

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

Lois Lathrop/TC2004.3019

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Suzanne Rappaport  
LL Lois Lathrop  
Place Pawlet, VT  
Date 06/17/1987

**TAPE 1, SIDE A**

SR [.14] --for this type of work. And it's so nice  
'cause it's so small. And we make tapes and send  
them back and forth to Neil's mother and father.

LL Oh, yes.

SR Which is really fun.

LL I'll get you a straight chair, if you want.

SR Okay, that would be good.

LL Down there by the-

SR Yeah, that would be fine. [SOUND OF CHAIR BEING SET  
DOWN.] And I will take this because I-

LL \_\_\_\_\_.

[DISHES OR SOME SUCH THING BEING HANDLED.]

SR Holy, thanks!

LL And he's changed. And, you know, I haven't seen him  
a lot, late years. [.53]

SR Yeah.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL He doesn't look as I remember him—oh, say, fifteen years ago. [.59] 'Course, we don't any of us look the same! [LAUGHTER.]

SR I think that—Howard's not someone, you know, I've known, you know, around and Neil always wanted, you know, to get a picture of him. And he has that three-wheeler bike that he rides? I don't know if you've ever seen it.

LL And isn't he getting pretty elderly?

SR It's a special \_\_\_\_\_. It's kind of a motorcycle with three wheels. [1.22] I don't know if you've ever seen them, but the kids ride them an awful lot.

LL Terrain? There's something about terrain?

SR All-terrain \_\_\_\_\_, whatever.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR And Neil happened to notice him one day out, you know, on it in the yard and stopped and asked if he could, you know, get a picture of it and he said, sure, and he just loved the picture. [1.42] [LL LAUGHS.] So ever since then, he's waved every time he'd go by.

LL Well, he's a friendly guy.

SR Yes, he's a very nice guy. And I was tickled that Pauline was able to cajole him into \_\_\_\_\_.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL Yeah, sure.

SR --to coming over and--

LL Some men would be kind of bashful about doing a thing like that.

SR Yeah, yeah. Okay. Now, let's see. Can you give me your full name, Lois? Is it the same?

LL Lois May--

SR M A Y . Is that when your birthday is, by any chance, in May?

LL No. No, my birthday is September 16, 1905. [2.20]

SR Nineteen oh-five. Okay. So, let's see, that makes you how old this year?

LL Eighty-two. [2.24]

SR Eighty-two. A little younger than Charlie Griswold.

LL Oh, yes. Oh, yes. But--

SR He was born in 1900. [2.32]

LL In August, he will be eighty-seven.

SR That's right. That's right. Yup, yuh.

LL I was wondering--I guess it was this forenoon, I was thinking, you know, Merritt Leach--well, what would

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

he be to Charles? Would he be a cousin? He  
wouldn't be an uncle, would he?

SR Now, he was the painter. He did some painting,  
didn't he? [2.59]

LL Yes, he did.

SR Yes, they have a lot—

LL He could do *anything*. That man could do *anything*.  
He could hang paper, wallpaper. [3.09] He could  
make wedding cakes. I never saw anybody like that  
guy in my life!

SR Well, I see a lot of his paintings. [3.16] There  
are quite a few of his paintings up at Minnie's  
house.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR And there are also quite a few at the farm. And  
they're really very lovely.

LL Lovely, lovely. He was the most ingenious man that  
we ever knew in my *life*! [3.29]

SR Well, I figured out who he was because there's some  
pictures of him in the house and I one time asked  
Charlie who, you know, who it was.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL I was trying to think what—I don't know what *relatives* those Leaches were to Charles and Paul.

[3.46] There was Janie and Ellen.

SR Well, now, I think—I think, Lois—again, I have this on tape, but I think Charlie's mother's—Charlie's mother—

LL Minnie? Minnie \_\_\_\_\_?

SR No, Charlie's *mother's* mother was an Adams. [4.05]  
And she was related to the Leaches. Now I can't tell you how, but Bea told me, when I interviewed the two of them, and we talked about, you know, Charlie's family. I'm pretty sure that's the connection to the Leaches. So it would be Charlie's grandmother was an Adams. [4.25]

LL Well, they'd be some sort of cousin, wouldn't they?

SR Yeah, yeah. And I think they're cousins—

LL Of a sort.

SR Of some kind. Yeh, yeh. And I think that was Charlie's relationship to the farm. [4.37]

LL Oh, yes.

SR You know, where he is now. [4.39] I think that was the connection.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Do I know they had all the handling of Janie—  
'course, Janie was the last one that died down  
there. [4.48]

SR Right.

LL And they have the handling of her affairs, as she  
was real sick, you know, the last six months she  
lived. [4.58] The three of us went down there and  
stayed with Janie the last six months she lived.

SR Your mother and father and yourself?

LL The three of us went down there. [5.07]

SR Now, was she Merritt's sister?

LL It was his sister. [5.10] It was a big family!  
There was a big family.

SR So you knew Merritt?

LL Yes. He used to come to the farm. [5.19] He hung  
paper for—hung wallpaper for us. He could paper  
ceilings! I don't care what you gave that man to  
do, he could do it. [5.25] He had charge of the  
cemetery that's up above where we live and he'd  
always come and oversee that cemetery, see that it  
was kept mowed. And every once in a while he'd get  
somebody to help him paint that metal fence that  
goes around the cemetery. [5.42]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR And, of course, Charlie, then, maintained that cemetery for a while.

LL Yes, Charlie had-

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL Since Mary's been gone.

SR Yeah, that's the {Hewlett} family-

LL It's the Hewlett cemetery, but I don't know what relatives the Griswold's have that are buried there.

[5.57]

SR Well, now, you see, Charlie's--maybe his father was a Hewlett. [6.08] Maybe Griswold was a Hewlett herself, so I suppose that's the connection.

LL I've never gotten it all straightened out.

SR All I know is that Minnie's father was a Hewlett, so she was Minnie Hewlett before she was Minnie Griswold. [6.24] And her mother was an Adams, but it's the mother, I'm pretty sure--I was just listening to this the other day--I'm pretty sure it's the mother, Minnie's mother (her name was Adams, I can't remember her first name) was related to the Leaches, but Minnie was a Hewlett. [6.41]

LL I've been told that.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Her father and his brother were on what we now think of as the Ross farm. [6.51]

LL Oh, yes.

SR That's what Charlie remembers. They ran the Ross farm together and I think her father, Minnie's father, was killed on the Danby Road. [7.05]

Charlie said that they thought he was murdered and robbed on the Danby Road when Minnie was just a child, so she lost her father when she was just a young girl. [7.13]

LL Oh, goodness.

SR But the two brothers were on the Ross farm. [7.18]  
And that's what I remember. But I think it's the grandmother, Charlie's grandmother, that has the relationship to the Leaches. [7.26] And, of course, Charlie's family is buried up here, not at the Hewlett cemetery.

LL That's right. Paul and Mabel and the Mrs. Griswold, Mrs. Minnie. And she's in—well, they're all right together with the Leaches, with Janie and Evelyn and Charlie and Henry and—John isn't there. [7.50]

SR I'm pretty sure Charlie told me that his mother bought the plots up here from the Leaches. [7.56]



- LL Yes. I suppose the Griswold's, maybe, is by itself, but it sort of connects with the other.
- SR Yeah, I'm pretty sure Charlie told me that his mother bought those plots, probably from the Leaches, when she was, you know-
- LL I don't think her husband is buried up there.  
[8.10]
- SR Well, I think Minnie's husband-no, I'm pretty sure he's buried in Rutland. [8.15] Because he was from Rutland.
- LL I don't know. I've never heard very much about Charles' and Paul's father.
- SR Yeah. Well, of course, she was married for just a very brief time. [8.28] His name was Charles Griswold. And let's see if I can tell you this right, 'cause Charlie has given me their family genealogy, so I've gone over that and-
- LL You don't have to wrack your brain.
- SR Oh, no. No, no, no! It's not-it's fun. It's a good connection, but she was married, Minnie was married in the late 1800's and they went to live in a town in New York State. [8.53] He was from Rutland. And I think they lived in Rutland and then

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

they went—I'm not gonna remember the name of the town, but it's in New York State—and he worked in a paper mill and he was killed there, in the paper mill. [9.03] Terrible accident. Awful accident.

LL Well, Minnie went through a lot of tragedies, really.

SR Then, of course, she lost her first, her—

LL One child. [9.11]

SR Ruth--one child.

LL Ruth. [9.12] Oh, that was the first one. I didn't really know when that child came, you know—whether it was before the boys or afterwards.

SR Yeah. But when her husband died, she came back to Pawlet to this house to live with her mother. [9.26] And she was pregnant with Charlie. And then Charlie was born in 1900 and then Ruth, the little girl, died in 1906. [9.38] And she died in Rutland and she's buried in Rutland, I'm pretty sure. She had a tonsillectomy and she \_\_\_\_\_ that.

LL For heaven's sake!

SR Yeah, yeah. Very sad. And so Minnie was left here with just the two boys and her mother, who, as I

understand it, when she became ill, really was blind. [9.56]

LL I believe so.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR That's right. That's right. And then, of course, I don't know exactly when she passed away, but then Minnie just stayed on here with the two boys and brought them up. [10.08] And I think that's why she, you know, started in the laundry business and— but she never remarried and she just always stayed with the boys. And she lost her own father and her husband. I know she was only married, Lois, well, not more than five or six years. [10.24]

LL \_\_\_\_\_.

SR Charlie doesn't know that much about his father. [10.30] He doesn't really know—

LL Well, it's very much the same as my father's parents. [10.35] My father, his mother died when he was about five, his father died when he was eleven, so he was on his own the rest of the time, only, as he stayed with aunts and uncles and grandmothers and like that, you know, until he was big enough to go to work. [10.51]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yuh, yuh. Well, you know, it's interesting, Lois. I've interviewed quite a few people of your generation in Pawlet and that happened quite a bit. [11.00] I mean, people dying a lot younger and there were a lot more accidents.

LL I guess so, but these weren't really accidents with my father's parents. [11.13] They thought the childbirth was what killed the mother. And the father, it was pneumonia that killed the father. [11.20] But so young!

SR Yeh.

LL My grandmother was only twenty-two or so when she died and I think the grandfather was about thirty-three or something like that. [11.32]

SR Were both your mother and father from Rupert?

LL No, my mother was a Pawlet person. [11.38] My mother was a Pawlet person. My father was born in Dorset and as he grew up, he went to Peru, Vermont, with relatives—one of his grandmothers, I believe. [12.00] And then as he got of age, you know, he came back to Pawlet. His first job after he came to Pawlet—

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Make sure my tape recorder is going. Yup!  
Everything seems to be going all right! [LAUGHS.]

LL His first job, I think he worked for {Merritt}  
Sheldon. [12.22] Do you know where Mrs. Howard  
Leach lives?

SR Yes.

LL Mrs. Howard Leach—that used to be the Francis Leach  
farm for a while, but it was Merritt Sheldon who ran  
that farm when my father first came to Pawlet.  
[12.37] Now that's where I was born.

SR Right, I remember you telling me.

LL On the Cross Road. On the Cross Road, up from that  
Leach farm in North Rupert. [12.51] I was born in  
North Rupert in 1905. [LAUGHS.]

SR And your father was working for the Leaches at that  
time?

LL No. No, he was working for Merritt Sheldon.  
[13.00] George Sheldon's father. Did you know  
George Sheldon?

SR Yeah, I did.

LL George Sheldon's father, Merritt Sheldon. Then  
probably he worked there a year, maybe, and then he  
came up to Pauline's father. [13.24] I'm not quite

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

sure about this, in what order, but my father worked for John Buxton one year, he worked for Barnum Bromley one year. That's up on your road, where Mrs.—where {Elsa \_\_\_\_\_} was. [13.41] He worked for John Buxton one year and Barnum Bromley one year, and we lived in the house where Shirley Gould is one year and then there was another house just beyond and we just moved from one place to another. [13.56] 'Course, I don't remember this. We lived in those two tenant houses there.

SR Before you went up to the farm?

LL Before we went up to the farm. [14.03] Then my father went up to work for Frank Blakely and he was there four years. That's where Bill and Betty Mason lived. [14.12] We were there four years. Then, in the meantime, he had bought the farm, the Hewlett farm, and he bought it in 1911, I think, and we moved up there in March, 1912. [14.31]

SR Now when you were moving around, was he working at that farm?

LL Yeah, he was always farming all the time. [14.35] Yeah, farming all the time. Carrying on farms for these different, elderly men. [14.40] Some of 'em

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

weren't so elderly, but some of 'em were. Then in 1912 we went up on the farm and we lived there until November 14, 1946, and then we come here. [14.59] We come here. We had our auction that day, the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 1946. Came down here that night, stayed here the first night in this place.

SR And who owned this house at that time? Do you remember?

LL My father bought of {Benman} Green. [15.19] It had changed hands several times. Edith {Colvell}, Howard Young's sister, Edith Colvell, and her husband lived here a few years and did some remodeling here and then they sold out to Benman Green. [15.40] He hadn't ever lived here. He just bought it, thinking he was gonna get married and live here, but he didn't get married, so my father bought the place of Benman. [15.51]

SR Now, did your father give up farming just because of his age or—

LL I guess, practically, that was the reason. [16.01] I think so. It was just too hard for him. We didn't have year around help on the farm and there's an awful lot of heavy work farming and I guess he

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

thought that his health just wasn't gonna hold out very much longer, you know, to do so many things, so-

SR It must have been difficult to leave there after all those years.

LL I squalled like a baby. [16.25]

SR Did you really? [LAUGHTER.]

LL I hated to move out of that neighborhood terribly. We had the Kelly's above us and Rodney and Billy-or, Rodney's parents, below us. [16.41] Rodney's parents, when we first went up on the farm, of course, were in the house where Rodney and Nellie have lived so many years.

SR Now how old would you have been when you moved here?

LL Forty-six. [16.56] I was about forty-two, wasn't I? Well, five from-forty-one or -two.

SR Yeah, same age I am right now. [17.06]

LL Forty-one or -two, I guess.

SR Yeah, same age I am right now.

LL And, in the meantime, I helped on the farm when I could. [17.17] My mother was the outdoor hand. She liked to do outdoor work with my father, so she

\_\_\_\_\_ --



[VOICE-OVER.]

She worked outdoors, helped with chores, went into the field. If my father was fixing fence, she'd go along with him and carry tools. [17.34]

SR And she loved that?

LL And she liked being outdoor. We all helped some, you know, with gardening and like that. I stayed in the house and did housework and tried to get the meals. [17.47] When she was in the field.

SR Do you have any recollection of what the circumstances were of your father being able to get that farm? To buy it? There was a Hewlett owned it at that time?

LL It had been rented for years. [18.04] The house had been rented for years and I don't know whether the land was rented, too. I really don't know about that.

SR Yeah, but your father was able to buy it?

LL Yes, he bought it of Horace Hewlett. [18.15] I can't tell you much about Horace Hewlett. I don't know who he was or anything.

SR Yeah, yeah. I don't know. I've never—that name I've never heard at all. Of course, I'm not

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

familiar at all with that area of the town. I know that, you know, that was a Hewlett house and that house is a very, very old house. [18.36]

LL I believe, I almost believe that that was built by some of the Daniel Hewlett family—that house, as it stands there now. [18.47]

SR Yeah, I think it may be the oldest house in the town. [18.52] I'm not absolutely sure.

LL I don't know about that, either.

SR I think it's certainly among the—

LL Seventeen ninety-three, I think it says on the plate on the door. [19.00] Since \_\_\_\_\_'s been there they've had some sort of a plate made to put on the front door and I think it was 1793.

SR Yeah. Well, I would think that house and, of course, Tim and Dot Leach's farm are very old. [19.16]

LL Yes.

SR And Otis's house—not the house where he and his wife live, but the farmhouse. [19.23]

LL Oh, yes.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR That's a very, very old house. I would say those three houses are the oldest houses, pretty much the oldest houses in the town. [19.29]

LL I really don't know. I *really* don't know.

SR Yeah, I think so. I think so.

LL I know this is an awful old place, but I don't think it's as old as that. [19.40] It might be a hundred and twenty-five or something like that, but-

SR That's pretty old. [LAUGHS.]

LL Well, it is pretty old! And if you looked around, you'd realize it's been made over and added to and-

SR Yeah, yeah. Our little house in North Pawlet was over a hundred-that was over a hundred years old. [20.00]

LL Yes.

SR It was a shame that that had to come down. [20.02]

LL {There's two little places out there now-with a daughter.} [20.08]

SR Yuh, yuh. She's coming this week. She's moving, I think, either-I think, probably, Friday she's coming. [20.15]

LL Then I noticed yesterday that they have the outside all finished-painted or covered with something or-

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR I think it's that siding that probably-

LL That's the sensible thing to do, it really is,  
'cause paint flakes so and-

SR Yeah, it doesn't hold up very well. In this  
climate.

LL It doesn't stand the weather \_\_\_\_\_. My  
grandmother used to live-my Grandmother Smith used  
to live in that little house where you and Neil  
lived. [20.38]

SR Really?

LL Years and years and years ago. When I was a little  
girl I used to go over there and stay with her.  
[20.45] She'd lost her husband and she kept house  
for her son.

SR That would have been your mother's-

LL My mother's mother. [20.51] My mother's mother.

SR Yes. Lois, could you give me both of your parents'  
names, just so I have that.

LL Albert was my father. Albert Curtis.

SR Albert Curtis?

LL Albert Curtis Lathrop. [21.04] And my mother was  
Rhoda Smith. Rhoda Edith Smith. [21.10]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Do you know where your middle name came from? Is that—

LL No, I don't know. I really don't know. They just liked it. I don't know about that.

SR I was curious just because Minnie Griswold's middle name was May, but she was born in May. [21.27]

LL Oh, yes. Well, I wasn't. I guess they just liked it with the Lois.

SR With the Lois?

LL I don't know. A lot of people used it for a middle name! It seems to go with other names.

SR Yeah, it's a nice kind of transition from one name to the next.

LL I was named after my father's grandmother. [21.47]  
She was Lois *Hill* before she married Lathrop.

SR And they were all, as far as you know, your—

LL They were more in the Massachusetts area, back when my father was a child growing up, you know. [22.05]

SR Any idea how they got to Vermont? How the family came?

LL I don't know. I really don't know.

SR Well, you're lucky to have a recollection or a knowledge of that far back, 'cause most people

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

don't. [22.19] Most people can't go, you know, much further than their own parents.

LL That's right. But I don't know very much about them, really. I really don't know. That is, as far as history is concerned or anything, I really don't know.

SR Yeh, yeh. So your father, pretty much, made his living as a farmer. [22.41]

LL Always. Always. Well, of course, after we came down here he did odd jobs like-

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL --mowing lawns and painting buildings and like that, you know. [23.03] He was a farmer, that was his occupation.

SR Occupation, yeah. And your mother pretty much worked-

LL Just housework and, you know, just-I don't know what she'd say! [LAUGHS.] [23.18]

SR She worked with your father, it sounded like.

LL Yes, she did. She was a helper.

SR Yeah, yeah. And, of course, in those days, you know, being home and the work you did at home was,

it was, you know, essential and pretty much all, took all your time. [23.33]

LL That's right. We didn't have all the appliances that we have nowadays, you know, to work *with*. [23.39]

SR No, no. And you probably stayed pretty much in that little neighborhood when you were—or not?

LL I guess so. I don't remember doing a whole lot of exciting things. [LAUGHTER.] [23.50]

SR And you went—now, let's see, you went to the Brimstone School?

LL I went to the Brimstone School through the eighth grade. [24.00]

SR Now, wait. Lois, tell me where that school was, exactly.

LL It was right where the tenement house is now that Timmy Bryant—the Timmy Bryant tenement house. [24.14] And it's the house that Mr. Bryant built for Peggy, the person that just died this year. That place. Then the next place—that tenement house of Timmy Bryant's is right on the ground where the schoolhouse was. [24.33]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Now, how did you get all the way up there for school?

LL Well, if it was pleasant weather, I walked. [24.39]  
If it wasn't, my mother would carry me with a horse and wagon or horse and sleigh, whichever the going was, you know.

SR Yeh. Now, were there other children in your neighborhood who—

LL {Rob Lee Mason} rode with us. [24.51] 'Course, he was four years younger than me, but he would ride with us when he first started in school, if it wasn't nice weather so we could walk.

SR Yeh, yeh. That was quite a distance.

LL I guess it was three, three and a half miles—maybe something like that. [25.06] But as we got older, we would go cross-lots. We'd go over through the fields, over through the pastures, you know. It cut off, at the time—cut off quite a bit of walking.  
[LAUGHS.]

SR And was that—now, let's see, how many grades was that?

LL Eight. Eight grades. [25.23]  
[VOICE-OVER.]



**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR And did you go \_\_\_\_\_?

LL Went down here to Pawlet, two years of high school,  
and that's it. [25.28]

SR Yeh, yeh. And how did you get all the way down  
here? Do you remember?

LL Always the same way, only we had a car then.  
[25.36] After 1920—I don't know just when we had  
our first car, really. Probably, it was a little  
while before that; maybe 1918 or -19. [25.51]  
Well, when I went down here in 1920, we had a car.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Well, I would start walking, you know.  
Maybe they'd come and meet me with—come and meet me  
with—if they were busy in the field or couldn't get  
away just the minute I was out of school, I'd start  
walking. [26.10]

SR Now, Charlie Griswold wouldn't have been down here  
in school with you?

LL No.

SR In other words, he would have been older, so he  
would have been already on—passed that. [26.19]

LL Probably Charles--did Charles take the eight grades  
up there in Pauline's district?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR I'm not absolutely sure. I know he did go on to the \_\_\_\_\_ Academy. [26.29] You know, over in Poultney. He went that far, and I don't know—

LL Well, he had all of his grades right there because his mother always lived in that place \_\_\_\_\_.

[26.40]

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah, and I know he went to the Buxton School, but I wonder if he did come down here to high school. He probably did.

LL I wonder—I don't just remember how long they had high school here in Pawlet.

SR Not very long. [26.54] I never have really gotten the history of these schools straightened out, in terms of how, you know. You know, West Pawlet was a high school for a while, also, and then the kids went—then the children started going over to Granville. [27.07] You know, they used to ride the train from West Pawlet over here to go to school.

LL Well, they didn't always have high school down here to Pawlet. [27.17] I'm sure of that.

SR I think, for a very short time, Lois. I think for a very short time.

LL Because I don't think they had a high school more than two or three years after I got done and that was in 1922. [27.30] I don't think they had high school down here more than—maybe three years after that?

SR Yeah, yeah. Then I think for a little while, maybe, it was over in West Pawlet, the whole high school was over in West Pawlet. [27.40] I think so.

LL I don't really know about that.

SR I can't say that I've ever really gotten that absolutely—absolutely straight.

LL I really don't know.

SR I spoke with—do you know Harriet Jones \_\_\_\_\_ West Pawlet?

LL No, I don't. No, I don't.

SR Do you know who she is? She was a teacher, a school teacher for years and years in these schools. [28.02] She started out in the Braintree School.

LL It seems as though I've heard Nellie speak of her. Nellie knew West Pawlet people more than I did. She knew the {Barton} Nelsons, you know, one of those people more than I did. [28.14] Well, the Nelson Cramers are related to Rob Lee.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Oh, that I didn't know.

LL You know Nelson Cramer?

SR Yeah, I know him.

LL And his sons.

SR Yup. Yeah, I know them quite well.

LL Nelson Cramer and Rob Lee were cousins, first  
cousins. [28.31]

SR I didn't realize that. No, I didn't realize that.

LL Fred Mason—Fred Mason was Robbie's father and his  
sister, Clara, was Mrs. James Cramer. [28.48]

SR And, now, you got to know Nellie when she married  
Rob Lee, is that what you're saying?

LL Mhm, she was from Middletown. [28.58] She was from  
Middletown. And when were they married? About 1931  
or something like that?

SR Yeah, I remember Neil did a picture of them on their  
fiftieth wedding anniversary. [29.08]

LL Because we had a party for them—well, just a short  
time before Rob Lee died. [29.15]

SR Yes, Neil did a picture of them up at the Mason's on  
that anniversary.

LL I don't know as Rob Lee lived a year after.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR I don't think so, Lois. Not very long. Not very long.

LL Maybe it was that same year. They were married in February and it could have been about fall that Rob Lee died. [29.34] October, didn't he? He died in October, right around Halloween time. I think it was that same year that they had held their fiftieth anniversary.

SR Yuh. Do you remember getting to know Nellie when she came to that?

LL Well, she taught school for a little while. [29.59] I guess she—man, I don't know where she taught. She tells about teaching in Tinmouth. [30.06] She taught up in the Grover District, up where—do you know Hazel Grover or Lucy, Lucy Blakely?

SR Yeah.

LL Well, up in that district, Nellie taught there, and then she taught in Tinmouth, she tells me. [30.21] She was a very hard person to get acquainted with at first. She was—I don't know! I just can't explain it. [LAUGHING.] We were all strangers, you know, and she just wasn't—well, she wasn't the way she is now. [LAUGHING.]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR She's such a friendly person.

LL She *can* be. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, that's nice. That's nice.  
Let's see, I want to make sure I've got everything I  
want to know about your family.

LL Well, I think so. I think so. There isn't very  
much to tell. My mother was one of nine children,  
so I had cousins all around everywhere. [31.13]  
But they're practically gone.

SR Now, how were you related to the McQueens?

LL That's on my father's side. [31.22]

SR That's on your father's side.

LL That's on my father's side. Bea McQueen's mother  
and my father were first cousins. [31.30] So it  
just makes us kinda distant cousins, you know?

SR Yeah, yeah, yeah. Do you have any other relatives  
in this area still alive, Lois?

LL Well, Levine and Lester Smith are my first cousins.  
[31.43] And Bertha, \_\_\_\_\_. That's really about  
all I've got right in the vicinity. I have more  
over in Hartford, New York; my Aunt Jessie's  
children are over there. [32.01] In Hudson Falls

way and Salem way and like that. But I hardly ever see 'em!

SR Yeh. Now, did you know Grayson {Bursa} when you were growing up?

LL No.

SR They must have—the Shermans, they must have already been over here at the farm. [32.13]

LL They were on the farm, I believe.

SR Over here, yeah, I think—of course, their mother was brought up in that neighborhood, in the Redstone neck of the woods. [32.25]

LL I didn't know them, probably, until they were, well, teenagers, maybe. [32.28] You know?

SR Yeh, yeh.

LL I know Pauline and Grace were very friendly.

SR Yeah, and they remained very—

LL Pauline was—Grace would come and spend overnight with Pauline on the farm. [32.42] I know one time they came up to our house, it was the first of our having a radio, and Grace and Pauline, and I forgot—there probably was Gaylord and his family that came along with them, you know, to the {green room}, because they were just girls, probably in their

early teens. I don't think they would have had any way to get there, unless Pauline would drive a horse! [LAUGHS.]

SR And who was Gaylord?

LL Pauline's brother. [33.14] The one that was killed in the sawmill.

SR No, I didn't know—I don't know that much about Pauline's family.

LL Well, she had four—there was four children: Gaylord and Mabel and Leon and Pauline. [33.29]

SR And they came up to your house to listen to the radio?

LL Well, they just came to visit, probably. We were always back and forth with the Buxtons. Gaylord was married and had, he had three children. [33.42] And then he was killed in this sawmill accident. Oh, golly, I don't know when that was. Back in the 1920's, I would say. He was listed on the cemetery monument maybe about 1928 or something like that. [33.58] He was just a young fellow, probably in his early thirties.

SR Did you ever work away from home?



**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Yes, I did. Doing housework. [34.11] Staying with elderly people and doing housework.

SR Right here in Pawlet, pretty much, or-

LL Not much in Pawlet. [34.20] Oh, once in a while, for just a few weeks or something, you know. Not a lot right here in Pawlet. In Granville, mostly. [34.28]

SR And you would go and, actually, you would stay, stay in someone's home and help-

LL Someone that was real elderly and they couldn't be left alone. [34.38] I stayed with Minnie Evans, I stayed with Jessie Norton, Hattie Roberts. I was at Morris Rosen's part of one summer. [34.56] We were in Granville some of the time, we were up to the lake some of the time. Oh, I've been down to Bea McQueen's in Dorset when Betsy, her daughter, was a little girl. [35.07] George and Bea had the grocery store and I stayed at the house and took care of Betsy when she was less than a year old. Oh, I guess I was there maybe six months. [35.19] I don't just remember, you know?

SR Yeah, yeah. Did you miss being away from home when you went away like that?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

- LL I've had my homesick times! [LAUGHS.] [35.27]
- SR I bet you have. You know, I was never homesick as a child and I was always—I had two older brothers and I'm the only girl. [35.36] And when I was young I was, you know, always the one who was ready to go off to camp and, you know, go away from home, but I tell you, Lois, as a grown-up, when I go away from home now, I am so homesick! I'm just like a little kid. When Neil and I go to California, I am *just* like a little kid. [35.53] I am! It's just *terrible!* I keep a little calendar and I mark off the days until I'm coming home.
- LL Time doesn't go fast enough!
- SR I'm also—and I get the biggest kick out of that 'cause I remember, you know, when I would be at camp and, you know, some little kids get so—
- LL Well, they're just so sick—they can't eat, they can't sleep.
- SR Yeah. And I would—I could never figure out why they were homesick, you know.
- LL Yes, you have that thing and get over it. You don't usually have it again. [36.28] I was working in one place down in North Rupert. It was the Charlie

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

Phillip's place. Kind of back in the woods, you know, a little {shed}. It was a kind of a lonely place. The mail came like that and Vernon Young used to come and take orders for groceries. [36.45] He delivered groceries at that time. And you'd give him his order and—give him your order and he'd come with the groceries. And it was a funny way to buy, it was. [LAUGHING.] I was just about dead, that \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't like it. I guess, maybe, I didn't like the people, really. [37.06] And that was half of it. [LAUGHS.] Oh, golly, it was funny! But I was thirty years old or more *then!* [37.15] But after I had that sick spell and I got over it, I've never been homesick again.

SR Isn't that funny? Even when you went to Bermuda?

LL No, I didn't mind that. [LAUGHS.] Oh, dear!

SR And you mentioned the other day, you made one other trip to see a friend over in Great Barrington. [37.35] Now, was she someone you knew from \_\_\_\_\_?

LL Mhm, from school. [37.38] From Brimstone School. Myra Hewlett Bradford, {Deyer} Hewlett's daughter, we went to school. She was quite a bit younger than

me. She was, oh, probably about eight years, maybe, younger. [37.53]

SR And is she still alive?

LL She's in a nursing home right now. [37.58] She isn't too well, really.

SR Do you hear from her?

LL Once in a while she will write a little note.

SR Good, good.

LL But I guess her mind is still pretty good, but her feet and legs have given out and she just can't walk. [38.12] She has to go in a wheelchair or maybe use a walker a little bit.

SR And did she—when did she leave Pawlet?

LL A long time ago. A *long* time ago. [38.23]

SR Did she leave when she got married or—

LL No, no. I believe her mother had died and her father married again the second time and she didn't get along with the stepmother. [38.45] And I guess it was in the late 1920's, I would say, that she went to Great Barrington to live with a relative of her mother's.

SR And she just—

LL And she married while she was down there and so always lived down there in Great Barrington.

[39.03]

SR Had you not seen her for a long time?

LL I hadn't seen her for years and years. Well, she'd come to Pawlet visiting. [39.12] She might have stopped in once or twice, you know. I don't remember that she ever came to see us on the farm, after she was a small girl. Her parents and Myra used to come to call on us on a Sunday afternoon, you know. We were just—we were farmers just across the field from each other and I guess they came around the road, probably, with their horse and wagon, but I don't just remember, really. [LAUGHING.] Oh, those school days were something. The Brimstone School days.

SR Yeah, you liked that.

LL I liked the one-room school. [39.48] I liked the one-room school.

SR Yeah, it sounds like that's a very fond memory of yours, yeah. Do you remember your teachers?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL A lot of 'em. A lot of 'em. Mrs. Howard {License} was one that I liked very much. [40.01] And Jessie {Hoagley} from Middletown.

SR I've heard the name License.

LL Was that a Pawlet name, License?

SR Yeah, I've heard that name.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL Celia Warner, you know, is the daughter. [40.16] Celia Warner, her parents were Howard and Rina License.

SR That's right.

LL And they lived in a trailer right there on Freda's Ground, you know, for a while. [40.27]

SR You mean down here or over where Freda is now?

LL Over where Freda and Jim live.

SR Yeh, so you think \_\_\_\_\_?

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR I think I've been over there. [LAUGHING.] You're traveling cross-lots. You're still traveling cross-lots. [LAUGHTER.]

LL I don't know. I'm awful about directions. I'm *awful* about directions. If I get—

SR You think as the crow flies?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL I guess so. Surely seems like you go over here to go over to Granville, see \_\_\_\_\_'s over that way.

[LAUGHS.]

SR You're probably absolutely right.

LL Now Celia's having an awful time with her husband.

[41.04]

SR Yeah, she is. But I think, from what Ray says, they're doing pretty well. And I think they're doing all right.

LL Good.

SR Jim is being very strong and very realistic.

LL Sis goes over and sits with him once in a while in an afternoon. [41.18]

SR Yeah, Grace has been going over.

LL I knew she did.

SR Yeah, and spends a little time, and she said that he's really quite an inspiration, in terms of how-

LL Sis thinks he's pretty spunky.

SR Yeah, he keeps his spirits up and, you know, he's really, really-yeah, I think that's terrific, 'cause he's been so ill. [41.38] And he is so ill.

LL Sure. No chance of his getting very much better?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR I don't think so. That's certainly what Grace feels.

LL Dear!

SR Well, I don't know. Let's see, what other questions did I want to ask you. Do you have any hobbies, particular hobbies or interests that—

LL I loved sewing when I could see, but now I have cataracts and I can't see to sew. [42.04] And I love caning chairs.

SR Really?

LL Putting cane seats in chairs. I didn't use the real cane because I didn't ever have good luck with that. [42.13] I used the plastic cane and I did that for quite a few years. Oh, well, I guess it's since my mother died. That's eighteen years ago. [42.23]

SR Muriel Skalley does caning. [42.28]

LL Yeah, she probably uses the real cane.

SR I think she does. I think she does.

LL That's kind of tricky 'cause it's got to be soaked just so and I didn't have good luck with that. [42.37] It would always break with me. It just wasn't soaked right, probably—the right amount of time, you know?



**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

- SR Yeah, yeah. How did you learn to do that?
- LL Well, Home Dem. The Home Dem group taught that at one time. [42.50]
- SR Yuh, so you were a member of Home Dem?
- LL I don't believe I was a member, but I did go to some of their meetings. [42.57] No, I don't believe I did belong, really.
- SR Well, they were quite an active group.
- LL Yes. I guess they still are!
- SR Yeah, pretty active. I don't think quite as much as they used to be.
- LL I don't know as they have many *hobbies* that they get into. You know, like teaching anything. Well, they did lamp shades at one time, you know, and the chair caning. [43.23] I don't know what else they have done for their projects. I can't think! [LAUGHS.]
- SR Well, I remember talking to {Zonie Wayley}. [43.36] Of course, she's always been very active in Home Dem.
- LL She still goes to their meetings. I know she does, every month.
- SR Yeah, and I think they—it sounded as if, you know, in the past they tried to help, you know, young

women get started, in terms of learning how to can and sew and, you know, do all those things that they, you know, wouldn't otherwise know how to do when they were first married or, you know, setting out on their own or whatever. [43.58]

LL It has been helpful, I think, for many people.

SR Yeah.

LL That organization. We did have an agent come once a month, but I don't believe they do very much nowadays. They give talks on something or other, you know?

SR Yuh, yuh. I'm not sure whether they still do that or—I think the Vermont Extension Service is still an excellent—you know, an excellent service. [44.26]  
I don't think people use it, you know, as much as they used to.

LL Maybe not. I don't know. I just haven't felt like going to any of the meetings lately. And I think it's more of a social affair now. [44.40]

SR I think so.

LL They go around different places to have a luncheon or something, you know. Go on a trip, maybe. And I don't know if they go on hikes or anything like

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

that, but maybe—maybe they take a short hike in the woods. I don't know! [LAUGHS.]

SR I don't know. I don't know.

LL I don't really know. Maybe they're mostly elderly, along in years, you know.

SR Well, I think, also, Lois, I think the difference is that a lot of the people who belong to it now are not here all year around. [45.11] I think there are a lot of people who are just here in the summer. At least, I think that was the impression that—

LL I think there's an awful lot of new *names* that I don't even know where they live. [45.21]

SR Yuh, yuh.

LL When they're having a meeting and they'll say who the hostesses are—well, I haven't the slightest idea who the names—who they are, where they live! [LAUGHING.]

SR Well, they're probably—I mean, that's kind of a big change, is—

LL Is that people have come to town that I just haven't met, I guess.

SR Yeah, yeah. Can you say anything about how the town has changed since you were a young person here?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Well, not really. Just so many old buildings have been torn down, you know. [45.59] The gristmill over here and the garage is all been changed and that post office been put up. And Vernon and Doris Young's store was torn down. And, oh. I don't like to lose all these old landmarks! [LAUGHS.] [46.16]

SR Yeah. No, it's true.

LL It just kind of spoils the town. There was a couple yesterday when I went to the post office, there was a couple out here looking over where the waterwheel is, wondering if I knew of some person that used to run a gristmill here years and years and years ago. [46.38] Well, the only gristmill I ever knew was right here around the corner, you know, where the waterwheel is and where that little water building is.

SR Yeah, I've seen pictures of it.

LL That's where we always got feed for our cattle, you know, when we were on the farm. [46.54]

SR And who owned that gristmill? I can't remember. Do you remember? I should know, Lois, and I don't.

LL The only one that comes to my mind is {Franny Weeks}.

SR Yeah.

LL Varnum. Varnum Weeks. [47.10] And his brother-in-law—George Hollister? I really don't know. Luther Clark worked at that store, or, at that mill an awful long time. [47.24] I really can't tell! I can't. 'Course, Varnum Weeks didn't—he's about my age, Varnum Weeks is, or a little older. I can't tell who before that! I just can't.

SR When we first heard about-- [47.50]

**END TAPE 1, SIDE A**

**START TAPE 1, SIDE B**

LL [.26] --No, it was right near the road, right about where that house is, and that was Archie Hamlin's mill and we called it the Red Mill. And that was a gristmill.

SR I think, probably, the biggest change that's happening in the town now is the whole situation with the farming.

LL I guess so. So many older farmers have died and the young ones just don't want to keep up with it or something. [.55] They want an easier job or more money or something. The farmers are really having a tough time.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR    Yep, they are.    They are.    And I think we're—you know, we're lucky still to have as many farms in Pawlet as we do.

LL    That's right.

SR    You know, people still—

LL    Maybe some of the young fellas will keep on with it, but, oh, dear, it's awful to have the farms diminish so.    There are so *few*!

SR    Well, we've had, Lois, even this year—two years ago, in the summer, Neil took a picture of each farm crew.    [1.33]    Went all around town to get a picture of every farm that was going, every dairy farm, not a beef farm or a sheep farm.    Anyone who was shipping milk at that time and at that time there were thirty-three left.    [1.47]    Now, to you, that sounds, probably, like nothing, as compared to, say, when you were a young—

LL    Well, everybody was farmers back when my father bought the farm up there where Zonie is.    [2.00]    Everybody was farmers!    They didn't do anything else, seems so, around here.    Why, they did in the woods, you know—they got out logs and they cut wood, four-foot wood because everybody heated with wood.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

[2.14] We didn't have these oil furnaces and everything—those days. [LAUGHING.]

SR But this year, in April, there were three farm auctions in this town. [2.26]

LL The Graffs.

SR There was the Graffs and the {Moore}s and John Nelson over in West Pawlet. [2.34] And, of course, Howard—is it Howard Leach? No. Yes. Roger!

LL Roger.

SR Roger Leach.

LL Roger Leach.

SR Well, he had his auction. And then, as I said, I'm hearing that the Masons are now auctioned. And \_\_\_\_\_ Griswold said last week that there was another one coming up. [2.55] He couldn't tell me the name, but I—

LL Well, Nellie hasn't mentioned it. Maybe she wouldn't. I don't know. Wouldn't want to talk about it, maybe. [3.05]

SR Yeah, I would think that would be very hard for—you know, hard for her.

LL Yeah, I don't know what she would do. Of course, she'd have to adjust, like everybody has to, I

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

guess, when a change has to be made. [3.19] It doesn't seem to me Nellie's able to stay there alone, anyway, much longer, really.

SR Is that a great big house? I can't remember.

LL Old, old, old. [3.33] You talk about being old—that is a very old place, too.

SR Yeah, I've only been in the house once, I think, when I took a picture to Nellie.

LL It's large! Yes, it's large. Because Fred and Ethel Mason had six children! [3.49] Very large house.

SR Those would have been Rodney's mother and father?

LL Brothers and sisters.

SR Brothers and sisters, yeah.

LL Rodney and Kenneth and Alice and Junior—Fred Junior—and Bill and Donald. [4.01] Donald died of polio. He was only twenty-one or -two. He'd just got married the fall before and had one little child. He married {Theo} Leach. Theo? You've probably heard the name.

SR Yuh, yuh.

LL And they had one girl. [4.25]

SR Has the church changed a lot?



**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Oh, I miss the Methodist Church. [4.31]

SR You were a Methodist?

LL I don't belong to any church, I'm sorry to say, but I was partial to the Methodist Church. [4.39] I liked the Methodist Church much better than I do this one. I don't know, I liked the building.

SR The building?

LL The building. Oh, there's an awful lot of things. I miss Old Haystack. [4.58] We saw that so good from the farm, you know. We can't see it now I'm down here at the hollow. [LAUGHTER.] Oh, dear!

SR Well, you can see it when you go to Granville. I think for a lot of people Haystack—

LL Rachel! Rachel is the one that's partial to Haystack Mountain. [5.16]

SR Yeah, yeah. Do you ever see Rachel?

LL Not very often. We talk on the phone every once in a while.

SR Good. Did you know each other when you were younger? I mean, did you—

LL She and my mother were friends—were school pals, you know. [5.33] They played together.

SR She's a wonderful person.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

- LL I never have known Rachel, well, really, really well, but she's a friendly person and she'll call and visit half an hour, talking. [LAUGHING.]
- SR Yeah, yeah. Neil and I were just saying that we wanted to get to see her this summer. I have an interview with her. [5.54] And Neil's done some wonderful pictures of her.
- LL She can remember—she can remember way, way back, who lived in different houses, you know. [6.04] I can't do that.
- SR Yeah. Well, she's quite a character.
- LL I can't do that. She's got a wonderful memory.
- SR Yeah, yeah. And she's quite outspoken.
- LL Yeah, yeah.
- SR Now, would you remember Charlie Griswold's mother? Do you remember her?
- LL Yes, I remember.
- SR Can you tell me—when would you have known her? When you were just a girl growing up, would you have gone up to the house with your father or—
- LL I probably did. My father used to get wood from the woods. [6.37] He'd have a man—my uncle, who would cut the wood, and my father would deliver wood all

around town. It would usually be the four-foot wood, you know—four-foot lengths of wood. And then people had different methods of getting it sawed up into stove wood. Well, my father would take wood—now, maybe he took stove wood to Minnie Griswold. [7.00] I don't remember, but he's delivered wood to practically everybody in this town, one time or another, back when we were first on the farm. That was our extra income, because we had woods galore, just woods and trees and trees and trees on that farm, you know. [7.19]

SR Yeah, yeah, yeah. How do you remember her? Can you just—

LL Well, she was a very *likable* person. [7.31] I don't even have a picture of her or anything. We never had a snapshot of her or anything. But just—oh, just a remarkable person! How she could ever carry on those laundries and {break} that—you know, she had to pump her water from a well out in the yard and carry all that in and carry it out. [7.55] How could a woman do it? And scrub on a scrub board, probably. Or boil 'em in a boiler on the

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

stove. [LAUGHTER.] Oh, golly, golly! She must have been a worker. She *must* have been a worker.

SR Yeah. And I think a very—from what we've been able to learn about her, you know, from Charlie and just from being, you know, around the house—just a very resourceful person, a very bright—you know, read a lot and sounds like—

LL She used to correspond with my mother after she went down to Springfield to live with Charles, you know. [8.35] When she got elderly, she kind of closed up this place up here—in the winter, I believe—and went to Massachusetts to stay with—I believe she and Charles had an apartment. [8.44] I don't think they lived with Paul and Mabel.

SR No, they bought a house. [8.47] Yeah, they had a house that they owned. Charlie tells a wonderful story—

LL She used to write—she used to write to my mother. [8.55] They would correspond. I can't describe the woman, really, 'cause I didn't know her that much, really. But when she'd be home in the summer she'd come to church. She might even walk over and visit us, you know. A few times, when we first came down

here. [9.11] I don't know when Mrs. Griswold died. I've really forgotten.

SR She died in 1952. [9.16] Yeah, yeah. She was born in, I think, 1872, and she went to live in Springfield with Charlie in 1929, and then she started just coming here in the summer. [9.28] And then she died in 1952. She had all the—a lot of heart problems in that family, congestive heart. [9.39]

LL I didn't remember what she died of.

SR Yeah, well, she had—I think her heart got quite bad and she got quite heavy because she couldn't—when you have that congestive heart situation, you can't get-- the fluid built up a lot in your body. [9.55]

LL Well, they didn't doctor then like they do now, maybe, with all these new drugs?

SR Yeah, yeah, yeah. So she was probably—I think she was in her—I'm not good, quick with numbers like that, but I think she was in her seventies. [10.07] And I think—did Paul die of heart?

LL Mhm. He had an aneurysm. [10.15]

SR He did, that's right, Charlie did tell me that, yeah. You remember Paul?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Yes, yes. Paul's aneurysm, as I understand it, was in some place where it couldn't be operated on. It couldn't be operated on, so I suppose it just burst.

SR Let go.

LL Yeah, I presume that's what happened. I don't really know. Because that's what I was operated on for, was aneurysm. [10.52]

SR Near the heart?

LL The heart.

SR Yeah, yeah.

LL Very near the aorta. [10.57] And they got to take out portions of ribs, with me, and I think that's the reason I've gone all out of shape in my back, because, you know, you cut into the *framework* of anybody and you're gonna get all lippy! [LAUGHS.]

SR That's true. No, you're right. [LL LAUGHING.]  
Yeah, yeah. Let's see, I think I've got pretty much all the questions that I-

LL I don't know what to tell you, Suzanne.

SR No, this is perfect, Lois. It's just that I like to try to get a feeling, you know, from people about their families and, you know, 'cause the town is changing so fast that, you know, all these memories

of that period of time, that kind of moving from the late eighteen hundreds into the nineteen hundreds is practically gone and there'll be very few people left who will remember that—you know, that period of time in this town. [11.49] And I think the whole—you know, from my point of view, the whole nature of the community is changing and—

LL I presume so. It's changing with the times, probably.

SR Yuh. No, I mean, I don't think Pawlet is unique. I think it's happening everywhere. [12.05]

LL Everything is so fast. All these cars and everything that we have nowadays and—

SR Yeah. And I think there's a loss of a sense of community because—

LL People don't *neighbor!* [12.20] People don't communicate with their nearest neighbors, you know? Just don't. I'm ashamed to say it, I haven't even been down to call on these people down here yet. [12.33]

SR Oh, of course, one of the things, of course, is that it changes so quickly.

LL Yes.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR You know, one of the things that Charlie, when I spoke to him about, you know, growing up in that little neighborhood where he grew up--

LL People were the same families, year after year and year after year. [12.49]

SR Sure. And generation after generation.

LL And you just get--

SR You depend on each other and you--

LL It's all familiar to you and you think it's never gonna change. It's gonna stay just like that. [13.02]

SR Yeah, but it changes.

LL It changes.

SR Yeah. But Charlie gave wonderful descriptions of each family, you know, that lived there when he and Paul were growing up and the Powers, you know, and how each one, you know, neighbored with his mother and how they depended on each other. [13.18]

LL To do for each other in case of need.

SR Yeah, and Charlie talked about when his mother was a great one on the telephone. [13.25]

LL Oh, yes.



**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yeah. See, the old phone is still in—as a matter of fact, I have a picture of it here. [13.30] The old phone is still there at the house and she used to call her neighbors, you know, back and forth.

LL And turn the crank! [13.34] [LAUGHING.]

SR Yeah. But Charlie gave a wonderful feeling for that neighborhood and what you realized is that when—you know, when transportation was much more difficult, people stayed at home! [13.46]

LL You just didn't do like they do now. Go off miles to a show or a musical concert or something?

SR Yeah, yeah.

LL Never even dreamed of airplanes! [LAUGHS.] Hardly!

SR But I think what happens to a town like Pawlet is that you lose that sense of community. [14.08] You have a lot of people who own, you know, their own property and have their own place, but they don't have a sense of the community as a whole. And I think with your farms going and, you know, that will make a tremendous change.

LL I guess so!

SR Because, as you said, I mean, when you were a young person and your parents were, you know, adults,

pretty much, everyone was farming or running \_\_\_\_\_  
in the same little town and everyone depended on  
everyone else in order to—

LL My father used to change works, you know. [14.40]  
He didn't have a hired man all the time, so he would  
exchange works with a neighbor and they'd come and  
help him do something, then he'd go and help them do  
something. [14.50] When they needed extra help.  
That's the way people got along back in those days.  
We were always changing with the Kellys or with the  
Masons.

SR So there weren't too many more houses up in that  
neighborhood than there are right now? Would the  
Kellys have been up beyond?

LL Uhuh. Uhuh. Just above Zonie's. Just above  
Zonie's. That next place. [15.17]

SR Yeah.

LL That has changed hands so many times I don't even  
know who owns it now.

SR I don't either.

LL Some folks were there before you. I don't really  
know. I can't keep track. 'Course—well, it's  
Warren Roberts that lives just above Nellie's.

[15.39] That place wasn't there when we were on the farm. And Rodney's tenant house, where Mark is now, that wasn't there. There was a little old lady—where the Grange Building is now, where the people use it for Grange rooms, there was a little old lady, Elvira Hewlett, that lived there. [15.55] She lived *all* alone. I guess she'd lost her husband, probably. I guess she had had one. And she had dog named "Peel." [16.08] I thought that was the funniest name! And she had kitties and ducks and geese and everything, you know. Regular little farm. She'd have her own garden. My mother used to bake bread, homemade bread, and she'd a loaf of bread of my mother. [16.21] She was a character. [SR LAUGHS.] She really was.

SR I've never heard of her.

LL Oh, Elvira Hewlett.

SR Yeah, I'm gonna find out about her.

LL I don't know who she was, but she was a Hewlett. She was a married Hewlett, or married a Hewlett. I'm not sure about that. And my father found her dead. [16.45] He found her dead in the house, right in the rocking chair. That was when we first

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

lived up on the farm. My father waited on her, went down to do things for her. [16.56] I don't know what he went down for that Monday—that Sunday morning. And she didn't answer when he'd call to her, you know, or knocked on the door, or whatever he did, and he took a look in the house and there she was, sitting on the rocking chair. Gone. Just gone. Kind of an easy way to go, I guess.

[LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah, I was gonna say.

LL Maybe no suffering—I hope not.

SR Yeah, well, probably not too much if she was just right there.

LL I don't think anybody knew that she had a heart condition or anything. [17.31] Maybe she didn't know it herself, you know.

SR She probably didn't. Probably didn't.

LL Oh, dear.

SR Well, I think I've asked you all my questions. Would you like to see your pictures? \_\_\_\_\_.

[VOICE-OVER.] You stay right there and I'll just hand them to you, so you don't have to get tired.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Well, this place was handed down to me when my folks left, so I got it \_\_\_\_\_, but, well, it makes you wonder if you're gonna be able to pay your taxes.  
[17.58] [LAUGHS.]

SR Goodness. And now we don't have a school budget again. You heard about \_\_\_\_\_.

LL Yes, yes.

SR I don't know. We have our-

LL It's so confusing! Really!

SR I know, I know. Well, you know I'm on this board and we have a meeting tonight. I don't want to raise the-

LL What can you do?

SR I don't know. I don't know. It's so difficult. Education nowadays costs a lot of money and it's very difficult, though, in a town like Pawlet.  
[18.27]

LL They want to add more and more to it all the time and, well, can people afford to pay those taxes?

SR Well, that's-I know, that's the problem. That's sort of-as Neil says, it's a double bind. You know, you know that you need to make these improvements in

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

order to keep your kids, you know, \_\_\_\_\_ today,  
and, yet, you know-

LL People are getting older and they just can't-

SR People can't afford it. No, I know. And I think  
this time, I think this vote this time, with the  
budget going down, was an indication of that.

[18.58] And I think what's too bad is that now  
we'll have to really cut the budget and it's the  
kids in the school that are gonna suffer.

LL Sure. Sure.

SR And, you know, our schools as they are now are  
adequate, but there's certainly no frills. [19.12]  
And, you know, there are just-you know, they keep  
asking us to put more and more money into them. And  
I don't know. I don't know.

LL And it's going to be that way right along.

SR It is. I mean, that's the trouble. I mean, it's-  
you know, next year's not going to be any lower than  
it is this year.

LL Oh, I don't know.

SR So I don't know. Well, we have our meeting tonight.  
I guess we'll try to figure it out. [LAUGHS.]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL It's quite a challenge. It's a headache. It must be!

SR Yuh. Well, it's discouraging because you know—you have some idea of what we need in order to improve the education and then—

LL The next thing is to get it.

SR I know. The next thing is to get it, Lois, and it's—you know, I have a very good understanding. I mean, it's hard for us to pay our taxes.

LL Of course, it is.

SR And it's, you know, much harder for people on fixed incomes. [20.07]

LL And when they get to be real elderly, if they're just depending on their savings, and that's diminishing all the time, you just wonder what you're gonna do. [20.15]

SR No, I know. I know. And I'm very sympathetic. And then the other side of the coin is that if we closed our schools, which, again, would be a shame—it's just like your farms: if you close your schools and you lose your farms, what is left of the community?

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL That's what they think about the church, I guess.

[20.35] They wonder if they're gonna keep that open for long.

SR Yeah, Grace said the church was in really very difficult, you know, financially, and pretty tough shape, but what people don't understand is that if we close the schools and we have to send our children to some other community-

LL Well, you couldn't handle that!

SR It would be the same-you'd have the same bill!

[20.56] So I don't know.

LL You have to grow {in some way}! [LAUGHS.] I wish it grew on bushes. I'd have \_\_\_\_\_.

SR I wish it grew like your rabbits, like your rabbits grow. [LL LAUGHING.] Then we'd all be in good shape.

LL Oh, dear.

SR These are all the envelopes, so you don't have to- but you stay right there. I'll bring 'em over to you, so you can look at them.

[LOOKING OVER PHOTOGRAPHS.]

LL Ohh, this is up to Minnie's. [21.25]

SR Yeah, these are all \_\_\_\_\_.



[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Can you see over there in the light?

LL Uhuh, uhuh.

SR 'Cause I can take them out, but, see, these were  
black-and-white photographs, Lois.

LL Oh, for heaven's sake.

SR And all the color you see, I painted. [21.37] Just  
like it is at the house.

LL Uhuh, the walls and the stove and the floor, the rug  
{in front}. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yuh! And I tried to do everything *just* like they  
are in each house. [21.48] You know, so the  
colors-

LL Oh, that's wonderful! They look so real! It looks  
like the stove's right there, doesn't it?

SR Yeh, yeh.

LL That is nice. Well, that must have been so much  
work! \_\_\_\_\_!

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah. Well, it took me-

LL Well, it must take a long time to do each picture.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yeah. It took me, to do all of them—this is just a very small part of them. I think I did seventy-five pictures and it took me a whole year. [22.15]

LL Just for that house. Just for that.

SR Yeah, I worked on it for a whole year. And I loved it. It was a wonderful, wonderful project. It really was. This is outside. This is a very dark—

LL I never was upstairs.

SR Yeah, well, this was her bedroom. [22.33]

LL Oh, my land. \_\_\_\_\_ one picture?

SR Yeh. And it's just like this house. I mean, \_\_\_\_\_.

LL You don't say!

SR I mean, it looks as if you could practically walk right into the house and start living there.

LL For goodness sake!

SR She made all these rugs, these \_\_\_\_\_ rugs. [22.51] And then there's some of these wonderful old—you know, they're wove with {colorful} old wool.

LL It's the rugs—they haven't been moth-eaten?

SR No, the sad thing—I told Bea—Minnie did *beautiful* handwork. [23.05] Just *beautiful* handwork. Mostly, of her own imagination. She would, you

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

know—she loved flowers and she would draw poppies and things and then sew them. [23.17] And all her things are still there! They're all right there in those bureau drawers. And we found some of them that were in very good shape and then others that had been eaten, you know, by mice. [23.28] And I told Bea that I thought, you know, she and Charlie should go up to the house and try to take out, you know, some of the things that—

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL \_\_\_\_\_.

SR Yuh, yuh. Some of them are perfect! It's really funny because, you know, they're all pressed and ironed and folded and tucked away in drawers.

[23.43]

LL She was so particular, probably, about everything.

SR Yuh, yuh. But that was her—that was her \_\_\_\_\_.

LL Oh, for goodness sake!

SR Yeah, this was my favorite one and my favorite—

LL [LAUGHING.] Dear, dear, dear.

SR This was—we found this box that had lots of her favorite, you know, things in it. [24.06]

LL Ohh. Oh, yes.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR And this was her little girl, when she died.

[24.12] And she was buried—as I said, she lived in Rutland for a little while. They were trying to help her and then she died, so she was buried in Rutland, but these were all just—this is some of Charlie's hair, baby hair. [24.26] [LL LAUGHING.] And these were just all—they're the same.

LL Is this one of the boys?

SR No, no. That was just an advertisement that she kept. [24.35] And these were just—

LL And see that \_\_\_\_\_.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah, too small. And those were just all little things that she—

LL Carl Griswold. [24.44] The sheep. The sheep or something.

SR Yeah, this was a 4-H project that \_\_\_\_\_. [24.48] She kept everything that her boys—everything that her boys did.

LL [LAUGHS.] She was so proud of those boys!

SR Oh, boy, yes! I guess she was.

LL Well, I guess she has a right to—had a right to be.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yuh, they're wonderful people, both--well, I didn't know Paul, but Charlie is just--

LL Very different. The boys were very different.  
[25.08]

SR Yuh, yuh. From each other. Yeah.

LL Not alike! You wouldn't even know they were brothers. [25.14]

SR Yeah. Now, this is one--this is the room where the \_\_\_\_\_ stove is. [25.20] Now, this painting I think Merritt Leach did. It's a *beautiful* painting. And this is the room where the \_\_\_\_\_ stove was.

LL Nineteen sixty-six calendar.

SR Yeah, yeah. And these wonderful tapestries.  
[25.38] I don't know where she got them, but there are a few of them in the house in various--

LL I don't remember. I don't remember seeing anything like that, you know. Goodness sakes! I'm sure there's a lot of treasures there.

SR Yuh, yuh. Well, Charlie, the wonderful thing is how much Charlie loves these photographs, 'cause he wants that--I suspect that, after Charlie and Bea are gone, that--it's Paul's children who actually own the house now and the stipulation is that, as long

as Charlie's alive, it has to stay just the way it is. [26.20] But I suspect, once Charlie and Bea are gone, that the children will come in and, you know, sort of re-do it, I think, for themselves.

LL And maybe not even keep it.

SR Or maybe not even keep it.

LL Who knows?

SR And Charlie, I think, was tickled with the pictures because I think he thinks it's a way that the house will stay, there'll be a memory of it.

LL I don't know, 'cause I don't know the Griswold children, you know. [26.42] I don't know what-

SR I've gotten to know them. I've gotten to know them, you know, through Bea and Charlie. [26.49] There's a Paul-

LL I really don't know them.

SR There's Paul Jr. and Halsey and Ruth-those are the three children. [26.55] And Paul Jr. is the one that Bea and Charlie seem to depend the most on. This is \_\_\_\_\_.

LL This is a picture.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yeah, this was—there was an addition built onto the house for her laundry business and this is out in the laundry room. [27.15]

LL She did have electricity there?

SR Yeah, yeah.

LL I couldn't have told that there was electricity in the house or not.

SR No bathroom. [27.21] Used a backhouse—the little yellow building out beyond the house, on one end is an outhouse.

LL I remember about that, when my father used to mow the lawn up there. [27.35]

SR Yeah, but they did have electricity.

LL We'd use it—mother and I'd go up and I'd go up and sit on the porch. [27.40] We didn't go in the house, of course. [LAUGHS.] Matchbox up here! Isn't that the limit?

SR But all these things—you know, all these things are just right there on the shelf, just as they were. [27.51] And all her pretty little potholders.

LL Dear, dear, dear, dear. [LAUGHS.] That is the limit. And you touched up all those different colors and—

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR I had such a good time trying to get them just right. This is Charlie's favorite picture. [28.12] You'll get a kick out of this, 'cause you won't believe it's his favorite picture. [LL LAUGHS.] But this is a room way out on the end that was sort of, you know, the storage room. [28.23] And when Charlie saw this picture he said, "Bea! Look at those *old* cups!"

LL For heaven's sake! Well, I don't see how you could of done anything like that. You make it look so real, as if they just hung right there.

SR Yuh. Well, see, before there was color pictures, this is the way they used to color pictures. [28.44] You'd have a black-and-white picture and then you'd paint it. And that's how it was done. And I learned about it.

LL That old hat! \_\_\_\_\_! [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah. And Charlie just loved that picture. He couldn't believe it.

LL Dear, dear, dear. Well, I can't believe it, either, hardly. [LAUGHS.] It was nice of you to let me see them.



**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Oh, I knew you'd get a kick out of it. I enjoy—  
people seeing—you'll like this one.

LL I can come over.

SR Oh, I don't want you to stand, Lois.

LL Oh, for land's sakes!

SR This is her pantry. [29.21]

LL Oh, dear, dear, dear.

SR That's one of my favorites.

LL We always had a pantry on the farm and I miss a  
pantry. [29.31]

SR Yeah. And everything just—it's just like that!

LL Yes. Just think of it. The big yellow bowl. She  
mixed up so many things in that bowl, I bet.

SR Yeh. Every time Bea is missing a pan or something,  
she runs to Minnie's house and gets—last summer she  
was a little low on glasses and she went—she said,  
"I'm gonna have to go up to Minnie's house and get  
some glasses." [29.54]

LL Oh, dear! [LAUGHING.]

SR And some of her recipe books are just terrific.  
[30.00] I find a few—there was a recipe for a  
chocolate cake that was irresistible. This is a  
nice one.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Oh, my land, the \_\_\_\_\_.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR The old \_\_\_\_\_. Yeah, Grace and Bertha have one.

[30.15]

LL Isn't that nice.

SR I have one like that.

LL I think we used to have one years and years ago on

\_\_\_\_\_--

SR Yeah, I bet. And all these little flowers: she  
sewed them all. [30.27] They're all cloth.

LL For goodness sakes alive! Marble? I'll bet that's  
a marble shelf. [30.34]

SR Yeah, it is. It is.

LL My land! My land! That clock is \_\_\_\_\_, just-

SR Yep, it sure is.

LL Probably that's wrong.

SR No, no. It's \_\_\_\_\_. [30.48]

LL Don't even try to-

SR Twenty-five minutes after four. [30.50] Well, I  
don't know. I never trusted—I probably should. You  
know, it does work. But you mentioned the pump out  
back. [30.56] All you have to do is give a few  
pumps and you get \_\_\_\_\_.

LL Yes. You put in a little water?

SR Just a little and you'd pump it up and you'd get the most beautiful fresh, cool water! [31.06] This was her telephone. This is what I told you about.

LL Oh, yes! [LAUGHS.]

SR Charlie said she *loved* her telephone. [31.14] Once she had that telephone, boy. It's just as you come into house, you go to the right, and there's a sitting room that she used, you know, for--there's a very formal living room on the left. [31.27] You know, a parlor, and then on the right is this room where she used to--most likely, she used to always sit reading. And her telephone is right there on the back of that.

LL Oh, dear, dear. Well, we had one of those wall phones when we were up on the farm. [31.39]

SR Yeah, I bet you did.

LL Yeah. [LAUGHS.]

SR This was a--this is just a display of books that Charlie did of (dragons) when he was at {Troy} Conference Academy. [31.56] And she had that--she put it--it says "Charles Griswold." And she kept all the things that the boys did.

LL I bet she did.

SR Yeah. This was one of the bedrooms downstairs.  
[32.14]

LL Look at that old-fashioned high bedboard. Well,  
backboard. [32.22]

SR No, I don't know what you call it.

LL Headboard.

SR Headboard. [LL LAUGHS.] But this is one of the  
downstairs bedrooms and I think she used this  
bedroom in the summertime. [32.31] And when she  
got older.

LL Dear, dear, dear.

SR But all the beds have their spreads on them and  
they're all, you know. [32.41]

LL Yes. It looks *livable*!

SR It does. It really does. It really does. I mean,  
you could go in and do a little-

LL It's surprising that, you know, mice and rats and  
things haven't done a *lot* of \_\_\_\_\_ damage!  
[32.52]

SR Really, there's very little damage in the household.  
Neil and I were very surprised to-

LL It's surprising.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yeh. A few drawers, you know, have had—you see mice droppings and things in, and where they've gotten into things, but in some of the closets there are quilts and they've never been touched. [33.09] We asked Charlie if we could spread some out, you know, to take pictures of them and we spread out a lot of them right there at the house. We'd spread them out on the beds and then—

LL I'm surprised that {they're not} all eaten up.

SR No, they're as perfect as they can be. This is a picture of her silverware. [33.26]

LL Goodness sakes alive!

SR She had this box of real silverware that she'd bring back every year from Springfield and it said on the label: "Take to Vermont." [33.36] And it was all her best silver, which \_\_\_\_\_. [LL LAUGHS.] But it's beautiful silver.

LL For goodness sake! You wouldn't it, if it was polished.

SR Yeah, yeah.

LL Maybe it's something her mother had, \_\_\_\_\_.  
[33.51]

SR Yuh, it's beautiful, you know, with those \_\_\_\_\_.

Just another picture, {leading out into the kitchen}. [33.58]

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Leading into that new section of the house that was built for her.

LL I've kind of forgotten how it's arranged, but I do remember the kitchen and the pantry on the back side of the house.

SR Yeah. I guess the house is actually in three sections. [34.17] One of the boys, one of Paul's boys was explaining it to me, that the middle section is the very oldest part of the house and then there's a section on one side and then there's this new section, which was the newest. [34.28] I have some pictures of when this was built. This section was built in about 1913, some place around in there. These are just a couple. These don't have any color on them. They were pictures of her cookbooks that Neil did, that we had. [34.48] [LL LAUGHS.]

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Oh, dear. Dear, dear. Tells how to mix it. Tells how to mix it. [LAUGHS.] Oh, dear! This is—for heaven's sake!

SR This one of her recipe books she had. Boy, what terrific recipes. Wonderful recipes.

LL Some of her favorite things, probably.

SR Yeah.

LL "Raspberry float with frosting." [35.10] [LAUGHS.]  
"Cabbage salad."

SR Some of the things in the house, of course, were her mother's. [35.17] You know, it's kind of—we got it so that we were just—we could tell her handwriting, you know, from her mother's, because, of course, it was her mother's house. You know, really her mother's house. So it's hard to—

LL Deal with.

SR Here's another one of her books. She was a very religious person. [35.35] She did a lot of reading. And she was very concerned about being able to communicate with people who had already passed away. [35.48] And I think, probably, that's because she lost, you know, her husband and her child, but she had a very, obviously, a very strong

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

feeling of, you know, of a type of spiritualism.

[36.02] This is one of my favorites. This is the living room. [36.10] See, these were all of her hand-

LL She did all of that by hand?

SR Now, these are-

LL \_\_\_\_\_.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yeah, these are the Adams family. [36.18] This was her mother's family. Those are the Daguerreotypes, which are, you know, very rare old photographs. And a beautiful rug in that beautiful pattern. [36.28]

LL That looks like something that Merritt Leach would have done. [36.31] He did patchwork, you know, and {set this all around}, the pieces.

SR Oh, I wonder whether maybe that could be his. It's just a quilt. [36.38]

LL Well, maybe she did it because she did just as much as he did, probably, in that line.

SR Yup. He sounds like quite a character.

LL He was. He was remarkable. [36.49] Honestly. I never knew anybody like him.



SR This was just one more picture in that downstairs  
bedroom. [36.55]

LL \_\_\_\_\_.

SR And this is—now, this is a picture of the Buxton  
School, with the boys in it. [37.02] That Nellie,  
that she would have taken. She was the other  
photographer who was the town clerk. Is that name  
familiar to you at all?

LL Yes, but I didn't know that she took pictures.  
[37.13]

SR Yeh, she took pictures.

LL For land's sake!

SR We have a lot of her glass plates and-- [37.20]

LL Now, look what she--\_\_\_\_\_.

SR Now did you know—would you have known Mildred  
{McGallen}? [37.24]

LL Mhm.

SR Well, Nellie—well, she brought Mildred up. [37.29]  
She wasn't her mother. Mildred belonged to her, to  
Nellie Bushey's brother. [37.35]

LL Oh, yes. I've probably heard that. Called her  
"Aunt Nellie." I know she called her "Aunt Nellie."

SR Well, Nellie brought her up.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Well, and just like a mother, probably.

SR Yeah, but Nellie never married. [37.47] She lived right down next to the town hall there.

LL She was the town clerk. [37.51] My goodness gracious! I guess all the time we were on the farm. Well, not all the time, 'cause she had died, but—

SR Yeah. Well, she was a photographer. [38.02]

LL I didn't know that.

SR And she left all her glass plates. [38.08] She made glass plates for negatives. She left them all with Ella Clark. [38.14]

LL {Well, some \_\_\_\_\_ are so old.}

SR They are. There's some of them are--I think the earliest are from just before the turn-of-the-century. [38.20] You know, about 1890. Around 1890 or so.

LL Oh, goodness!

SR Well, that's all I brought. I have a lot more. [LL LAUGHS.]

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Well, another day I'll bring some more and you can see—I'd love to keep showing them to you.

LL Well, but it's too much work for you to—

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR It isn't. I have them all—I have them all \_\_\_\_\_.

LL \_\_\_\_\_ [LAUGHS.] Well, that's a wonderful treat to see all those. I have no idea how it could be done, really.

SR Well, I do it with little brushes and just--  
[38.55]

LL You've gotta have good eyesight and a lot of patience, I believe. [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeh. You know, the hardest thing, working in the house, of course, is that it's pretty dark in the house and it gets *awfully* cold, so I did as much as I could at the house. [39.12] I started the project in April and I worked at the house until October. And then it got too cold.

LL Well, you have to have some heat, probably.

SR Well, I didn't want to ask Charlie. [39.24] He let me take things home that I hadn't finished, that I needed to make, have the colors, so I tried to do all the rooms while it was still warm enough. [39.34] And then Neil did a lot of pictures of her—some things like that. And Charlie just let me take them home and have them at home until I was done and then take them back. And I finished up between

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

October and April. [39.46] And then we had a nice exhibit of them down at Bennington College, where Neil teaches. I'd like to be able to hang them up someplace closer to Pawlet, so more people in town could see them. [39.56]

LL Well, I guess it's quite a curiosity, to me.  
[LAUGHS.]

SR Yuh, yuh, yuh. Well, Charlie, you know, he just loves that house so much.

LL I know he does.

SR Yeah.

LL I know he does.

SR But he appreciated the pictures, so that was a—he was just—you know, he just—he didn't say, you know, don't do this or don't do that. [40.24] He just gave us the key and said, "Go ahead! Do whatever you want." [LL LAUGHS.] And we were just—you know, there's just a feeling, you know, when you're in the house that she's there. [40.37] It's a wonderful feeling. I mean, you know, it's just like being in someone's house and—

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

LL Too bad you couldn't of met her. I never saw her a lot, really. [40.47] I never saw her a lot, but she was a very *likable* person.

SR Yeah. I have a picture of her as a young woman. [40.55] Yeah, we found that. Of course, there are lots of pictures of her at the house and Charlie has several pictures of her, so I have some idea of what-

LL I can't hardly remember just how she looked, really.

SR Yuh. She was quite a large woman. [41.08] Quite tall, I think. Or at least-

LL Well, I have an idea Zonie was \_\_\_\_\_ tall.

SR Yeah, that was the feeling I got about her. Well, she had a very fine sense of humor. [41.20] She was quite a humorist. I mean, she had a very sharp wit and-

LL She did sign language, I know that. [41.28]

SR She did?

LL She did sign language, yeah. Because her mother was blind. [41.36] And I do remember that much about her.

SR Yeah, yeah.

LL And I never understood that. I just can't get head or tails about it, myself. [SR LAUGHS.] I don't suppose she ever had any training or anything. [41.51]

SR No.

LL I don't know.

SR Yeah, yeah. Well, it seems to me, from what I can gather about her, she was the kind of person that, if she wanted to know how to do something, she learned how to do it. [42.03]

LL Maybe there was somebody in the family that taught her. I mean, you don't know. Have you ever met this {\_\_\_\_\_ O'Neil}? [42.13]

SR No, I know who she is because of Pauline and Bea. [42.18] They both are pretty good friends. I've heard a lot about her, but I've never met her.

LL She does this sign language and I think she's taught it. [42.27] I think that was her hobby or her profession, maybe. I really don't know. She is cousin to Miss Myra Hewlett Bradford, that I talked about. [42.39] So she's been here several times to report on Myra's condition. She knew I'd be interested, since she'd been in the nursing home.

**Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002**

SR Yeah, that's her friend from Massachusetts. [42.52]

LL Uhuh. Myra, mhm.

SR Well, thanks, Lois, for all your time. I hope I haven't tired you out too much.

LL No, I've gotten rested a little bit now. I shouldn't have tackled this room this week. Oh, here's this picture! Good land!

SR Yeah, \_\_\_\_\_.

LL That's awful good. That's awful good. [LAUGHS.]  
Oh, dear.

SR You shouldn't have tackled this room?

LL I shouldn't have tackled this room this week, but I just didn't want to leave it any longer. I'm *awful* late getting my things done this year. [43.24]  
I've still got to go out and do the windows on the outside, but I'm in no rush \_\_\_\_\_. Just take that some time when I'm rested, because the reaching bothers me. [43.36] Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ *Post*. Do you have a \_\_\_\_\_ *Post* or do you know the magazine?

SR No, I don't. No.

LL It's a sort of a little religious—it's a little religious book. [43.46] Awful good little stories

in it. They're human interest stories. They're really awful good.

SR You probably can't read very much because of your eyes. [43.58] I didn't realize you had-

LL I have a cataract. [44.00] I don't see a thing out of this eye-just light and dark. I can tell that, but I can't see a thing to read or do anything like that. I can read some. I have to get pretty close to my eyes, but-

SR Yeah, Neil's mother had a cataract on one of her eyes and she had that wonderful operation there with the laser. [44.19] And she-

LL I know they have it done, but I don't really want to have it done. As long as I can see out of the other one, I'll do with the other one. [44.28] At my age-sometimes things go wrong and sometimes-I know Judd Smith had it done and he was never right after that. [44.38]

SR No, no, no. 'Course, it's advanced quite a bit since then, but you still are taking a chance. [44.44] I had an uncle who had the same operation Neil's mother did and it was not successful.

LL {He went through all that?}



SR Yeah.

LL My eye doctor hasn't suggested that I have the operation, so I think, well, as long as I can see to do for myself, I'm going to-

SR Leave it alone.

LL Leave it just as it is for a while, I guess.

SR Yeah. Well, that makes sense.

LL I don't like operations, I'm telling you! [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah, yeah. No, I'm sure. I'm sure, and I didn't realize you had that one for your heart, with the aneurysm. [45.18] That one sounds like-

LL Nineteen fifty-seven. [45.19] Nineteen fifty-seven.

SR That sounds like quite a serious operation.

LL It was terrible. It was terrible. I thought would never recover from that. Just awful.

SR No, operations are not-I've had one serious operation myself and I-

LL They're not funny. They're not funny at all. No. Dear!

SR Well, let me help you put your table back.

LL Oh, you don't have to! You don't have to.

SR Oh, yes. No, we're not gonna-- [45.47]

**END TAPE 1, SIDE B**

**END TRANSCRIPTION**