

Rae Ellen Goodrich/TC2004.3010  
**Neil & Susanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR           Susanne Rappaport  
RG           Rae Ellen Goodrich  
Place       Pawlet, VT  
Date         03/22/1982

**TAPE 1, SIDE A**

[NOTE: SUSANNE HAS PROBLEM WITH TAPE RECORDER GOING OFF  
ABRUPTLY UP UNTIL ABOUT 1/3 THROUGH TAPING.]

SR    [.12]   --Okay, now, do you want to tell me your full  
          name?

RG    Rae Ellen Goodrich.   [.15]

SR    Okay.   And would you spell that for me, just to make  
          sure that I have the spelling correct.

RG    R A E   E L L E N   G O O D R I C H .   [.26]

SR    Okay.   And what's the date of your birth?

RG    November 19, 1946.   [.32]

SR    Okay.   You're a little younger than I am.   [RG  
          LAUGHS.]   I was born in 1944.   And where were you  
          born?

RG    I was born in Rutland, Vermont.   [.43]

SR    Okay.   Now, what I'm gonna do is go down to the  
          second part of the interview, since you weren't born  
          in Pawlet, and ask you those questions.   And then,  
          usually for someone's who's lived, you know, in this

immediate area, I like to go back and get a little information about your own mother and father, if you would like to tell me a little bit about them, just to get an idea about who they were and who they are and what they're about. How long have you lived in Pawlet?

RG About ten years. [1.19]

SR Okay. And where did you come from?

RG Granville, New York, I lived for twenty-three years. [1.26]

SR And why did you come to Pawlet?

RG Well, I used to work in Manchester for about six years. I had a beauty shop in Manchester. [1.39] And I always loved this valley and I was just always drawn back to it. And when I married and we were deciding where we'd like to buy a house, this just seemed like the right place. [1.53] And this house, I always noticed this house. It had been empty for a number of years and I always really had warm feelings about it, thought it was just a very warm-appearing house, and it just happened to come on the market and it just happened to be at the right time and we were able to buy it. [2.16]

SR Who owned the house before you bought it?

RG Some people from New Jersey—a Mrs. {Soner} that used to live in this house and her husband had a gas station here on my property, what is now the beauty shop, and also owned a house next door, had sold it, after many years, to these people from New Jersey, and they only owned it two or three years. [2.44] It was sort of a vacation home for them. They were just starting to fix it up, but hadn't really done very much to it. We were able to purchase the house very reasonably. It was only \$16,900.00 at the time. [2.56]

SR And what year was that, do you remember?

RG Probably, 1972, '73. [3.03]

SR So now can you tell me where else you lived in the town before—well, why don't you go back and tell me about living over in the center of town first and then—

RG Yes. A couple of years before that, we had lived behind the post office, in John Mach's house, back there. [3.24] And we lived there for about six months and then moved back to Granville and lived

with my mother for a while before we bought the house.

SR Okay. All right. Well, that's good. Can you tell me a little bit about how your life differed once you moved to Pawlet, from before you came to Pawlet? I know that there's not much of a shift 'cause you're not coming from, you know, a particularly different area, but are there any things that stand out in your mind as being, you know, very distinctive about your life here, as compared to other places that you've lived?

RG Well, it was quite a transition for me, the whole time of buying the house, and shortly after we bought the house I was divorced, so it was, there were a lot of changes in my life. [4.17] And I think what is so very special about Pawlet is mainly the people. There's such a sense of unity and fellowship here and just brotherhood. [4.31] Everyone seems to just help each other in so many ways. And it was just at a time when I was, I had a baby seven months old and a four-year old daughter, and I was feeling very much alone. [4.51] And I remember, shortly after we moved here, Mary {Oaken}

came to my door with a loaf of homemade bread right of her oven. Now, this is when we did live behind the post office. And that's how I met Stan and Mary. [5.04] And it was just very special and, you know, we've become very, very good friends through the years.

SR Did you know that Stan and Mary were how Neil and I got to Pawlet?

RG No.

SR [LAUGHS.] Yeah, they were! We were married down in Bennington when I was still in school, at the college, and Neil had just graduated from Williams College. [5.23] And we lived down there for a couple years and then we went out to California, for various reasons, and that didn't work. We hated California and we really wanted to come back to Vermont. And we came back and stayed with some friends of ours who live over near Brattleboro and we needed a place to live. [5.42] And Stan was someone who Neil had known from way back, from the city and, you know, that \_\_\_\_\_, and he knew that he lived here in Pawlet, so we just drove over here one day. And at first we rented the house right

next to the schoolhouse, Elsie Wilson's house, that big—I think it's empty now. [6.01] I don't know that anybody lives there. But Elsie Wilson was Helen Mach's mother. [6.08] And it was empty and we rented that for a *short* time. This other couple who had come with us from Brattleboro, but they were on their way to Maine to buy some land. And Stan, again, knew that Charlie Baker's little house was empty, 'cause Charlie's mother had lived there until just before she died, and when she died, I don't think anyone lived there after she had died, and it was empty. [6.29] And Stan went over and talked to Charlie and brought us. [PHONE RINGING.] That's okay. Go ahead. I've got to shut this off.

[BREAK IN TAPING?]

SR So your feelings about the town are pretty good?

RG Very good. It's been wonderful. It's home. [6.46]  
And it's like nowhere I've ever lived before. I've never felt that feeling and unity and serenity. It's just—everything about it: the people, just being able to walk out the back door and climb Haystack, and it's just so very beautiful—here it is. [7.08]

SR Yeah, that's great. Can you make any comments about how the town has changed since you've come to live here? Are you aware of change in the community? That's a question that is, you know, most generally asked of someone who's lived here all their lives and who is, you know—

RG I think the people have changed a lot from when I first moved here. [7.37] The town itself, I haven't really seen that many changes, but I've seen a lot of changes with families—a lot of new people coming into the area.

SR Do you think that's a positive aspect of the community or—

RG Well, yes, at this point. [7.58] I'd hate to see it grow much more, but I think the people that *have* come here, I think there are a lot of very gifted, talented people here. Just wonderful people are coming in here.

SR Can you tell me a little bit about some of your fondest memories, living in the town?

RG Oh, I think the—you know, it's so family oriented, everything here. [8.24] I think the family parties that people seem to have in the summer and in the

fall, where so *many* in the community attend and bring their kids and their grandmothers and, you know, just have all-day, lovely potluck parties.

[8.46] I think this is very special. And house-raising, I think, are really great fun and such a nice community effort to have everyone get together when someone's building a new home, and chip in and help. [9.01]

SR Yeah, that is, it is nice. Is there anything—  
[9.04]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR [9.21] That happens just once in a while, the tape gets stuck, you know, and it shuts itself off. Just let it run for a minute and make sure it's alright. It might do it again, but we'll just keep going. Is there anything that you don't like about the town, in terms of, you know, politics or—

RG Well, I think when I look around, we're very lucky to live here. [9.46]

SR Yeah. I find that a lot of people who *came* to the town—I haven't talked to many people like yourself, who have been from, you know, a fairly close area to the town and then come to the town, but I find, in



general, people who've come here from other places and have raised a family or have found that this is a place where they want to be, feel that very positive kind of, you know—that they've found the place that they want to be, which I think a lot of people never do. [10.17] [TRAFFIC CAN BE HEARD IN BACKGROUND.] A lot of people don't even think about life in those particular terms, but I find a lot of people our age who have come here within the last, say, fifteen years or ten years, feel that way about the community. [10.33]

RG I think it's a wonderful place to raise your children. [10.36] I mean, that we're really fortunate.

SR Do you think the education your children get here is good?

RG Well, Tasha's in Middle Granville, that's just something that—

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Yeah, go ahead. Just tell me a little bit about what you think about the education. Why did you decide to move Tasha to Granville?

RG Well, when she was in fourth grade in West Pawlet, her teacher was out most of the year sick and they had many, many, many substitutes, all teaching a different way and the kids just weren't learning.  
[11.18] And we parents—

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR [13.14] I feel more comfortable with it happening with you than I did with the other people I was interviewing at the time. I got very flustered.

RG It's just a machine!

SR Right. And we can just keep shutting it off and trying again and then we can do the whole thing again, if we have to. It's just frustrating when you're telling me something and then it shuts off.

RG It's fine.

SR Go ahead. So Tasha's teacher was absent.— [13.36]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR [20.02] Try again. [RG LAUGHS.]

RG Well, the reason that I decided to put Tasha in Middle Granville was, with the problems in the West Pawlet school, we asked that a teacher's aide would be hired to help the children catch up all the work that they had missed on the Iowa tests. [20.26]

The class was way down in the 23% bracket below the national level, their grades, and we really felt that they should have some help to be prepared for the fifth grade. And that request was refused.

[20.40] So the Oakens and myself decided to put our daughters in Middle Granville and it's one of the best things I've ever done.

SR Do you think you'll do that with Sheila automatically or—

RG Well, a lot of changes were made in the West Pawlet school that year. [21.00] Two out of three teachers left, one being the teaching principal, and now they have a new principal and I think all new teachers there now, since then, and it seems to be—

SR Better?

RG Much better now. And I was always pleased with the first, second, and third grade in Pawlet. [21.22] I think Tasha got a good foundation there, but she's an excellent student and doing very well now and that's an adjustment, from here to a New York State school, over to Granville. So, I don't think so, with Sheila, right now. [21.35] I'm pretty pleased with, you know, what has come from this.

SR I wonder if it will be an easier transition for Tasha when she goes to the high school.

RG I'm sure it will.

SR Having—does she continue to stay, during the week, with her grandmother? [21.51]

RG Yes.

SR And has that worked out all right?

RG It's worked out very well.

SR That's nice. That's nice. Gives your mother some companion—is this your mother?

RG This is my mother. [22.00]

SR It gives her some companionship.

RG It is. And I worry about her when Tasha leaves, in a way, but with all the after school activities and just the fact that Tasha will be in Granville next year, she could always spend the night at my mother's. [22.14] It's not that far from the school at all, so I don't think it'll be a total break.

SR That's great. Okay. Now, let's just skip up to the top part of the interview. I just would like to get a *little* bit of information about your parents. Can you tell me what your parent's names are?

RG My mother's name is Minerva Warren and my father, who is deceased, his name was Benjamin Warren.

[22.45]

SR And where did they come from? Do you have any idea?

RG Yes, my mother's—

SR Were they from Rutland or—

RG Well, they lived in South Poultney, Poultney.

[22.54] My father ran a grocery store in Hampton, actually—New York. And my mother's parents came over from Wales to work in the slate quarries.

[23.07] And I'm not sure about my father's parents, but his family have lived in the Hampton area for quite some time.

SR And he had the grocery store in Hampton when you lived in Rutland? Or, when they lived in Rutland, or—

RG No, they never lived in Rutland. I think, when I was born, they went to the Rutland Hospital.

[23.26] They lived in Poultney—or, Hampton, at the time that I was born. My father had the store for maybe twenty years. [23.41] And he was a very kind, good-hearted person—extended credit to everyone, and lost the store because of—

SR Because of it.

RG --people not paying their bills. [23.53]

SR Was it a small, independent store, somewhat like the ones in this area?

RG Yes. And it was during a rough time. It was during, you know, the War. [24.04] And then he worked in Connecticut *during* the War, at an airplane factory in Milford, Connecticut. And then they came back and he worked in {Telesco} for several years. [24.21]

SR And that's what brought them to Granville.

RG Yes, yes. And they've lived there for probably, oh, I think about twenty-five years, in Granville. [24.32] And my father died when I was sixteen and my mother just remained in Granville. [HEAVY TRAFFIC HEARD IN BACKGROUND.] I have one sister and she lives in Hebron, New York. [24.47] She's older than I am.

SR And what--does she have a family or--

RG Yes, she has three sons. [24.55] They're all--one's in college and two are out of college now. And she has just adopted her niece and nephew that were orphans. [25.05] Their parents both died. Their

mother died, forty years old, of cancer. And their father died at thirty-nine with a heart attack, the year before, and left a seven-year old boy and a five-year old little girl. [25.19] And these are the children of my brother-in-law, so they have, just last year, taken them to raise them, so they're kind of starting over again, but it's working out very well.

SR Are you close to your sister or—

RG Yes. Yes. We don't see each other as much as we'd like to, but it's nice that we're all pretty close. [25.40] Yeah.

SR Good! Okay. Now let me just check through this section before we go on and make sure I've-- [PAUSE WHILE SR CHECKS SECTION.] Where were you married?

RG I was married in Granville at the Presbyterian Church. [26.00]

SR Church, yeah. And, let's see, now how long were you married before you were divorced?

RG Eight years. [26.04]

SR Eight years? Okay. All right, now, you want to tell me a little bit about, just about your

schooling? How long did you go to school and where did you go and—

RG I graduated from Granville High School and then I went to {Cologne} Beauty Academy in Albany for cosmetology for six months. [26.26]

SR But did you have all your schooling in Granville, from the very beginning?

RG Mhm. Yes. And then six months in Albany. [26.35]  
And that's all you need in New York State to become a cosmetologist.

SR And that's what you always wanted to do?

RG No.

SR I mean, how did that happen, when you graduated—

RG I always wanted to be a social worker or an art teacher. [26.49] That's what I majored in was art and business, actually, in high school, but when my dad died, for financial reasons, my mother took care of her mother, who had been an invalid for twelve years with a series of strokes, and there was my mother with her mother in this house and no income, and I just knew it was out of the question at that time to go to college. [27.17] And I needed to do something fast that I could make the most money, to



be able to help my family, and my mother had been a hairdresser. [27.24] She had a beauty salon in Poughkeepsie. So it just—that's what I thought I would try doing and, if I didn't like it, I could always use it to work my way through college, \_\_\_\_\_, but as it's turned out, supporting two children, you know, it's been the best possible thing, to be able to move my business out here to Pawlet and be right next to where the children are and-- [27.52]

SR Yeah, it's great.

RG It's really worked out for the best.

SR Yeah. Do you want to tell me—I think it's wonderful that you've, that, you know, that you did that. Do you want to tell me a little bit about how you—have you always worked as a hairdresser? I mean, is that—have you done other types of work or has that been a pretty consistent—

RG It's been pretty consistent. [28.15] When I was first married, we moved quite a bit when I was first married and we lived in Poughkeepsie for a short time. [28.27] And I did want to get out of doing hair. I wanted to learn something different and I worked at St. Francis Hospital down in Poughkeepsie

in the X-ray Department, which was really a great experience, working for two radiologists. [28.43]

I was just a clerk, but I learned a lot about the different bones and I'd call in reports to the doctors and I'd deal with cancer patients and they had, you know, chemotherapy, all kinds of X-ray treatment there. [29.01] That was really a—you know, working with people in that aspect. As I say, I loved social work. I really enjoyed that very much. But, other than that, it's been most out of necessity. I've not had time to go back to school, to be able to do anything else. [29.22] Actually, I'm getting very tired of doing hair and I've wanted, for quite some time, to be able to, as I say, go to school to learn more about getting into the line of social work. [29.37] I've taken some night courses, psychology courses through the years, but I just feel I haven't had, I guess, the motivation or energy or time to develop anything—

SR Well, you have a lot—you have a lot that takes your time and energy. [LAUGHING.]

RG Well, the kids never see their father and that's difficult in that I really have built my life around

them, you know? [30.07] Pretty much, my spare time is spent with them, trying to make up for that loss. So I think right now they're growing up so fast that I'm lucky to have the business and—for the time being.

SR Well, also, I think you're probably lucky to have the time with them, 'cause they do grow so fast. I mean, that is something that, now having children of my own, I think I realize how fast children grow and go. [30.32] I mean, it's just—I mean, just Nellie, who lives next door to us, I mean, I just—I can't believe how fast she's growing up, you know, and, you know, the next time I turn around, she's gonna be in high school and then she's gonna be gone! And you'll be, you know, when your kids are, you know, on their own, you'll be still a very young woman. [30.50] And, you know.

RG That will be the time I can do more things for me.

SR Yeah. And that will be good, that'll be great. And if you still—it's wonderful that you have those interests, you know, that you still want to pursue. I mean, I think that's really terrific.

RG I really worry about children--you know, mentally and physically abused children. [31.13] And this is the area that someday I'd like to work with.

SR Get involved in.

RG Uhuh.

SR More like--I think there's, you know, right here in this area there's a lot going on. [31.24]

RG It is. I think it's a great area.

SR Probably plenty of opportunities. I mean, for jobs and for, you know, someone like yourself, with a little more schooling, which I'm sure you could get at Castleton or, you know, someplace close to home. That's great. Have you ever done any other kinds of work, beside working in a hospital that one time, that you'd like to--

RG Just waitress work, throughout high school and summers. [31.49]

SR Tell me a little bit about your, about after you went through the course, your hairdressing course, then what was your--how did that happen, in terms of where have you worked and you worked for someone in Manchester. [32.03]

RG Well, when I first got out of school, I worked in Glens Falls for four years. [32.09] I managed a shop over in Glens Falls. And then where—in Saratoga, very briefly, when I was married, and then we moved to Poughkeepsie. And then we moved to Burlington and I worked a bit there. [32.23] That's where Tasha, my daughter, was born. And then we moved back and lived in Granville with my mother for a while and that's when I leased a shop in Manchester in the shopping center and I was over there for eleven years, actually. [32.41]

SR And that was your own shop?

RG Yes.

SR I didn't realize that. And what made you decide to make this move to here, to take that chance? I mean, was that a chance or—

RG Oh, it was the best thing that ever could happen to me. [32.58] I mean, it wasn't planned. I'm a real fatalist and I do believe everything happens for a reason, but my lease was not being renewed on the {1130} corner. [33.12] Business World was in the front. When I moved into that building there was nothing in the whole building, but Business World

moved in and wanted my space. [33.23] They wanted to expand or they would move out, so Barry {Wahl} did not renew my lease. [PHONE RINGING.]

SR The tape recorder seems to be doing well.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Okay. So tell me a little bit more about how you came about to having the shop here. Your lease wasn't renewed, that was the-

RG Yes. And that had been my third move. [33.46] I'd been in the shopping center for six years and then moved in with my husband in the Corn Crib. [33.52] He had a produce market in Manchester. And it was shortly after I made that move that we were separated and getting a divorce and it was very uncomfortable. [34.00] It was too small there, anyway, so I had moved up to this other location where I thought I'd be forever. And it was after three years that, as I say, the lease was *not* renewed. I was devastated. [34.17] I just didn't know *what* I would do. I just couldn't stand the thought of relocating, another rental, another landlord, because the two landlords I had in Manchester were I think the two worst landlords in

the whole country: Virginia {Zirbeck}, that owns the shopping center, and Barry Wahl. [34.41] Both are not easy people to deal with. And the investment of fixing up another building—the plumbing, with everything—I just didn't want to do it. And there was no place available to rent in Manchester. [34.56] And I just didn't know what to do. I was ready to close the shop and go out and get a job. And I was sitting in the station one Sunday morning, with Stan and Mary and all the kids, and I'm just—you know, I just didn't know what I was gonna do. And Mary said, "Well, Rae, maybe it's time you come to Pawlet." [35.18] It was like a light bulb.

SR Sounds like Mary. [LAUGHING.]

RG You know, here's the building down there that had been sitting empty and I thought, "What have I got to lose?" [35.29] You know, I'd been in Manchester eleven years and had, you know, a good following; grew up in Granville, so I thought I would draw some business from that area; and I just thought it was—everything seemed to fall into place beautifully. [35.47] And I thought, well, if it didn't work, it would be a good way to fix up that building at a

business expense and then I could always rent it if it didn't work out and use the income from that and go out and get a job *then*. [35.50] But it worked out beautifully and in every way it was the best move I've ever made.

SR That's terrific. And you really—you're your own boss. I mean, not only—I mean, totally.

RG And running around and going out for rent, you know, \_\_\_\_\_.

SR Yeah. And can you tell me a little bit how your business has been since you've come here? Has it been good?

RG It's done beautifully. [36.24] I'd say 80% of my people from Manchester have continued to come. I even have quite a few people from Peru that come down, which—and one person from Bennington and a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ people come. This winter has been awful. [36.44]

SR I know, you mentioned that when I was here last week.

RG But it's been the *first*, you know, time at all. It's done beautifully, up until this winter. [36.53] And it's just—I feel a lot of it is the



weather. At least one day every week everybody would cancel, which is your profit, and sometimes two days a week was not uncommon, too, the business of two days. And the economy has certainly had something to do with it, as well. [37.11] But I think it's going to stabilize, so.

SR I'm sure, with Easter coming, you'll-[LAUGHS.] I know, Neil-I don't know whether Neil told you this, but it was great when he was doing the project, started with the project last year, taking pictures. A lot of women said that they would have to plan when he came to do their picture around when they came to have their hair done. [37.34] [LAUGHS.]

RG Really?

SR Which I thought was terrific. [LAUGHING.]

RG Yeah, yeah. I never had anybody come in and say that's why they were getting their hair done.

SR Well, quite a few actually were running it that way. Do you have any hobbies or outside-I don't know, maybe, in your case, I don't know whether hobbies is exactly the right word, but outside interests, other than your children and your work?

RG Well, we love to camp and hike and canoe, if they would be considered hobbies. [38.07] We really look forward to better weather, when we can get out. We do cross-country ski in the winter. [38.15] I'm really a warm weather person, though. The winters are really getting to me. And we are taking a trip the last two weeks of April, down over the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia, to look around Virginia. [38.31]

SR Now, did you—didn't you go away last year in the springtime?

RG Went down to Myrtle Beach. [38.36] I have a customer that has the beach house at Myrtle Beach that let's us use every spring, so we are planning on ultimately going there, but spending a lot of time camping in the mountains of Virginia and just looking around, thinking, someday, maybe, you know, with the winters. I heat both my business and home with wood. [38.57] I do have a backup storage unit at the shop, electric storage unit, and I do have a backup furnace here, but it's only come on a couple times this winter. [39.08] But it's rough, trying to keep all the wood going, and along with

everything else. At this time of year it gets—the wood gets very heavy. [SR LAUGHS.] And I don't like being cold and, you know, just, someday, I think I might like to live where it's warmer. [39.28] Maybe it's being alone, though. Maybe if I weren't alone and didn't have *all* the responsibility of, you know, the yard work, 'cause I have three and a half acres, three here and one half acre across the road. [39.41] Oh, I just looked now. Everything's looking, starting to look so dirty and messy, and I've thought about, you know, raking it all. And I do have a big garden in the summer. [39.49] And trying to keep everything going. If I wasn't alone, it wouldn't be bad staying up here, with the winters, but I do think about maybe moving South one day. [40.03]

SR Do you have any other personal interests that are very important to you? You mentioned, I think, last week that you were going to a reading over in Manchester?

RG Yes, Fred {Beekner}. [40.16]

SR Is that type of thing a personal interest?

RG Well, I don't know. I'm very interested in religion. [40.33] I really feel that, you know, without God, I never would have made it through, you know, everything I've been through. And trying to keep a positive attitude about things. I think I do. I feel really blessed and, as I say, I feel I'm a real fatalist and do believe God has a reason for everything. [40.55] And, you know, I look around at all the beauty, especially where we live, and it's overwhelming, the beauty we do have here. But I've heard this Fred Beekner speak before and I do enjoy—I love to go up to the Weston Priory. [41.14] That's a great inspiration—you know, activity. We love to go up there. But I don't have very much—as I say, I don't have very much time. Maybe I don't take very much time for my own personal interests. [41.28] I do go to yoga, I do TM; I'm not consistent with it, but those are things I enjoy. I love to go over to Bob {Schoyman's} yoga class, or Joan {Calenhogan's} house. [41.43] It's a great outlet for me.

SR Do you participate in any kind of organized religious activity? I mean, do you belong to a church organization, or not?

RG No. No, I don't right now. [41.56] No, I grew up in the protestant, Presbyterian Church in Granville. I was very active in the church. I taught Sunday school and sang in the choir for many years and I was married there and Tasha was baptized there, but we moved away and moved back when Sheila was first born. [42.19] Well, I guess we had been living here. But I called the church and wanted to have Sheila baptized in my church and I was told I was no longer a member of the church because I hadn't been going to church there and I was, there again, devastated that I wasn't a member of the church. [42.40] I was *crushed!* [LAUGHS.] And this is a new minister, a very young minister, that happened to leave the following week, actually, I heard later, but I was very hurt and sort of disillusioned. [42.55] And I talked with a minister in Manchester, just at the time I was going through my divorce. I'd just seen this man—it's Bob Clayton—walking on the streets and I just something

about the look of him, I just really wanted to get to know him and talk with him, so I have met with him a few times. [43.16] And I called him after I talked with this minister and he said he'd be very happy to baptize Sheila. So I do occasionally go to church there. [43.24] I go to the Congregational Church in Manchester. Jerry {Heevie} is a friend of mine and I love his sermons. He's really been through so much in his life, with his wife dying of cancer not long ago, and they have a daughter with MS, and he really knows suffering and really can relate to people. [43.40] And, as I say, I love to go to the Weston Priory. So I don't belong to-

SR But you obviously do have a religious feeling about your life.

RG Very deeply, yeah. [43.52]

SR Yeah, that's wonderful. You do reflect that when you talk, which is why I asked about it, which I think is-is wonderful. Okay, can we talk about the kids a little bit?

RG Sure.

SR Do you want to tell me each of their full names?

RG My oldest daughter is Tasha Nirvana Goodrich.  
[44.13] She's eleven. She was born in October of  
1970. And my youngest daughter is Sheila Ann  
Goodrich. [44.25] She just turned seven. Her  
birthday is March 10<sup>th</sup> of 1975.

SR Okay. So now, let's see, did you say Tasha was born  
when you were in Burlington?

RG Yes.

SR And where were you when Sheila was born?

RG We were living here and she was born in Cambridge.  
[44.41]

SR Okay. Terrific. And I know where they are and what  
they're doing. Do any other members of your family  
live in Pawlet?

RG No.

SR No? Your sister in Hebron and your mother in  
Granville. And, let's see, you said you owned three  
acres? And a half. Three and a half acres, and the  
house. [45.04] Okay. And you've said a little bit  
about this, but maybe you'd like to say something  
more. Do you like the landscape here, where you  
live?

RG Very much so. [45.14]

SR Does that seem pleasant to you?

RG I love this view across the road. [45.18] It's so beautiful. Nate puts the cows that are going to freshen in the field here in the spring and summer. You wake up—my bedroom's in the front of the house—and you look out and you often see a newborn calf, just in the process of being born. And deer running across the river, and the turkeys and deer grazing together, and the ducks stop. [45.45] You know, all right there in front of you. It's just wonder—it's—

SR Do you know the Smiths very well?

RG Yes. Brenda, Nate's wife, is who Tasha and Sarah have ridden with to school the past couple years. [46.01] She's been wonderful. And Nate, we do—he taps my trees because they're the best he has. [SR LAUGHS.] And I do love bartering, too, in my business. [46.20] I'm going back to the business a bit, but that's great fun with the people in this area. You know, I've bartered for berries and beef, and I barter with my vet. And for a cross-country touring center in Peru. [46.35] The kids and I can ski anytime we want. I do the people's hair. You



know, cut their hair. That's one reason. I think that's a great way of doing business.

SR Well, I think, you know, I think one of the things that's—I mean, we've found that, too. One of the things that I've always like about this town is—and I don't know how true this would be in another community—but it doesn't really matter to people what you do, as long as you do it. [47.04] I mean, you can do something that they might not understand at all, but if you *do it*, they respect that. And are perfectly willing to enter into all kinds of different relationships with you-- [47.21]

**END TAPE 1, SIDE A**

**START TAPE 1, SIDE B**

SR [.42] --Neil, being a photographer, of course, that helped us a lot when we first lived here, to get to know people. But I think that's a very nice thing about the community: people are willing to trade and help you out a lot if you're willing to offer whatever service or whatever skill you might have in their direction. They're always willing to come back to you. How about traveling? Have you done a lot of traveling in your life, or not?

RG Not really.

SR Can you make a comparison between—well, you said that you've thought often of going to a warmer climate.

RG Well, I have had a couple of trips that I've taken. [1.25] When I was twenty years old my wealthy aunt and uncle took me to—well, on a month's vacation. Actually, I paid for half the vacation. At least, I paid a thousand dollars for the trip, but it was a month tour, starting from Chicago (they lived in Michigan) and we went to like San Francisco for two nights and three days, saw the sights that the tourists see, which is nice the first time you go to a place, when you don't know how to get around. [2.01] And then we went to Hawaii for two weeks and we spent a week in Oahu, on Oahu, and another week touring the outer islands, one night on each of the four other islands, and then back to Oahu. And then we went back to Los Angeles and went to Disneyland and all the places there. [2.23] And then to Las Vegas, and two nights and three days, and then home. And that was a wonderful trip and I'm glad I did it when I did it.

SR And how old were you then?

RG I was twenty. [2.35] And I was married when I was twenty-three. So. And I had no other vacation until about three years ago, I went to Puerto Rico for ten days when John Mach was down there. [2.51] And I'd had bronchitis for about three months and, really, it felt terrible. Christmas Day I was trying to put a toy together for Sheila and I couldn't even turn the screwdriver, it pulled so on my chest. And I thought, "I've got to take some time and go, all alone, and just rest and read and be alone, to someplace warm." [3.15] It was a really *bad* winter that winter, so I went down there and it was really the best thing I had ever done for myself. I had a wonderful time just really—John, {Jenna's} brother was down there, and Sparkle, and Michael Mach. [3.32] And when I had gone down, I didn't know that it's not wise for an American woman to go down there alone. Nobody told me that. Stan and Mary had suggested that's where I should go, but I thought I could just take my backpack and go off for the whole day, walking forever down the beaches. [3.48] Well, the first thing I got there I was told

by this lady, this Spanish lady that ran this {parador} where I stayed—I couldn't even walk to the beach, which was a block away. [3.58] This was like six o'clock at night. She said, "Oh, no, not tonight don't go down there. No, wait until daylight." But even during the daylight, people said, "You know, you shouldn't walk alone on the beaches." I was devastated! What am I going to do here in ten days? So it was so nice that John and Michael and Sparkle were there, that we sort of all rented a car together and did the whole island and, you know, they were my escorts. [4.25] I was very lucky to have, you know, to—and I had never met any of them, and here they—

SR Well, Sparkle—you didn't go to school with Sparkle?

RG No.

SR Let's see, he would be a little younger than you are.

RG I think so.

SR Yeah, yeah. 'Cause I did an interview with him.

RG Did you?

SR Yeah, which was great. Neil went, before he went away this fall. [4.48]

RG Oh, he's fascinating.

SR Yeah, he's a very interesting person and he did a *terrific* interview. I mean, you know, had some very specific things to say about the difference between living in Wells and living in Pawlet and, you know, he thinks there's quite a difference between Granville and Pawlet.

RG Oh, yes! Just crossing the state line. Incredible.

SR Yeah. Did you experience that kind of a change when you—since you had grown up, essentially, in Granville, when you came into Vermont? I mean, was there a \_\_\_\_\_.

[VOICE-OVER.]

RG Very much so. [5.17] And I've talked with so many people that don't live around here, or that do, that really notice the change, just crossing the state line.

SR Can you verbalize any of those differences at all?

RG Oh, it seems to be that people take more *pride* in Vermont State, coming from the Granville area, anyway, in what they have; in their dwellings and other property, and it just seems far more beautiful, the countryside. [5.56] The people seem

friendlier. Granville is such an industrial little town, you know? [6.17] Totally different people here in Pawlet than come from Granville. Even the women from the beauty shop—you know, their whole lifestyles and outlooks are quite different. It's interesting.

SR Yeh. Yeah, there is—you know, living on this side of town, of course, we use Granville more. [6.38] I mean, I go to Manchester very, very little. And I know people who live on the *other* side of Pawlet go to Manchester. [6.46] [LAUGHS.] Which is, in itself, an interesting phenomena. [LAUGHING.] But Sparkle said, you know, the very same thing about the difference between the two communities. I don't think he'd ever go back to living in Granville. [7.04]

RG I wouldn't, either.

SR Yeah. How does your mom feel about being there? Does she like living there just simply because she was, grew up there?

RG I don't think she's crazy about living there. [7.16]

SR She must be pretty lonely. Although, does she have a lot of friends or—

RG No. No, she really has isolated herself. [7.26] She doesn't go out that much and doesn't really have that many friends. The friends that she's had are friends from many, many years ago that most of them have died. [7.36]

SR Right, right.

RG And I don't know if between my grandmother and my father going through what, you know, the best years of her life, she's a very negative person and very, as her best friend once told me, everything she sees is black. [7.54] Which is sad. It just makes me feel very badly that, you know, we don't see anything—you know, our outlooks are so different on things that it's hard to really sit and talk with her about things. [8.08] When I first put the shop here in Pawlet, I wanted to put an apartment above the shop for my mother, 'cause she has this big, old house in Granville and she's existing on Social Security and it's just too much for her. [8.24] And I try to do what I can for her, but it's not very much. It's really a struggle. But she could

not bring herself to give up her home and to live on a second story with a wood stove heating the building, underneath. [8.41] And now I think she's a little sorry. I can't do anything about it now.

SR Yeah. Did she work?

RG She never worked when I was growing up, no. [8.51]

No.

SR Any comments on the future of the Town of Pawlet?

RG I hope it stays the way it is. [9.09] I'm sure it won't, but I think it's great just the way it is.

SR One of the really interesting things that we've discovered that—I mean, I could this by reading more about, more history, but, let's see, in 1910 the population of Pawlet was double what it is now.

[9.32]

RG There was a lot of industry in Pawlet then, wasn't there?

SR Well, the town was self-sufficient. [9.36]

RG Right.

SR So when you talk to older folks and you talk about the future of the town, most of them, what they say that *saddens* them is that the town can no longer support, literally support, it's community. [9.50]



I mean, there are very few people like yourself who can make a living in the town anymore because there's not enough here to support the town. [9.59] I mean, your girls aren't going to be able to live in Pawlet. Is that something that you ever think about? I mean, *maybe* they will, but, you know, I mean, they probably won't. I mean, the chances are that they won't.

RG No, I think they should travel and see other places. [10.12] No, that doesn't concern me. Sheila is arriving, so-

SR That's all right. That's all right. I think we're just about done.

RG Just the sound, you know. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah. No, that's all right. I want to- [10.24]

**END TAPE 1, SIDE B**

**END TRANSCRIPTION**