

Etta & Lonnie Loveland/TC2004.3021

Neil and Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002

SR Suzanne Rappaport
NR Neil Rappaport
EL Etta Loveland
LL Lonnie Loveland
Place Pawlet, VT
Date N.D. [wintertime]

TAPE 1, SIDE A

[NOTE: MR. LOVELAND IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND SOMETIMES.

I MAY NOT HAVE ALWAYS HEARD HIM CORRECTLY.]

SR [.20] --How did you two meet each other? How did you
 get together?

LL Well, I met her over at {Jennison's}. [.26] Lou
 Jennison's wife was a cousin and she got smallpox, so
 they were visiting, probably resting more, and got
 acquainted with him, and she went home and I went to
 Danby _____. I got lost—twelve o'clock when I got
 home. [LAUGHS.] I got to the end of two roads.
 [LAUGHS.] Took a little while there. Never knew.
 But I finally learnt the way. [LAUGHTER.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL First told, I went to school to—well, let me see, so
 the longest time was in September. [1.15] I'd have
 been five in November and wasn't only four and ten
 months old, but my sister, {Agatha}, was going to

school. [1.24] She was older. And she'd run away from school, nine o'clock, every day. Just as soon as come recess, she was gone. [1.32] She'd come up and play along the side the road until time to go home. Well, the teacher finally told my mother. She says, "Lonnie—send Lonnie with her, maybe she will stay." [1.44] Didn't make a bit of difference. [LAUGHTER.] But there was an old lady school teacher at that time—I say an old lady, she maybe was fifty to sixty. But she was nice. Quite a stout woman. And she'd call me down to the desk, you know, and have me sitting on her lap and feed me candy. [2.11] Well, she was finally taken sick and her husband come and taught. He was just as good. I got along good with them. Then this {Lois John} came in there and she was an awful crab. [2.24] Seems every time she turned around she hollered at me. Then, well, of course, there was older boys than I there and they kept going—I think they had about three or four different women teachers there and, gosh, they got so they couldn't handle the school. [2.49] [PAUSE.] I don't know, one of the kids was small and feeding it on a bottle. My mother run short of milk. I was home, happened to

be. "I can get some milk." So she give me a little dish and I went up {totally alone} in the barnyard and I got some milk. I went back. That night when my father come in: "I can milk." [3.17] "Well," he says, "young man, if you can milk, you'd better get right up there and help me." I made a mistake. [LAUGHTER.] So I went to milking, night and morning, three cows. [3.30] And I said to-

SR That was by hand, of course? Yeah.

LL No machines then. [3.34]

SR How long did it take to milk one cow by hand?

LL Well, I was an extra good milker. Not then, of course, but I got to be an extra good milker. [3.46] I done sixteen cows an hour.

SR Wow!

LL And pretty near as good as a machine.

SR I guess! I think better!

LL And more milk.

SR Yeah.

LL I was on a farm up on Rupert Mountain and my nephew was helping me part-time and he, of course, was _____ and he was taking off on a Sunday. [4.05] I said, "You be back before chores, Herbert?" "Yep."

So I give him some money to get some gas, the gasoline motor for the pump, see? Was milking, oh, about half of 'em with the machines and I milked the other half by hand, right along. 'Course, he didn't come, didn't come. Well, it comes six o'clock, so then I said, "God, I gotta get that thing, the cows, milk 'em."

[4.35] So I put 'em in the barn. She carried the milk for me. And I averaged sixteen cows an hour, right through: twenty-four. [4.43]

SR So you farmed it, too, for a while?

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL But he was miserable. He was balky. Well, because the {cart} was small. Turns and says, "Which horse you gonna use on it?" "Well, try Dick." He says, "You can't you can't cultivate with him." He says, "I never had a man that could." [5.06] "Well," I says, "I never see a horse I *couldn't*." So I took him. Well, first I cultivated my garden. Christ, he went nice. Kinda moderate, but done all of it. [5.16] Well, right across the road was seven acres of corn, marked both ways, you know, like this, so you could go both ways. Well, just right up and down hill, then right sideways to the hill. It was tough going.

[5.33] Well, I went across there and I worked that afternoon and he done all right. Went over and went in to get the water for the milking machine, {Tony} says, "How'd it go?" I said, "Good." Went over the next morning, hitched him on, maybe go as far as {a spring hole}, he stepped over in this row. [5.53] Well, I was good to the horse. I'd bring him back in where he belonged, go about that just as he's over this way. He was balky, too. _____. Well, I was good to the horse. I carried the damn cultivator around to get all I could. You know, I didn't drag the horse on it through mud, water, but I walked right into it myself, and he balked. [6.20] Cars was going--I daresn't lick him. So I pulled and pulled. Finally, he got him started. Well, I told him, I says, "There's a spring hole on the other side. You try it over there." [6.36] Sure enough, when I get to that spring hole and I turn the cultivator around, he balked. There's a lot of maple trees around there, a lot of limbs that long, you know--_____ or two; dried maple. God, I picked one of them up and I walked right over and I took him with the bit. [6.51] Well, I played that to his head. He made up his mind

he'd better work. [LAUGHS.] Well, I cultivated the whole piece that way, then I started the other way. I probably got a third of it and—oh, God, he was all over the field. [7.06] I couldn't get him to go nowheres, where he belonged. I went to putting a stone to him. Well, I'd throw a stone, he'd duck it. [7.14] [SR LAUGHS.] Well, I got used to that, too, so I bring the stone back to make him go and he run up the stone _____. Bounced right off from his chin. Well, now, after a few of them {belting} off from his chin, he thought he'd better work. [7.26] Came along goodly. I cultivated with him all through the spring. Well, {Alan} come there to work—

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR Whenever Lonnie was farming, then he put you right to work, obviously.

[SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S STACKING POTS AND PANS.]

SR You didn't mind that when you were younger, did you?

EL No.

LL It turns out she wanted I should cultivate her garden. [8.05] Well, I told Cecil, I says, "You put Jim back in the barn and I'll cultivate with Molly. And you can beat it." She was man-shy. [8.13] Didn't want

people around her head. I hated to {fight with him}, but _____. So he'd turn her by the head and, oh, she'd go right—oh! Well, I took him back. [COUGHS.] I told Cecil, I said, "Let her stand a few minutes." So he let her stand. I took and carried the cultivator around and turned her and got her into the row where I wanted her. [8.45] I said, "Careful, Molly." And she walked that row just as nice and no riding back and forth. And could do the same way with the marker. [8.56] I used to do all my marking with her. Well, she would, she'd mark a lot of ground pretty fast. I always guessed. Had a three-legged marker. [9.06] Had to make one. And, 'course, they told me you can't [SOMEONE COUGHS.] _____ like that. Hang onto her. Well, you take her and if she started crawling down just a little bit, you know, just say, "Up the hill, Molly," or "Down the hill," and she—

SR She'd go. That must have been a good feeling.

LL It was.

SR To work with an animal like that and get the work done.

LL Yes. And they was good, you know. Lots of horses, you get 'em in a tight place and they get nervous.

[9.40] Well, I took that one right up on a hill—a lot of snow, probably that deep. I took some roller logs out, _____. And I'm thinking: well, two-foot and a half or three-foot they got to be, at the top there. And I went up and the whole body of this maple lay there in the snow. Well, I went up fast and I trimmed it, all I could find. Well, I had a chain I'd been using on a John Deere tractor. [10.09] We used a John Deere tractor then. I'd been using it from one year to the next—never had broke. So I hitched onto it. It kinda made a decent draw. I'd just poke a hole. Looked the tree over and I couldn't find no more limbs. I never—how I'd get up, I don't—just, "Yih!" And I couldn't find no limbs. I went and picked up on the limbs. That time when he got up there, you know—always right together, you know. When we got out, I said, "Yih!" a second time. Gosh, there's quite a—they broke right through this. [LAUGHS.] Well, I had three _____ links. [10.51] Put in the _____ link. It broke the ledge right down. They'd stand right there, after making that draw. [11.00] I looked the tree all over and couldn't find no limbs. I went back, spoke to 'em

again. That time I only had to speak to 'em once.
[11.06] Broke a chain again, so I had to go to the barn. That night I come to Granville and got a new chain, half-inch. [11.18] I went up, I hitched that to 'em, and the first time I did something, they took it. An awful good team. I never had to drive 'em, like in the cornfield or hayfield. They knew where to go and they wasn't feeding on the corn, either; they was tending right to their business.

NR You did all your field work with 'em?

LL Yeah. Now they don't do no cultivating at t'all.
[11.50] They cultivate their corn three times, both ways, sometimes.

SR So what do you mean?

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Oh, really? That many? God! I didn't realize that. That's a lot of hens. [12.02]

LL Yeah.

NR Lot of eggs.

LL Yeah. I had a flock in that building one time. I had 366 and I got 347 eggs. [12.17] And they just kept right on coming through.

SR You had quite a business, egg business going.

LL Yes, but it got so it t'was too much. [12.25] I'd work all day in the quarry, come home here—well, Tuesday night I had a real—I did not too much, only about fourteen dozen—but I come home Friday night, clean up a little, wash up, and take off at ninety dozen, _____. [12.44] I look from house to house. The next morning, I get up: ninety dozen to Manchester. And come back from there, I drop on the couch here about ten minutes, get right up, load the car with ninety dozen and go to Westport. [13.00] Well, there, for a while, well, I had better than a hundred dozen when I went to Manchester. I used to go up towards Middletown. I had more eggs than I—

SR _____, yeah.

NR And it must have been—

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL Not up there, though. [LAUGHS.]

SR Geese are supposed to be pretty smart. [13.25]

LL Yes, they are. Did you ever see a trained hog?

SR No, uhuh.

LL I have.

SR Uh?

LL Yeah. I went to a circus one time. Oh, I think they had probably seven or eight. [13.35] They had kegs about that high—they jumped right up and sat on them kegs. [COUGHS.] And I got some awful ugly ones. They're old cutters. And they're dangerous. [13.46] I had a boar here one time, a white one, he was a nice hog, and had him turned out. I wouldn't let a stranger in the place there. And they wouldn't try to get in, neither. Christ, he'd toss them out, you know, and he pawed you like a bull. I was never afraid of him. You can't get afraid. Even if they was to kill you, you still can't get afraid of 'em. [LAUGHTER.] I was out in there and, oh, he was a-pawing and frothing at the mouth. [14.21] I wasn't afraid of him. He probably wouldn't try to make a _____ of me. He was just backing up as I come to him and frothing at the mouth and _____. Well, he wouldn't let me get no closer. Pretty soon I: "You son-of-a-bitch!" And I commenced to put the stone to him and he'd run {for his life}. [LAUGHS.]

NR But you gotta keep him going.

LL Yeah. I had a sow one time in the building here. She was in the middle pen. And she was a good sow, but

always have about eleven to thirteen pigs, always raised 'em all—good 'uns. [14.58] And she had pigs and she had thirteen. They were born the day before, the day before this morning, see. Like it was this morning: born yesterday. Oh, God, she was—I only had a walk about that wide, wide enough for a pig, you know. [15.28] Why, she'd back up the wall, she'd come right at me on her hind feet, her mouth wide open. The pigs were squealing. Well, I couldn't get in there. She'd rip me up. Oh, of course, I did, before I got through, but I didn't go in there 'til I had it. Had a good dung fork with me. [15.48] I told Alan, when I had breakfast, I said, "There's a pig hung up out there and," I says, "you let it alone." I says, "She's uglier than hell and she'll eat you up." [15.59] Well, before I went to work, I went back out and she'd swung around to the other side the pen and all were nursing, but one. The board probably was up that high, you know, from the floor. The little cuss must have got his head under there and worked himself along and got tight. [16.14] Couldn't get out. Well, I always kept a dung fork and a pitchfork in there, so I take a pitchfork, spring a

board, pull it with a dung fork, get that—I got him freed and he went over with the sow. He was all right. [16.31] Got along in the daytime, she went out to gather the eggs and she heard a pig squealing. The bottom board is probably about that wide, say fourteen inches. Well, she laid down, probably to nurse her pigs, and this goddamned pig must have got up on her, got up onto this board and here he was, just balancing and a-squealing. [16.55] Well, she went out to gather eggs and she see what was wrong. Imagine, she went and got a little stick that long and went right into that sow and she never bothered her a t'all. [17.03] And she'd a et me up. I had to separate her from the pigs and I told Etta, I said, "I gotta separate that sow. I don't know what luck I'm gonna have." Well, I could almost reach her with the dung fork across the pen. [17.20] Opened the gate. Had an extra pen here. Like, if you got her out here, go right in there, see? Pigs are really going, you couldn't get in there and catch 'em. So, God, I fooled and fooled, and she wouldn't make a move. [17.35] And she just crunched against the pen so I couldn't reach her. Finally, I made up my mind: I've

gotta get her. I'm going in there. Well, I didn't lose no time. I went right over the fence, just put my hand on it and spring right over. I was too quick, my know, so she didn't have a chance to do anything. [17.54] And I went after her with a dung fork. She went out and she had no place to go. I was right close to her. She went into this pen. One pig went with her, but I got the rest the pigs all back into the pen. I guess that little cuss squealed all night—wanted to be back with the others. [18.15] The next morning when I finished, I reached over and grabbed him by the hind leg. So I sold her. [18.24]
[LAUGHTER.]

SR Didn't you have some little pigs once that you had to bring in here to the house?

LL Huh?

SR Didn't you have some little ones? What was that story? I can't remember what was wrong with them. Their mother died?

LL No.

SR Oh, she didn't have milk or her milk wasn't any good or—

LL She lost her milk. [18.44]

SR That's right.

LL It was awful cold and they come on a Friday and I was around here working. Maybe they'd have been all right if I'd left 'em alone. Just got 'em nursing and the pig was standing around in the cold and I was afraid of it and I was afraid that we was gonna lose 'em all.

[19.03] I was getting pastry at that time, bread. Bread about that long, you know. I was working around here and I went in to see how they were. All was quiet. Found one of 'em, he'd crawled away from her. Maybe they're both dead. So I come in and told Etta. She thought that sow'd lost her milk and the pigs weren't getting anything. So I brought the pigs in and just one of 'em had life enough to squeal.

[19.32] You put 'em in your hand like that and the little head would flop right over. Almost gone. And I bring 'em in. She put some milk right out and brought 'em, give 'em a couple teaspoons of warm milk, bring 'em in a box. [19.46] We had just like bedrooms. Time I got 'em all brought in and fed 'em, turned right around and fed 'em again--by gosh, they commenced to get up. Well, I kept 'em in here three days. They was all up and eating good. She had an

extra ice tray, you know, for the refrigerator?

[20.08] And she fixed that up for a trough because, three days time, they was eating, you know, good. And it t'was a mess! [LAUGHTER.] So I told Etta, I says, "I'm gonna put 'em out in that further building. They can live or die and that's all there is." [20.26] So I took 'em out there and made just a little kitty-corner place and put a heat light bulb over 'em. They come right along. I lost one. [20.38] I think that was the one that squealed. Well, then I sold two to {Una Mason}, the other two I wanted to keep, anyway. I had the sow and the {bairns}, gonna keep the bairns to eat, and I figured on the sow for a _____ sale.

[20.53] Gosh, she was a nice one--_____, you know, and just as straight and square. Snow white. Well, {Lincoln Fletcher} was up here. Oh, they'd weigh a hundred pound apiece. They was about that long, probably. He says, "God, I wish I had them pigs out there in that pasture." [21.12] And I had just a small pasture back of the buildings here, but I had a shade over 'em, but they didn't know enough to get in that shade and the sun was hot. Oh, and how they

burnt! [21.25] Well, did you ever sun burn
{outside}?

SR Terrible! Once in California.

LL _____ hurt like the devil.

SR Oh, God!

LL Well, them pigs, they moved just right, you know, and they squealed-go right around the pen. And I even throwed cold water on 'em. Well, I went out one morning and the bairn was dead. [21.45] She come out of it. I went down to Walter's and bought one: fifteen dollars. And t'was a cripple. I brought it home, throwed it in with her, and they got along good. [21.57] Gosh, it come right along. Had a good chunk of meat. And she never had no pigs. I had to butcher her.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL So we got old, too. I never helped her. [22.14] Of course, I didn't have time!

SR I guess not!

LL I'd go out here and, well, I'd work long as I could see, or pretty near. I had quite a _____ out there, around the edge of the garden here, where I raise cucumbers. [22.27] And I'd go in along the _____

now, against the shed, for the next day and buck it, after I got all my chores done. Wouldn't get my supper 'til nine, half past. [22.43] Then _____.

SR People don't work like that anymore, Lonnie.

LL No.

SR They don't. The world isn't set up that way anymore.

LL No. They don't _____.

SR No, it's true. It's true.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR Well, women.

LL Yeah. I was fast, you know. I was a hard man to work with because I was too fast. [23.16] I'd be pinching the men I was working for. I'd get ready to do the work and, gosh, he wouldn't be ready, see? And I'd lift a couple crowbars. Why, I'd be ready and lifting. I might pinch him that way.

SR What kind of work did you do mostly in the quarry?

LL I done everything. [23.40]

SR Everything?

LL Everything, but split chips. [23.42] I never split chips.

SR Did you work-

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Did you work in the pit much?

LL Oh, yeah. Yes. I took out rocks and everything.
[23.55] Drilled. I done an awful lot of drilling. I
worked up there at the Green Mountain Quarry. Up
there, you'd never get a dry hole. [24.06] Why, I'd
go to work and ten minutes after I'd been there I'd be
wet right through. Yeah. Have to go on a jackhammer
and be wet. Always put your foot over the hole like
that to protect yourself. [24.20] _____.
[LAUGHS.] Hit you in the face.

SR What kind of quarry work did you like to do the most?

LL What kind of work?

SR Yeah. What kind of quarry work did you like the most?
Splitting or-

LL I would never make any difference. I could go to
anything good. I done everything-points. They took
me down below there one time. [24.48] I guess I done
it about two months-punching.

SR What's-

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL Well, I was handy and, well, I worked in the yard a
lot up there. [25.01] It didn't bother me. And I'd
do a lot of work and it didn't hurt. Gosh, oh, I

would take a good-sized stone, you know, I could find the grain, so before I'd put a hole in, I knew where I'd find the grain was. [25.19] Yeah. Followed the lift truck there when they had about ten or a dozen men in the mill working: spreading chips, flagging, _____ . Took a lot of rock. And I'd go out there when the truck would be around. I'd have 'em move maybe six, seven, maybe right stones, all depending on how much room I got. [25.45] Lay 'em all right down flat. I didn't want to pull them up this way, didn't work good. I got 'em all right down flat and then I'd take a hammer and go along and check 'em, find the grain and mark it with my hammer, and do my own mark, take a jackhammer and drill 'em all, then I'd take a marker and mark 'em all, then put 'em on. [26.06] Why, in an hour's time I could probably have twenty-five stone ready for the mill.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I'd have a lifter come right there. It was all _____ . I cut 'em good. And just pick 'em up and pull 'em back a little bit, so it's clean from the fresh side. Take a couple blows with the hammer and they'd be good. I worked out there, oh, two days, two

days and a half, and I'd probably have a two hundred to a hundred and fifty stone ahead. [26.44] Then I'd go in the mill and pull my _____ of it. Two splitters going all the time. [26.48] Two-man chip {stops}. {Heavy} come up one morning. I says, "Heavy, I've been doing two men's work here for six months now. I think it's time I got more money." "Well," he says, "you're too old a man for out in that yard. I don't want you out there." [27.06] He says, "You go right in there and if you run out of work, you set down." I probably—if he caught me, he'd give me, you know. [LAUGHS.]

SR Right.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I been hurt a lot. [27.21] I was working down {with Nelson}. Well, I was up about sixty-foot-up on a slant, you know, _____ stone down, in a row. Well, you got just rope around one leg. [27.39] Gosh, I got down about twenty feet from the bottom. I lifted the stone. I had a stone that didn't come, so I let my crowbar go. Reached down and took the rope off my leg and the damn thing come apart, up here about forty feet. [27.51] I fell about twenty feet, right down

like that, no slip. Struck right on my head and shoulder, _____. Well, I cut my head open. [27.56] Thought I'd lie right down and go to sleep. _____ was all prepared. I walked out, after about three o'clock, I walked up out of the pit and just washed my face off and sat around 'til half past three, and come home. [28.15] But the next morning they made me go to the doctor. It's a law. If you just cut a finger, you're supposed to go to a doctor, but they don't always. They have band-aids there and bandage and mercurochrome and something like that—I don't know what it t'is. [28.38] I never could use that. I was trimming--

EL This sweater is getting too old now. [LAUGHTER.]

LL --up there one day and the last thing at night, I'd shut my machine off, and I was just poking the dust out of here quick, so it'd be in the gauge, you know. The machine was just about tight. Caught that finger just like that. [28.59] Took that nail right clean off. Well, I went in to the nurse. {He} done it up. Put a bandage on it. I just went right back to work the next morning. Didn't go to the doctor of nothing.

I didn't expect the nail'd ever grow back, but it did.

[29.15]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL Well, lots of times when you get hurt, it's carelessness. [29.25] I bet seventy-five percent of the hurts in the quarries are carelessness.

SR Yeah. Well, I think you get used to what you're doing and then you don't pay attention as much as you should.

LL Yeah. [COUGHS.] The last I worked up to the Green Mountain, God, I was drilling in a rope, and my rope was hanging off like this, you know. [29.52] That should have been up here. It'd been up here, it'd been all right, but it just crossed here. And Henry Campbell was working there and he had a plug drove in there, stuck out about that much, and my hose was in the way, of course. [30.04] Heavy jackhammer. And I was coming down off of where I was drilling. When I jumped down, the hose caught my foot, held me: struck that shoulder right on that drill that was being taken out. [30.17] I didn't work again, oh, 'til the next March, I think. Well, this about the fourth of December, I guess; first of January. I went to the

doctor and he told me, "You're all through." He says, "You'll never work again." [30.39] Well, the time come, first of January, if I ain't never gonna work, I might as well get what I can, so I went up and signed up for Social Security. [30.49] Well, then I was foolish. I could just _____ two checks then, but I didn't. Take only the one. [COUGHS.] They wanted us to sign up for disability. I told 'em no. [31.02] See, you sign up for disability, you can't work then.

SR Right.

LL You're all done. I told 'em no. I says, "If I get better, I want to go to work." [31.11] Well, about fifteenth of March I thought I could work, so I went up and see Effie. He said, "Come up and try it, if you want to." He says, "If you can't do it, you can always quit." [31.22] So I went up. Well, I couldn't reach up with this arm, but {Tiller} was good—he'd go up my site, the high ones, all of 'em. I stuck it right through: sixteen years, less three days. [31.35]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR We kept you talking for quite a while.

LL Running like a phonograph. All _____ more than you know. [LAUGHTER.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I remember the first that I went and took {marble}—the top of it. I took—years ago the marble quarries—well, the slate quarries did, too—they're run by steam. [32.23] They'd get wood, you know. It wouldn't cost much. And burn the wood to make steam in the boiler. Well, they have the same thing down to the _____ now, only, of course, they got a little bigger boiler. Well, I took a job a-cutting for {the quarry}, for _____ the quarry down to South Dorset. [32.44] I took a job a-chopping wood. Well, the wood's about that big around. Chops easy. But, oh, I had an awful heap to cut. [32.53] Well, I went home. A fella says, "Well, how much did you cut today?" "Oh, I must have a cord and a half. Didn't pile it." And he said, "Don't measure it 'til you get it piled." [LAUGHTER.] Piled it up the next morning. Why, I worked, you know, like the devil. I got it piled up, I had three-quarters of a cord. [33.10] So I _____ and went back home.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR That's the only thing that ever changes that kind of situation, is a strong union. [33.22]

LL They got a union up to Carpenter's and they had a union up there at {Tako's}, where I was, but they wouldn't live up to it. [33.33] Their workmen. They wouldn't pay the dues. And I think the union is all right. I believe in it. I know there's a union up there. They were talking about it. There wasn't no union yet around there. They were talking about it. I went to one meeting and on the _____, they had a _____ on and a Fish and Game Warden on it. [34.05] Well, maybe he didn't notice it or maybe he didn't know the difference. I don't know. [LAUGHING.] But he come in. "Oh," he says, "you're a union man, too, are ya?" "Well," I says, "I wouldn't say that I'm a union man." I says, "I got a union button." I said, "I worked up to Carpenter's, I got a button." [34.19] "Well," he says, "that's a Fish and Game button." "Well," he says, "I don't give a goddamn if they strike right this morning." "Well," I said, "that's all in your opinion." I said, "If you got a union job, you can sell your material *anywheres*, but if you haven't got a union job, you can't sell on most the

jobs." [34.46] Well, he didn't know about that, but he found it out. Some of those are straight down, down country somewheres. Do a good job, you know. Geez, the driver got done and he wasn't a union man, they wouldn't let him drive a truck, the tractor in there! [35.02] No sir! Cost, I think, two hundred dollars to get a man to drive that tractor trailer. [LAUGHS.] And he got caught twice that way. And then he knew what, where he was wrong, but he was all right. He stood right up to it. [35.21] When they made the contract, oh, I think at some such an hour, for three years and, well, he stood right up to it. But then the men paid dues over two years and then they joined up two or three of us. [35.41] I think it's up to two: just myself and Tony West, over to—I paid Tony and it cost us five dollars a month. I give Tony my five dollars and he turned it into the head superintendent. And I went out one morning and give Tony my five dollars and, well, he says, "I ain't gonna take that." [36.10] He says, "There's nobody else here paying their dues and," he says, "I'm getting done right away." He says, "You might just well save your money." And so I never paid the

monthly, but, gosh, them other guys, they had to give 'em the same benefits and, of course, if you got a union on the job, no matter what job you're doing, they gotta pay that price. [36.34]

SR Right.

LL Like you get more for splitting, you get more for block cutting, and less for trimming. [36.42] And they've gotta pay that price. And if anything happened, they can't fire you. [36.51] You know what I mean. And that's one thing that I didn't really believe in because if you got a man working for you and he hasn't turned in his money or even, say, half of it, why should you have to take him? [37.10] Well, he belongs to the union. You can't fire him. And that's not right.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I worked on the railroad section down in South Shaftsbury and _____ there, oh, he was *worthless*. [37.27] I was working with him. Well, he put plenty of men on to lay a new rail. It weighed 990 pounds. And they put twelve men on. Well, that wasn't a hard lift, you know, for twelve men, *if they'd all lift!* [37.39] But they had their _____ made. You see,

they _____ them like this. All they have to do is hold your hand up like this and you didn't have to lift nothing. The other men can lift all they wanted. And they was down over the bank there in the cinders and I was working with this guy. Well, he was *worthless!* [37.56] But the boss told me—he shouldn't of told me because I was just a new guy, but I didn't belong to no union. And they was union. [38.11] But he told me, he says, "You hang onto your {tongs}, Sonny." So, well, {that boy was working my head off}. We lifted, you know. You take about three on an end, it's no damn good, and, Jesus, the other three got to do the work. [38.28] Climbing up them cinders, bank, you know. Well, I only weighed 140 pounds, but I was pretty cordy and, God, I kept my tong. Well, I worked around him. He was just an interesting man, but he {rolled out} young, good-natured looking guy, you know. Gee, I forget his name. But I called him by name. I said, "What are you doing this afternoon?" "Working for you," he says. "Well, that's good." Well, when we got ready to go to work, he was right there and he took on. [39.10] Well, this other lad that had been working with him, they called him

"Rooney," but his right name was Eddie Harrington. [39.16] And, oh, he was lazy. Well, God, this other guy, he hung right on with me. Boy, you don't know what a difference. That night when we went in, the boss fired us, this one, Harrington. [39.35] And there were two other guys on and one of 'em's name was Potter and, I don't know, I can't speak the other one's name now, but doesn't make any difference. But, oh, they hollered awful. They're union men, see. [39.48] And the boss told 'em, he says, "He's through!" And he said, "If you fellas ain't satisfied, go, too."

SR This was down near Shaftsbury?

LL Yeah, South Shaftsbury. [40.03]

SR Uhuh. I didn't know there were any quarries down there.

LL Well, that was the railroad.

NR How long ago?

LL It was before I was married. [40.11] Probably sixty years.

NR Different country than it is now!

LL Yeah.

SR Well, that's why you were saying "tong."

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL _____ there and-

SR What were you doing laying—you were laying track?

LL Yeah. For the railroads. And, oh, we did a mile of it, see? And so there's quite a little time on it. I think it was five different sections, working.

[40.38] Besides an extra gang and that's seven or eight men. And we were coming down one night from work and a train coming. We had to set off. Well, we set off and, Christ, it was cold. [40.54] And the wind always blows up the railroad track. Well, there was one man down there, I don't remember his name, but he weighed about 180, but he still was, you know, a young man—probably twenty-two, -three years old.

[41.12] Well, he thought he was _____. And they had a tong-like. You'd put it on like this and it'd just hitch right onto the rails, see, and you could pick that whole thing up if you wanted, if you had that strength. [41.28] But it's 990 pounds. That's almost 500 pounds on one end, see. And, God, he grabbed his tong, he walked over and picked it up. He says, "There ain't another man on the job that can do that." Well, I was pretty cordy and he knew it. And

he was heavier than I, but—well, he was probably 180. But he said, "Go ahead and try it all alone." "No," I said. I didn't want to be outdone, see. And I was afraid I couldn't lift it. Well, we kept talking and finally I grabbed a tong and I went over and, God, grabbed it just as easy as he did. [42.10] And I only weighed 140 pounds and he weighed about 200.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL About sixty years.

SR A long time ago. [LAUGHS.]

LL Too long to remember. I wish I was back to them days.
[42.23]

SR You do?

LL Yes. [LAUGHING.] Of course, I'd want to know as much then as I do now.

SR Yeah?

LL Yeah.

SR Unfortunately, that's not the way it works. [LAUGHS.]

LL Don't seem to be. Not with me, anyways.

SR Well, I don't know, maybe it's more fortunate that way.

LL What's that?

SR Maybe it's better that way.

LL Well, maybe.

SR You gotta be pretty daring when you're young.

LL Daring?

SR Daring, right. Take a lot of chances.

LL Well, yes, I suppose so.

SR You wouldn't take those chances now.

LL If I had my life to live over again, it'd be just the same. [43.10]

SR Yeah.

LL Yes. I wasn't afeard of nothing. [43.15]

SR Right. [LAUGHING.]

LL I didn't, when I was younger.

SR Yeah.

LL I got a scar right there now. [43.33] Did you ever notice that scar on my-

SR No.

LL Well, I got one there. I was over to Dorset to a dance. [43.42] Well, you had to--oh, I didn't know any of these or nothing, you know? No hard feelings. But, God, we just clinched, that's all. Right the top the stairs. And probably eighteen or twenty steps down. And, well, the _____, they weren't balanced. They went right down the stairs and they hung right to

one another. Well, when they hit the bottom, I hit my lip right there. Cut it right out. [44.09] Ah, there was no hard feelings. Well, I right back in and had a good time. But if I had gone right down _____, probably, but I had a good time, just the same. I was over there one night to a dance and there was a fella by the name of Quincy Jones. [44.30] He weighed about 180, easily. {But he was yellow.} And an old guy, I forget his name, he used to have a popcorn wagon. I went out there to buy the popcorn. Somebody hollers, "Look out, Lonnie!" [44.51] There was that Quincy Jones. He was right in the air and just ready to jump right down onto me. You know, he would have smashed me right down. But I was quick and I flapped up to him, you know, and he used to go down like that. That's some guy—he never tackled me again.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL _____ . _____ go out and call for dances? Just in time to change my clothes and milk or go to work. Yes sir. Worked 'til five o'clock in the morning. That's hard work. No drink. I wouldn't take a drink. Sometimes-- [45.56]

END TAPE 1, SIDE A

START TAPE 1, SIDE B

LL [.47] --Too goddamned _____, just like myself.

SR Yeah.

LL I used to--well, I had a car, of course. I'd go to a dance. Oh, I'd have five or six, maybe seven or eight in the car. [1.07] And go to the dance, pay all the bills--gas, if there was any drinks, I bought 'em, tickets. I had such a load in one night--I had a Plymouth car. [1.24] Do you know where _____ feed mill, you know where that is?

NR No.

LL Well, do you know where you come down past _____ and come down the hollow and up this hill?

NR No _____.

[VOICE-OVER.]

LL _____. And I had such a load in that Plymouth car, I couldn't make the hill. [LAUGHTER.]

NR I know what you mean.

SR I know what you mean, yeah.

LL And t'was a tougher hill then. 'Course, a dirt road. [1.55] But, by Jesus, I thought the clutch had gone and I told 'em, I says, "I guess you all gotta get out and push, if I ever get this hill." Everybody got out

and got in back, you know, ready to push. I think it was seven, all of 'em. They just started to push, you know, and, oh, I let the clutch out and they went right out from under. [2.21] Why, the goddamn thing went right over there like hell. Well, I had too big a load! It couldn't pull. Yes!

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I had the whole thing, pretty near.

SR All the way around.

LL Three acres. [2.35]

SR Yeah.

LL Supposed to be three acres. And worked it. And worked in the quarry. [2.44] Had a garden tractor. But I hoed most of it by hand.

SR Yeah. When did you work on it? When you got home?

LL Yeah.

SR And did Etta do some of the hand work in it, too, or did she do most of the picking and-

LL Oh, she'd go out and pull weeds in the vegetable garden. [2.57] But she didn't do any of the rest of it. I used to raise three hundred bushel of corn here. [3.04] _____. I'd fill that corn crib and I got a box in the hog house and it holds twelve bushel

and, well, soon as I started cutting, I had the hogs out in the pasture. [3.20] Then I'd throw in some corn there every night for 'em. Didn't buy no grain for 'em at that time, you know. I didn't buy much grain all winter for 'em, as far as that goes. They was awful easy keepers and I give 'em four ears of corn, each, at night. They'd have corn and dry grain. [3.44] Well, they got the dry grain in the morning and at night. And four ears of corn. That's all they got all day.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL Jesus, would come spring, you know, they'd be so fat. That there's where I lost money, because they'd get so fat that—well, if they get fat like that they're more or less apt to have milk fever. [4.14] And then they're sick and they'll lay on their pigs. And one spring I had fifty small pigs here. [4.26]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR Well, you've got a big squash crop here, too, huh?

LL Yeah. Yes. I always raise my squash right down through by the rest of them apple trees and I got some squashes down in there—well, I had a GMC pickup. I'd go down and pick the squashes and put 'em all over

this way, towards the apple tree, you know, then I'd back right down through and load it. All I could put on that box. And I had just a few plants out to back the buildings here. I had thirty-six squash out there that weighed 360 pounds. [5.09] And I never expected to sell 'em, you know. I had the first one in for squashes. Sold 'em all right here. [5.22] Well, of course, I was peddling eggs, I'd take some when I was peddling. And sold a lot of 'em that way. But I'd sell 'em all right here.

SR Yeah, and you did your-

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR You did your egg route on the weekends? Yeah.

LL I had one route Tuesday, but that was only about fifteen dozen. [5.49]

SR When did you do that? After work?

LL Yeah. Tuesday. And Friday night I'd hustle home from the quarry and just wash up. [6.02] Oh, my clothes was awful dirty. I had to change my clothes, but I'd never dress up. And take {ninety} dozen, go to Granville; peddle 'em from house to house. [6.10]

SR And Etta would have those all ready for you, yeah.

LL In boxes. And get right up Saturday morning and go over to Manchester with another ninety. Come home, I'd drop onto the couch here for about ten minutes, get right up and eighty dozen to West Pawlet. [6.32] And at one time I had extras and I went up Middletown way. Well, I probably distributed 115, 120 dozen, in the forenoon. [6.49] That was all from house to house.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR You had strawberries here one year, too, didn't you?

LL Huh?

SR You had strawberries.

LL Yes, yes.

SR Did you do that for more than one year?

LL Oh, yeah.

SR Yeah.

LL Yes, I had quite a few years of that. [7.08] And then you could sell 'em for forty cents a quart. I'd work in the quarry all day and come here and pick seventy quarts of berries. [7.20] At night.

SR Did you sell 'em right here or did you sell-

LL Mhm.

SR You sold 'em right here.

LL Yes, they was right here, just as fast as I could pick 'em. And that t'would last about fourteen days. [7.31] Seventy quarts of berries every night. I had, I think it was eight rows out back of the buildings there and run this way. And, why, they'd be just great, you know. They were Dunlap. [7.48] They grow about that big, but they're awful nice berries. Can't get 'em now. [7.54] Well, I'd pick four rows tonight, the next night I'd pick the other four. Get seventy quarts of berries off of four rows. [8.04] They ain't nothing that you can put on a piece of ground and get the money out of 'em that you can out of strawberries.

SR Yeah, it's true.

LL I had a little piece out back of the buildings here, about an eighth of an acre, and, of course, they was nice. The year I cut that finger off. [8.24] And they're a lot of work. You've gotta go through 'em every night. And runners will go that far along overnight, so I had to go through 'em every night.

SR And straighten 'em out.

LL Straighten them runners back in.

SR Yeah, yeah.

LL Well, I cut that finger off and Ross had a lot of shavings over there and I got the shavings and dump right down the row, probably about that wide, you know. [8.52] Well, they were probably four foot apart. And, you know, that was the best thing I ever done in the berries. Them runners come out and hit them shavings and go right back in. [9.04] Yes sir! I never had to turn 'em after. Well, it was fine. Shavings was white, you know. It looked nice. And I had a bunch of lines about that wide. Just a solid mess of lines. They were just as white as they could be, the _____. God, we got a hard frost! [9.30] Everything was white. Well, I was working up to the quarry then and I told him about it. He said t'won't hurt 'em. [9.38] Well, it got pretty dry in the summer. Well, I lost—oh, it was a chunk. Probably as big as this house, anyway, so's it went right straight across the corner of it, see, where the sun was so hot. And often in that _____, well, {they} probably picked fifteen hundred quarts a day. [10.01]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL Oh, after dark, every night. I'd work as long as I could see and then done my chores after that. [10.12]

SR Boy, you had an awful lot of animals here to take care of.

LL Huh?

SR You had an awful lot of animals here to take care of.

LL Lot of work.

SR Boy, I guess. I don't know how you did it.

LL I was just foolish, I guess. [LAUGHTER.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Did Etta like being around the animals?

LL Yeah.

SR She did, yeah.

LL Always liked cows and horses. [10.44]

SR Yeah, I know she liked horses.

LL Yeah, and she liked cows, too.

SR You never had horses here?

LL No.

SR Yeah, you said that the other night, I think.

LL I had horses when I was over by Mrs. _____. [10.54]

I had a nice team there, a pair of blacks. Weighed about thirty hundred. They were a nice team.

SR Was it hard to learn how to work without horses? With machinery? Or did you pretty much—

LL I'd always rather have a good pair of horses. [11.12]
Easier to work. Take a good pair of horses and, why,
there was nothing to it. I'd keep moving all the
time, you know, with that team I had. They'd plow two
acres a day. [11.28] And that's a big day's work for
a pair of horses.

SR Yeah. Did you buy-

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR Did Etta do a lot of canning?

LL Oh, yeah.

NR She spent all day in front of the wood stove.

LL Yeah.

SR She liked that?

LL I don't know if she really liked it. She done it.
Never had to tell her to. Yeah. And when we lived in
Rupert, why, she'd put up five hundred quarts.
[12.04] Well, we got a blue ribbon down there.

SR For your canned stuff?

LL Yeah. And over five hundred quarts. And I'd always
have seven or eight hundred pounds of meat in the
cellar, every fall. [12.18]

SR When did Etta start not going out? Or not going out around with you a lot? Staying at home most of the time?

LL Oh, gosh, I don't know. Probably quite a while ago. [12.32]

SR Yeah. Did she just make up her mind to do that?

LL Huh?

SR Did she just make up her mind to do that?

LL Well-[PAUSE.]-well, I hate to tell you. [LAUGHING.] She got so she-

SR You don't have to if you don't want to. It's just I'm always curious about that. It seems like she liked everything so much and then she just sort of decided to stay home. [13.14]

LL Well, she got so she liked other men and I put my foot down. [13.24]

SR Uhuh. And that's why she stayed at home.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR But it didn't {stop} your {dance} career?

LL No. Oh, just being out there. Like going dancing. With a broken leg, {I spent some time on crutches here}. [13.48] Well, I was getting around, but I was lame. And Ray {Farrer} {drived} over to _____ Fair

and he didn't have the money and I didn't either.

[14.04] Oh, a couple dollars apiece, you know. Well, we went to the fair and I was pretty lame with it. We ran into George Nelson and George says to Ray, he says, "You know what my truck is?" "Yes," Ray says. "Well," he says, "you go up there." He says, "I'll be up there soon after you get there." So we went up. God, he pulls out a quart of cider. [14.33] God, it was nice _____. [LAUGHTER.] Well, he passed it to me and I took a good drink of it and passed it back to Ray-or, to George, and he says, "Naw, I don't want any." He said, "Go ahead." Well, Ray took a little more and I finished it. [14.51] {Wasn't too very long, George again.} Back up to the truck and we drank another one. Why, that damn knee was just like _____, you know. [14.59] It was limber enough so that I-well, I went in, I see a young woman there that I knew and I asked her for a dance. Went around dancing. And I knew the fella was taking pictures. He was a policeman. [15.18] His name was {Movey}. From Manchester. He was a _____ fellow-he was better than six foot and pretty {dark}, too. God, I sneaked into that dance three times, on one ticket-ten

cents a ticket. [15.32] Then I walked over to him, I says, "Here, you want my goddamn thing?" I think his name was Ed. "I don't care," he says. Well, he took it. And I walked around {a little bit}. Jesus, that knee was _____, you know? I was up to the same woman again. Went right back in dancing. I had a helluva good time. [LAUGHTER.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL You keep playing like this and I'll get a harness and put it on you and let you _____.

SR Really? She won't let you got anywhere without it.

LL Well, when I was younger, I was awful quick. Handy. While I was wrestling, _____ were jumping. [16.37] Gosh, I could step up to a place right there and most the time I start right in and go right to work. Never touch it. [16.48] Well, I'd run from _____ over in thirty minutes. That's about six miles.

NR That's {moving}!

LL _____.

NR Yep.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL _____ . [SOUNDS LIKE HE REPEATED HIS LAST STATEMENT, WHICH WAS UNCLEAR.]

NR Yeh.

LL I used to go with George Clark's sister, older sister.

[17.20] And I was {stopping there one time} and I guess there was another lad tried to go with her, too.

He was quite a little bigger than I, but I had a brand new blue serge suit on. Well, he and _____, and

Harold—that was the two oldest boys—we were playing some kind of a game there. I don't know what it was, but t'was rough. [17.51] And I don't remember

whether t'was Luke and I or Harold and I was on one end and they was on the other. And we run it down, trying to smash those, see? Jesus, this guy caught me

and he throwed me right through a barbed wire fence. [18.09] Had a brand new suit of clothes on. I _____.

It didn't bother me. Went back and I tried it again and he throwed me right through the fence again. [18.24] I just thought to myself: try that

once more. So the next time I went down, I stopped just before I got to him. He missed. I didn't.

[18.38] God, I grabbed him and I throwed him into the gravel there and I took him around his neck and I

drove his face right down into the gravel. [LAUGHS.] He didn't bother me no more.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I had planted some strawberries out back here the first year I bought plants and no fences down through here then. {Tate Brown} had about sixty head of cattle. [19.12] They all come right up through, right into her strawberries. Oh, she was mad. And Dunbars had two cows. [19.22] One of 'em was a black heifer, had horns. {She had her rake out for the horns.} Oh, boy, she was mad. She come right in the house and called up Tate. Says to him, she told him, "Take care of them cows. I don't want 'em up here again." [19.43] Said, "We want to eat berries, but if I don't, I'll eat beef!" Well, Tate said he wasn't _____.

He said I should take care of 'em.

[LAUGHS.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Well, that's a good way to do it.

LL Yes.

SR What time do you go to bed at night in those days?

LL Oh, half past nine. [20.12] I'd work as long as I could see.

SR Then have something to eat and go to bed.

LL Do my chores, then eat supper. Oh, and by that time, probably close to ten o'clock when I got through.

[20.28]

SR Yeah.

LL And I'd work as long as I could see. Had _____ out there where I raise cucumbers and I'd bring that into the shed and I'd _____ 'em out after I got my chores all done, to go to the next day. Gosh, that's that wide, that thick. I'd stick 'em out away from there and-

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL She used to make big _____ here. [21.02] Well, it'd be stuff like that.

SR Etta liked to cook?

LL Oh, she was a good cook. [21.10] Yeah. We'd go down every week, go for pies. Two or three nights. Geez, well, we needed pies for dinner and supper. Then it'd go like that for two, three days. Then it'd be cakes.

[21.39] Awful _____. [NR LAUGHS.] I put sixty-four bushels of potatoes in the cellar and _____.

[NR LAUGHING.] Besides seven, eight hundred pound of meat. And I bought meat every Saturday. [22.01]

NR You worked it off.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I don't know how my father ever got by with a fifteen-cow farm _____. [22.11] He raised up nine, ten kids. I don't know how he ever done it.

SR What did your father look like, Lonnie?

LL He was just about my height. [22.24] Dark. And built the same way. Oh, I think around 150, 155 pounds. He was a good-looking man.

SR How about your mother?

LL She was good-looking, too. [22.45] She was about the same. Oh, maybe 140 pounds. Hard worker. She even made her own bread and everything. Used to make graham bread. [23.02] Oh, I liked that!

SR What kind of bread?

LL Graham bread.

SR Graham, yeah.

LL Have you ever seen it?

SR Yeh. They still sell that kind of flour. Yeah.

LL It's awful good.

SR It's hard to get, but you can buy it. Yeah, it's called graham flour. Yeah.

LL Graham flour and brown bread. Johnny cakes. And she made your white bread. [23.31] Well, she make about

seven or eight bowls, to the making. And, you know, why, the time she got it out of the oven, we were _____. It was so hot to cut, you know, we'd break it. Didn't want no butter nor nothing. [23.46] And when I was farming up at Rupert there, well, I could eat, oh, seven or eight potatoes that I baked for my dinner. I'd have Johnny cake, salt pork, milk gravy. [24.08] _____. [NR LAUGHS.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I had a dog. [24.19] Was about like Howard's dog up here. Oh, she was an awful good cow dog. And I {weren't very cross to her}. _____. I come back. _____. He had a flock of sheep. [24.33] Well, seems they got away. They come down where I lived there. And _____ her own piece, litter out in the barn. Dog never chases sheep. God, she crossed the road to go after them sheep. [24.50] I hollered at her and said, "Come back here, Penny!" She stopped. _____. Came back here, I says, "Them are sheep! You don't chase them." Well, she never touched them sheep after. [LAUGHS.] She was an awful smart dog. _____, he had a couple old big brood sows. [25.10] Oh, would go four, five hundred pounds. And I got a

bunch of _____. I had too many from the building, so I had to open the door to give 'em a little air. Well, I brought in a litter box for 'em. I had to go and feed the hens and I hardly _____. Well, you just _____. I'm gonna feed my hens. Would be right up there. Right in the house and clean that grain out. So, Jesus, I got sick of it, so I ran out with a board and I put the board right to 'em and chased 'em down the road. Well, the dog was helping me. [25.51] She was nipping 'em. So I says to her, "Penny, don't let them hogs up here again." That's all I had to say. Jesus, them hogs come up to—she's right out there and she'd go nipping their ears, turn 'em, and then she'd come and nip 'em. Down the road they'd go. [26.28] I was chucking corn out back of the house. Didn't have much feed in the meadows, nothing in the pastures, so I was feeding my children from the _____. Well, I was out there cutting corn, stooping it. The dog was out there with me. I said, "Penny, don't let them cows in the corn." Well, I went on cutting corn. Well, the cows were getting pretty close to the cornfield. I didn't know where the dog was, so I went over. I'm telling you—well, she laid

right there in the weeds, _____. By the time I walked back, I never said a word, by God, any closer, she was right there. [27.11] An awful good cow dog. You just speak the word "woodchuck" and you wanted to get the door open. She was going out. Boy!

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR I think it was better to have dogs and horses than machinery.

LL Yeah. And, you know, you could do a better job with a good pair of horses than you can with machinery. [27.44] You take machinery and the more you work it, the harder it gets. You see, your tractors are so heavy, they just keep pushing it down.

SR Pushing it down, yeah.

LL Or you take a good pair of horses, it's loose and you get through plowing and you go over it—I always plowed at least three times. [28.07] I'd harrow it the first time the same way I plowed it, then I'd cross it. Then I'd turn around and cross it, too. Well, it was always in good shape. We got a good crop. [28.21]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR --that you made some of these drawings of yours not too long ago. [28.33]

LL _____.

SR Is this one behind you just like the one in the bedroom or—

[VOICE-OVER.]

NR _____ on a day like today.

EL This one here?

SR Yeah.

EL Oh, just Vermont. They aren't both the same.

SR The one in the bedroom's almost the same, isn't it?

EL Yes.

SR Over the bed.

EL _____.

SR Yeah.

EL Yeah. I don't know why I do it, but came to me.

SR When did you do those? Was it during the day when Lonnie was at work?

EL Yeah.

SR Yeah?

EL But I think people come in here, older people, like years ago, and they just: "We never thought of such a thing," she says. "We don't draw or any kind of

thing," she says, "but see what you invented like that." [29.29] So I had to write and tell her, this one, that I said don't _____, you know, with it.

SR Which one?

EL I walked out in my dooryard, looking at the hills, and then a picture flashed into my mind, one I can't forget, and I know I never, ever will. [29.48] So, my fingers, they got busy. What did I see? The animals [BACKGROUND ACTIVITY INTERFERES.] _____ and the maple trees spelling out: V E R M O N T . [29.58]

SR I never heard of that one before.

EL No? [LAUGHING.]

SR No! That's a good one.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR This is a good winter for the deer. [30.09]

EL I know.

SR Coming to eat.

EL Well, we used to go out here someplace, Lonnie and I, either one—both of us together or {four at a time}—and we'd have a apple all cut up. You know, we'd finish. We'd throw some out like that. [30.28] And the deer come right along and eat 'em up. And sometimes, by

Jesus, the deer would stand there waiting for me to feed 'em something.

SR Really?

EL Yes.

SR Well, that must have been nice. Right out front?

EL Yes. Oh, yes! Right out there in the yard. And, to tell the truth about it, _____ [BACKGROUND ACTIVITY.], you know. Such as, right now, it's a different story.

SR They won't come. No, they're too shy.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Did you go hunting when you lived here or was that before you—

EL Oh, yes.

SR Oh, you did go hunting even when you were up there?
[31.02]

EL Sure. Yes. But after a while, you see, I cut it out. 'Cause you cannot tell who's who in the woods.
[31.12] And there was once I was way off on a hill there, you know, watching for that deer. And deer, two of 'em was coming down. Well, almost, they stuck their head through _____. Come right away. And I stood there for a few minutes, thinking: what the hell

happened? Something scared 'em, you know. Well, God, three men come down and they were drinking and raising hell! [31.33] And one of 'em sat down and after a while he says, "Oh! I can't do anymore right now." No wonder I _____ to see one deer. [BACKGROUND ACTIVITY INTERFERES.] "No wonder they get away from you." And, my, God! They didn't know I was there. [LAUGHS.] My God! Raised the devil out of 'em. suppose. [LL AND NR ARE TALKING IN THE BACKGROUND.] And the other man was laughing, so _____ walk away from there. [IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT LL AND NR ARE, NOISILY, PLAYING CARDS.]

SR Yeah?

EL Yeah.

SR Did you go by yourself?

EL Yes.

SR Yeah?

EL Had to. I used to, but, by God, there's so many of 'em going now days that you can't tell what's what, so. They're drinking too damn much. [32.11]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

EL Out here a while ago, by Jesus, you know, there was some snow here and it was kind of early autumn, but

they had, of course, the snow was deep out in the back there and I took a look. And I look and that big deer was standing there and a little bit of a one was laying down on the top of the snow. [32.36]

SR Really?

EL And I stayed there and watched 'em quite a few minutes and, by and by, the big deer, she started to go out and get some _____ once in a while, to feed the baby. [32.49] Then he got up and started and followed her right along to the vegetable _____. _____. [VOICES IN BACKGROUND AGAIN.] [LAUGHS.]

SR I like that one. Is that a fox there in the background?

EL Yeah.

SR Yeah. Don't see too many of them anymore.

EL That's what I was wondering.

SR A few bunny rabbits in there. A couple bears. You got everything. [33.14]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Do you remember when they paved the road by your house?

EL Mhm.

SR You do?

EL Oh, definitely.

SR Must have been nice before it was pavement.

EL Mmm. Well, I had a big tree out there. [33.33] It grewed pretty tall, you know. It came from my daddy's hometown.

SR It did?

EL When we bought the place here, you know? And we moved it up top of the hill. After we'd been here a few days, or something like that, she come down. [33.46] She had to come and say hello to me, this and that, and she says, "You don't know why you bought this place, do you?" And I said, "No, but Lonnie thought it was all right." And I said, "Boy, I love that big tree up there." "And I should think you would." She said, "That was brought in from your father's hometown, _____berg, New York, way up in the mountains." [34.04] And they stuck the tree up there.

SR Right here?

EL Yes. And the next thing I know, by geez, they up and cut the damn thing down. [34.12]

SR Where was it?

EL Across the road here. Right here.

SR Not the big one that's out front now?

EL No, it was right through there.

SR Across the road?

EL No, it was on this side the road, but-

SR Near the one that's out there now?

EL Yeah.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

EL We used to have a lot of _____. [LL TALKING IN BACKGROUND.] When my father died, by jeepers, we worked on the farm an awful lot, you know. And after she'd gone, my mother and I, we worked in the cemetery there for a while, a long time. [34.44] But I did know that when I was working in the cemetery there that, whoow, I could see way over yonder and there'd be some people walk up, you know? [35.00] All those who had been gone, again. And I said, "Boy, oh, boy. No wonder my mind goes flitting here and flitting there." That's right. I saw 'em. But there's some others who work there, too, and they have seen 'em before. [35.13] People *can* come back!

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

EL I never _____ it. Must be I got older and don't know enough to _____. [BACKGROUND NOISE.]

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

EL Oh, God. A long time ago.

SR Did you like it? Do you remember?

EL Oh, yes.

SR Did you?

EL Yeah. To tell the truth, I thought, boy oh boy, I'd be the one that had to write poems and draw pictures and all that. [35.44]

SR Did you do that when you went to school?

EL Oh, gosh, yes. And Christmastime, by Jesus, I'd generally make the _____ picture up on the big cardboard there and _____, but I did it all right. Yeah.

SR That must have been nice.

EL The room, they was proud of it.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

SR Did you say, Lonnie, once, that you cut ice in the winter?

LL Huh?

SR You were cutting ice in the winter? Where did you do that?

LL Huh?

SR Where? And how?

LL Well, it was on Taylor Pond. [36.28]

SR I read about that in a book once. That really must have been something.

LL How did we do it? Well, we had a long saw. [36.40]
Oh, probably, the blade was that long and it had a tip on it that long. Pretty heavy. And your handle just was like this, see. And, well, you cut a hole [COUGHS.] so you could get the saw in, then sawed.

[36.56] Well, the ice, it was cakes about that long, probably. About that wide. Probably fourteen inches thick. It was heavy.

NR I'll bet!

SR Yeah, they used to do a lot of that.

LL Oh, yes.

SR Yeah.

LL Well, Bill Spence rigged up a circle saw. [37.21]
Well, that wouldn't go through, but it would go far enough so he could spread 'em off, see. That worked along pretty good. And you'd always draw 'em—well, I'd have the teams. Put it in the ice houses. Lot of work.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

NR --different places where people like that, people work, they got everybody competing with each other, didn't they? All the workers.

LL Yeah.

NR And you once told about cutting corn with somebody coming up the row.

LL Yeah, that used to be quite a thing. One man would be good, you know. And, I'll tell you, that's just the same as anything else, just like pitching horseshoes. [38.17] As long as you're ahead, you can go pretty good. But if somebody's right on you, pushing you, it's tough. I always did good time. I never had too much trouble. I never run into but one man could beat me. [38.34] That was my brother, Harry.

NR Is that right?

LL Yeah. I worked for old John {Gifford}, worked for him six years, when we was first married. [38.49] He had a Polish guy working, besides me. Boy, we'd have more work, you know, and he'd _____--and three hours to do it. Well, the cattle and everything was done by hand in them times. [39.06] Well, we was cutting down a piece of corn there--oh, _____ from here down to {Penny's}. And 'til noon. And _____. Oh, he

could go like the devil with a corn _____. Well, this Adam, that's the Pollok, he and I'd been at it long before noon. And got to noon, where you go to dinner _____, look up and, "No," he says, "the goddamn car dealers coming." He said, "He ain't holding me up for half an hour." [COUGHS.] Stingy, see? Them, they'd get fifteen minutes. Well, stood there and he come down and got there and he said, "Why don't you get a machine, Jay?" "What the hell do I want with a machine?" [39.56] It's some different corn than they raise today. It's fourteen, fifteen, sixteen foot high. And t'was on hills and about five crowns on a hill. Why, you almost about break your arm, you know. And we'd grab it and slash it off and topple it on a pile—four of those in a pile. [40.18] And then later you go around and you pick them up and put 'em on a wagon. Well, before we knew, he got down there and talked a minute. We started the _____, but Adam come in behind me. [40.32] Well, he didn't—they did. And, well, of course, I had the lead _____ altogether. As long as you've got the lead, you can keep ahead. It kind of gives you courage. [40.44] You keep doing a little better all the time.

Well, we went down through—that fellow just kept walking, just like that. And we didn't go a great length--"Jesus Christ!" he says. "Talk to you about you make changes!" He says, "I never see any before!" Well, I went out ahead of him, just the same. When he come back from _____, he says, "I am ashamed to own it up, but," he says, "I done everything I could do." [41.06] And I could of gone faster. Well, I was keeping about four, five feet ahead all the time and that was enough. Long as I could lead him. [41.16] They were cutting out here on _____, across the river there. I was on those. And, well, Dick {Holcomb} and I had been cutting there for a day and a half, I guess, and {Tink} was coming down to fill the silo, so he brought his rig down, he set up. [41.39] Jimmy called Dick and I over to help set up. And, of course, I was a good climber, too. [41.49] And we helped set up. Everybody's gonna cut corn the next day. "Well," I said, "I'll have my _____ and we'll both be cutting corn." Well, anyway. Well, I was over there, why, two hours before anybody showed up. And cutting. They told me, the day that we were setting up the cutter, Tink says, "Well, we'll come in

up tomorrow." Well, Dick Holcomb says, "Let me tell you, Tink," he said, "you _____ them up, you're gonna cut corn." Well, I didn't know Tink. Maybe he could. So, well, some of Tink's boys were cutting. Well, I had the rows counted off and I wanted to get right behind them all, then if you pass 'em, that gives you courage, see? [42.38] Well, I started off, but I didn't go too far before I overtook one of the boys and I cut about four or five feet by him and stepped right back and take his row. Tink and _____. Well, I'll go after him. Well, got about 'em all, but Tink. And Tink, he was a {big person} here, down to the trailer. [43.02] As far as I'm concerned, you know, he was down here. And he was slashing to beat hell, the corn. And I took after him. Well, I went by him before he got finished. [43.14] And Jimmy says the day before, he said there'd be a pail of beer on the end the row, whoever comes out ahead. I didn't care to have no beer, but there wasn't none there, either. [43.22] [LAUGHTER.] And then he kept going. Right after he got me warmed up, I didn't slow down. I kept right on going. Well, there was a lot of corn yet towards the river.

[43.32] Still the same length of rows, you know. Well, I was going. Jesus, I _____ the corn faster than beat hell. Well, I went back and Dick Holcomb and Dick Brown was coming, one row apiece. Well, to hell with that. I wasn't gonna try to keep ahead of that, so I just slowed down a little bit. [44.01] Didn't take one minute to catch right up. Well, Dick had to give way, three, four, or five feet. "There! Go to it!" Then I dropped into it again. Ah, I didn't go, you know, at first maybe to _____, and I was ahead of him. [44.17] But he was pushing right along. And I was lucky. I happened to look out ahead a little bit. Dick pushed right through to the end. Geez, somebody'd been in and cut about two rods right near the rows. They just liked to get me, see. Well, I _____ to 'em. And I went out just the same.

SR Well, did they have a machine--

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

LL I went over to the back _____. Then, oh, I was setting _____ at the time on the bottom floor and husked corn lots and lots of times. _____. _____. Husk it, throw it into a basket. When you

get a basketful, go and carry it to the corn crib and
dump it.-- [45.15]

END TAPE 1, SIDE B

END TRANSCRIPTION