten vicious. Got to have good milk for Ben and Jerry you know. Ben and Jerry up there taking their picture selling ice cream over in England. This gal from England was, over here trying to buy the place you know. She went over to the Rockies there, got in there some where, come over and watch me plant corn, see how I plant corn, this is what you call mountains look like hills to me. And she tried to buy the place, father get him to set the price, he'd set it for nothing, why she didn't know what to call it. And then a, Ben and Jerry go up and the same dog gone place where that guy took the pictures of the buildings and hand painted them. They're up there eating a, ice cream, ice cream over in England, boy they come out with ice cream in

England. They asked Ben who they tell that bull from the heifers? He says that's a twinkle in their eye.

[20.45]

JB Well now your son works for Ben and Jerry's doesn't he?

MS One second. Just let me.

MA You know the story of the Ben and Jerry's, it's hard to follow that. They came over and they took used pictures from here, and they're taking it to England.

JB Oh I got it.

MA And so it was Ben and Jerry, but which one was here?

GC Both of them.

MA Both of them were here, and I guess, my mother told me I wondered how come he had so much Ben and Jerry's in the freezer and she said they got after my brother because they didn't even have a container, they wanted a container of Ben and Jerry's ice cream, for the ad or something, so they reminded Georgie that he could get three a day or something, and they were to bring as much ice cream to dad and mom as they want. Something like that.

GC Oh we had the old bull locked in good too you know,

bordered up, \_\_\_\_\_ from California a couple of boys going to Norwich we boarded the old barn up in good shape, had the bull locked in and he got [21.50] through a piece of tin on the end we missed.

MA And Ben and Jerry were here?

GC Well they didn't want to go up to the bull up there but, he got up there and, how he could tell a bull from a, when the girl says "how do you tell the bull from the heifer?" The twinkle in their eye. [22.13]

JB Well what do you think is gonna, come of the valley?

GC I haven't looked that far ahead. I haven't looked ahead. I've been, had my nose to close to the ground, I've been down there feeling the dirt. One or two, one of two farms will have to, keep producing. I think a, they keep building, they got to have something to earn money, they a contractors, keep buildings houses. I have a son, neighbors have got sons, they got to have houses, but the big tax payer I think the little fellows are gonna to a, I think the taxes will go on to the houses. I don't know, I don't want to say. [23.33]

JB Another question I, wanted to ask is, is it getting

more difficult to pass a farm on to your children?

Like in the past.

GC Ah, it went from 200,000, we have a 200,000 what do you call that a exemption? Where you can a pass on, what a, I think under Reagan, I think under Reagan or Bush I think it was Reagan that went to 600,000 the farm bureaus all pushed for it, it went to 600,000 exemption. So a, as long as you a, have that six hundred thousand, that's not gonna be for a large farm that's not gonna be enough probably. But they're trying to lower that, they thought they were going to but I don't think they will. I don't think they could. I think there's got to be, if a fellow is gonna farm he's got to own the property, he isn't gonna take any interest in it. He's not gonna have any interest in it, I have to fix fence around 17 houses and they a, they don't have to fix any fence. The laws they go down here to the zoo, in Montpelier and pass the laws. And then what are you gonna do a, we've got a fellow comes along the road and, I'm out there trying to get a heifer back in the pasture, the

guy turns his car around and comes back and says, see what your cow did to my car. He got 14 hundred dollars for a little broken piece of plastic on the car. The insurance company handed it right to him.

[25.53] If I hadn't had insurance, just lucky we had a little insurance and he still shouldn't of gotten it in my opinion. See what your cow, we never heard that years ago, we've been, I've been farming here helping father and everybody for what 70 years and I never heard anybody say see what your cow did to my car. But a, somebody told me he was an insurance agent so probably he knew how to get it. He wasn't out there watching, taking pictures with bulls and the heifers, he was out there after money. Hum. That's the way.

[26.50] That's the scenic road for you, you know, they're out there looking the scenery and driving, I thought a partridge went by me and, nice easy going car, a light car but, boy I didn't need no, I saw the heifer go down the road a ways and jump over the fence, so I was praying to God somebody would help me get that heifer back in the pasture but I didn't want to get back in there that way. Ha! Ha! [27.18] Ha!

Ha! And oh. Hum. Well you asked me a question there, but I got off the track a little.

JB But you made a very good point.

GC I think that's what a, I think that's what the valley is coming to, that's what you asked me I think. I think somebody is gonna come along the road and say, see what your cow did to my car.

JB You made that point very nicely.

MA Have you seen the traffic, have you seen how fast it's going by here tonight. [28.01] Cattle crossing the road.

JB Zoom. Zoom.

MA They just go right between the house.

GC Well there's one thing I don't like to see, the a, farmers probably need it to stay in it is the a, land taken over by land trusts, and they have a certain number of years I would imagine in those land trusts and then they can start building some of them forever.

Some of them might be forever but I don't think they all are. And, they still farm for, they get money on that land, and they gonna farm and it helps them for that moment, but as prices go up I don't like to see

that trim, yet we do need it. I think that's a bad way to have to take money to a. It's hard to see people have to take money. Like they should be able to. I'm not as young as I used to be. Didn't pay no attention to that years ago, when you get older, you're out there fighting it. [29.46] When they a, now you crawl around dragging one foot along the cement floor and then good. (short pause)

JB Well Marla do you want to try the microphone and, and talk a little bit about a, how you see the valley from.

MA You stay.

JB No you can stay, we'll just, what we'll do is we'll just move the microphone over. And put her on the hot seat, and ask her as the younger generation to what you said, how she sees it. [30.41]

GC \_\_\_\_\_ . (Noisy, moving microphone)

JB Well no, but and you made a very good point.

MA He's trying to stay away from the controversial.

JB I realize that but. (Noisy)

GC \_\_\_\_\_ , I think they're able to take care of [31.07] (short pause)

JB Okay. I guess it's set. But I guess what I would like to ask you as the younger generation and seeing what's going on, you know, what are your reactions?

MA My reactions are very mixed, and they've changed you know they fluctuate as time goes by. I think watching my father work as hard as he does, as he's getting older it's taking him probably all day to accomplish what when he was younger probably he managed in half a day, and a, I feel upset for him, for the situation that occurs as you start getting older, and you have a son that has to go work some where else, because the farm can't afford two of them. And a, I think in our situation it's a little more complex, because we have the, the a, guest business plus the farming. And a couple of years ago when I wanted to take over the guest business, and tried to go for the separation of the two businesses, it was, it was a lot of regulation. And I've come to the conclusion from two or three years ago and with trying to deal with it, that I think it's what me parents want to do is, they

would like to see me, this is what I'm told they want to see is me have the ski business, or the guest business, with some acreage and they want my brother to have the land most of the land and the farm. And what I see with trying to separate the business between two of us kids, the regulation is too strict, it's too a, detailed. They ask for things that are impossible in a family situation. And I've come to the conclusion that it's going to have to be all my brother. I mean if he wants to continue the farm, it's going to have to be I think gifted to him, or turned over to him but on the other hand I said to his wife, "do you want to run the guest business?" And she said, "no, not the way it is now. It would have to be smaller." So I understand her point of view, it's a lot of work. And my parents both worked two separate businesses and they worked very hard and you've got to have a couple that can commit to that and now a days it's different. You, you want a vacation, I mean, if you had asked my father if he'd ever taken a vacation, he would tell you, probably now he'd tell you two vacations. It used to be one

vacation. Both vacations were in a hospital. [34.14]

It's, and now a days you know my brother is younger, and I'm younger, we want our vacations so it would be easier to split this large a property between two of us but I don't see it as being feasible. I also feel that a, when you're interviewing my dad, he does try to stay away from controversial things, it's going on tape, it's going on the radio. And I know he doesn't want to offend or hurt feelings but he stayed away from the gravel issue and the field that he wants to be able to grow corn in, he wants to take the gravel out there and he can't do it. I think last year they finally got a permit that would allow a few loads out.

[35.00] And now I believe there's people that are interested in buying the rights to the field out there which is the way they might go, just so that they don't get hassled with any more of it, they want to let somebody else try to do the Act 250. That I feel sorry for them because there's gonna be a middle man, the middle man is gonna make the money. And they just don't have the resources to keep going forward with trying to get the gravel out that needs to come out of

there. You know like dad says there are a lot of good neighbors, and there is still a lot of a, there's still a lot of the people around that do lend a hand.

I mean a, so but there's a few neighbors and they don't have to be just moved in front out of state they, one can be a local person, and it's just that one person and they hold up the gravel sale. And now I hear that if they want to a, go through a middle man, I've heard the rumor that a, now she wants more loads per day taken out. So she's switched tunes. It used to be she didn't want that many truck loads going out now she wants more. [36.20] Dad's reminding me that he calls them the intruders. Ha! Ha! But a, I'm kind of surprised he didn't talk about it but then again I'm not, because he tries to stay away the controversial issues. I mean, there are stories and tales that he'd tell us of the people that live around here that he would never tell over the radio. So. I think people miss out a lot on some of those stories, I think they're funny. He thinks it's an insult, I think they're cute and they're fun. But. [37.00]

JB I though he did fine and particularly that story of

the stone industry. The changes.

MA Yes.

JB And it's, it's sharp and to the point and it will work.

MA Yes. He has a, you have to listen closely to his story, his tales because you caught on sooner than I did. He, he will say something and you have to be pretty sharp and follow because it sounds like some one who is just going on and on but he's got a reason for saying, what he's doing. And it's, I still find it very hard to follow him. So I miss the understanding, you know. I miss the concept. I don't know if too many people that have his philosophy though, or his reasoning I think that's being lost. I mean, he, he can a, he's very careful he doesn't want to hurt anybody else and he's not gonna say anything that would be controversial. Which is a, maybe I'm at the point where I've gotten frustrated and I don't care. Ha!

JB Well I was trying to get, at the point of here's a farm that has been in the family for three generations, and it's no longer simple to pass on it

and I guess I was really you know trying to get at that and, and how you feel about this. It's you know I mean this is your heritage and I wanted him a little bit to elaborate more on his love of the land which he started, he start to do but maybe you could a, do that for me. [38.50]

MA If he didn't love it he wouldn't be doing this. He's a very a, intense person, when he has a project he usually sticks right to it to get it done. The stubbornness he has, the independence he has, if he didn't love what he did, he wouldn't be doing it. To be in the pain he's in with his hip, you heard him keep talking about the rocking chair motion. To be, to know that you need a hip replaced and he won't go do it until the hay is done. Or his operation, his one operation he had last year, he did in the, I believe it was the fall. When the season was over and he's probably gonna wait on this hip until this fall to go out there and get up at what 5:30 or whatever

time in the morning and he'll probably be out there till ten or eleven tonight to keep going those hours, he's got to love it. I don't think, you know I mean there is a simple solution, they have the place up for sale. But every time an offer is made for it, his heart isn't into selling it. He'll, he'll do something so that the sale doesn't go forward or something occurs and he really doesn't want to give up. And, what I see my brother in the future I've told him I think he's really got a rough road, he's gotten used to getting paid, a decent salary, I think the hardest thing is his wife wasn't raised in this and you have to be used to working, really long hours it's seasonal. You know the seasons. And she loves the farming part, I mean, when she first married him, she worked the farm with him. And she worked right along and she's capable of doing it. It's this part of the business with the, the guests and every thing that she really doesn't have the desire because the privacy, some of your privacy you loose. So you almost have to be raised in it to have a love of it. You know you get used to the people coming, you get

accustomed to it, you hear such, you know for instance we had guests from Germany and at the time that Bush was running for president, I mean, they loved the man, and they told us what a wonderful job he was doing you know. And hoped that Clinton didn't get in and this, people from Germany telling you this. So, you have people from every where that show up, so your life is enriched. And in a whole different way but you have to be raised in it to, to appreciate it. But two, or three years ago when we started trying to separate the properties, you've got certain things that the town wants, and certain things that the state wants, and pretty much what we wanted to accomplish here, the people on the town planning commission agreed with, by that state regulations where the trailer sits on this property that my parents live in. They wanted it separated with an acre of land. Well it's right between the barn and the lodge and to me that was ridiculous to have to designate an acre of land to a trailer. And then some day in the future it designates it as a separate lot, it could be built upon. [42.11] It didn't need that. We didn't want

that. You know my parents were there, they moved there so they had some privacy from the skiers when it was a hundred and twenty people on a weekend. And they never intended to stay there forever. And none of us want to see it there forever. So, you know the town understood that I didn't want that separation there. But it's something the state wanted to see by the regulations. I just remember two or three years ago, my parents I think I had told you then they received a letter on having to use a, they were having to pay for the usage of their water. And that was like fifteen hundred dollars for I think it was five years and we finally we got around that because we cut the amount of people back, they haven't had that amount of people, and it's kind of strange you got to pay to use your own water that comes from your own well system and it goes into your own septic system. That one I didn't understand by the state. And I still haven't understood how this gravel situation is working out front. I still do not comprehend that it's, it boggles my mind. So. I think the a, every time it seems like the state gets into regulation it

seems to make it worse. [43.30] And it takes a situation that could be very simple and a simple solution and it, it's no longer straight forward.

JB \_\_\_\_\_.

MA It's.

JB Good.

MA Okay.

JB Thank you.

MA You're welcome. I don't know.

JB Yeah. No it's a. It's hard to know what you're gonna use but you need those, that was very good and a.

MA It's hard because you, you get to a point where like two or three years ago, you get worn down with it after awhile, you start going through all these agencies and you deal with it, it's like. I said to my husband, if it's like this now, what's it gonna be like ten years from now. I mean. You know to do a bathroom or change something or, you know you're told well you've got to always submit a permit, it's like my parents just always did what they wanted to do and I think they did a wonderful job at it. So. But, it's too bad you haven't gotten the a, the farmer's

names out of him though.

JB I know it.

MA Of all the a, farmers and the ones that owned the creamery and.

JB But he did well. And a, thanks for, you know. Cleaning it up and.

MA Oh, you're welcome. I hope it helps.

JB Yeah. It will.

MA I was hoping he would go into the soil conservation thing because he had told me how the soil conservation worked a little bit and how the ac, the AFC office worked and what's interesting that when they went for a court case with Turner, their records are gone, there was a fire on Elm Street or something in Montpelier, so dad was saying to Georgie and I the other night, he has pictures, from way back in the early 1920s and 30s I mean some time if you can come back when dad's in a willing mood, to sit down, he's got some historical stuff the should probably be photographed or preserved some way, some how of things of the Mad River.

MS I need to just record a, like 30 seconds of silence.

MA Okay.

JB Now so.

MA You think the dog will be quiet for us?

JB Ha!

MS \_\_\_\_\_ . Okay this is a, Carpenter room tone.

[46.03]

END OF SIDE TWO, TAPE ONE

END OF INTERVIEW