

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002

Kathy Clark/TC2004.3007

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SR Susanne Rappaport
KC Kathy Clark
UW Unidentified Woman {?}
Place Pawlet, VT
Date 02/15/1985

TAPE 1, SIDE A

[NOTE: VERY TALKATIVE LITTLE CHILD PRESENT, HEARD IN
BACKGROUND, OFTEN WITH TOY PERCUSSION ACCOMPANIMENT.
TAPE MACHINE NOISE IN BACKGROUND THROUGHOUT ENTIRE
TAPING. ALSO NOTE: CORRECT SPELLING OF SR'S FIRST NAME
GIVEN ON PAGE 11 OF THIS TRANSCRIPT.]

SR [.48] --When you were taped before did your voice
 sound funny to you?

KC No.

SR I always, my voice doesn't even sound like me.

UW I was scared half to death. All I did was stutter.
 [LAUGHS.] I did. I was scared half to death. It's
 when they-I'm finishing up with some juice. [FOR
 THE CHILD, HEARD "TALKING" TO THEM IN THE
 BACKGROUND.] _____ this morning and _____.

SR The cold?

KC _____ again. [I DON'T THINK SHE'S NEAR THE
 MICROPHONE RIGHT NOW.]

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SR I heard on the news this morning that the flu has really gotten going all over the place. In the country. They're having worse flu than they've had in four years.

KC It seems too late in the winter to have such bad flu.

UW It's the change in the weather.

SR Yeah, yeah. It's supposed to be a nice weekend.

[HAPPY CHILD IS HEARD IN BACKGROUND.]

SR Okay, Kathy, all I do is I just ask you the questions and, you know, right from the interview.

KC Okay.

SR And just go down through. So why don't you first give me your full name.

KC Okay. Kathleen Mary Clark. [2.06]

SR Do you want to just spell it for me, just so I make sure I have it right on the tape?

KC It's K A T H L E E N M A R Y C L A R K . [2.17]

SR Okay. And I want, when we get down in the rest of the interview, I want you to give me a little information about your husband and then about the kids, but I think the best thing to do is do that

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when I get to that _____ question. Okay, and what's the date of your birth?

KC It's August 20, 1954. [2.36]

SR Okay. I'll try not to-try to keep that straight with you. I was embarrassed that day when I came to-I love to look at the PTA calendar and when I see someone, you know, that I know-

KC There's another one in September, too. _____.

SR Okay. Well, I'll remember that. I've got it on tape. Okay, and where were you born?

KC I was born in Rutland. [3.03]

SR Okay. And when did you come to Pawlet?

KC Eight years ago, 1975, I think. [3.16]

SR Okay. And where did you come from? Where-

KC I was in Rutland, Vermont, and then I came to Pawlet, Vermont.

SR Okay. And why did you come to Pawlet?

KC My husband {moved us here} after we were married.
[3.29]

SR Okay. So had you just gotten married?

KC Mhm. No, no. I take that back. I got married in '77. [3.41] We were living together at _____ Trailers. _____.

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SR Oh, yes. Oh, yeah. In Pawlet?

KC Yeah.

SR Okay, so you came to Pawlet before you got married?

KC Uhuh.

SR And then you got married, but you were living together.

KC Yes.

SR Okay. And you came to Pawlet specifically because he was living here?

KC Right.

SR Okay, good. Tell me a little bit about your mother and father. Were they from Rutland?

KC My mother was originally from Pittsford, Vermont, and my father *is* from {Rutland}, Vermont.

SR Okay, can you give their full names?

[CHILD IS VERY TALKATIVE AT THE MOMENT.]

KC It's Phyllis _____. Her maiden name was {Shortsleeves}. [4.25]

[SOME SORT OF METALLIC CLANG.]

SR What?

KC Shortsleeves.

SR Shortsleeves?

KC Yes.

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SR What a funny name!

KC Yeah.

SR I never—you mean like shortsleeve shirt?

KC Yeah. And my father is originally from Rutland and his name was {Leonard William Emrick}. [4.37]

[BACKGROUND NOISE—MAY NOT HAVE NAME RIGHT.]

SR Okay. Could you spell just their last names?

KC Emrick. E M R I C K . [4.43]

SR Okay. And were they married and stayed right in that area? Were they both brought up, basically, right there in Rutland?

KC Yes.

SR Okay. And what did your dad do to make a living?

KC My father did many things. He worked at the *Rutland Herald* for nineteen years and in those nineteen years he ran his own bicycle shop business. [5.10]
My mother's always been a waitress all of her life.

SR So what did your father do at the *Rutland Herald*?

KC He maintained the whole plant. [5.19] He made sure the _____, the cars were in tip-top shape. And then he quit there and went to work for the _____ for sixteen years, I think it was. [5.33] Then he

retired, while my mother was still working as a waitress.

SR So you were brought up, basically, right there in Rutland? You went to school there and—did you live right in the city?

KC Yeah, we lived on—I've always lived on 130 River Street. [5.50] That's where we've always lived.

SR Where is that?

KC That's down by what used to be called St. Peter's School, down where the River Street Bridge? [6.03] {I don't know what they call it now.} [CHILD "TALKING" IN BACKGROUND. HAS MASTERED THE WORD "DADDY."] {Right near where Happy Valley is.}

SR Was it a big change for you, coming to live in a town like Pawlet after living in Rutland?

KC Definitely. [6.14] Definitely.

SR What was different? What was so different?

KC I was used—I didn't have my driver's license. [6.23] That was my main big problem then. I was used to walking to work, where I wanted to go. Here, you didn't walk. [6.33] Your closest neighbor—to me, it felt like it was like {five miles} down the road, you know.

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SR Particularly, living way out there.

KC And I was very lost. It took me a long time to get over it. [6.43]

SR So, now, let's see, how old were you then? When you came here?

KC I was twenty-three? No, twenty-four. [6.52]

SR Did you make up your mind to get your license and you got your license?

KC Yes. Yeah, I had to. [6.59] [LAUGHS.] If I wanted to meet people around this town. [LAUGHING.]

SR Yeah, yeah.

KC And I sure _____ to walk five miles. [LAUGHING.]

SR Did you know anybody here when you came? Did you know Connie?

KC No.

SR You didn't know anyone?

KC I didn't know anybody, except for my in-laws—or, my future in-laws, at the time. [7.18] I didn't know *nobody*. So, unfortunately, I kept the cleanest house in all of Pawlet. [LAUGHTER.]

SR Do you know anything about your parent's parents?

KC My grandmother is still alive, one of them is. [7.36] The other one just died when I was a

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freshman in high school. And my Grandmother Emrick, my father's mother, she originally came from Canada.

[7.49] [CHILD YELLS, GOOD-NATUREDLY.] And _____ outside the border, as you cross over.

SR Up near {Richford}? Right up above _____? In that area. [CHILD VERY VOLUBLE.]

KC _____. She's always _____--also, wanted to _____. They lived in Pittsford once they were married. [8.13]

SR Do you have any idea why they came to Vermont?

KC I have no idea why they came to Vermont.

SR Do you know what they did to make a living?

KC My Grandfather Shortsleeve has worked in the quarries, the marble quarries? [8.27] All his life. My Grandmother Shortsleeve worked at the _____ Inn, and most of her life, as a waitress and a cook. _____, she worked up in there. And then she quit that job and worked at what they--_____ used to be the oldest _____, place up there. It's the police department now. [8.52] Well, it's _____, but it's called the State Police Department, the barracks now. It used to be a {reform} _____ to go _____ for retarded kids

that used to _____ and they'd be _____ out to
be in {Plainfield}.

SR And what did she do there.

KC She started out as a person who _____ and then she
went to maintaining records and stuff. [9.27] You
know, for like _____.

[CHILD NOW COMBINES ITS VOCALISM WITH "PERCUSSION"
ACCOMPANIMENT FROM SOME SORT OF TOY WHICH HAS,
PREDOMINANTLY, A BELL-LIKE EFFECT, THOUGH THE
TAMBOURINE EFFECT IS ALSO QUITE STRONG LATER ON.]

And Grandma Emrick, she used to work as a
housekeeper _____. [9.34]

SR I wonder why they came to Vermont. Maybe it was the
quarries.

KC I think what it basically was, was my Grandmother
and Grandmother Shortsleeve who came down from
Canada, basically, because there was no work.
[9.51] The farm had gone—you gotta realize—

SR They farmed? [9.55]

KC Yes. Years and years—this was before any of us was
thought of, you know? [9.59] And my Grandfather
and Grandmother Emrick, they came down from Canada
due to the fact that they were more or less outcasts

there, {in their family}. [10.13] I mean, in Canada, my grandfather's father, brother and sisters, are very wealthy, okay? [10.24] They stuck to the farm, they stuck to their business. My Grandfather Emrick didn't want anything to do with that, okay? He wanted just to work by himself. [10.34] He didn't want—

SR To be part of that family farm there.

KC Well, he was an outcast, so when he came down, he {did bring his wife} and that's where he lived, in Rutland all of their life. [10.47] My grandfather just died two years ago. Gramp died. Emrick. And he always lived here. [10.52] All of his life.

SR So your father followed in those footsteps?

KC Yeh.

SR That's interesting. I always like to find out as much as I can about where families originated, you know.

KC Basically, our relatives are in Canada, basically. [11.10]

SR Well, that's interesting, 'cause, you know, some people don't know. Of course, you're very young.

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KC But they had—well, why I know so much is because we've had what you call a family tree done on the Emrick side. [11.21]

SR A genealogy?

KC Yeah. And, originally, the Emrick's name, any Emrick family originated in western _____.

[11.34] You know, I'm not _____! [LAUGHS.]

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR No, no. My father's family is from, was originally from an area which I think is now part of France, but originally it was part of Germany. [11.50] That's why my name is spelled with an "s" instead of a "z"—Susanne with an "s", because that's the old spelling. [11.56]

KC Our name is spelled E M E R I C K . [12.03] But that's the French way of spelling it. And in German it's E M R I C K .

SR Yeah. Now, see, that area, I don't even know where it is, exactly, but it's where—it's obviously now on the French and German border, but I think originally it was German and it is France. [12.18] And I think my father's family came from that area and

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probably your _____ did, too. That's interesting.

How many brothers and sisters do you have?

KC I have?

SR Yeah.

KC Six. [12.32]

SR Okay, do you want to tell me a little bit about them?

KC _____?

SR Yeah, start with the oldest and tell me, give me their names and where they are now and, you know, basically, what they're doing.

KC Okay. The oldest is Geraldine Reien, R E I E N .
[12.52] She lives in Champlain, Illinois. She is an RN. She works in the ICM Unit. She is a supervisor _____. She married an engineer for Krafts Company of Illinois. [13.16] And then I have a brother, Gary--no, a sister, Joan. [13.21] She's the second oldest. She lives in Rutland. She just got a divorce from her husband and she's working in a factory up in Rutland. [13.30] Then I have a brother, Gary, who lives down in Florida. [CHILD HAS MASTERED "MOMMY," AS WELL AS A BRONX CHEER.] And he's married and his wife works at the

_____. And they're headed for Alaska in a couple months. And then there's-

SR What are they gonna do there?

KC That's where the Air Force is sending him. [13.56]

SR I've always wanted to go to Alaska. I'd love to go to Alaska.

KC Oh, she can't wait. Well, she's an Oriental and she loves to fish and hunt, and she can't wait. [14.08] She really can't. Oh, I love her cooking. _____. It's real good.

SR Do you know John Mach Sr.? Who John Mach is? Do you know his boy, young Johnny and his wife?

KC Yeah, I used to work with-well, they weren't married at the time-his girlfriend. [14.25] They're also _____.

SR Isn't she nice?

KC She really is.

SR Yeah, I wish they'd come back here. I don't think they will, but her family's in Alaska. [14.38] And I met her 'cause she had a spill off the bike right in front-{a truck must have run into her}, right on that corner in North Pawlet there? [14.46] She was thrown right off the bike and if she had landed on

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the _____ she would have been *really* badly hurt.
She was all bloody. Anyway, she came in _____--

[VOICE-OVER.]

KC _____. She was _____.

SR Yeah.

KC Well, that was Gary, and then there's me. [15.02]

And then there's my brother, Mark. He's in the Air
Force, also, at Plattsburgh. [15.08] He's married
_____. She's in the Air Force, also. They're
both in the Air Force. And then I have a sister,
Robin, she's the youngest, and she has _____.

[15.23]

SR Great! Is she--

KC And she's not married. [15.25]

SR She is at Castleton or she lives with your folks?

KC No, she lives at the college. [15.28] _____.

She really enjoys it. She likes it a lot.

SR Okay. I think that's plenty about your family. Do
you want to talk a little bit about your husband?

KC _____. [LAUGHS.]

SR Okay. Tell me his full name.

KC It's Francis _____ Clark. [15.49]

[CHILD HAS DISCOVERED A DRUM?]

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SR Okay. And where is his family from?

KC His family is from—his father's a _____ from
_____ and _____ from Pawlet.

SR No kidding? And how'd you'd meet each other?

KC Through the nursing home where I was working.

[16.09] His grandmother is a patient up there.

SR In Rutland?

KC Yeah.

SR Which of the nursing homes?

KC Eden Park Nursing Home. [16.17]

SR The Eden Home? Eden Park, okay. And tell me a
little bit about what he does to make a living?

KC He's a truck driver. [16.24] He drives a truck.

SR Has he been doing that ever since you've known him?

KC Right.

SR And who's he driving for right now?

KC _____ Holemen. H O L E M E N . [16.36]

SR And where is that?

KC It's out of Middlebury, Vermont. [16.39]

SR And what kind of trucking?

KC He's a farm {pick-up}. [16.43] He _____ at the
farms and he brings it down to the city, you know.

SR Oh, milk. Milk! [16.48]

KC Right.

SR Yeah. Is he home every day or does he go—

KC Yeah, he's home every other day, _____. [16.57]

SR He has to go all the way to Middlebury.

KC He's gone at five o'clock. The truck stays over to West Pawlet. He has another partner that he works with.

SR Oh, great! That's not cream, is it?

KC Yeah, that's cream and milk. [17.07]

SR Oh, cream! Did I tell you Neil did their pictures?

KC Oh, yeah?

SR Yeah, they're wonderful pictures.

KC I bet that'll be one heck of a picture!

SR It is!

KC I can see it! [LAUGHS.]

SR And you know what he did? He sent Neil—he wanted to pay Neil for taking the picture and Neil kept saying, "No, no, no, no." [17.25] So when Neil was down taking the picture, he told him he wanted to show him something down in the basement? And he took him down in the basement and when Neil wasn't looking he put three T-bone steaks in Neil's camera bag. [17.35]

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KC He's famous for that. You're lucky you didn't get
bacon and eggs, too. That's what he does.

SR They're really good friends with the {Hewlitts}.

KC Yeah.

SR With Jennifer. And Jennifer {is on the checklist}.
And Jennifer was, you know, thinking of people she
knew who weren't on the checklist and wanted, you
know, she could ask about pictures. [17.55] And
they were delighted! So Neil just—it wasn't more
than a couple weeks ago Neil went out and did their
pictures. [18.02] And their daughter is so
wonderful. They're just a really nice family.

KC They really are.

SR Yeah. So they share this route, this milk route?

KC Well, Tony's a very good friend of my mother's
sister from Brandon. [18.18] That's where he
_____. [CHILD "TALKING."]

SR So how does this milk run work? You started to tell
me, SO--

KC Francis, he'll go to work at five o'clock. [18.30]
{Last night, _____.} He'll run it through until
one or two o'clock this afternoon—sometimes later,
depending on what the weather is. [18.54] He'll

come sleep tonight and have tomorrow morning and Friday afternoon off. He goes back at five o'clock in the morning on Friday night. [19.03] He {will go out to the offices} tonight at five o'clock _____, so _____.

SR So he drives all night.

KC Yeah.

SR And into the next day and then he has the next day off. But they don't have to go further than Pawlet, other than for their run? [19.20]

KC Well, they go to _____. [CHILD YELLING.]

SR How far does he go on his—

KC The furthest is up to _____, back into Middletown, and Pawlet and back.

SR So he doesn't really go that far?

KC No.

SR Away from home. It's just those particular hours. Now was he doing that when he met you?

KC When I met him, he was working for Max {Farnham}, then he quit that and went to work for his father at _____ Coleman's over in {Barnet Hill}, and that's where he learned to drive a tractor trailer. [19.51] And he's been—

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SR Is that where _____ is?

KC Yeah.

SR Yeah. I guess I didn't realize that.

KC And I guess he's been doing that for _____.

[CHILD MAY BE PILING BLOCKS, LOUDLY.]

SR And now where did you say his family was from?

KC _____. [CHILD YELLS.]

SR Yeah.

KC Yeah.

SR I tend to forget that, for some reason. I think of you, for some reason, 'cause your name is Clark. _____. Okay. Any other ways you want to tell me your life was different when you came to Pawlet and when you lived in Rutland, other than the fact that you couldn't drive anywhere?

KC It tends to get boring. [LAUGHS.] There's nothing to do. [20.35] Because, really, you compare Rutland-anything. You know, here, if you want, for example, if you want to go get a hamburg, pizza, go _____, with all the traveling-traveling to Manchester or all the way to Rutland. [20.52] You know, if you want to go shopping? You know, I love the country, don't get me wrong.

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SR Yeah, that's one of the other questions later on the interview. Would you rather live in a town like this, live in the city, or would you actually prefer to _____?

KC {I'd rather} live in the country, you know? But the only problem with the country-

SR Is it's boring.

KC Yeah, exactly.

SR Do you think when you move in April you might head back towards Rutland? Or haven't you really decided?

[CHILD ENTERTAINS ITSELF BY PRACTICING ITS BRONX CHEER.]

KC I haven't decided yet. We're just looking for a place, at this point, you know. [21.29] _____.

SR And you think you'd like to stay in Pawlet-now?

KC Oh, not so much Pawlet, at this time of year _____.

SR Yeah, it might be _____. I'm thinking, I would just-the situation at the school, with the kids just popped into my mind and like you would have-you know, closer to Rutland, you'd have more-

KC Opportunities. _____.

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SR Yeah. Than you would in Pawlet. I mean, I was thinking that the other day. That's one of the problems, if you _____.

KC _____.

SR What do you like about the town?

[CHILD YELLING.]

KC The quietness. [22.09] You don't have _____ always _____. It is, it's quiet town. You don't hear sirens going off every five minutes and you don't hear about kids {robbing} _____.

SR Have you any good friends here? Have you made good friends?

KC I've made a lot of friends here. [22.30] A lot of 'em are _____.

SR Yeah. Well, you're a friendly person. [LAUGHTER.] Okay. Anything else you want to say about the town? Is there anything that you distinctly *don't* like about it?

KC You really don't want to know. _____. [LAUGHS.]

SR Tell me what you want to tell me.

KC Well, I think _____. I, personally, _____. And you can't do it yourself. There's _____ minuses about this town—like the _____. Like it's

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boring. And if you aren't _____ . You know, _____ .

[CHILD LOUDLY SHOWING OFF ITS VOCABULARLY.]

SR But do you think that's true in any town? Or do you think it's more so here?

KC I think it's true in every town. [23.28]

SR Small town.

KC Yeah, small towns. [23.31] They know your business before you know it, you know. [SR LAUGHS.] I'm serious! They do! It's the truth!

SR Yuh.

KC You know, it's almost like the read your mail. [23.39] Before _____. All I can think of is _____. Remember Minnie Pearl _____? The old man taking a steamer to read the mail? That's what this town reminds me of. [23.56] Because if you aren't _____, you don't make it. _____?

SR Yeah, I think in a town like this, anybody who's different. And being poor is different. [24.11]

KC Right.

SR You know, from the norm. Well, the norm being, basically—I'm thinking now of the farms, in a certain way. You know, not so much even maybe the

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richer—but the farms. [24.24] You're labor and you have to sort of work your way _____. [CHILD NOW SINGS.] But I do think, eventually, you'll find good people.

KC _____.

SR You {need} to work at it.

KC Okay, when I first came here I had a couple of people that I thought at first they were friends. [24.50] And through them I met other people. All right? To expand your horizons of friends, which was good, but the only thing is, is the original friends you start out with, you think is your friend, isn't. [25.01] It's not true! You know, they really aren't true friends. You know, they're your friend until your giving is all done and then they go to—that's the only thing about a small town I don't like, is because they do know your name that they'll remember some _____ and they don't like it, forget it. You're out. [25.26] You know, a great example is {Lollie Andersen}. I think the world of that girl. I don't care if she came from Japan or wherever she came from: she's a real nice

girl. And the only reason Lollie made it is 'cause she married a town {clerk}. [25.42] She did.

[VOICE-OVER.]

If you or I go around wearing a flower in our hair, you know what the town would say? [25.51]

SR Yeah.

KC You know?

SR And Lollie—you know, Lollie is not that accepted in this town. [25.55]

KC She is!

SR She's getting to be more accepted, but not—

KC It takes a while. [26.00]

SR Yeah. Oh, yeah.

[VOICE-OVER.]

KC A long, long while. It really does, you know? And that's the only thing about a town I don't like. [26.10] And then another thing is this—when like a professor or somebody of that nature comes into this town, they accept them. [26.17] I don't understand it. I don't know if it's because of his brains, his influence—as far as money. I don't know.

SR Yeah. Well, I think that—you know, I think, well, I think you'll find that anywhere, in any _____.

KC Yeah, you do.

SR For sure. I mean, there's definitely a, you know, a social structure that—and it's too bad. [26.41]

KC You know, like my mother lived in a small town and she said, "Kathy, don't ever come and live in the town." [26.46] Some are gonna be worse, some are gonna be less worse, but _____. See, and I wasn't used to that, coming from Rutland, because the only thing you know is your neighbors and the people you go to school with and that's it. [26.57] You know, they accept you for what you are. And here, it just throwed me, because I never, never was introduced to any of this. Never.

SR It's interesting. You know, I think you're the first person I've interviewed who's come from a Vermont, you know, city to a Vermont rural town and been able to sort of, you know, talk about that kind of reversal of, you know, feelings. [27.24]

[VOICE-OVER.]

KC Lots of times, you know, I said to my husband, I said, "This town doesn't have much to offer. If you compare it to Rutland, Burlington, it doesn't have much stuff, right?" [27.40] The only thing it's

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got to offer is that there's a _____. It's a little town in the country: that's it. While Rutland, you know. I said, "Well, why don't we move to Rutland?" He said, "No, you can't take the noise." [27.52] I can't take the noise now, 'cause when I go back to Rutland to visit, it's the sirens are going off, the fire trucks are going out. I get nervous. I want to know! I can't—there's no way I can _____. But I guess, you know, you gotta take _____.

SR What do you think could be done in the town to improve—not, perhaps, you know, any acceptance of people who have less money to live on, but to improve, you know, the opportunities and to make more things go on in the town? Do you have any ideas?

KC Personally, I would love to see something like a recreational department. [28.35] I mean, I really would, for the younger kids.

SR Do you think this youth center that Clarence Decker—

KC I think _____. Because, really, I mean, what has the young kids got? To stand on a corner, take out their snuff, put in it their lip and see who can

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spit the farthest? [28.51] Basically, that's all they've got, Susanne!

SR Yeah. No, I agree with you. I mean, when I talk to older people—you know, people who were brought up in this town in the early 1900's, you know, who are now in their eighties or whatever, I mean, all they talk about is the dances and the parties and the, you know, everything was centered around—for young people. [29.12]

KC Their parents used to go to these dances, so that they—

SR They've all got—

KC And now—for example, my husband is too busy truck driving, I've got a little one. [29.25] I can't go off dancing, I can't afford a babysitter. You know? So if the kids had something *useful* to do—you know, like the recreational department. And there I go again, comparing it to Rutland. [29.35] Now up in Rutland they have a recreational department. It's *huge*. And ninety percent of the kids *go there!* [29.42]

SR Yeah. And it doesn't matter whether you're rich or poor. [29.45]

KC No, you're accepted *as one*. [29.49] You know, they make fun because you don't have _____ or you don't have Calvin Klein's on. Seriously, Susanne, you can _____.

SR I know, I know.

KC Here, I don't think that that would enter into it because everybody wears the dungarees, the flannel shirts, or something similar to that. [30.06] You know, it's no label. With the kids—

SR Well, it seems that every time—I experienced this with my dance classes. [30.15] And I know Lollie's experienced it. Every time you try to make an effort to start something for the kids in the town—

KC The parents won't _____.

SR Well, not the parents, but the *town*! [30.24]

KC Yeah.

SR I mean, just trying to use the town hall. [30.28]

I mean, you know how hard that's been for—

KC Personally, I'll tell you why.

SR So every time you get something going, then, you know—just because—

KC They knock it down. [30.36]

SR Yeah.

KC Just _____.

SR Yuh, yuh. And that's—you know, that happens—that's happened over and over again. [30.41]

KC Yeah.

SR So, you know. I mean, it was—when Lollie tried to start the Girl Scouts. [30.49] Originally, you know, she had the Girl Scouts up here and they were living up here for a year, but, you know, every time she tried to get another—she didn't want to do it in her home. Here, let me shut this off for a second.

[BREAK IN TAPING.] [BACK ON TAPE, CHILD NO LONGER HEARD IN BACKGROUND, HOWEVER TAPE RECORDER NOISE CONTINUES.]

KC --And that used to be one of the bedrooms for her sister, I think. Her sister was younger and _____.

SR How'd you end up renting this house?

KC Okay. In '79—

SR You came right here from the trailer, _____?

KC See, that's—oh. My husband got laid off at Grayson's, okay? [31.29] So he went to work for {Larrabee} Farms and we weren't making it there, so he left there and—

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SR Now, Larrabee Farms, where's that?

KC Up on the back road, _____. _____?

SR Oh, in Danby?

KC No, right up here. [31.44] Go down by Roddy Mason?

SR Oh, yeah. Yeah.

KC You take that road.

SR You mean Rodney Mason's farm? [31.53]

KC Right.

SR Oh, yeah. Okay.

KC And that's where he was working and we weren't making it, so-

SR So you were living up there?

KC Yeah, in that green house, to the right? [32.03]

SR Yeah.

KC _____.

SR Yeah, yeah.

KC And then from there he worked for {Johnny} Clark and that's when we rented this place. [32.11] We asked {Johnny} if we could open the house, 'cause this house was closed at the time and his parents were _____ just to keep _____ the house and nobody was in here. [32.16] And the house was deteriorating and looked it when we moved in. And

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they let us move in, with the option that we'd kind of fix it up, because they just didn't have the money, so we agreed to it. [32.27] And it took us a good year to get it fixed up. And then we moved out 'cause the _____ was just _____ here. You know, we just sunk too much into it. [32.37] And then we moved up to {Elson Roger's} _____--

SR Oh, that's right. You told me that. That's right.

KC It was supposed to be cheaper, but that house was all electric heat. [32.47] Needless to say, it wasn't cheaper. It was *astronomical!* And then we moved back down here.

SR Here. Okay. Came back to this one.

KC Yeah.

SR Now are you--do you have to get out because the people are gonna--

KC The landlords want to move back in. [33.03] You know, they want to come back to the old home, the old homestead.

SR You're looking for a place to rent inside two miles?

KC Yeah, around town.

SR What happened to Claude {Tarbooth} down here?
[33.13] Who's living there?

KC _____.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Not as big as the {Carl Alton} barns. [KC LAUGHS.]
Okay. Let's go on. Tell me about your schooling.
Where'd you go to school, how long were you in
school?

KC I went to grade school at St. _____'s School—it's
a private Catholic school. [33.35] I went there
from first to eighth grade, _____.

SR In Rutland.

KC In Rutland. And then I went to _____ St. Joseph
on Concord Avenue in Rutland, and it's a private
Catholic school, all four years. [33.46] Graduated
from there. I was then transferred into the Voc-
Tech School, which was training on the job. [33.53]
I was training to be a nurse's aide, from a nurse's
aide to a senior aide to a nursing degree, but I got
married and got pregnant and had kids during that
time, so I stopped it. [34.06]

SR But you said—now, when I first got to know you, you
said you wanted to go back and try to do that.

KC Yes, I would like to go back, but I doubt it, at
this point, to go back. [34.15] 'Cause it's

impossible, I can imagine, to be _____ and that would be—it would cost money just to finish.

SR To do that training?

KC Yeah.

SR What would you have to do?

KC I assume I would have to go back to college—go to college for the whole four years. [34.32]

SR Even with the training you have already?

KC Yeah.

SR For the lab work?

KC Uhuh. See, I was trained just for the floor nurse and I wasn't trained to combine medicine, to doing tests—you know, the blood _____. [34.43] And I just missed _____.

SR Yeah. How'd you hurt your back, originally--do you know?

KC Yeah, I was working down at the {Barrow's} House and Marilyn {Schubart}, the owner, wanted the {tiles} cleaned and I suggested to her that if certain tile stuff that works, it has to—you know, you can't buy it on the shelves, but it works real good. It's an industrial cleaner. [35.07] It works really terrific. You can clean your bathtub up with a

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little bit of hot water, so the steam would get on the tub and _____ do it. Well, I slipped and my feet went out from underneath me and I literally just slid down the bathtub. [35.20] You can imagine. And that's how I did it.

SR And how long ago was that now?

KC Eighty. [35.25]

SR And you've had two operations?

KC _____.

SR But this last one seems to be pretty good?

KC Yeah, it seems to _____.

SR Good. That's good. It's too bad because it would be hard even to do home nursing care with the back.

[35.38] I mean, like-

[VOICE-OVER.]

KC You know, I think, probably, it was part of my timing and I really enjoyed it. That was *ironic!* Okay? It was one older couple, very high-falutin' people, up on {Tyrone} Avenue in Rutland. [35.50] He was a very—he was Phi Beta Kappa type person. He was a Phi Beta Kappa. He worked for Washington government in D.C. and she was just _____ and loved to stay home. And when I went there, he

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looked at me, and he dreaded young people, *hated passionately*—he used to call me a sassy little hussy. [36.14] He would say, “When I did, I’m gonna die on your time.” Well, he did! That—I can’t mention his name—but he did die *on my time*—five minutes before I was supposed to go off, which meant a lot of paperwork. [36.27] I had to stay on further. But he just *hated* young people! I was the only young one on the shifts and there was two other older people that loved him. And I just to fix some of this special stuff that I cooked and baked. And, you know, it wasn’t good enough. [36.46] And his wife loved it—you know, souped it right up. Couldn’t believe that I could make shrimp bisque or I could make, you know, shrimp Newburg and all that stuff. [36.54] They were into that fancy stuff, you know. And the one day I made chicken and dumplings and she made a remark, she said, “Kathy,” she said, “I can’t *believe* I haven’t had chicken and dumpling since I was a little girl living at home.” [37.08] I said, “Well, I made some. Do you want some?” And he just picked up that plate and threw it. [37.13] “You aren’t serving me no {poor}

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dishes in this house!" He was just plainly opposite! And I loved it.

SR You took care of both of them?

KC Yeah. I *loved* it! I really did. I hate to say it, but you can learn a lot from older people. [37.26] They are willing to sit down and tell you what everything was, you know, compared to what it is now. Now it's—like you say, it's the hustle and bustle, you know, of everything. [37.34] And back then it wasn't. You could listen to 'em a lot. I *loved* working in nursing homes. [37.42]

SR It would be good if you could do that again.

KC But it's a lot of lifting. [37.47] Yeah, a lot of it.

SR What were you saying about {Miss Whitman} for this—

KC _____ Mama {McGlorey's} was very well known and was well known in the town of Rutland, the city of Rutland. [37.53] Her sons had her car lots, restaurants, _____, and so forth. And she used to be a chef. And she had *sixteen* kids. [38.00] Sixteen of 'em. Then one day she sat me down. She used to talk just like this—she says, "Now, Kathy, you not-a get-ta married no more." [38.09] She

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said, "You not-a have-a nice-a kids." She said, "They turn on you when they gettin' older." And I say, "Yes, Mama, I won't get married, I won't have kids." [38.16] And did totally the opposite, but, anyway—

SR Were you taking care of her as a nurse?

KC Yeah, yeah.

SR At the nursing home or—oh, at Eden Park. [38.21]
Yeah.

KC She was right across the room from Francis's grandmother. [38.25] And she used to have her daughter bring in homemade ravioli, homemade _____. Oh, all the Italian! She used to have her little table and she'd say, "Now, you sit and eat. You work too hard." [38.37] And we'd have her little wine and—I'm serious! I mean--and she used to tell me *stories*. She used to live on {Granger} Street, which is part of the _____, or Happy Valley in Rutland, and she used to tell me stories of how their family used to be. [38.49] You know, they were close and, yet, they weren't filthy rich, you know? They were just poor Italian immigrants. And her stories were just *fascinating! Fascinating!*

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And then I met Mary Bromley from Danby, you know, who was up there. [39.04] She was {Miss Fussy}. She was _____. She couldn't walk when she came. We got her walking, right up to the point where she was almost home, and almost going home. [39.15] We put her in the environment of living at home and stuff. As one nurse left her side rail down, she rolled out and had a stroke and died. [39.22]

SR Oh, dear. How old was she?

KC Seventy-three? [39.25]

SR Was she acting like she was {sixty}?

KC Yeah. I used to let her walk in the day room, all the way down to her room with me, you know? [39.31] And once we'd get her out of bed, she'd give me a kiss and she'd: "I love you!" And into bed she'd go. It made it all worth it, you know? [39.37] I mean—

SR Well, now, would you go back and work there again, with the training you've got now?

KC Yeah, I can go back to the Rutland Hospital. [39.43] Anyplace as a nurse's aide. For a senior aide, I'd have to be retested because there was a change since then. [39.49] But it's a lot of work

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to lift them. You know, no matter where I am, it's lifting. You know, sometimes you get-

SR Well, I was just thinking, you know, George Clark over at {Butternut Bend}, he just brought his wife home and, you know, they're looking for 24-hour nursing care at home. [40.03] She had a stroke and is paralyzed on one side and can't walk and such. And, you know, there are quite a few women in this town and in West Pawlet who do that. And it would be good for someone like you, but it's a lot of lifting. [40.17] I mean, even someone like Leora, she's small, but, still, just to get her, you know, out of bed and onto a toilet or on a commode or sitting up in a chair-

KC It's a lot of lifting.

SR Well, you can't do it with a back like yours, even if-

KC You know, you've got special ways of lifting people from the bed to the commode. That's a *lot* of strain on your back and legs. [40.34]

SR Yeah.

KC I would love to do a home-really, would love to do it.

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SR Yeah, it sounds like you really—that was something that was very important to you.

KC And I always find Mrs.—oh, I can't think of her name now—she was head of Castleton's Nursing School, way back when—she's retired now. [40.51] She asked me, she said, what would I prefer to work in: geriatrics, the young—pediatrics. Definitely, geriatrics. [40.58]

SR That might be—yeah, I can see that you would be great with older people.

KC I love 'em. I really do. They scare me at first because they look strong and strict, but once you get passed that, they're just like—oh, I love 'em. [41.10] I can't say enough about 'em. That is my weakness.

SR Well, maybe you can get back to that when your kids are a little bit older and you're stronger, if your back is good.

KC I'd love to do that.

SR You know? It might be fun.

KC It'd have to be almost _____, you know. Because the rewards are much more than what's physical, you know? It's more than a paycheck, really. [41.32]

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SR What other kinds of work have you done?

KC What's that? Okay. _____ one outside job is one year, part-time, I worked at _____. _____.

SR And you worked over at the _____ House.

KC Yeah, chamber maid. [41.49]

SR Chamber maid.

KC Yes. I like that. [41.50] That was fun.

SR Cooking at Catherine Chambers—that sounds awful!

KC [LAUGHS.] It was! [LAUGHS.] Believe me, it was! These little rich kids, you know, their parents—and I had to learn how to ride horses, you know. [42.07]

SR I remember one summer when I was—we didn't have a washing machine and dryer, and I used the Granville Laundromat, and they would bring all the laundry over there from Catherine Chambers and take over the laundromat. [42.23] And that was bad enough. I mean, to walk in there on a hot, you know, summer afternoon with your family laundry that was gonna take a couple machines and find out *all* the machines were occupied and *would be* occupied for the—infuriated! And everyone was, you know, who used the laundromat was angry. [42.40] Well, one day I

was over there and I got my laundry in. I figured out, finally, you know, what days they were there and what time they got there, and figured if I could get there, you know, an hour before, I could get my laundry done.

KC This is ironic. I'll tell you something, {ass backwards}.

SR One day they *took* my laundry. [42.58] The young girl who was doing it. You know, there was always an older woman there.

KC Had long hair?

SR Yeah, do you know her?

KC Yeah.

SR I didn't like her so well, but, anyway, she always had a young girl helping her who was a camper—obviously, a rich camper. [43.10] You could tell that. Anyway, one day I went—you know, I think the stuff was in the dryer and I must have gone to Rite-Aide or, you know, something like that.

KC Your first mistake.

SR Right! Oh, I know. I learned that. And I got back and my goddamn laundry was gone! [43.26] I was *furious!* And it didn't take me long to figure out

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what had happened! [KC LAUGHING.] I mean, it was pretty obvious that the young girl had just swept through all the dryers. They didn't sort anything there, they just threw everything in the garbage bags or big barrels and took it back. [43.40]

Well, I was standing there in the parking lot, wondering what I was gonna do, you know, and thinking about it, all my laundry being mixed together with, you know, all those kids' laundry, and how were we ever gonna, you know, find it.

[43.53] And, fortunately, you know, the young girl came back because she had forgotten something that had nothing to do with my laundry. And I was just standing there in the parking lot, really trying to figure out what to do! And I said, "You just took my laundry!" And so she went and got the woman who, you know, straightened it out, but I was *so angry*.

[44.15] That's the only contact I've ever had with-

KC I'll tell you why I think it's ironic—I started in cooking for them. [44.21] In July I started doing their laundry.

SR It wasn't you, I know it.

KC Catherine Chambers. I used to *dread* going in there.

[44.30] People'd stare at me, as if to say, "You dare touch them washers and I'll break your hands." You know, and I'd only take two washers. [44.38] I didn't care if it took me twelve hours to do it.

SR Why?

KC I was not gonna consume all those washers, you know? I was *petrified*!

SR You know, the people who ran the place shouldn't have let that happen. I mean, you can't do that in a small town, with people depending on the laundromat like that. [44.53] I mean, you'd see elderly people come in, you know, with their little satchel of laundry and sit there for two or three hours, waiting for a machine, while some young girl smokes and, you know, reads dirty magazines.

KC That was unbelievable. Well, I got out of that real fast. Back to cooking. [45.09] And I still hated that.

SR Do you have any hobbies? Or interests outside of, you know, kind of things that are your own?

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KC My garden, my flowers. [45.21] And my kids
_____. I'm not a growing person, I just like to
have, you know—I don't like lots of flowers.

SR Yeah, you stay pretty much to the _____. Okay,
let's talk a little bit about the kids. Okay?
Let's start with the twins. Okay, the oldest.
[45.41] Tell me their names and—

KC It's Brian David Clark and {Wendy _____} Clark.
And they're seven. [45.50]

SR And they're seven, okay. And why don't you just
tell me the little one's name and—

KC It's Nicole Anne Clark and she's three. [45.58]

SR Okay. And do you want to tell me a little bit about
the twins and when they were born and talk about--
[46.05]

END TAPE 1, SIDE A

START TAPE 1, SIDE B

[NOTE: MACHINE NOISE STILL A PROBLEM IN THE BACKGROUND.]

KC [.29] --Okay, Brian and Wendy were born July 6.
They were supposed to be born in September.
Apparently, they weren't even supposed to be born in
September, but they were born six and a half, seven
months premature. [.42] _____.

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SR Did you know there was gonna be trouble?

KC I didn't know there was gonna be trouble, no. I knew I was having twins in my fourth month. [.51] They told me I'd deliver two weeks early, probably, _____, you know.

SR But everything, basically, looked healthy?

KC Yes. And—

SR Who's your doctor?

KC Dr. Thomas. [1.02] He's a general practitioner in Rutland.

SR In Rutland.

KC And they spent three months up in Burlington before they could be, to even to begin to think about letting them home. [1.13] Then there passed another month up in Rutland Hospital, just gaining weight, basically.

SR How much did they weigh when they were born?

KC They couldn't weigh 'em and they couldn't measure 'em. [1.23] They guessed approximately two pounds each.

SR Did you have to have a caesarian or were they born naturally?

KC They were born naturally. [1.32]

SR They did come?

KC Brian, he was born at one _____ months—four or five weeks. [1.36] Wendy was born at one:twenty-five. _____ are supposed to be born an hour apart, but Wendy, there was trouble with her birth. They had to knock me out totally 'cause she was {tied up} with my bladder and kidneys, although they're not—they had to go up and turn her around, because if she had come out the way she wanted to, she would have been born dead. [1.56] And they were progressing very well once that—and they're very happy-go-lucky kids. The twin part seems to be disappearing and {so much between}, you know what I'm saying?

SR Well, I think with a boy and a girl that they, they grow up, they separate more.

KC They are different. [2.23] The only time you *might* see it, _____, and then, boy, they baby each other like *crazy!* Other than that, you don't see it.

SR What was it like having twins?

KC Hell. I wouldn't wish that on anybody. [2.40] I'm serious.

SR I have a friend who feels the same way.

KC Especially, in winter, and being here with _____,
and I brought 'em home.

SR Must be a lot of care.

KC They had to be fed every two hours. [2.52] And
_____ every two hours. We'd be in bed with one
_____. It was a constant "go." There was never a
break in it—never! [2.59] And I put up with that
for three weeks and I almost had a nervous breakdown
while living like that. And, finally, after {taking
them to Dr. Thomas}, they'd say, "Get somebody in
there to help you." [3.13] And my husband was a
truck driver, he wasn't home. I had to go through
all this alone, that was all. [3.18] You know.
And he was very upset about it, too. And so I had
my cousin, {Kathy Roberts}, and she helped me 'til I
got back up on my feet. [3.29] _____.

SR Were you pretty wiped out after the birth? I mean,
were you more—

KC After the birth I had a lot of complications myself.
[3.38] They had give me a spinal and it didn't fuse
up. _____ that is, once they inject a spinal,
_____. Usually, a fluid will leak out and then it
will plug itself. [3.50] Mine wasn't doing it. It

was just flowing. Therefore, the imbalance of it
was giving me *tremendous* migraine headaches. [3.59]

ON HOLD - BAD MACHINE NOISE!