

George & Leora Clark/TC2004.3006

Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002

SR Suzanne Rappaport
NR Neil Rappaport
GC George Henry Clark
LC Leora Alice Clark
Place Pawlet, VT
Date 06/28/1981

TAPE 1, SIDE A

SR [.20] --Okay, I think maybe I should turn this up a little bit. Can you just say a few words, George? Give me your full name.

GC George H. Clark, George Henry Clark. [.31] [LAUGHS.]

SR Okay, I think that—

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR [.54] I have to push the record button and then-- [LAUGHTER.] Okay. Now, Leora, why don't you give me your full name.

LC Leora Alice Clark. [1.04]

SR Okay. And, George, you full name.

GC George Henry Clark.

SR And, Leora, what is the date of your birth?

LC June 26, 1908. [1.14]

SR Okay. And George?

GC May 14, 1908. [1.18]

SR Same here!

GC [LAUGHS.] Forty-two days older.

SR Huh! That's something I didn't realize.

GC You have to respect me. [LAUGHS.]

SR Okay. Now, George, where were you born?

GC Pawlet. [1.32]

SR All right, now, I'm gonna ask you—yeah, I'll ask this series of questions. Have you lived here all your life?

GC Yes. [1.41]

SR Can you tell me, George—this is a question that's not really on the interview, but that I'm trying to get from each person—can you tell me where in the town you've lived? What houses you've lived in, up until the point that you came to this house.

GC Well, just on Jockey Street is where I was born. [2.02]

SR Where is that?

GC Down where Flossie lives. And, let's see, after we were married—

SR Was Route 30 there called Jockey Street?

GC Yeah. [2.14] They used to race horses down through there. [LAUGHS.]

SR There's something I didn't know.

GC And the next place was {Gilmore's}, Gilmore's house.
[2.28]

LC Gilmore's house.

SR Where is that?

GC That's over on-beyond Perry Wait's farm. [2.32] You
know where Perry lives?

SR Yes. On that road or up-

GC Right after that farm. [2.37] First place beyond
Herb Smith's farm.

LC On that road.

SR Oh, yeah.

GC And then we lived a while with her folks over here in
the Red Mill house. [2.45]

SR With Leora's folks?

GC Yeah. After we were married. And we lived a while
back down home that winter. [2.54]

LC With your father.

GC Then I carried mail. [2.55] And then we bought the
place-no, we went-that was, we went back over to-

LC Gilmore's.

GC Gilmore's house. [3.07] {We didn't think of buying
it.} [VOICE-OVER.] And then we bought the place down
across from Doc's garage. [3.15]

SR Right. I guess that's where—that's the first place that I knew about, where you lived.

GC Yeah. Then we bought this place over here. [3.21]

SR Ah, you've lived in a lot of places, haven't you?

GC Yeah. [LAUGHS.] _____.

SR You've moved around a lot. Okay, George, can you tell me a little bit about your parents, who they were, what were their names.

GC Well, my mother's name was Hattie Mary Clark and she was a Clark and my father was a Clark, but they were not related. [3.41] His name was Robert Henry Clark. He went by the name of Bert. And they both lived to be in their eighties. [4.01] And my mother died in 1954 and my father died in 1944.

SR The same year I was born.

GC Yeah. [LAUGHS.]

SR And where did they come from, George? Do you know?

GC Well, my father, I guess, was born in _____. [4.19] That's where his records were, anyway. And my mother, I think, was born right here in town. I think she was born in the old house up in—right where Marion Lake lives now. [4.31] There used to be an old house over across the river there. That was the old Clark place.

SR Just tell me the story once more about why your father didn't know his name. [4.43]

GC Oh, when I went into the service, well, I had to have a record of my father and mother and the whole family, right down through, so he went to looking it up and he always supposed his name was Bertram and he went by the name of Bert, so he figured it was Bertram because this old minister—he ran away from home when he was eleven and went to live with this minister over in Hartford, New York. [5.11] And so he always called him: "Bertram, you do this," or, "Bertram, you do that," so he always figured his name was Bertram. And when he went to looking it up, he'd always celebrated his birthday on the 9th of May, and when he went to looking it up, they was a Robert Clark born to his parents the same year as he was. [5.38]

SR Was born.

GC And but it was on May 6, instead of May 9. [5.46]
And his name was Robert. [LAUGHS.]

SR So he figured—

GC So he figured that it happened to be him! [LAUGHTER.]

SR Why did he leave home so young?

GC Oh, I don't know. Kids used to run away from home a lot like back then, you know. [5.57]

SR Yeah. So he just took off on his own.

GC I imagine, probably, his father was like some other fathers are—he maybe wouldn't do his chores and he probably whaled the deuce out of him. [6.08] I don't know.

SR Yeah.

GC But then he went to work back over in Danby on a logging job when he was young. [6.17] And I think he was still on that logging job when _____. [HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC.]

SR And your mother was from Pawlet? [6.24]

GC Yeah.

SR Yeah. What did your father do?

GC He carried mail for forty-three years. [6.34] He was Star Route mail carrier here on—

SR In Pawlet?

GC He carried eight years for Carl {Diniale}. [6.39] Well, he worked a lot for Carl Diniale 'cause he had horses and he loved horses. And so he carried the mail for him for eight years and then he went to work for himself. [6.50] For thirty-five years he carried

it for himself. He carried it right up until he died.

[COUGHS.]

SR What did that mean, carrying the mail for yourself?
Did he work for the—

GC Well, the Star Route from Pawlet to Granville Post
Office. [7.06]

SR Right.

GC And you delivered on your own. And it was a contract
job—you bid it off. [7.11]

SR That's what I mean.

GC Yeah. Yeah. It was a bid off job every four years.
[7.17] Yeah.

SR And the government gave it to whoever made the best
bid for the run.

GC Yeah. Usually, the best bid. [7.23] But after he'd
been on for a good many years, why, he could almost
put in his own bid, even if somebody else did, and
they would pick him.

SR Pick him, yeah. It was still that route when Neil and
I first came here. [7.38]

GC It was?

SR Yeah.

GC Yeah, you got your mail four times a day on this route here. [7.42]

SR Really?

GC Yeah. Over and back, if you had two mail boxes, and twice a day. [7.47]

SR Big change.

GC See, he used to leave at 6:35 in the morning from Pawlet to go to Granville with the horses. [7.56] And he had two teams. He'd run one team in the forenoon and one in the afternoon. And he'd get back into Pawlet about 11:30. I think t'was 11:45 that he was supposed to be back in Pawlet. [8.06] And then at 2:00—I think it was 2:45 or 2:15–2:15, I guess it was, and he'd make another trip in the afternoon into Granville and get back here around five o'clock at night. [8.27]

SR Boy.

GC Made a long day of it. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah.

GC And then, of course, in mud time, why, it could run anywhere from five o'clock—I've seen him get in at eleven o'clock at night over here in mud time. [8.39]

SR A lot of work.

GC I guess so.

SR Yeah. How about your mother?

GC She was just a housekeeper. [8.47] Yeah, just a housekeeper. [LAUGHTER.]

SR Just a housekeeper. That was a big job in those days, I'm learning. [8.51]

GC She had nine children. [8.53] [LAUGHS.]

SR There were nine children?

GC Nine children, yeah. Five boys and four girls. [8.58] I was the middle one and, boy, the brains went each way. [LAUGHTER.]

SR How long has your family been living in the town? Can you estimate that from the time, say, your parents—

GC Well, Mother's been here. [9.18] 'Course, she was eighty-three when she died in 1956.

SR And she'd always lived in Pawlet?

GC And she'd always lived in Pawlet. [9.24]

SR And your father came here as a young man?

GC Yeah, yeah. He was—well, they were—

SR From not very far away, yeah. Okay. And, Leora, do you want to tell me where you were born?

LC I was born in Poultney. [9.40] And anything else?

SR Well, who were your parents?

LC My mother's name was Melissa. And Melissa—I think her last name was Baker. [9.49] She was born in Michigan. And my father was born in Proctor and he, I guess, was born in Middletown—{his grandfather}. And then my mother came back and lived in {Barnumville}. [10.12] And then she—my father lived in Poultney and then, being seventeen years of age, she went into the Williams Machine Company and learned the machinist trade.

SR That's a {good} company.

GC Yeah.

LC Yes. Then my father and his family, they were struck by lightning. [10.39] And my Aunt Elsie was—they were all there in the house and my father was terribly burned and so was my aunt, so my mother came to, from Barnumville, came to work in the house to take care of them. [10.59] And I guess, probably, that's where my father and mother met.

SR Met each other.

LC And they were married.

GC They were a bolt of lightning. [LAUGHTER.]

SR That's a good story, though.

GC It is. [LAUGHING.]

LC And my father worked in a machine shop there in
Poultney. [11.22] I can't tell you how many years he
was there. And later he went to Whitehall, New York,
and worked in the Champlain Silk Mill as a machinist.
[11.32]

SR The Champlain *Silk* Mill? Is that what they called it?

LC The Silk Mill. And he was a machinist in one of the
rooms, in one of the departments that they had there.
And then they came back to Pawlet and had—they bought
the farm over here where—

GC Balstock.

LC --Balstocks live now. [11.55] And then we sold the
farm and—

GC Went to Red Mills.

LC And came to where they live now. [12.05] Well, to
live right now—where {Sadies} live now. And then he
went to East Poultney and worked in a machine shop
again. [12.18] And my mother, of course, was just a
housekeeper, housewife.

SR How did she come to Vermont from Michigan? What
brought her here? Do you have any idea? Did the
family come when she was young?

- LC Yes, they all came. [12.34] My grandfather came first. He was in the Civil War and he came East to see about his pension and then the whole family—
- SR Came out?
- GC I have his pistol and the holster and belts that he carried in the Civil War. [12.55] Out here. Neil will have to take a picture of them, maybe.
- SR I think so, yes.
- GS _____.
- SR That's interesting. Yeah. I'm curious, you know, since Neil and I came to a town like Pawlet, one of the things that I'm interested in in these interviews is why people, over a long period of time, come to end up in a place like Pawlet, Vermont, or anywhere else that you might—
- GC That's right. [LAUGHING.]
- SR And where were you married? Were you married in Pawlet?
- GC No, we were married in North Hebron. [13.26]
- LC North Hebron.
- GC Or West Hebron. Which was it?
- LC One of the—
- GC West Hebron!

LC West Hebron.

GC West Hebron.

SR Why in West Hebron?

GC Well, I don't know. [13.37] [LAUGHS.]

SR You decided to get married in-

GC No, there's a story went with that, too. [LAUGHS.]

[13.44] There was this young man. I worked with him in the sawmill before we was married, named Jackie McNamara, and Glennie Butler and he was gonna get married, so. Well, at first, my brother got married there, didn't he?

LC Yes, yeah.

GC Lou. Lou and Max.

LC Luther and Maxine got married. [14.05]

GC Well, we stood up with 'em over here to this minister and he was a happy go-lucky minister. [14.16] So we like him. We knew him well. And he married you right in the parsonage here. And so when this Jackie Mac and his wife went to get married, they didn't know just where to go. [14.30] He was young, you know, and they was in Baltimore.

SR Just wanted to get married.

GC And they wanted to get married. They didn't have to, either. [LAUGHS.]

SR Right. They just _____.
[VOICE-OVER.]

GC So I had a car and Jackie didn't, so he wanted to know when he could get married. [14.47] Well, I told him before that about this minister over there who married my brother, Lou, and that he was a nice fella and you could get your license right there the same night that you got married. [14.58] You didn't have no waiting period, you know.

LC You didn't have any blood test at that time. [15.00]

GC So we went over there and we stood up with them. Well, he offered to buy my license that night if we'd get married with 'em. [15.07] [LAUGHS.] He wanted a little moral support, I think. [LAUGHING.] So I told him, no, I guess not. And, "Damn you," he says, "you're all ready married, that's all!" And for, oh, I guess it must have been a couple years, wasn't it, that everybody in town thought we were married.
[15.25]

SR And you weren't!

GC And we weren't. She lived to home and I lived to home. [15.28] We'd see one another practically every night.

SR That's great.

GC And then me and Leora stood up with Jackie. And then Jack rode in the rumble seat. [15.40] I had a coupe with a rumble seat. [LAUGHING.] And then she says to Jack, she says, "You know, I'm not sleeping with you at night. You're gonna sleep _____!" [LAUGHTER.] And what was it he? He got a big kick out of that. Well, we kept 'em—I forget where we did go and have something to eat, after they were married. And about two weeks after that, we went and got married at the same place. [16.07] Well, it was just—it was a sort of a chain reaction, I guess, why we went back there, is all.

SR Yeah. And what year was that?

LC Nineteen thirty-five. [16.17]

GC Nineteen thirty-five. Of course, money wasn't too plentiful, either, at that time, but you didn't plan on big church weddings like they do today. [16.25]

SR No, I guess not. I guess not.

GC No. And we both knew that our folks couldn't afford any big church wedding or anything, so that was the easiest way out. [16.36] What, is there somebody coming here? [PAYING ATTENTION TO OUTSIDE TRAFFIC.]

LC He has his car out there.

GC Didn't derelate [AS IN: DERELICT] it.

LC _____. [GC LAUGHS.] I, of course, was teaching in Pawlet. [16.55]

SR When you were married?

LC No, before we were married. [16.59]

[GC HAS GONE TO ANOTHER ROOM AND IS HEARD TALKING TO SOMEONE, AS BACKGROUND TO LC'S COMMENTS.]

LC And I taught two years in {the back town} schools. [17.08] It was a little rural school. And I had all eight grades. And then I went four, I taught four years in Pawlet, down there in the _____.

SR Yes. I had completely forgotten that, Leora.

LC Yeah. And then—

SR So you were living with your parents—

[GC MAKES A COMMENT TO LC FROM WHERE HE IS IN THE OTHER ROOM.]

LC Okay.

SR But coming over here to teach?

LC Yeah. No, actually, I was living on the farm then with my folks. [17.29] And used to walk back and forth from the {Thrane} farm—the Thrane farm, then it was. Over to West Pawlet, over through {Earl Scullivan's} up here. [17.41] And then for four years.

SR To the {same town} school?

LC Mhm. That's where Junior Wait lives now. [17.47]

[SOMEONE STARTS PLAYING A HARMONICA.]

LC And then I taught four years in the village school and I had first four grades. [17.57] And then I had just the first and second grade later, because the classes got so big. So then I had to give up my job because at that time there seemed to be a surplus of teachers and they were only hiring single teachers. [18.17]

SR Women. Aha.

LC Single, adult women.

SR It was mostly women who were teachers.

LC Yes.

SR There weren't many men then.

[TRUCK TRAFFIC A SOUND PROBLEM HERE.]

LC Well, I suppose there were {male} teachers. And they said—they figured that they would do the work and,

where, if the woman was married, she'd be at home.

[18.31] So. And so it come that I had to give up my job. Then when George went in the service, I went up home and lived with my folks.

[GEORGE NOW HAS THE RADIO ON IN THE OTHER ROOM, SO THAT CONTRIBUTES TO BACKGROUND NOISE.]

SR Yeah. So that was after you were married.

LC That was after we were married. And the superintendent contacted me twice to go back teaching.

[19.02] And at that time it was the little red schoolhouse in the northeast district.

SR Right.

LC Yeah. And they didn't want an inexperienced teacher there because they had a discipline problem. [19.17] And I didn't go back teaching because by that time Margie had arrived and George wasn't here, so there had to be someone to take care of her. _____.

SR I had completely forgotten that you had taught school. I just hadn't thought—I mean, I knew that, I just hadn't thought about it for a while.

LC I substituted the last term. After George got out of the service and we came back down here, I substituted for a teacher that was—she was going to—she was

pregnant, so I finished up her term for her, substituting. [19.53] That's all.

SR Who is this with George?

LC I don't recognize the car. Probably it was somebody that was coming for something at the store. [20.04]

SR Yeah. I'll shut this off first.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

GC And airplanes and all—and even locomotives. [20.13]
Well, locomotives before that, of course, were a problem, but practically all kinds of travel: buses and—

SR It's totally different.

LC They didn't exist. [20.24]

GC No, they just didn't—

LC No.

GC Even taxis. [20.29] You see, there were no taxis back then. You borrowed a horse! [20.33]

SR Yeah. _____ Floyd told us that his father ran the first taxi business in this valley. [20.37] A Model-T Ford.

GC Yeah, I remember him.

SR Floyd told a lot of wonderful stories about his father driving people around, selling manure. [20.45]

GC My father used to run a jitney and they used to call it "jitney" back then. [20.48] And I've seen him take four or five trips to Rutland Fair and just be going all day long. And then he'd start in the afternoon bringing 'em back. [LAUGHS.] But he made good money at it back then. [21.05]

SR Yeah, that's—Floyd's father did the same type of thing, yeah.

GC Yeah. And, you see, my father, on this mail route here, he would—he picked up freight. [21.18] He even brought bread in, over here to Pawlet. They had picnic baskets, sort of, or boxes with a flip-top cover on 'em and they'd have fifty loaves of bread in there. [21.30] Well, he'd bring maybe four or five of them into the Town of Pawlet over here and they'd give him a quarter apiece or a quarter a box, something like that. [21.38] He had, I think he got twenty cents a hundred for freight and fifteen cents for parcel post—or, not parcel post—express. And he'd go right down to the railroad station and pick that stuff up for anybody that was there.

SR To West Pawlet?

GC No, Granville. [21.58]

SR To Granville.

GC When he was in Granville carrying mail. [22.01] He made more on his freight and express than he did on his mail route, 'cause he used to bid that mail route off for about nine hundred dollars. [22.10] And that was for a year.

LC And he carried passengers, too. [22.14]

GC He carried passengers.

LC And the school children would ride to Granville to go to school, high school. [22.25] And-

GC Everybody along the way would stop out and get on the stage. [22.30] He had a three-seated surrey with a top on it and he would let the side curtains down and-

LC And I know at the time that we rode with him, we'd walk from the farm over to the corner, or up where Brenda Smith lives now. [22.47] Evelyn Young lived up there. And in the winter, if we were earlier, we'd go up there to her house and then he'd take us up there. There was the {Smarrs} that rode and my sister Marion.

GC And when he went to automobiles, that right there is the exact replica of his Ford that he had. [23.04]

SR No kidding?

GC Yep.

SR Isn't that great? Where'd you get that?

GC That's a {Davon}, but it looks exactly like it, doesn't it?

SR Yuh.

GC It t'was a varnished body and I think that Harry Monroe made that body for him that was on there.

[23.20] He made one, I know. Maybe t'wasn't that one, but he made one that was on a Model-T Ford and had three seats in it where he carried passengers.

[23.33]

LC He'd pick up Buzz Marrs and then he'd pick up Marion and me and Evelyn. [23.37]

GC He'd have a load of school kids.

LC And then there was Mabel {Haiker}, Carrie's sisters.

[23.45] And Mildred {Spock} and Bertha Smith (that's Doc's sister). And we all went to Granville and then we'd go back at night with him.

SR So Pawlet kids have been going to Granville to school for a long time?

GC Oh, yes. Yes.

SR I guess I didn't know that, either.

LC High school. They went to high school.

GC We voted out—we was thinking the first date that we had was the night that they voted out the high school in West Pawlet and we were met down to the town clerk's office, or town hall down here—

SR Voting?

LC Yeah.

GC --and she'd gone out to—because it was so, oh, it was miserable hot up in that hall that night. There'd been a whole crowd in there. And this crowd was over there to _____, you know. [LAUGHS.] Which they'd always done, regardless of what the issue was, Pawlet and West Pawlet never agreed. [24.37]

LC And it was all done by paper ballot then, so you had to count every one of them. [24.42]

GC They'd already voted out the Pawlet school, high school. [24.46]

SR Now what year would this be? This was for the year—

GC The Pawlet high school they'd voted out a couple years before the West Pawlet, wasn't it? [24.54]

LC I guess so.

GC Yeah.

LC I don't remember that.

SR That was two or three years before you were married.

GC That was in 1930—

LC Yeah, we went together for three years. [25.01]

GC Nineteen thirty-two, wasn't it?

LC And we were married in '35. [25.04]

GC About '33.

LC I would think so, about '32, somewhere along in there.

SR That's interesting, because—

GC In West Pawlet.

LC In West Pawlet.

GC And the other one was voted out in about 1930, I'd say. [25.14] Thirty-one.

SR What do you mean, voted out? They were thinking about building?

GC They shut it down.

SR So there was a high school! [25.21]

GC Yeah!

LC Oh, yes!

GC We had it two years over here and they had four years over in West Pawlet. [25.25] [TRUCK TRAFFIC.]

SR See, I didn't know that at all.

GC Yeah.

SR Where were the buildings? In the same—

- GC Right in the schoolhouse. [25.30] And now they can't even get three grades into the schoolhouse.
- SR I see. There was the one-room schoolhouses, plus the major buildings-- [25.34]
- LC Oh, yes. _____. [VOICE-OVERS.]
- SR --plus these other buildings, which were the high schools. [25.38]
- GS Yeah, but they finally all consolidated, all the kids right in the school out here and they still had a high school in there and all eight grades. [25.46] Now they can't get three grades into it. How do you figure that? And there's not as many kids as there was then! [25.52] [LAUGHS.]
- SR It's crazy, yeah. [LAUGHS.] It's true: no, there's not as many. There's *half* as many people in West Pawlet.
- GC I don't know of a kid that come out of that school down there that couldn't read and write when they come out of it. [26.04]
- SR Yeah. And now they're probably a few.
- GC [LAUGHS.] Yes, there's quite a few, I think. [26.10] So there's something wrong somewhere, isn't there?
- SR Yeah, definitely. Yeah.

LC I didn't know that.

SR So when were these buildings built, what's now the elementary school and the-

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC I think it was about 1905, did they say? [26.28]

Somewhere in there?

LC Can't remember, George.

SR I don't know.

GC It seems to me that it was 1905 that that was built, but I'm not positive about that.

SR And West Pawlet at the same time or-

GC About the same time, I believe. [26.41] That over there was called the Academy, wasn't it? In West Pawlet?

SR I think you're right. I think I remember that.

GC It's in a picture that we've got somewhere. [26.53]

It's in the old book there, the-

SR Scrapbook!

GC --the pictorial thing there we've got. Yeah.

SR Okay. Now I think we can move on to--so, Leora, let me ask you once more, when did you come to live in Pawlet?

LC I came to live in Pawlet in 1928. [27.18]

SR And your folks came to live here for a period of time?

LC Yeah, after I got—I graduated from _____ High School in 1927 and the *fall* of '27 I came over here and lived with my Aunt {Newcomb} and Bob and Grandmother, and went to Granville and took teacher's training.

[27.38]

[MULTIPLE SEMI-TRUCKS ARE PASSING THE HOUSE, ONE RIGHT AFTER THE OTHER.]

SR Okay, okay. So for a time your parents lived in Pawlet, also?

[TRUCK NOISE IS UNBELIEVABLE!]

LC They didn't come to—

GC Until after she come.

LC 'Til after I came. [27.47]

SR Right! But they did come and live here for a while?

GC Oh, yes.

LC They bought the farm, right. [27.50]

SR Okay, that's what I wasn't absolutely sure I had gotten straight. Okay. All right. So now you've both lived here more than fifteen years. [27.59]

[BOTH RESPOND, LAUGHING, IN THE AFFIRMATIVE.]

SR I'll move to the next, then, question. Now these questions you can just, you know, both throw out

anything that, you know, comes into your mind. They don't have to be answered that individually. How has the town changed since you've been here? What are things about—

GC Terrible! [LAUGHS.]

SR No, what are the things that just stick in your mind as, you know, major changes that you've seen since you've lived in then town? That, you know, have affected you or—

GC The one thing that's affected me is they tore the town down. [28.35] It used to be a pretty little town.

SR You'd be surprised how many people say that, George.

GC Yeah?

SR Yeah.

GC Well, they have! I've seen towns in Belgium that was bombed out that looks better than this one. [LAUGHS.]

LC Well, in my opinion, there are so many people moving in that we do not know. [28.58] They're buying these places. And years ago you knew practically everybody in town. [29.05]

SR Uhuh, and now you don't?

LC And everybody was right there, ready to help in any disasters or, you know, experiences that they had.

[29.12] Everybody was willing. You knew everybody. But now we don't. They have moved in, they've changed the names of the farms or the places that they have bought, and they'll stop here in the store and want to know where such-and-such a place is and they've got this fancy name, different name. [29.36] And if they'd use the old name we could direct them. Now we can't so much.

SR Right.

LC 'Cause we don't know them.

SR Right. There's not very much connection between the people coming in and the people who've been here all their lives. [29.46]

LC No.

GC But you've got no town left, only just one store. [29.49] That's all you've got. And that's what it was meant for. And there's {five}-well, there's only one down in the village, in the village part of it.

SR Yeah. Yeah, I was surprised to learn from the people that I've talked to, Rachel and-Rachel Wait talked a lot about what the town, the different buildings there were in the town _____. [30.11]

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC Well, you see, there's five--there's five business places, since I was a kid, that have been torn down. [30.16] Right in town. And if they had 'em today, any one of those business places, especially in the old gristmill--well, look at the gift shop that that would make or a nice restaurant or something like that. [30.30] Right in the center of the town. And then, of course, Winchester's place there is where Anderson's Insurance Office is. [30.39] That used to be a hardware store, you know. And that's all made over. And, of course, there's the _____ Culver Store tore down and my Uncle Charlie's store is torn down and Bernice {Week's} store is torn down and the gristmill. [30.54] And the garage has been made over and tore down.

SR Why do you think that happened?

GC Well, 'cause one of the men wanted to get control of the whole thing _____. [MAJOR NOISE FROM PASSING SEMI.] [31.05] He even made his _____ to that!

SR Yeah, yeah. I think that the town has even changed since Neil and I've been here, a lot of it. [31.15] Yeah.

GC It used to be a pretty little town, I thought.
[31.17] When they had a park there and a bandstand
and had Saturday night concerts and the old popcorn
stand. Not that you want to stop progress, maybe, but
that isn't progress, in my estimation. [31.30] Where
you're tearing the town to pieces.

SR Any other changes?

GC Well, the old {church sheds}, of course, they're gone.
[31.42] [LAUGHS.] Where we used to play hide-and-
seek. [LAUGHTER.] And years ago, you know, I've
heard my uncles tell of it, they used to have a-oh,
what did they call that parade around the town that
they'd start and they'd go down in little {Dan
Bromley's}, that was the end of the hotel where Mach's
Store is now. [32.00] That was the Franklin House.

SR Right, right.

GC And they had a barroom in this end of it and little
Dan Bromley run that. [32.12] And after they got
about so drunk, they'd start this march. What in
deuce did they call that march that they had around
the town? Well, they'd start marching and, of course,
every time they'd go by Dan's, of course, they'd have
another drink. [LAUGHS.] And I don't know how long

they would walk, but, anyway, as fast as they'd get up around the church sheds and one passed out, they'd draw him into one of the sheds there and put a daisy in his buttonhole and leave him! [32.35] [LAUGHTER.] And there he was! And this was on a Saturday night. And some of 'em would still be there in the morning when the church people was going. [LAUGHING.] The Grand March, wasn't it, they called it? [32.48] Or something or other.

LC You see, that's long before I came.

GC I heard my uncles tell about that. All of my uncles drank pretty heavy. [32.56] So that they knew about that. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah. What are your fondest memories about your life here?

GC Well, I don't know.

LC I think that peace and quiet. [33.14] No one seemed to be in the big rush that they are nowadays. And you'd really got together more. [33.23]

SR Yeah, a lot of people have commented on that. We're learning slowly through this project how many of the old community organizations are—just like the Grange is a perfect example.

GC Well, now you really don't have even any neighbors now. [33.36]

LC Right.

GC And back a few years ago, why, every Saturday night, especially, neighbors would get together and have some sort of a wing-ding or a card party or something or other. [33.46]

LC Right. Just visiting.

GC Just visiting.

SR Yeah, yeah. I mean, again, that's one of the nice things that we've found about this project, why people have been so willing to, you know, do this interview. [33.57] People like to just come and visit and talk about their lives and what they've done and what it was like and, you know.

LC Yeah. Certainly, the atmosphere. I never heard of any very serious, you know, troubles-fights and so forth among the people. [34.14]

GC Well, you never did have. Never had a lot of this running around with somebody else's wife all the time. [34.22] Running around the countryside and _____.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LC We had, oh, how many couples that used to get together and we'd go to each other's houses about every week and entertain and bring something to eat. [34.38]

GC Well, this happened after we were married.

LC Yeah, and spend—and you'd have your dinner and whatever. And then we'd gather around and either sing or we'd play cards. [34.47] And time after time—not anything alcoholic or anything, not even served.

GC Wouldn't even have a beer.

LC No, nothing.

GC Nobody even thought of it.

LC People just had good times.

SR Yeah, just for company.

LC And we miss that. [34.58]

GC Well, one night when we were living over in the Bill Morris house there, her father and mother come down, and Ellen and George Lee used to be post master, you know, over here? [35.09]

SR Yeah, I—

GC Probably, it was before your time. But this was just before the War. [35.17] And so they were coming down to—we always had these on a Saturday night because we didn't have to work the next day, most of us. And so

we told George and Helen that we wouldn't be coming Saturday night. They was eight couples, I think, eight or nine, and we told them we wouldn't be coming Saturday night because her father and mother were coming down. "Well, bring 'em right along! They're welcome to come." [35.43] So when they got down there we asked 'em if they'd like to go to a party that night and, sure, they was all ready to go. [LAUGHS.] We got home the next morning, I guess it was around twenty minutes of four, wasn't it? Something like that. [35.54] [LAUGHS.] In the morning. And we sang pretty near all night long. [LAUGHING.] And, of course, her father loved to sing, you know. And we had a big meal at twelve o'clock. [36.07] George and Helen always planned a big meal every time we'd-ham supper, a regular ham supper. Everything complete. I asked her father when he got over to the house how he liked it and "Well," he says, "it was all right, but," he says, "it lasted pretty long." [LAUGHTER.]

LC _____, but they enjoyed it. They had an awful {good time}.

GC We used to go to somebody's house every Saturday night, and out of the eight or nine couples. During deer season, well, we'd most generally put on a venison supper. [36.38] And Doris, Doris Young, she didn't like venison, so we'd buy her a good beef steak, you know. [LAUGHS.] Well, here sits the steak afterwards. She'd been eating venison all evening. [LAUGHING.] [36.50]

LC _____ the steak. Then she owned up that she didn't like to cook it. [36.55]

GC Oh, we used to have a nice time. _____.
[HEAVY TRUCK PASSES THE HOUSE.]

LC _____.

SR It just is something that's really dying out.

LC Yes, yeah.

SR And they don't seem to be—you know, other community, taking the place of it. It's too bad. [SUPER TRUCK.]
What do you like least about the town now?

GC The least?

SR The least. I mean, is there anything about the town, other than what you have already mentioned, that you think is really, you know, haywire?
[ANOTHER TRUCK.]

GC Well, it seems to me that we could do an awful lot more with schools than we are doing. [37.34] That's what I think. Probably, _____ or you wouldn't think so, but-- [LAUGHING.]

SR No, from my contact with _____.

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC I think that our schools are costing us an awful lot more than what we're getting out of it. [37.47]

LC I think the attitude of some of the teachers, too, is that they're there for their job and but, I don't know, they don't seem to be like when I was in the {rural} schools. [38.07] They were more like a family!

SR Yeah. Well, it's the same problem, really, that we were just discussing.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LC The schools now _____.

SR Yeah, everyone's out for themselves and not that much concerned about--

GC And even their kids have got a different attitude today than they ever had before, I think. [38.21] As far as teacher and children or kids and anyone that they're doing business with, like with us in the store

and older people. [38.34] They don't have the respect for the older people that they used to have. Now I'm getting old, I ain't looking for no respect from the kids because I am—there's a lot of good kids, but, on the other hand, there's a lot of little stinkers, too. [38.48]

LC Yeah, they don't respect their teachers, they don't respect their elders like they used to.

GC And I don't think they're getting their dollar's worth. [38.57]

LC Yeah.

GC Not that we should be, because I'm not—I like to see any kid get a good education and I'm willing to pay for it. [39.08]

LC When I think of the money—

GC But I hate to pay for something that we're not getting. [39.11]

SR Yeah, yeah.

GC That's my idea. And I think a good share of it could be laid right to the superintendent's office, of what we're getting out of that. [39.20] I think all he wants is the money.

SR Someone commented, I think it was Rachel, on, you know, the centralization of the school and how, you know, little contact a superintendent has with the individual problems of the community, the individual communities. [39.38]

GC You never see {Houlihan} around! [39.40]

SR Right.

LC And my superintendent used to call the schools once a month, probably. [39.48] Once every six weeks or something, to see if you had any problems, if you needed supplies.

SR And that doesn't happen now.

LC No, I guess not. [39.58]

GC There's too much of a payoff for this and the payoff for that. And they're all looking for the payoff.

SR How long did you each go to school?

GC I went through the eighth grade, is all. [40.15] No! I went through two years of high school.

LC Two years in high school. I went through four years of high school and a year of teacher's training and then I took summer sessions at UVM in Burlington. [40.23] Six weeks.

SR I'd forgotten that you ever taught school. We were talking about that when you were at the store. I just didn't-

GC When she got down to one pupil, why she couldn't control that! [LAUGHS.] [40.32]

LC He's worse than the kids at school.

GC She could teach forty, but she couldn't teach only one! [LAUGHS.] [40.39]

SR Okay. Now, the next area that I want to ask you a little bit about is work and Leora's talked a little bit about her teaching, so, George, can you tell me some of the different kinds of things you've done to make a living?

GC By God, I've done pretty near everything. [LAUGHING.] You'll figure it out and you'll say, "You're not old enough?" [LAUGHS.]

SR Well, now, that's another change. People used to do a lot more different kinds of things to make a living. [41.06]

GC Yes! Sure, _____ and I couldn't find work, and I'd go up to Vernon Young's and Vernon had a lot of windows in his store. [41.14] Well, I'd take windows out and put windows back in for fifty cents a windows.

[UNBELIEVABLE SOUND OF TRUCK PASSING BY.] _____.

And everything like that. It didn't make any difference to me whatever I done, as long as I worked.

[41.25] [LAUGHS.]

SR What did you start out doing? What was your first-

GC Well, when I was in high school I painted for John

Scott. [41.37] I painted for two or three years with

him. And then I painted with old Ed {Bushee}, and

this was through the summer. Through the winter I'd

cut wood. [41.53] [LAUGHS.] You see, I was working

two jobs at the same time, as you might say. And then

we worked in the woods logging for-gee, I was up there

in {Hollis} for-oh, that's another place I lived.

[42.07] [LAUGHS.] It was up in {Sykes'} Hollow. We

had a camp up in there, Luke and I, and then there was

four other guys come in with us after that. We worked

in the lumber woods up there for a portable sawmill.

[42.18] Then we went from there over to Hartford. I

lived over there. [42.22] [LAUGHS.]

SR You're actually telling me the whole truth now.

GC And we lived over there just one winter, I guess.

[42.32] Logged in the winter. And logged again on

the side hill in front of Sergeant's house down there,

where Neil lives now they had a sawmill. See, it was a portable sawmill and they moved it wherever there was a log job. [42.46] And we hauled it right around. And then _____. [TRAFFIC.] I farmed it some, off and on. [43.00] I used to help down to the Leech brother's and I helped to Jimmy Leech's. I helped Clint _____ in sugaring and farming.

SR Sounds like Floyd.

GC Yeah.

SR A lot of the same things. A lot of the same _____.

GC You worked wherever you could find work. [43.20] Whatever you could do. Sometimes you'd go to work only maybe two or three weeks, the next time maybe you'd work six months or a year, but that's the way it went. [43.30] Just to keep working. I worked on the road for Mike Connors. I drove a truck for Wicks and Winters. [43.36] Worked in a gristmill for Wicks and Winters. Made cider. [LAUGHS.] I guess I worked for Wicks and Winters for, oh, five years, off and on, you know. [43.49] Not steady, but they'd get a job driving the milk trucks and I'd run one of those, or else they'd have something to do in the mill there, like a load of grain used to come in carloads and you

had to {run over to} West Pawlet to get it. [44.11]

[CLOCK CHIMING—MOST UNUSUALLY LOUD CHIMES.] _____.

LC And he went in the store and worked for—

GC Worked in the store, worked for—

LC Brian {Pritchett}. [44.24]

GC Well, no, the first time I worked in a store, I worked for {Carlton Culver}, down below where Johnny Mach's store is. [44.31] There was two stores below there, right where—

SR Yeah, I remember the old pictures.

GC Just about where the station sets now.

SR Right. Wasn't there a cheese factory in between and then there was a—

GC Yeah, there was a cheese factory down under it. [44.42] Yeah.

SR Right, right.

GC And I worked there for Russell and Lester Culver first. [44.49] That was the first—I was going to school then, though. And then I went to work for Vernon in the store and I worked for him for, I think, four years. [45.01] And then Russell wanted me to come up there and I worked for him for four or five years. That was when I went in the service. [45.10]

I bought Russell's store in August, supposedly, but right after I dickered for the store, I got my 1-A card. [45.24] [LAUGHS.] "Well," I says, "I guess we'll hold up on buying the store."

SR Now where was this store?

GC He was in the old Masonic Building. [45.34]

[VOICE-OVER.]

LC Right _____. Yeah.

GC Well, at first he was down underneath Alan's store. [45.42] _____. [TRUCK TRAFFIC.] That little space in there and he everything stored all over town. And the old hotel at that time was empty, so he had part of that down there for a warehouse. [45.57] And we were lugging stuff in from every basement there. [LAUGHING.] He had kept the bulk flour up in his barn, up overhead, twenty-five pound bags, and he'd just throw it up through a pigeonhole there. And he'd buy it, twenty-five, thirty--well, more than that. He'd buy three or four tons at a time and store it up there. [46.18] And I worked for him 'til I went in the service.-- [46.27]

END TAPE 1, SIDE A

START TAPE 1, SIDE B

GC [.45] --Glen got malaria and he came home. He got discharged and so Russell hung out at the store until-- I went into combat and when I got hurt, why, I come back, and he hung out at the store until after I went back to Germany the second time. [1.02] And then he sold the store to Johnny, so that's how the store--so then when I got out of the service, why, the only thing I could find was _____ with Leon. [1.20] I went down to Montague's to--{he had} a big house out in the back of the golf course there and we got the plaster all up there, the upstairs, and Leon, we plastered it, you know, with hard finish. [1.34] So then old Jim Loomis was painting the house, so Mrs. Montague says to me, she says, "I've already spoke to Leon." She says, "He tells me that you used to paint." And I says, "Yeah." "Well," she says, "would you like to stay here and help Jim Loomis? He says he {can't} get along without you, if you want to stay." And she says, "We will raise your wages anyway because you're not making enough." [2.01] [LAUGHS.] So I painted for him for two or three years. They bought one place after the other down there in Dorset and I just kept right on painting for them. [2.11] So then

one winter there wasn't much work to do, so I went to work up in the {Locker} in Poultney for-on the G.I. Bill, 'cause they couldn't afford to pay anybody the full amount, so I went to work for them up there, so to help them out, and I worked for 'em six months up there. [2.36]

LC Meat-cutting.

GC Yeah, I went to work meat-cutting, anyway. [2.39]

Well, I worked in there for six months. And then Sheldon down here, he wanted to hire me, so he wanted somebody could do the buying. [2.49] He didn't want to be around there, so I went to work for him and I worked for him for five years. So, you see, I've got a lot of years here! [LAUGHING.]

SR It's true! [LAUGHTER.]

GC And then we bought this place over here in 1953.

[3.09] Yeah. [CLEARS THROAT.]

LC Who owned this place before you owned it?

GC {Kiblin.} [3.16]

LC That's right, yeah.

GC He _____ a year ago, but-

SR It was a store?

LC Yes.

GC Yeah, he had a few _____ candy bars. [LAUGHING.]
[3.23]

SR Yeah, I remember the pictures that you showed me of
the store when you first bought it.

GC Yeah, we took more rubbish out of here than we did
anything else. [3.30]

LC Yeah, that must have been quite a job, for both of
you.

GC I guess it was.

LC Yeah.

SR But you bought the place intending to make the store
into-

GC Oh, yeah.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah.

GC And we bought it in September-

LC Nineteen-

GC --fifty-three. [3.47] And we went in there on a
Monday morning and had Floyd and Leslie Smith and
Claire, my brother, and they went to turn the stuff
out and I went right to painting, right around through
behind 'em. And they went to putting the shelves up.
There was no shelves or nothing in there. [4.13] And

they went to putting the shelves right up and as fast as I'd get around to 'em, I'd keep right on painting the new shelves, everything. [LAUGHING.] [4.25] And Tuesday we had a load of groceries come in and Wednesday we were selling.

LC You were?

GC Yeah. [LAUGHING.] Three days time we had it running, selling groceries right off the floor. Yeh. Went pretty fast once we got it under motion. [LAUGHS.] It was a lot of fun.

SR And, Leora, did you start working in the store right away or—

GC Oh, yes.

SR She did? Uhuh.

LC I had told him—you see, at that time Marge was going to Granville, into school, and, you know, she was— because she hadn't _____. [5.03]

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC Yeah, we forgot {to tell you} we only had one daughter. [5.05] [LAUGHING.]

SR Right. Well, I'm coming to that. _____ children.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LC So I told him—you see, Marge would ride up to the village to go to Granville to school on the—they ran a bus over here at that time. [5.16] And she'd leave in the morning with him and we only had the one car, so there I was down there at our other place and so I finally said to him one time, I said, "You know, I'm either going back to school to pick up some classes or I'm going to do something." [5.36] I said, "Housework is all right, but after a while it gets pretty monotonous when you're alone all day long." So then we found the place was for sale over here, so we began dickering for that. [5.45] So after we bought it—

GC It set here for three years, four years before—

LC The _____ didn't do much with it.

GC And he couldn't—

SR Did he live here in this house?

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC He lived in the house.

SR The house and the store were always associated?

[5.59]

GC Yeah.

LC So, yeah, I went to work. [6.03] I'd work right in the store as soon as we got over here.

GC See this little chunk of land right in here that Charlie {Andrews} built the house and he had the stand over there. [6.16] And this belonged to George Young's and this place that Nate bought up here [CLEARS THROAT.]. And they bought it off of them because George and Charlie's wife were brother and sister, so they bought this little chunk of land and started their business. [6.33] [CLOCK STARTED CHIMING, BUT WAS STOPPED MID-CHIME.] You know where—right there. You know, where Annie McGuire lives?

LC Kitty McGuire, right there in West Pawlet. [6.43]

GC Just this side of the schoolhouse in West Pawlet?

SR Oh, yeah! Sure.

GC Well, that new little house that they built right under the—I think {Tobin} and his wife built it. [6.51]

LC Yeah.

GC And they didn't like the location there or something.

SR Oh, I didn't realize that.

GC Right underneath that _____.

SR Yeah, I know where you mean. It sits back and it's blue-colored. [7.02]

GC Yeah, kind of bluish.

LC Yeah. Well, they had this house where they live now left to them. [7.09]

GC Left to 'em.

SR The Tobins?

GC Yeah.

LC Yeah. And Lou got a nice picture of them. [7.12]

GC Yeah, didn't he, though?

SR They're very nice people. I had their little girl, Britney—

GC Britney is an awful nice child. Well, he is, too.

SR Britney was in my dance class this spring. [7.21]

GC Oh, yeah?

SR Yeah, yeah. I had something I wanted to ask you, but— oh, how much land do you own here, George?

GC Just two acres. [7.31]

SR Just two acres, uhuh.

GC More or less. It's about two acres. Yeah.

SR Do either of you have any hobbies that are important to you? Other than your work. I mean, the store.

LC Other than—well, like the fish in the pond. [7.46]

GC Oh, yeah, the fish in the pond. I like that. [7.46]

LC Well, nothing special.

GC I don't make a business of it, like I used to.
[LAUGHS.]

LC I like to knit and things like that. [7.56] Other
than that, no.

SR Okay. Now, let's just talk a little bit about Marge.
[8.05]

LC Is your thing on?

SR Yup.

LC Okay. [LAUGHTER.]

SR I heard you.

LC You turned it down and I—

SR I got it back on. Okay. When George came back.
Yeah, we're doing time. Let's see, Marge is your only
child. [8.17] When was she born?

LC July 30, 1938. [8.20]

SR Same as Ken, my newpew.

LC Yeah?

SR Yuh.

GC Oh, yeah?

LC Same year?

SR Memorial Day children, yeah. Okay, can you tell me where she is now and what she's doing?

LC Right now she is in Irvine, California. [8.41] And she's just a housewife. Her husband works for Eastman Kodak in Whittier, California. [8.48]

SR Okay. We're curious, again, about children that stay in Pawlet, of parents such as yourself, and children who leave. And why some stay and why some leave. And, again, I think one of the problems, of course, is that the town doesn't provide enough work anymore for town people, so a lot of young people, male and female, have to leave. [9.11]

GC Well, I think the young people have got the travel bug, too, today. [LAUGHING.] [9.16] They like to get out and get under. And years ago, a farm boy, especially, he'd stay right there. [9.26] He didn't care anything about school or nothing else. He knew all the farming he had to do and he knew _____.

SR Yuh. And, yet, it's people like Neil and I who want to come to a community like this, having come from a-- [9.39]

GC Yeh. Well, Marge, see, she likes a big city. [9.41] Now that's funny, born in a town this size and been

around a town of this size. But first thing when she went to Syracuse even, she liked big cities. [9.51]

LC Yeah, she liked—yeah.

GC And she liked New York. [9.53] She liked Washington. She liked Newport. Wherever she's been, she's—

LC She's moved around a lot. [10.00]

GC London. She loves London. [10.01] Because it was big, then she'd go around through it like she'd always lived there. She loved it. And then Dick seems to like big towns, too.

LC She wanted to go to college so bad and, well, I guess she knew that there wasn't much around here for her to do after she graduated from high school and she wasn't satisfied. [10.25]

GC But she worked for us here through high school, you know. [10.26] She worked as a clerk in Granville over there and she worked up to Olympian Village. And she knew that that two things she didn't want. [LAUGHS.] She wanted something a little better!

LC She wanted to work herself up into something better than working as a clerk in a store, a clothing store. And she said, "I don't want to do that with my life."

And she just wanted to go to college and learn something else, you know, that she-- [10.54]

GC She's been very fortunate, too, with Dick having the job that he's had right along and she's had the opportunity to meet people and go places and _____.

[11.02]

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah, and be very mobile.

GS Yuh.

SR And have a nice family.

GS Yuh. And she likes to spend money. [11.14] You know?

SR She likes to talk on the phone. _____.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LC _____.

SR She likes to spend money?

GC She likes to spend it and, you know, she's saying--

LC Not foolishly.

GC Well, she went _____.

LC She's working. She's going to spend money. _____.

[11.29]

SR Yeah.

LC And she doesn't—she's taking advantage of their good times now, going these places and things now. And Dick feels the same way. They don't go over their heads.

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC _____.

LC They don't spend it foolishly because they're gonna benefit from it, you know?

GC Kind of _____ over there once in a while. _____.

SR I think I can tell when he comes, maybe, George. Yeah, yeah. We're almost—we're getting there.

GC Keeping you held up here.

SR No! I'm doing fine. Can you each tell me what other members of your family live in Pawlet now? Now, I know, George, you have brothers and sisters here. Can you just tell me who they are and—

GC I've got a sister, Flossie, and her family. [12.16] And I've got my brother, Luther, and Lou's family. And my brother, Claire, than lives with Flossie.

SR Right.

GC I guess that's all that live here in town. [12.26]

SR Yeah, just other members of your family that live in Pawlet. Those three, okay.

GC Only three.

SR And, Leora, anybody in your family that lives in Pawlet any longer?

LC No. Just Uncle Judd, because he married my aunt.
[12.42] _____. [TRUCK PASSING.]

SR I'm sorry, I didn't get that.

LC Judd Smith. [12.43]

SR Oh, he's related to you! I didn't know.

LC He married my father's sister, Elsie. [12.49]

SR Elsie was your father's sister?

LC Mhm. And that's all the family I have here. [12.54]
_____ doesn't live in town.

SR Okay. And I asked you about property. Do either of you feel strongly about any of the natural or manmade features of the land around Pawlet? Is there—do you like to live here because of the way it looks?

GC Yeah.

LC Yes.

GC But if they do something to improve _____. [TRUCK PASSING.] If they wanted to build a hotel right over there, I wouldn't mind. They can build it there.
[LAUGHS.]
[VOICE-OVER.]

LC _____. Preferably, living in the city. {I don't want to.}

GC I don't like the way they've built up around the lakes and like that, one cottage right on the top of the other. [13.45] I wouldn't want that! As long as I've got a half an acre over here, well, they can build over there if they want to. [LAUGHING.]

SR Yeah. It's a pretty area, though.

GC Yeah, it is.

SR I mean, if we were to compare it to other parts of Vermont.

GC But, you know, in my estimation, now you take that mountain right there and everybody—well, not everybody, but a lot of people was hollering when they put that electric light line up there. [14.09]

SR Right, right.

GC Well, you don't even see it now and the half of them that was hollering about it don't even know it's there. [14.15] Where, now, you take with that mountain over there, now, if they want to _____, they put in chalets and even if they put in ten or a dozen up through, it wouldn't look that bad. [14.29] Because your trees would be hiding the most of it.

SR Most of the year.

GC Most of the year.

SR Right.

GC And t'wouldn't be a sore—it's a nice little village in there. You're getting more business in the store! [14.42] [LAUGHTER.] But something like that, where it didn't really make a bit of difference to anybody, I can't see how they got something like that. Some of 'em knew, you know, {they needed to} _____ that line. And that was for {Dorseys} down there because they didn't have power enough to even do their milking. [15.01]

SR When was that put in? I don't even—that must be before, when Neil and I came here.

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC Oh, no! That's only been in there about, I would say, six, seven years. [15.13]

LC Really, like that.

SR See, I don't even remember it. I'm not complaining, obviously.

GC Well, they was, they was, "Gosh sakes! They're tearing that hill all to pieces!" [15.23] Well, it's filled right in, now you don't even know it's over

there. [LAUGHS.] There's just one pole down in here that you can see sticking up and another one way up there in-

SR I like seeing all the sheep. [15.33]

GC Yeah!

SR Yeah, that is so pretty.

GC That's improved the place, as much as anything. [15.36]

SR Yeah, they did a nice job there and it came back beautifully. Yeah.

GC Everybody talks about that.

SR It's such a change, too, to see that. Neil's done some nice photographs now this spring and summer to-

GC You don't see something like right out here aside the road and put up an old shack, but according to their Blue Laws, or their zoning law, they can't do it anyway. [15.59] But, on the other hand, they got these zoning laws, then they go to work and they sell lots {right out here} for an acre and a quarter, and they was supposed to have ten acres in the meadowland in order to build a house. [16.09] And then they cut it right down to an acre and a quarter. I asked one of them, "Who are your protecting?" [LAUGHS.]

SR That's a good question.

GC Yeah, if you're gonna change 'em all over to suit yourself. And here they're building a shack up in here, you know, and nobody knows what it t'is, even been up there. [16.33]

SR Who's doing that? {Ridell}?

GC Why, these fellas that bought this hill. [16.37]
They bought the woodland, you know. _____ bought the meadow.

SR Oh, I didn't know that.

GC And they bought the woodland. [16.41]

SR Who is it, do you—

GC Somebody from Connecticut. [16.44] The guy that bought it didn't even know where it t'was. He come over here and asked me where it t'was. He said there's a small store by it and a new house. [16.54]
"Well," I says, "must be that piece of property right up in there." I says, "There's supposed to be a couple of boys and a couple of girls up in there?"
"Well, no!" he said. [17.04] [LAUGHS.] "Well," I says, "_____." [LAUGHING AS HE TALKS.] He went up there and there's these two boys up there with a couple of girls. [17.11] [LAUGHING.]

SR That's what you were talking about _____.

[VOICE-OVER.]

GC Well, he had it all to himself. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeh. One more question: what do you see as the future of the town?

GC Stay the same. [17.25]

LC About the same.

GC I don't think it's growing too much. I don't think it's going to change much. [17.32]

SR Do you think more and more outsiders are gonna come in and buy out—

GC I don't think so. [17.35] I think they're getting pretty well saturated now to the point where—well, of course, there isn't the land available for everybody that wants to come in. [17.45] And so I think that it's pretty well sold out.

SR Stabilized community.

GC There'll be a few, probably, that will—little spots that they can come into, but I don't believe there'll be that many. [17.57]

SR {I think there's your _____ connection.}

GC That's right.

LC Yeah. I didn't look over there, did I?

SR I think I just heard the store—

LC Yeah.

SR Now, let's see. The only other thing that I wanted to ask, which you can answer, that's not really part of the interview: we're looking for, and I know George has mentioned to me a few things that he thought Neil and I might want to take a look at, of old, any old photographs or diaries or letters or anything that you have that relates to the town.

LC Yeah, he did speak about the Potter estate, didn't he?
[18.33]

SR Yes.

LC That used to be _____.
[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah. And I'd be curious, when we have a chance maybe in the evening, to come down and look at some of those things that George has, mostly out of personal curiosity.

LC Yeah, okay. I can't think of anything else.

SR Do you folks have a lot of old photographs or—

LC No, not too many. What we have are of the postcards that {Ella _____} made, mostly. [18.56]

SR Right, right. You have a pretty good collection of those or-

LC Well, not too many, I wouldn't think. As she brought them over, we'd sort out some of 'em that we wanted to keep.

SR Before you'd sell them in the store, yeah. [19.13]

LC Yes. Yeah. Because she would make duplicates, anyways, so that if there was any of 'em that George thought we wanted, we'd pick them out. But not too many. Pictures of his family. [19.32] And, well, things like the old Sunshine Club and like that. You probably-I think probably you've seen most of them.

SR Most of them. I've got to shut this off. I think I have all the questions. We did very well.-- [19.43]

END TAPE 1, SIDE B

END TRANSCRIPTION