

Spike Vasseur/TC1994.0075  
Mad River Valley Project/1991.0004

SV Spike Vasseur  
JB Jane Beck  
Place Fayston, VT  
Date 11/09/1994

JB Let's just start out sort of at the beginning of your family coming here and.  
[.19]

SV Well we, we came here, or they came here in 1932, and my brother Robert was the first of us that were born here there was three other a kids before we came here and Robert was born here and a, every one of us thereafter was born right at the farm house right up the road. And a, well at first as I said before it was a, really hard to make ends meet because a, the bank had set up, all the cattle and a, and the checks went to the bank and they paid the price of the land payment and the cattle payment and, you know and I can remember a, in the earlier years getting checks for two dollars and twenty three cents. And a, and so it was a, really hard to make it at that time and if it a, of course mother made it possible because she had about an acre of garden and she canned everything in sight. [1.21] And a, and a, she's the one that probably kept the family together and, and she's always kept the family. Until she died she always was the one to, who kept the, the Vasseur family and the Gratton family together. We had kids that always came here, cousins and, and the

whole family visited here where they didn't even know their own cousins four miles down the road, down to Burlington. [1.49] And a, so there's always one person who does I think keep a family together. And it was mom. And a, well.

JB What role did the kitchen play in the family?

SV Well it was sort of the central, of course it was the place where the stove was and it was so cold it was almost the central place that you always were. And of course in those days a, you had three meals a day, so it was the place where the family ate together, and a practically did you know hung around the stove together, on really cold days, and a, it, of course in those days I think you could eat things that you can't eat now. [2.31] Ha! Ha! And a, we did have a, a lot of family meals and it was always a family meal. And mother and dad never made us kids eat anything that we didn't want to eat, except that the meal, the next meal was the next meal, there wasn't anything in between. Ha! Ha! And that was, that was good. I think it kind of taught us to eat most things.

JB Now I remember you were talking about the difference of the farm in the early days and the later days and how you started out learning to milk and sort of learning.

SV Oh yeah well. I think all of us started out, I was about nine years old and, all

the rest of the family were in the sugarwoods and my cousin and I decided we'd learn to milk. And a, so we did and we fed it to the calves in the middle of the afternoon and a, and when they home out of the sugarwoods a lot of the cows were already milked and dad really didn't get mad or anything he just said well, I guess if you want to learn to milk you can, you can learn to milk. And so I milked four to eight cows night and morning from a then on. Ha! Ha! And that was our responsibility. So learning to milk was at that age probably wasn't that good an idea but we thought it was at the time. [3.51]  
Ha! Ha!

JB You also told me that a, when you started school you couldn't speak English.

SV No, very, some of the younger of us, could speak some but my older brothers couldn't hardly speak a word of English and a, and so the first couple of years of school were not easy for us. [4.20] And not only were they not easy because the language was different, but because we couldn't afford the, the long pants and we probably wore knickers longer than most kids did and although in those days, all kids were farm kids and a, there wasn't really any discrimination against somebody how was poor, we were all poor. [4.42]

JB And I think did you tell me you were the only a French family.

SV Yeah. Basically at the Fayston school we were the only French family. There was French families around here, which a, well we basically got to know real

well. Because a, I think the families that spoke French sort of got together.

And, and they were all Catholic too which a we were.

JB Now how did the farm sort of change as you went along? As you were kids growing up, you all helped or a?

SV Oh yes I mean it was, everything was a family, a family affair, here it was a total family affair, not only our family but a, we had friends that would come and help us, sugaring was another family a, thing and as the, as the years progressed machinery came along which a, you know was supposed to make it easier. But it really didn't it a, the years where we were doing, pitching hay by hand and doing it with horses I can remember getting a load of hay and then sitting under the tree and talking and drinking Kool-aid but, as we got equipment, the it became more hectic where, before you would do an acre or two of hay, now you had to do fifteen, twenty acres of hay. So a, it became a matter of a mad dash and eating off the tractor and a, and that kind of thing. And a, and it also machinery in my opinion has done away with the family.

[6.28] And it's not a, it was a, progress in one sense but it was a total backwards step in the sense that you didn't need the children to throw hay or, or to do things any more. Machinery did it for you. And sugaring is a real example of that where almost every kid in the family had learned to gather

sap from ten quart pails and then they went to twelve quart pails and then to sixteen and into the twenties and then along come pipeline and you didn't need any body any more. And a, it's sort of a, I mean people say that the family doesn't stick together. Well machinery had as much to do with that as anything. Because the kids couldn't operate the machinery when they were young and you didn't need them to, to either pitch hay or a throw bails or to gather sap. [7.19] And it a, so where machines made it easier, it also made it more hectic and it sort of eliminated family out of the farming, and in my opinion it sort of eliminated the family out of the farming situation. [7.39]

JB I also remember your telling me that a, really in growing up and caring for the animals, you know how attached you would become to a team of horses or.

SV Oh yes. You know it a, I think the, the horses were, it was harder for me to stop using horses than it was the cows when I got sick and I finally, we finally had to get rid of the cows. The cows, dairy farming is probably of all the farming is probably the hardest and most demanding and most pressurized of all farming. [8.16] It a, it's twice a day no matter what and a, and I did a, when I came out of the service, well before we started when we were just kids we always, it was part of the, what you had to do. I mean you, you came home from school, you changed from school clothes to your work clothes,

you did what you had to do. [8.34] And a, and that was work. And then as the, you know as the years went by it was a, it was there was seemed to be more work because the farm got bigger the cows got better and a, I came out of the service in 1962, and from 1962 to 1984 or so I never had a day off. It was seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year. And a, [9.05] I've put in a lot of hours. And it a, there just seems to be dairy farming there's never a let up. And as the cows got better and better you could then not let anybody else milk them, it just seemed to be a, either Bob or I had to and we always did. No matter what. [9.25]

JB I think a, also you told me that you were one of the first farms or I'll get you to tell me. In feeding the cows more then.

SV Oh yes. We sort of pioneered a, well as we, as our cows got better we had the best cows in the state of Vermont for about six years running, up until the time we had to go out of business we were, we had the best herd in the state. And a, we did this by a feeding them nine times a day. And now it's sort of common practice to feed cows nine times a day. Or even more. [10.00] But we were about the first to start this. Thinking that every time you give them something, they eat it, they eat some of it whether they're hungry or not. And then we would a, take it, what they didn't eat away from them bring it down to the heifers and feed them something else. But it also made sort of

monsters out of them as the idea that they would not eat anything that wasn't top flight. [10.22] And a, which put a lot of pressure on you in the summer when you were haying and stuff to have the best and, the best hay possible because you knew that the cows would not eat it, unless it was the best. Cause they knew we were coming along in ten minutes or half an hour later and give them some thing else and, so it made them sort of independent. [10.40] But they did, they did milk good.

JB How did you come on that a. Come to that conclusion.

SV Well, we a, we fed basically the same, it was through the grain company. We weren't people to shift grain companies, we a, we started out years ago with a, with a grain company and they went out of business and we went to another grain company and then we finally got on to a, Beacon Feeds and a, and the guys out of Richmond Farm Supply in, and we fed Beacons Feeds for 23 years. And a, they helped us a lot a, there was some of the things that I just figured I didn't have to spend time learning because they had the experts and they were willing to a, to help and they did give us the idea of a, hey every time you feed them something, they will eat some. And the more they eat the more they give. It a, it a, if they, the more they eat the high quality feed the more they will give you so we just a, brought it to a higher standard then what even they thought and it worked a. I mean we had a 23 thousand

pound herd, herd average when the average was a, something like 14 thousand. [11.56] And our cows did produce and it did take care of us. But we spent basically 24 hours a day taking care of them too.

MS There's the refrigerator.

SV Ha! (short pause)

JB We were talking too about your connection with horses and cows and a, the fact that logging with horses sugaring with horses was in many ways effective.

SV It really was.

JB But one of the things I'd like you to comment on is sort of that, and then it sounded to me as you went to machinery you still kept you know horses for certain jobs and so on.

SV Yes we did we a, we kept horses to sugar with basically for about five years after we really didn't need them for anything else cause we had the tractors and all. Because they're so efficient. If you're gathering sap and not with the pipeline, you know they are, they have been eliminated. But when you were gathering sap, horses were so much more efficient. [13.08] We had horses that would, see you the side of the road and just come and stop in front of you, cause they knew you wanted them there and they knew all the roads in



the sugarwoods, and how they were and they learned which run we used to call them runs you went in. Every, you know, every time you did it we did it the same way so they got to learn this and you didn't have to drive them. So we, if you use a tractor you always have to have a driver, and it's very hard to get off a, a tractor and gather sap or, or if you had snowshoes, if you're wearing snowshoes which we did almost all the time, it's impossible to drive tractor and have snowshoes. And so, we always figured that extra man could gather sap. Which a, it made it so that you could just have the extra man gathering instead of just sitting there doing nothing. So horse were not only efficient I think they were, they made you money because you would get around a lot faster and a, and a, they were just nice to have around. And we had all kinds, we had runaways, we had stubborn ones, we a, but we had some really top flight horses that a, that could just almost think ahead of you. And know where you stopped at every time cause it was almost always you'd come out in the same place, and they'd practically be there on their own. [14.26] They was, it was fun. And we always had so many friends that a, in the family that it was just a family thing, there'd be, 20 of us up there in the sugarwoods gathering, laughing and joking and caring on and a, and it was a lot of fun. Pipeline has come along and it's just, it's more, it's probably a lot more efficient, but it's no where near as much fun as it used to be.

JB One of the things that strikes me, in talking with different people is when all the family was there, there was fun, there was joking, they people told stories and a, it's maybe the lack of social ability that's happened with machinery as well.

SV I truly believe that. It a, I know on our farm, machinery, machinery made it a like a non-stop a, mad dash to get it all done, where we were, where like I say you were doing two acres by hand, you were now doing twenty acres and you didn't even have time to stop for dinner. [15.36] And a, and it a, it did eliminate a, the family and it, it well you were throwing bails, you were talking and joking and a, and then along come the bailer that threw the bails in and it stopped all the talking and the laughing and the joking and the, and sometimes it stopped an occasional fight too but. Ha! Ha! It a was all a part of being a family. It was, and when you're, even the closest families have disagreements and but that's part of it, it's a teaches you to a, solve your disagreements and five minutes later be right back helping each other a, do whatever you have to do to get the job done. [16.16] And I think that is seriously lacking in families now. Is that they, that they a, machinery has made it so that maybe there's not that adversity, and so much as there used to be. So you don't, you don't get a chance to cope with a, the ups and downs, the good times and the bad times. [16.36]

JB Now you will and I'd love you to say this for me again, but before you were telling me about how you felt like you had lived you know through the, the biggest change but what I'd like to do is have you talk a little bit about the changes you've seen in the valley.

SV Well of course when we came here I joke about there being the only thing that was here is poplar trees and poverty. And a, it was a whole community of farms. Small little bitty farms that a, you eked out sort of an existence, and a, and as the years progressed a, people left the farm and they went on to, to regular type jobs a, and a, in this area, we were, we were fortunate that a maybe we had the mountains that people wanted to ski off from. [17.28]  
And if it wasn't for Sugarbush valley and the, or Sugarbush ski area and Mad River that came here, Mad River came here in 1947 I believe. We would still be poplar trees and poverty. Because there really isn't anything else that you could do here. So I guess it, it really does irk me when you hear these people say I wish Sugarbush was gone. No they don't. Ha! Because we went through that once before they came and it, there was just poverty here. And, and this has given us a chance I wish the jobs that they offered were higher paying jobs but it still has given the community a chance to have something that puts them in a class above, some other communities in this, in the state

and we were lucky, we're lucky to have the tourism industry and, and the ski industry. And for those of us who make maple syrup, it gives us a chance to sell our syrup at a much higher price than we would have anywhere else.

[18.30] You know a lot of other places anyway. And a, it's come from a, you know just a small little farming community to now a, a big tourist area. And a, I think it's fortunate because I really do believe the ski area and the ski business had nothing to do with the demise of farming. It a, the demise of farming is because it is so demanding, and as kids got cars and they learnt sort of what Paris was like, they didn't want to be tied to cows, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty-five days a year because they knew there was something better. We very much didn't know that there was anything better. We just a, it was what we had grown up with and this is what we done.

[19.20] And after you've done it for so many years, it's sort of, you start to think it's the only thing you can do. And what would I do if I wasn't farming. And I still hear that today. Oh what would I do. And it's a, it is scary. It's very scary to a, to have done, have farmed all your life and suddenly the doctor says, (cough, cough) you can't do this anymore. And it's scares you. Some of us did it, Gordy Eurich did it voluntarily. And I give him credit. I, I wouldn't want to say that I probably would still be farming now, had the doctor said, you can't do this. [20.00] But it's the valley has come a long ways. And it's,

it's a nice place to live.

JB It seems to me it's very well defined kind of geographic area, and in a sense well maybe more so in the past isolated by the mountains and the river.

SV Yes and I think that's why you really, you get a community out of three communities because it is sort of isolated from a, other areas but it, we still have the Fayston anti-Waitsfield, anti-Warren you know feeling, I mean we, every town does. It's a, although we're all in the same boat and we do get along real good and we still kid the Warren the Waitsfield people about a, well we just go there to shop because we don't want that stuff in our town, you know and, but it's all, a lot of it's kidding. But a lot of it too is a, it's hard to do things when you are dealing with three governments. It's a, it makes it a little bit more difficult. But we've managed to not kill all the Waitsfield guys since we. Ha! Ha! And they have managed, and they kid us a lot too. But it is a, this community is definitely tied together, whether you want it to be or not we are welded together, through we all have to have the ski industry and the tourism. And all three towns are together in that. And it makes it a community that knows, even though there's a lot of joking and kidding around, about anti-Warren or anti-Waitsfield, or anti-Fayston. We know that to, we have to be together to make, to make it work. And we are.

[21.50]

JB Now what about Moretown, Moretown was a little different wasn't it?

SV Moretown is, it's almost like it's part of a another area. It's never really got into this area, and a, and maybe the ski industry business still hasn't a, reached out quite that far. And Moretown is still sort of a, more of a country, countryish town. Not because I think they want to be it's just because it a, the economics of the ski business hasn't really reached quite that distance yet.

JB And I guess too, it was different in that it was really Ward's town.

SV Yes, and it was the, in years ago, when we first came here, I mean Moretown was the, the rich town. I mean it had all the lumber mills, it had every thing. [22.42] In Warren, in Fayston and a, especially Warren and Fayston was really the poorer, the poorest of the poor towns. And sort of now it's changed where, Warren and Waitsfield have, or Warren and Fayston have a, you know taken a lot, been able to take more advantage of the, of the ski business, and the mills of course are all gone and so Moretown has, you know it took the place that we were, 50, 60 years ago.

JB Now do you spoke about your remembering when electricity first came in, tell me that.

SV Yeah. [23.20] It was a, we got electricity when my sister got married. It was something like 47 years ago or. And I can remember a, the poles being put up

the hill and put in the middle of your fields but we didn't complain at all. We were just so happy to get electricity up until then it was just kerosene we used to milk cows by hand with kerosene lanterns for light and why we're not all blind is beyond me. [23.48] It a, sit around one kerosene lamp and do our homework or read, and a, then electricity came and a, you know we got milking machines and, and it all started. For, we were probably much later getting electricity than most people because we were up his hill so far. And there really wasn't any thing between us and the bottom on the hill, at that time. And, I don't know if it's, I guess the occasion of my sister getting married it was my oldest sister, and a, so I guess that made it the occasion that we could get electricity. And we, when we went from a, having a bull to artificial breeding, we sold the bull and that's how we got our first television. Ha! Ha! And that was much later than most people too. Ha! Ha!

JB So you really have seen it all.

SV Yes we've seen, seen it all. Well I hope not quite all yet but a. Ha! We have seen tremendous changes and the tremendous changes in town government which we've always been completely involved in. My brother of course has been 38 years as, on the board of selectman and I've been prit near 30 years as the town treasurer. And of course my wife is the town clerk and. So a, we have been totally involved in town government since, for many many years.

And, and it's been a little outlet from the, maybe the work. [25.14] But it's so different now because 20, 30 years ago the, the total town, town a, budget school and town, I can remember one year it was \$21,000.00 And now it's a, about four million. And so, you can see how things have grown. And we a, I guess we were one of the towns we owned. I can remember the town owing \$19,000 for a grater. And we thought this was the end of the world. And a we raised 50 cents on the tax, on the grand list, just to pay off the debt so the town would be out of debt. \$19,000.00. Ha! Ha! And.

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

SV Yup and now our school budget is into the couple of million dollar category.  
[26.04]

JB Had there been noticeable changes in attitudes noticeable changes in the community?

SV I think a community will still rise to the occasion. You know if there is a crisis a communities will still rise to the occasion but, people don't just get together for the sake of getting together. Like they used to, this is the way I see it. It's more of a, now, oh I'm here if you really need me I'll help. But a, neighbors don't get together quite so much and, even though it's so much easier to do it than it used to be. But a, there was a more, when we first got here there was more of helping a neighbor, just because a, maybe he had something to do



and you didn't. [26.56] And you had gotten your done and we used to do that a lot. But nowadays it's a, it's a just a faster pace world where even you just seem like you're in a hurry whether there's any reason to be or not. And a, I think there's more stress than there was, I know there sure is on us.

[27.18]

JB I know in driving through Waitsfield I've noticed a lot of sort of, the computer companies springing up and sort of higher technology and, you see a, Mad River Canoe, now these are your new industries.

SV They're new industries. The, the Mad River Canoe has been here for quite awhile. The computer places seem to come and go. There's one and then two years later they're not here anymore and you know we just went through. We went through this bad a, the sort of the mini-depression here, it a, they seemed to all disappear an now they've seemed to come, be coming back as the, as the economy of the country gets a little bit better and better. But I think that really stands to reason because if no one is shipping anything you certainly don't need a computer to, to keep track of it. And when things are really booming, these computer, it's nothing that a community can really hang their hat on. [28.20] Because they come and go with the, so much with the economics of the area or, or the country.

JB Well how about something like Green Mountain Coffee Roaster?

- SV Those kind of businesses have definitely a, you know increased a, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Ben And Jerry's, and they're a, they're definitely a, a help. But they're once again they maybe hire half a dozen guys, and you need industry that's more than that to a, and we're lucky to have the ski area. And the tourist business other than that, I don't think they could sustain those little businesses could sustain a community. [29.02] They do help.
- JB How about something like a. Oh.
- SV No it isn't quite ready yet, Jason, cause I'm. I'll let you know. (door closed)  
What was your question again?
- JB I was gonna ask you about a, Virginia Houston and the aquafir and what that might do for the community? Tell me again what an aquafir.
- SV Well an aquafir I guess is a, is a, a lot of water that she's found on her property. Which right now hasn't done one single thing for the community. Because she can't get permission to take it off. I don't know what happened to the vote yesterday. Whether it passed the, as a conditional use or something, or whatever they were trying to do. But so far she's a, she's very much a, frustrated I'm sure. That she does have this large amount of water, and a, she has been unable to get the kind of permits you need to, to truck it off. And unable to get the, the other people to, other people to go along with allowing her to truck it off. So, right now, I think it's, really done nothing for

the community at all.

JB I understand that the vote did pass.

SV It did pass.

JB And a, I was wondering what this might mean, I mean is this a good thing or?

SV I, I think it probably is if but. Well nowadays with the, the 250, in Vermont especially there seems to be a, it's a never ending thing, and in almost every other state they have their laws like 250, or whatever but there's a beginning and there's an end. And in Vermont right now there seems to be a beginning but no end. And a, it can go on and on and on, and I'm sure that the people will still oppose her trucking if off, and they could tie her up forever. And, this is, one of the bad things about Act 250, especially in Vermont, I know the Sugarbush valley people, were talking about in Maine, they have 250 too, or their equivalent of, but a, they talk about putting in the, the permits in December, having the, the hearings in February, and building by the first of March. Well in Vermont, that just doesn't happen. You put your permits in 94, you have your permits in 95 and if you're lucky you could get started in 2019. After you've reached all the, the appeals and you know people have it down to a science now about how to, how you can appeal and stop things and it goes on and on and on and. A lot of businesses have given up simply

because they, they run out of money. Or it isn't worth the million dollars to truck a little water or. Or whatever. And they, there should be no one is saying there should not be any permit system, but there should be a start and and end to it. And that, and then, you're done. But that isn't the way it is in Vermont. [32.34]

JB Is that the environmentalist, is that people have come here, what do you attribute it it?

SV Well of course the environmentalists have been extremely strong in the last a, you know ten years or so. But there is a lot of a, I'm here now close the gate too. And a, that I really see as, you know a wrong attitude. You can't close the gate just because you're there. And a, I think that's what a lot of people want to do. They, they come up here, and it's the, they figure well it will never change, and it will change, I mean we have seen tremendous tremendous change. And in their lifetime they will see tremendous change. Some good and some bad. But change no less. And they try to a, it is a nice place, but you can't keep it just the way it was when you got here by saying a, I'm here now and I don't want any thing else to happen. And it's not gonna work. [33.36] cause eventually you need tax money, the bills keep going up and up and the tax money has to, has to come in and a, you have to have something if you, if you don't grow, you end up with horrendous taxes. And

a, this is what usually happens and, and you, what you couldn't do 20 years ago, you now will be able to do because the town needs tax money. And it seems to run in those types of cycles. [34.10] (short pause)

JB Okay, one of the things I think you told me before was that the cost of living here is higher than in Burlington.

SV Yeah.

JB And had to say what it was you liked best about farming in the past. What would you choose?

SV I think it was the, I would say that the most fun was the, the easy going aspect of it, that there, there didn't seem to be a lot of pressure to produce more and more and more milk and a, I think it was a, the family part of it where, it was, if you, everybody in town was practically in the same boat as you so there really was no competition with anybody. And it was, very you know more relaxing than I think that's what a, less pressure more relaxed and more family orientated than it is now.

JB And you talked about machinery changing that but can you put your finger on sort of when that changed and probably what caused the greatest change?  
[35.38]

SV I can't really put my finger on any particular machine that, that made it change it just seems as if they came, it slowly progressed to the point where

you had this probably it was tractors, probably made it where you could cover so much more area, and with horses you just did x amount a day and you couldn't do anymore. But with tractors it probably tractors many I would say made it a, was the one thing that changed farming into, from relaxing to just hectic.

JB You also pointed out to me, last time that nobody went anywhere because you had horses and a, transportation was pretty slow, it was cold, it was.

SV That is very much true. We, you know you, your basically all winter especially and, and almost always where we lived there was a, you didn't go down swimming, you didn't do those things because it was so far to go and you had to walk, or take horses in the winter so. I think the family was even more important because the family was the only people that you had. And a, we always laugh about a, the kids from North Fayston, they were in our own town but we had a South Fayston school, they had a North Fayston school, and I never saw the North Fayston kids until we met in high school. [37.11] There are, there were a lot of them I had never seen in my life. And a, it was a, you knew the kids that were in your own school, but for the kids even in North Fayston, just four miles away I had never seen them.

JB Did you have a, not exactly storytelling but stories that you told within the family, about the family, you know that sort of gave you a sense of family

heritage? [37.40]

SV Well mother used to tell us some a, some things but as after she died it sort of a, it sort of went by the wayside. And a, and that was a, the bad thing but a, I guess we used to have a, you know deer hunting up here where mother always kept my, I can remember having 23 guests that during deer season for the first week of deer season which was always a wild time and a lot of fun. And these people used to come back every year and of course mother's cooking was a, what they used to come for. And they didn't care if they got any deer or not, but they could eat really well for, for a week and, and that was lots of fun. I never a, you know we never all my grandfathers and grandmothers were all dead before I come along, just my older brothers I guess can remember any grandparents what so ever. So it was basically our own family and it was, eight of us so. There was always something going on. And we learned to get along with our, with your brothers and sisters, and that's how we, we entertained each other.

JB I remember your telling me that one story about your mother, she was never a harsh disciplinarian, and she went after your brother with, tell me about that story.

SV Yeah. She a, she really never lost her temper, I mean mother would never, she had eight kids why she didn't go crazy is beyond me but she didn't. And

we would test her out and my brother did something and anyways she went after him with a stick, with little twitch, little twig that it couldn't hurt him anyways, so he ran off and every body said well, aren't you gonna go get him and she just laughed and said, "no he'll come back." Ha! Ha! And that's all she said and when she came back I don't think she ever did anything to him but. You know she really never did anything to any of us but we never pushed her very far either.

JB Yeah I think that's something that's probably changed too in families so. I don't know whether it was respect or, but do you.

SV I have, I laughed the other night when I had my.

JB Sorry.

SV I did laugh the other night when my nephew was here and he was talking about that, he was talking about nowadays kids don't have respect for the older generation or the older people, or something that we did, we respected our older, the older people, and I know our family in particular had a, had a lady named Mrs. Moriarity. That came up and spent the summers with us, and even being young we still looked forward to her coming cause she had stories about prohibition, and a, and the doctor that she worked for being involved in smuggling liquor across Lake Champlain, and we really looked



forward to her. Her coming. And in the winter, we had another couple, a French couple named the Larchells, that used to spend the winter with us. And they used to split wood and he had lots of stories to say too and, and a, this, this was just part of our, our home that these people would come and, we were glad to see them come and, and happy and they were older people, and we had tremendous respect for them. And I think this, you know the respect for your mother and father because that's who they are, they're their mother, your mother and father and a, it seems funny that they don't seem to have that respect any more. Some of it maybe it's not only respect but a little fear as to what your parents are gonna do if you act up in school or. And they don't have that any more. And a, we wouldn't do any. I can remember I wouldn't really do anything bad because I knew mother wouldn't like it. [41.34] And that kept us, that was all that kept us straight. Not that she was, they were honest all the time and they really were to you. They were good parents. How she did everything is, just a mystery to me. How she raised eight kids and had an acre of garden and canned two hundred quarts of almost everything. And had a half an acre of flowers just for fun. And she did that with, not the least complaint and thought it was a great life. [42.04]

JB Yeah I think you've said it all. I thank you very much.

SV Well thank you.

JB That's perfect. [42.14] You mother must of been.

SV Yup.

END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE

END OF INTERVIEW