

Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project  
 Interview Transcription  
 June 29, 2012  
 White River Junction, VT

Interviewer: Kaitlin O'Shea  
 Interviewees: Pete Schaal

Location: White River Junction, VT  
 Time: 8:30am

KO: Kaitlin O'Shea  
 PS: Peter Schaal

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<b>TIME &amp; TOPICS</b>	<b>TRANSCRIPTION</b>
00:00:01	00:00:01
Introductions	<p>KO: Today is Friday June 29, 2012. I am Kaitlin O'Shea and I am interviewing Pete Schaal for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project.</p> <p>Good morning and thank you for having me.</p> <p>PS: Good morning Kaitlin. It's a pleasure to have you down.</p>
Farming, 1950s. Family farm in MA; Guernsey cattle; chickens; egg	<p>KO: So you said that you were farming in the '50s. Can you tell me where you grew up and a little bit about your family?</p> <p>PS: Sure. We started farming at a small scale in a little town called [Stow in Massachusetts]. Across the street was a fairly large dairy farm with Guernseys and apple orchards and so on. And that's where we got</p>

<p>route</p> <p>Quechee; St. George; Sybilholm; loose hay; Holsetins; farm until 1964; Merrydale Farm</p>	<p>our start. My father actually when he was growing up in high school had chickens and an egg route. The whole family history is related to farming, [including my grandfather's boyhood in Winnipeg]. After the war was over, the folks were living in [Stow], Mass. They started a business and were doing some farming on the side and working at the neighbors' place. They decided they wanted to start a dairy farm [in Vermont]. They started looking around and in 1952 bought the St. George dairy farm, the Sybilholm. It was a Jersey farm in Quechee, which is now where Quechee Lakes is. We got started up there [with the] four cattle from [Stow]. At that point in time there haying [was still] being put in loose. There were no hay balers to speak of. I was quite young then, I was six. I believe my father purchased the first hay baler in Quechee – one of the first ones. We started farming, raising Guernsey cattle, and some Holsteins. And we also had a few Jerseys. That was our herd. We farmed that from 1953-1964, which is when we sold the cattle off. Then we stayed there one more year. That was the tenure of our farming in Quechee. It was Merrydale Farm in our time and before that it was the Sybilholm Farm, belonging to the St. George's.</p>
<p>00:03:20</p>	<p>00:03:20</p>
<p>68 farms in the area</p> <p>Shipping milk; milkhouses; 100lb cans; milk check</p>	<p>Mrs. St. George was the active farmer on that farm. Her husband died, and she also had diabetes. And that was when that farm kind of was sold off with the cows. [She had a very beautiful lilac collection, with many imported varieties that were just wonderful in the spring. She also had a large doll collection and wrote a book called <i>The Dolls of Yesteryear</i>. I think back, and I went through some papers and memories before you came down here.]</p> <p>I was thinking about what we had for working farms that I can remember. Don't know all the names of them, but a good share of them. There was a little over – I came up with close to 68 farms that I can remember during that early period. And that's in an area taking in White River from the Hartford/Norwich town line to White River down to as far as the White Farm in North Hartland and then coming back up Route 4 as far as center Woodstock at the Spooner Farm, and then coming back and working up through Taftsville and over through to West Hartford and back up Route 14 into the Jericho District and back down.</p> <p>Maybe 10 of those farms did not produce and ship milk, but I would think most of the others did. In those days, it was all shipped in cans. Of course, when the program changed and the creameries required bulk tanks, that took out a lot of the small farms. When we started we were shipping our milk in 100 lbs. cans. We decided to keep going and put in the milkhouse and put in the new equipment for a bulk tank and</p>

	<p>proceeded on. On our particular farm, we had a nice gravel bank with it which helped subsidize some of the shortfalls in the milk prices. We also produced a little more hay than we used and we sold some of it. That all helped to offset the shortfall of the milk checks that were constantly fluctuating as they are now, and going down considerably. I tried to think back to what we were getting paid a 100 weight for milk when we stopped farming. I believe it was around \$11 or \$12 per hundred. So it was tough going for people. Of course, equipment was nowhere near as expensive either, but in relation to the price per hundred weight as opposed to today, I believe today's farmers have a tougher road ahead of them.</p>
<p>Expense of running a farm; land development</p>	<p>You can see that by how some of these long generation farms are not maintained. They are using everything they have, all resources, to go from day to day. As each new cost comes into it, they are just taxing it to the point where they just can't keep going, which is a pretty sad thing when you stop and think about what a delicate world we live in. You see these nice little farms going away. To bring that back would take quite a feat. There may come a day when we'd wish we had all those farms back in production. And to see the land on which we were producing go away is a shame. That's an easy start for a development – flat land, easy to get to. I think back on when I took my wife to take her college boards entrance exam at Champlain College in the early 60s. I think of going up Route 14 and some of the interstate that had been built from Burlington down to Montpelier. But from Richmond to Burlington where UVM is, there was nothing there other than dairy farms.</p> <p>KO: It's quite developed.</p>
<p>Burlington area development</p>	<p>PS: [You stopped and went out towards South Burlington and Shelburne. Outside of Champlain College, going outside Route 7, there wasn't any type of development, just all dairy] farms. And the same way up through Mallets Bay and all. You think about that and think about what's taken place. That's what I did when I was waiting, just drove around to see that neck of the woods. And to go back there and see what's taken place-- it's a shame. I know Vermont has to grow. As you go across the country – not to get off the agricultural side – to see how towns sprawl from what's already existing is too bad. So that said, whether it's Vermont, New Hampshire, wherever, the loss of our farmland... I don't think is a good way to go.</p>
<p>00:09:20</p>	<p>00:09:20</p> <p>KO: I agree. I grew up on Long Island in New York and so did my mother. It was all farms when she grew up and now it's suburbia. There are no farms left. So sad.</p>

Miller; Luce; ReMax; Jericho district; George Miller; cheese making	PS: So it's made it very tough. And you look around our town today and as we spoke here, once having 68 farms, all that I know of that are still producing today are the Miller Farm and the Luce Farm. I'm trying to think of who else – I think that's North Hartland, but LeMax Farm is still producing milk. That's just the bottom of Route 5 going into North Hartland. It's not really the Town of Hartford. I can't think of anyone else in that area. We still have people farming and producing hay for a lot of people. The Jericho district is still very active in terms of cropland, with the exception of the Millers' dairy farm. So that's pretty sad what's taking place.
Firewood; maple sugaring	So how do these people still survive? A good example is George Miller who has taken over their family farm. He's reaching out, building a cheese house, making cheese. And he's still a good maple producer. They're doing firewood, they log. They have to use every aspect of their land, what's available, in order to keep that going. And it seems that he has a brother and a nephew that have interest in the farm still, which is a good thing. Hopefully they will keep it going, but you don't see much for new generations.
1960s farming; family farm	That said, I can see how that happens. When we were getting ready to make a decision whether to keep going – this is prior to Quechee Lakes getting involved with Quechee – [my father had to ask me to make my part of that decision]. I was thinking of going to VTC and going on with the dairy farm. At the time in 1964, when we had to call it quits, [he was working at Split Ball Bearing in West Lebanon as an engineer to] subsidize the family farm income. We worked together milking, doing chores, all that stuff. In high school, I didn't play sports. I basically worked the farm. You didn't get a paycheck, that was part of the family operation. So when the time came to make a decision, we talked. I said, how do you raise a family and keep it going without any paychecks and outside employment? That's pretty difficult. That's a tough decision to make. Who knows what would have happened? Had you stayed at it, things could have turned around or they may not have. When you are in that type of an income structure or that type of a market or industry, it's a tough decision to make. So you can see why a lot of these older generation farms –[started by a great-grandfather with sons working it up through-- now they have no place to go.] They've used up all their equity. Probably a lot of the farms are mortgaged beyond what they could salvage out of them. It's a tough industry now, ]the way they do farm in larger operations. You wonder with some of them, what feed they use and how they are cared for in the open stall barns. You wonder what the cattle's lifespan is of actual production years]. I don't think they are able to keep them as long as they did in the past. Dairy animals hung around a lot longer. And is that bad? Is that good? It's like any
Decisions to stop farming	

Changes in the last 40 years; local food	<p>business today. If the animal isn't producing, they get rid of it. And that's what I think has really changed drastically in the last 40 years or so. But so have a lot of other things too. You can't go back but you can try to salvage what you can for the future and instill some interest in farming, whether it be beef or dairy or crops or produce, in the new generations. I think some of the trend is moving that way. We try to grow our own food locally and do some organic gardening that people are interested in. Again, I think you go back and look at it all, most of these farms are being subsidized by the wife or the husband out working part time or full time jobs and trying to do this as a hobby, second income type of thing. It's a tough life and you've got to like it. Some people always want to be involved in farming. It's one of the reasons we came up here, because this farm was available at the time. We did some sugaring on our farm in Quechee. Probably we do more here in [Jericho] than we did there. It's a family operation with the rest of the family members and they seem to enjoy it. We have to utilize the neighbors' maple trees around here to get enough for production. [But we are using some of the same equipment and practices of my father so with my grandsons involved, that makes four generations].</p>
00:16:48	00:16:48
Maple sugaring currently	<p>KO: Did you start farming when you moved up here?</p> <p>PS: No, we came up here and this was open land. And again here we are. We are talking about taking away open land. We looked at it and tried to keep the house out of the farm fields. We still utilize the farm fields for pasture. And we lease the cropland to George Miller for hay and we do our sugaring, and that's about it. And again it's something that is subsidized by your outside employment. We certainly can't make a living here. And it helps George Miller. He still gets a little more hay and we barter with him, [some of the hay for our use for our Haflingers and some for his use]. And if he can make money on it and keep his program going, well, that's more power to him. The rest of the area on the top, what the Millers don't use, is pretty much hayed by Marty Lyman. He has quite an operation of his own. He does a lot of delivery work and providing bedding for the farms. So it works. Today to have a farm truck and register it and insure and get your own bedding, you really can't do it for what you can get somebody like Marty to bring it in. So it's an entirely different way of farming. What else are you looking for as an outline as far as farming?</p>
Marty Lyman	
00:18:48	00:18:48
	<p>KO: Well, I'd like to talk about your personal experience and your family experience growing up on the farm. So, what were your parents'</p>

<p>Parents: Dorothy &amp; Albert Schaal; siblings; father</p>	<p>names?  PS: My parents – My mother’s name was Dottie, Dorothy. And my father’s name was Albert. There were four children: my older sister Betsy, myself, Kate who lives in Quechee and a younger brother Mark who lives in Hancock, NH. We were all young when we got started. It’s kind of comical to go back and think about the hay baler. I can remember this well. My father was a mechanical engineer and graduated from Tufts University. World War II came along. He joined the Navy. He was an aviator. Flew off the Enterprise. He was also a decorated naval aviator. He earned the Navy Cross and a Navy Air Medal. He never spoke much about it. Those are pretty tough things to deal with.</p>
<p>Father’s innovations</p>	<p>That said, he was very clever. He was ahead of his time and thinking on some of the things he did. We came into a farm that was putting hay in loosely. They basically farmed it with horses. We came of the era of using tractors. We bought one of the first Ford Golden Jubilee tractors. 1953 was a new model that we had. And as we went on, we bought a second tractor. We had the first baler, one of the first balers in Quechee.</p>
<p>Adjusting hay balers; smaller bale; picking up bales of hay; hay storage</p>	<p>The bales would come out about 5.5 feet long. Our family was pretty young. So we couldn’t handle those bales. There was no way he was going to try to get all that hay in himself. So being an engineer, he took the baler – there was a timing mechanism on the back of the baler that counted the sections of hay before it knotted and tied the bales. So he took that apart and he put a smaller gear. So it could now produce 30” bales and they were light bales. They were like 25-30 lbs. That did a couple of things. It made a lot more bales of hay, but it also gave everyone a chance to help with the hay. That’s how we got started. It used to be they’d drop the hay on the ground and then you’d have to go around and pick it up. That was okay. He put a trailer hitch on the back of the baler so we had a four wheel wagon. And at that time we only had one. And he lengthed the chute on the baler. On our farm we were fortunate. It was all level, river bottom.. That worked out pretty good. My sister and I would get up on the wagon [and pick those bales and stack the first load and then put them off in the barn. Then we’d go around the field, and load up the ones off the ground and take that up, put it in the barn. About every other load we could use that wagon. And then we had a big flatbed trailers that we used].</p>
<p>Barns &amp; hay storage</p>	<p>Our barn was a low barn. It didn’t have much hay storage above it. But about 100’ away was a hay barn. That was you could put the hay in, drop down to the bays and move the hay to the upper rafter structure of the barn. It was always difficult getting that hay out compared to where you dropped it down in a dairy barn to the feed floor. We had to wheel all our hay from the hay barn to the dairy barn and then feed it from the</p>

<p>Milk house; milkman; refrigeration; Shorty Sawyer</p> <p>00:25:23</p>	<p>manger. That meant using a wheelbarrow. So he made this wheelbarrow with an extra long face on it so you could carry 6 or 7 bales if you were careful and could line it up and get it in the barn, down through the aisle and move the hay a little faster. That was a tough job because in the wintertime you had to deal with snow and ice. So we started that way. We had a milk house with cans and a cooler. I remember the milkman coming in one morning early. He had a young boy in the milk truck. He was a young boy who had lost his home for some reason. I can't remember. The milkman asked if there was any way that he could stay at the farm to get him some stability until he could figure out what was going on. The milkman, I think his name was Shorty Sawyer. He was a short guy, but he was built like a brick. Lifting those cans out of the cooler, one in each hand, taking them out and loading them into the truck. The boy stayed with us for a month or two, while they were trying to figure out. In those days they didn't have child services, they had a hard time. I think the little boy's name was Raymond. He stayed with us and then went on.</p> <p>00:25:23</p>
<p>Morning chores in the barn; splitting milking responsibilities</p>	<p>I guess other interesting things about the farm are next. Of course we'd get up early in the morning and go out and do chores. We'd get up and come downstairs at 5:00, have a bowl of cereal. We'd go out to the barn to start chores. My mom would come out with a hot pot of coffee and something to munch on while you're out there milking. When I got to the point where I could do my own milking, we split the barn up. We were milking between 34-36 head. They were split up on each side of the barn. I would have a side and my father would have a side and we'd start milking. You'd have to get done with your chores in time to get to school. School started at 8. When we were going to high school that was more of a trip – you had to catch the bus. Then we started driving ourselves. You had to get your part done or you would get as far as you could. And then he would finish it if you didn't get your side milked. The folks would clean the barn while you went on to school.</p>
<p>School vacations on the farm</p> <p>Tractor driving</p>	<p>During the spring vacations, any vacations, you spent at the farm. Spring was getting the manure out, fixing fences ,getting the cornfields plowed, getting ready to plant the corn as soon as you could in May. Summer vacations were on the farm.</p> <p>As you got along in the years as you could do something, I think father had me driving the tractor when I was 6. The Ford tractor wasn't a large tractor but it sure beat horses. I remember driving around in the yard, learning how to start and stop and backing up. And then we'd set a block of wood up in the yard, and we'd line it up with the hitch. And he made me practice until I could just back the tractor and just tip the block</p>

Mowing machine & conditioner; mower conditioners	<p>off. His comment was, I'm going to be standing behind you waiting for you to back the tractor up and hitch the draw bar. He said, I don't want to get run over. He said, so you're going to learn to do this. I've never forgotten that. It was pretty fun to learn how to do that. He was one who always said, why don't you do it and do it right.</p> <p>He would allow you to do certain things. I was alright to run the hay conditioner. He wouldn't let me run the mowing machine until later years. He said, I need all your fingers. So he'd never allow me to bale till towards the end. I would run the hay conditioner when they first came out. To dry hay was quite a chore before they came out with hay conditioners. Now they have mower conditioners. So John Deere built one. I remember getting that one. If you didn't follow the mowing machine and the hay dried, it would bind up and plug it and have a terrible time. We dealt with that for one year ]then bought from a hay conditioner made by Cunningham Farm Equipment and it was 200% better than that John Deere. That would work. We kept it all the rest of the time].</p>
Breakfast; baling hay	<p>When we started haying, in the morning we'd do our chores. We'd talk over what the day's plans were going to be. When you were done you went in and had a big breakfast. My mother would always have a big breakfast ready for you. And we'd go to work, whether mowing or whatever, fixing fences, moving cows around. In the summer the biggest thing was getting the hay in in time. We never tried to put in – well, 500 bales was the most. That meant about 5 wagon loads. That was quite a chore for the crew we had. We were able to get some local help once in a while. Before it got to the point where I could help as much as he needed, he got a young fellow. His name was Hank Olsen, friends of the folks. He lived in Dewey Mills. He was about 10 years older than I am. He used to come to the farm and work. That was his summer job. He came over on vacations too and helped on the farm.</p>
00:31:01	00:31:01
Hired help on the farm	<p>PS: [We also had a hired hand with a family for about three years when] Dad was working out again on another job. He actually started teaching school in Hartford during the Korean Crisis when some of the schoolteachers were called in for active duty. He took the place of one of the schoolteachers in the math department and then in the [physics department]. During that time we had the hired man who helped carry on things during school. That worked for about three years. Then he went on to another place, and I had gotten older. So we tried to do it with help from the family only.</p> <p>KO: Did the hired man and family live on the farm?</p>

	<p>PS: They did. The folks bought a mobile home for them and put it in at the head of the farm. They could use all the facilities. [They had their eggs and meat and pork and chickens and milk]. They were there for I think about three years. That was the Pratt family, Arthur Pratt. The son is the manager of the Ace Hardware in Woodstock, I think. The mother and father I believe have passed on. So after that year we were more or less doing it by the family.</p>
Stacking hay in the wagons; sister	<p>[My sister used to load and stack the haywagons]. She could put 125 bales on a wagon, and you could ride it to Boston without a rope on it. She'd stack it so well. It was always comical. We'd pick on her a little bit if one was out of line. She was very meticulous about how that hay went on. She played field hockey in high school. She was very fit and very rugged girl when field hockey came.</p>
Corn chopping in the fall with neighbors	<p>Like I say, that's how we really did the haying mostly with family help. So in the fall, corn chopping time came. A lot of the small farmers had no choppers. There was a farmer, Albert Luce, in White River. He had a corn chopper and he had a truck. He used to buy Charlie Kelton's old milk trucks and convert them to farm trucks. Then the farmers would use wagons or trailers [behind tractors. And then co-op, they would] come into one farm and they'd go in and chop this guy's piece and put it in the silo and move on to the next farm. Albert had the blower for the silo and the chopper. And he'd come down in September – it depended on the schedule. They'd come down and put it up and you'd do all you could to get out of school to be able to stay home and put corn in. If it was a school day and you were there, you hoped you get a driving job, but usually you were put inside the silo to tread the silage in.</p>
Treading silage in the silo	<p>KO: What is that like?</p>
	<p>PS: It's pretty dusty. It's pretty noisy. You climb into the silo. You start at the bottom. Of course you have a rope and you have a couple of extensions down in the chute. You'd be down in the bottom with a rope and you'd be pulling the spout around so the silage would go around. You'd keep walking on it and treading on it. You'd put a door on the silo and keep working your way up to the top. [The trick was always for the guy in the silo, when the blowers were running and corn was going into the blower corn cobs would rattle off and fall on the side. Then you always had to shovel them up after the load and put them into the blower at the end].</p>
Luce family; silage	<p>The Luce family was up there helping us all the time. The guys that were driving the trucks did their own unloading. So when the load was all done, they'd throttle the tractor back and you'd say, "Got a break."</p>

<p>00:37:00</p>	<p>And they would be gathering those corn cobs up and start the tractor back up just as you were thinking you were all done. They would come back [So you had let go of that rope and all of these corn cobs would] come out of that pipe and they'd bean you, they'd hit you like somebody was throwing snowballs with ice chips at you. It never hurt that bad, but it was always kind of comical.</p>
<p>Horses; barn cleaner systems</p> <p>Bedding for animal; sawmills in Quechee</p> <p>Sawdust</p>	<p>00:37:00</p> <p>PS: So for the farm, we didn't use horses. We had one for riding purposes for the family to ride around. And after the corn was in, fall was to make sure the wood was ready and the sugarhouse was set to go. You always had something to fix to get the barn closed up and ready for winter. We were fortunate that we had barn cleaners. We also used to have the Jamesway "Big Boy" [barn cleaner]. It was a carrier track that went around the barn before the days of barn cleaners. You'd bring this on a [mono-rail-like trolley] lowered down like a big bathtub on a chain lift. You'd shovel into that, push it on the barn track to the back door. It would swing around and dump. Then you'd bring it back in and continue your job. When we put in the barn cleaners, that was a major improvement. But in the wintertime, the elevators to the barn cleaners would be exposed to the weather. You'd have to make sure they were thawed out before you turned them on. If you thought it was a hard job cleaning the stables without the barn cleaner-- without all that mechanism in the gutter to shovel -- you wanted to make sure the equipment was operating correctly and didn't have any problems. Of course you had to keep your bedding ready. In those days we would truck our own bedding. Once in a while there was a local sawmill in Quechee that would have sawdust from time to time. When there were that many farms, you can imagine how scarce sawdust used to be. There was a sawmill down in White River -- Green Mountain Box. Frank Gilman owned that sawmill. You'd go down there and I can remember stopping and leaving the truck and there'd be 5 to 10 trucks waiting to get in there. You'd shuffle along and take your turn and get your bedding. That was relative to how busy the sawmills were.</p>
<p>Clean barn, better quality, care of equipment</p>	<p>KO: What if you ran out of sawdust and couldn't get some?</p> <p>PS: Well that was the thing you tried to make sure you had. We had a couple of sawdust bins so we tried to keep enough. If you were getting low you used it sparingly. Then again, a clean barn was a must to produce good product. One of things that you did -- you had a bacteria count when they pick the milk up. They test the milk and take a sample and then they would give you a bacteria count on it. You'd always looks for less than 100 count bacteria. That was always a good thing. You knew you were putting out a good product and you were also doing a</p>

<p>Bulk tanks</p> <p>Butter fat; bacteria</p>	<p>good job in cleaning and keeping the equipment clean and the cows were healthy. That reminds me – you were paid the same amount of money for that milk whether you had 100 count or you had a higher count. You busted your tail to produce a good product and then in comes this milk truck, backs up to your tank, hooks the pipe up to it and sucks the milk out of your tank into his big truck along with gallons and gallons of milk that may not even be borderline bacteria count. So you wondered what was wrong with the system to allow that. I don't know if they were ever really penalized, never knew just exactly if there was a difference in payment. It made a difference on butter fat, but I don't know how much of a penalty there was for higher bacteria. But that's like – anything you do today. Whether you're making a quilt to put into a show... You do this job and you build this nice high quality product and line it up with others that are poor quality, but you turn around and everybody puts the same price tag on everybody's quilt. You say, why should that be? I should get a little better price for mine. I'm working harder to do that. Those are things that I remember that were issues that you wish could have been different.</p>
<p>Producer's number on cans; Bellows Falls Creamery</p>	<p>KO: What about with the milk cans. Obviously that was just from your farm? Was that identified?</p> <p>PS: They were. Each can had a number on it, the producer's name and the address. [There was a producer's number – ours was 107. I don't recall them ever testing a milk can in those days. I remember them picking the cans up, taking them off.] Whether they did at the creamery – that used to go to Bellows Falls Cooperative Creamery. I never went down there, or I was too young to pay attention. I would think as they dumped that milk, they would have tested it. But it was mainly for butterfat that you were getting your test for.</p>
<p>00:43:50</p>	<p>00:43:50</p> <p>KO: So you never had to directly sell your milk – you and your dad didn't have to go around and peddle the milk?</p>
<p>Pasteurizing milk; can refrigeration</p>	<p>PS: No, we didn't peddle it. We would sell raw milk from time to time. He was never one to sell raw milk. He had some people who would come down and buy some. We had an old Sears-Roebuck pasteurizer that we used for our own milk, our personal milk. He said raw milk can contain a lot of things. We've come a long ways, so why are you going backwards? We'd always pasteurize our milk. It was a little gallon can type of cooker that it went on. We had on old Coca Cola cooler that was similar to the old can cooler with a refrigeration coil. [It had ice around it and it kept chilled water in it. You may see them in some] antique stores. You lift up a lid and there was a vat of [cold ice water], and the</p>

<p>Milking equipment; lost electricity; running machines from tractor</p>	<p>coke bottle would sit in there. We had one in the milk house that we would keep our milk in. We had these little one-gallon milk cans. With a family you could go through a gallon or so a day. [We had some of those] cans. They were always in the cooler, so when you needed one you could go grab one. And you could take that into the house and [put the milk into a pitcher, wash the can and put it back]. That was the cycle. We had Surge milking equipment. We were fortunate with the fact that if you lost power – you would lose power frequently – if you lost power during milking time, you had to milk the cows by hand. You don't do that with a big herd. Number one, your arms would cramp up. Even when you were milking by hand on a daily basis, you didn't milk that many. You might do some to take a little milk out but you certainly couldn't do it all. At least I couldn't.</p> <p>But we were able to put an adapter to the intake manifold to the tractor and we were able to run enough vacuum to run one milking machine. So you could plan on a long, long milking time. Otherwise we had four milkers. We each would use two on the side. So you knew you had a long job, but at least you didn't end up with your arms cramping. I'm sure it's faster than attempting it by hand. But those things didn't happen all of the time. But it was enough so you appreciated not losing your power.</p>
00:47:27	00:47:27
Firewood	<p>PS: We would put in our firewood. We had a cordwood saw that would sit there. That picture over there [was me as a kid with my father, cutting firewood. That saw and as a little guy, my hair would stand up on the back of my neck as we were using it]. Sometimes we sold some to some of the neighbors to do whatever you could to help out on the income.</p>
Interstate effects; gravel pits	<p>When the interstate was coming through – as the Eisenhower interstate system was getting started – there were a lot of companies looking for gravel deposits and so on. And we had our gravel pit that we'd opened up. We used to sell to the Towns of Hartford, Windsor, and Woodstock. There was a fellow down in Windsor. His name was Davis Burke. He had a crushing plant and he'd bring that up. He would crush gravel for the different uses and have it stockpiled so they could come and get it. I think back today to what we got paid for a load of gravel. We had a sign at the gravel pit road: "Sandy Run Gravel Sand". It was like 8 cents a yard. Gravel was 12 cents a yard. Crushed gravel was 50-60 cents a yard. Compared to what you pay today – by the ton – you think that wasn't much money. We'd opened it up and it was getting some use. We didn't own any equipment, just the land and sold the gravel off of it. The towns and the people working for them put the haul road up there.</p>

Maple sugaring	<p>We came into the farm on a separate road so it didn't bring truck traffic into the farm. When the interstate system started coming about, Arthur Whitcomb, located down in Walpole, came up to see if that gravel would be satisfactory for the interstates. They did some testing, but it had some rotten stone [in it, some sandstone that they couldn't use]. They couldn't accept it for some of the interstate bed but they could accept it for some of the off ramps. In our area we didn't have a whole lot of off ramps. It didn't do us a whole lot of good. We had some. We had high hopes it would pass for the normal roadbed. It never made a great difference in what we normally sold.</p> <p>That gravel was something that some farms didn't have – we were lucky to have that. We didn't have a big maple crop, a lot of farms did that to subsidize. Sugaring is a very labor intensive. Truth be known, if you ever figured your time, syrup would have to sell for about \$250/gallon to make it worthwhile for the small guy. But in the spring it gives you something to do.</p> <p>KO: And it tastes good.</p> <p>PS: And it tastes good. That's right. Well, a lot of recipes come out in the spring and get used.</p> <p>KO: Did you have other crops like apples?</p>
Vegetable garden; school lunch; PTA	<p>PS: We had no apples. We had a hay crop. We always had a great big vegetable garden. In those days, the school hot lunch program was run by the PTA. There was one school cook, and then the moms would all come in and help put the meals on. So in the fall, we always had lots of squash and vegetables. The folks would donate a lot of that food to the school lunch program. Again, you didn't get money from it. It helped the program. My dad started trying another product– there was a company called Wright Power Saws. It was a engine powered saw, like a great big saber saw, only built like a chain saw. It was a much slower cutting speed.</p>
Chain saws	<p>[phone rings]</p>
00:53:12 chain saw business	<p>00:53:12</p> <p>PS: So, we took on that dealership and he modified one of them for a butcher. They could use it to split beef with. They used to do all hand saw work. He had to modify one to make it so the exhaust went in a different direction from where he was cutting the meat. He sold a few – one to a sawmill for cutting and notching different types of products. Didn't sell an awful lot. That was something, I don't know if it really</p>

<p>Father</p> <p>Mother &amp; Father</p>	<p>made any money or not, by the time you get done with dealership costs and things to deal with.</p> <p>My father was quite a storyteller. He started writing – was going to start writing children’s books and stories. I don’t think anything ever got published – I never heard anything about it. I don’t think it was a lucrative adventure.</p> <p>KO: What did he tell stories about?</p> <p>PS: Oh, all kinds. Paul Bunyan stories. Babe the Blue Ox. Fishing stories. He’d always tell some sort of story when we went to bed at night when we were little. My mother graduated from Tufts College with a teaching degree. They were always talking back and forth and trying to come up with different ideas to help with teaching and so on. She was active at the school. She didn’t do any teaching, but worked quite a bit with the PTA programs. She was very active in the community with the older folks, helping them out, making sure they got things that they needed – decent transportation. They had issues way back then that we do today with folks getting what they needed. The village up there had a nice old general store and had most of the things you need. But like anything else, you’d do better if you went on to the supermarket.</p>
<p>00:56:24</p> <p>Hay mower v. hay conditioner</p>	<p>00:56:24</p> <p>KO: Oh, I wanted to ask you from before: can you explain the difference between the hay conditioner and a mower?</p> <p>PS: Well, a mower conditioner. [When a hay conditioner came out, you mowed the hay with a sickle bar type mower]. The hay conditioner picked that hay up and it ran it through a roll – a roll where some had flat rolls in ridges in it, so it would kink the hay. And if you kinked the hay it would let moisture out of that long stalk of hay, break it up and also make it a little more tender. [And then some of them had it where it had a bar that went between two other bars.] It actually forced the hay into that crack and bent that hay, and broke it even better. It didn’t cut it, just bent it. That would increase your drying time quite a bit. Unless you had some really good drying, it usually took 3 good days to get your hay dry. Depending on the weather and the humidity and that sort of thing. With a hay conditioner, you could sometimes get that dry in two days if you had the right weather. But if the humidity is up and if there’s no wind, it could run into a three day process.</p> <p>Then the mower conditioner would run [along] with one piece of</p>

Mower conditioner	<p>equipment, cut it, [push it] down into the throat of the conditioner and ran it through. [And then it made it flow out into a narrow swathe from the full cut of the blade]. The swathe was like a wide shallow windrow of hay. It was also fluffed up so the air could move through it and dry it much quicker. And then after that's done, [you could run the tedder] through in a couple hours and fluff it up so the air could get through it again. [Usually you'd ted it once] and watch it, and once it started to get pretty close, you'd rake it up into a windrow. And then you'd go down and row it over again and sometimes a third time, depending on how it was drying. Of course, you'd want to go down through and you'd feel of it and make sure that it is dry.</p> <p>Green hay will mold. It will cure out, but it will still mold. And you don't want that to happen. Wet hay is even worse. That will start a fire much quicker. So the hay, if there was any question on it, you wanted to leave it out there to make sure it was good and dry.</p>
Hay barn; drying hay	<p>One of the things again, going back into haying, my father thought of – we had this hay barn with one deep bay at the side of the door that at one time was used for cattle. [He decided that] what we're going to do is put in a drying rack. Nobody had ever done this that we were aware of. Down in the bottom of that bay, we put in two great big three foot diameter fans, and up above that bay we made a slotted floor with 2x4's. We were small so we made it so his foot would span the gap. But you had to be careful because you could drop a foot down in some places.</p> <p>So, if we had a case when we didn't want the hay to get wet, we'd bale it. We'd bring it out and rack it up in that bay. You put all the hay up on edge and leave an air space, 6" or so between the bales so you always had air flowing. So we'd turn those fans on and run them for a [day or so. That] would pull that – dry those out enough so you could mow the hay away in the barn and not worry about it.</p>
Hay barn; hay mow; hay elevator	<p>Again, he always was pretty clever with designing things. We had in our hay barn one bay [he altered]. Both had a center floor but the bays dropped down from the center floor, probably down 15' into the bottom of the barn. And then it went up about 12-15'. He built an elevator that would hinge off the front of that drying bay and that way we could lower that down on a crank. We had a big crank wench. We'd lower that down into the hay mow. You could reverse that and make it go forward or backwards. So you'd put the hay on and you could lower those bales down in there and drop it right over and manhandle them into the mow. As the mow got higher, as least that one side, you had a little more mechanical advantage running the elevator to the mow. That would help. And then in the spring you'd lug that into the barnyard on</p>

<p>Spraying cornfields</p>	<p>wheelbarrows. That saved a little bit of time being able to get those up out of there. Another thing that he made a little [bit better] from time to time was keeping field corn weeded. You'd always done that by cultivator. Then they came out with a product called Atrazine. And you could spray a cornfield with it. It always makes you wonder what was in it. I think they still use that product today. You could go out and spray the corn and everything died except the corn. Weeds would keel right over. The corn would stand there. So to spray that, we bought one year, it was in the '50s, when we had this horrendous caterpillar blight. He brought a sprayer from Sears Roebuck and it was [an engine powered] sprayer. These caterpillars were everywhere. The trees were loaded with them. The side of the house looked like a mat. They were on the ground. It was terrible. There was a tent caterpillar.</p> <p>KO: Where did they come from?</p>
<p>01:04:15</p> <p>Caterpillar infestation</p> <p>Sprayer for cornfields</p>	<p>01:04:15</p> <p>PS: We just had this really bad infested year. He bought this sprayer and sprayed trees and alot around. Then we got thinking about the corn. He was always reading and following progress in [farming practices]. He said, I think I'm going to make a spray boom for the corn. So he got a bunch of reinforcing bar and he started making up this spray boom that would spray – I think it was 12 or 16'-wide. He rigged it up on the back of the sprayer. It went on the three point hitch of the tractor. And he mounted that boom and plumbed it out to these nozzles to get the rows of corn. He tried it on our piece and it worked. And word traveled fast. The neighbors had quite a charge of corn next to us. The Dupuis. And there were a couple others that he went and did. So they hired him with that boom to come and spray their cornfields. It was amazing how well it worked. He did that for three or four years before some other stuff starting coming out. So he was always ahead of his time with what was coming up.</p> <p>KO: Sounds like a smart guy.</p>
<p>Feed desk; manure spreader</p>	<p>PS: It's interesting to see some of the stuff he came up with. I can remember – in the garage I have the old Worthmore feed desk. It was a sheet metal desk that we had screwed on the barn wall that had the cattle records, milking records, and a scratch pad. This was back in the mid 50s. He said, what do you think about a snowmobile? I've been thinking about how to get across the snow. He was always drawing and thinking. He drew a picture of a snowmobile with these great big augers on the side of it that would screw through the snow. I said it might work. And then we had one idea designed with the same as a manure spreader – a chain at the bottom. These cross bars that pull the manure</p>

<p>Father's innovations</p>	<p>back to spread it. And he had one designed with a whole bunch of that chain with the angles close together. That might work as a track too. These are back before some of this stuff was coming around. You think about what in the world was going on in his head for what was coming in the future.</p> <p>KO: Too bad he didn't get any patents.</p> <p>PS: I know. During the war, the fighters, when they're landing on the islands, the oleo struts on the landing gears were constantly giving problems, leaking, because the sand would get in and scratch it. The landing gear would lose its suspension. He talked them into putting protective bags around to keep the dust out. They tried it. He never said how far it went. I remember when we got our new tractor on the farm – he could build stuff on the sewing machine. We had this old White sewing machine and he bought some fabric, and he sewed up these bags with cloth lining them and put them around the cylinders on the tractor. He said that will keep those from getting scratched up and giving us a problem down the road. That tractor has been restored and my brother owns it. That loader still has those same bags on it and that was from 1953. To this day those loader cylinders have never been rebuilt. So he had some good ideas that just never took off.</p>
<p>01:09:21</p> <p>Maintenance of buildings &amp; equipment</p>	<p>01:09:21</p> <p>PS: So, those are just things around the farm, building things. He was very adamant about good maintenance, keeping the equipment in good order. All the equipment and all the tractors had grease guns on them. Before you worked on them, you made sure it was all greased. Farming equipment was too expensive to replace. You've got to take care of it. It's got to last. He bought a surplus Quonset hut from the war and put that up to keep our farm equipment so it wouldn't sit out. That was something he didn't like to see, having stuff sit out. It used to be quite a project sometimes to get what you need to get, but it was better than digging it out of the tree line and having it rusted and into disrepair.</p>
<p>01:10:34</p> <p>Stopped farming 1964; because of bulk tanks</p>	<p>01:10:34</p> <p>KO: You said you farmed till '64?</p> <p>PS: Right. My mother worked out during that period. She worked at Dewey's Mills Gift Shop as a clerk and manager for a while. She had a stroke in the fall of '63. She was bedridden for a year. That was a hardship on the family, really was a hardship. That was in the time – I graduated in 1965 – that he was talking to me about what I wanted to do, stay on, keep the farm. I have some regrets that I didn't stay with</p>

<p>Sold cattle herd</p>	<p>what was going on. I don't know if it made a difference in the long run. I said I didn't think I was going to go on to ag school. He said, if that's the case, we're going to sell out and move on.</p> <p>He was probably in his mid 40s when that took place. That's quite an upheaval in a young family's life. He had a daughter in college. I was to go on to college. We sold our cattle in '64. Windsor Brown, Ballardvale Farm, in White River Junction needed extra barn space. I took care of them to earn extra money for college. I kept a couple of cows, young heifers, of my own that I had in the herd. They were to be used to sell to help go to college. I was going to be going to a technical school down in Boston. In '65 when we moved off the farm, we moved to Peterborough, NH and my father went back into engineering. I was going to try to get into engineering.</p> <p>We went on. We sold the cattle. [We had the young herd of Windsor Brown's cattle for the next year at our barn.] We moved off the farm in '65. That was the end of the farming picture for us.</p> <p>KO: How many acres was the farm?</p>
<p>180 acres of farm in Quechee; power line; old Quechee RR; 85 acres tillable land</p>	<p>PS: I believe the farm was 180 acres. It followed the Ottauquechee River. If you drove down the farm and stood in the middle of the farm and looked around, it followed the Ottauquechee River from where Boyd Brook enters it into the Quechee Fells farm side, where the Quechee Club is. From about that point it followed the Ottauquechee River around and it came down to a power line that crosses the lake. That power line came back across the lake and then it went up to the railroad, the old Quechee Railroad track up to the [Newton Farm and what they called the Deer Lodge and back where the Boyd Brook came across from the other side of the river.] There was about 180 acres, about 85 acres of tillable land. The rest was pastured woodland and a gravel pit. There was more that you could have cleared and tilled. It wasn't river bottom. It had more of a gravel bottom, so it didn't produce. You could see the difference. The farm sat just above the meadowland about 10 feet in elevation. Then there was another 15 feet of elevation to a plateau where the gravel started. We had a field up there where it was obvious that it didn't have the nutrients or soil to produce good hay. You'd get one good cutting off it, but if you didn't have a lot of rain, then you didn't have much for second cutting whereas in the lower meadow you'd get two, three, sometimes a fourth cutting off it. Of course, one of the drawbacks of river bottomland is flooding. And those probably are the biggest things that took a lot of effort to get through.</p>
<p>Ice jams on</p>	<p>The ice jammed up frequently on the corners of the river. If you were</p>

the river; flooding	standing there looking off, there is a bend in the river that comes off the river road and follows to where the Quechee Fells is. The ice would jam up the corner and flood back up to where the golf course is today. And then it would channel across our meadows. I can remember at least four floodings where you could hear the ice coming across. The river would move that ice across and eventually it would recede. But it crossed the hayland and the pasture and there was rubbish and stuff that would come down the river. That would be a major clean up job in the spring. You had rubber tire tractors and you couldn't just drive and clean up because there were all kinds of debris. So you'd go down there with ensilage forks and rakes and you would start cleaning it up. There would be veins where the river would carry most of it. It flooded the whole field and tires and stuff would come down in those days. A lot of stuff got thrown in the river that you don't see today.
01:18:08	KO: I think we saw a lot of stuff in Irene.  01:18:08
01:18:55	PS: {Talks about generator installation following Irene and watching the flood of Tropical Storm Irene}  01:18:55
2011 flooding	PS: We turned the corner and I said, wow, I've never seen anything like that in my life. That was 10 times anything we've ever seen like that. We had ice floods, but never anything that ripped through there. The velocity was never hard.
Flooding	Going back to the ice deal. The first ice storm came and we cleaned up. Leslie Lyman who had a dairy farm in Hartland had an excavation business. My father hired him to come down with the bulldozer. It was a pretty good size for those days. And you didn't need permission in those days. He went down in the Ottauquechee River and he started pushing all the material inside that turn in that river. He started pushing the material up towards the meadow and he built this dyke from where the river made its first turn in that corner and started across our land. It was probably 6-8' high all the way around. It must have been 2,000 - 2,500 - 3,000 feet long to protect that. It worked. A couple years we had some high water backups and it punched a hole in that dyke and still brought some stuff in, but nowhere near what it did originally. And that dyke is still there. You can still see it. The elevation is there. That helped keeping that spring flood water back if it would come across. It didn't always do that.
Quechee:	And it tells about it in some of the history in Quechee. I think the

<p>school bus driver rescues kid</p>	<p>biggest one was when we had that ice out. I think it was early January. It backed up. There was a school bus driver by the name of Harold Hudson. He had an old Chevrolet 1954 panel truck that he'd use as the school bus. He used to run the school bus route and he was coming from Dewey's Mills with the kids on the back road. The ice was coming up. He stopped the bus, got the kids out. While he was getting the kids out on the bank, the water was coming out so he waded into the water to get the last one. It came up and smashed his bus and pushed it up against the bank. He was given a commendation for what he did getting the kids out. [The school bus driver's association or something did something for him.]</p> <p>That was the first year that that water came across and did so much damage at the farm.</p>
<p>01:22:40</p>	<p>01:22:40</p>
<p>Quechee – scouting program</p>	<p>Dad was active in the scouting program. Quechee was a pretty good size town in those days with Dewey's Mills. He had a couple scouts out there raking by hand in the meadows, cleaning up, to get the stuff out. Those fields were pastures and you couldn't put cattle down there where they could get into hardware or glass. That flooding portion – other than that, the nice thing about meadows on river land (the cornfield was probably 8-10 acres), you could plow all day long and never turn up a stone the size of a baseball. That usually came from a little vein of gravel that might be in below that river. And that's how those fields were generated, over 100s of years of flooding. You talk about Irene, but that's how a lot of these farm fields were established.</p>
<p>01:24:17</p>	<p>01:24:17</p>
<p>Selling corn on Route 4</p>	<p>PS: Speaking of corn, the another thing, was that when cow corn was planted, in the last five or six rows of the cornfield, we put in sweet corn. We would try to sell sweet corn. I remember sitting up side of Route 4 with a trailer with corn. We would sell corn for 25-35 cents for a baker's dozen. I guess as we went on, it was up to 75 cents for a baker's dozen. A baker's dozen is always 13 ears, but at the end of the day, you'd say, I don't know what we'll do with all this corn. If you want 15 for the same price, you can take it. If we came home with \$6 or \$7, we'd say that was a big day. I used to sit up by Route 4 right by the school that's there now, right below the Dupuis farm. And then if you hadn't sold all, you could take the corn and go down through town or door to door and see if anybody wanted it to put in their freezer. You certainly couldn't use it all yourself once it came into season. You either used it, sold it or chopped it up into cattle corn.</p>

01:26:20	01:26:20
Quechee Gorge farm in the 1950s	<p>PS: I know I remember, it was in the mid 50s, there was a farm down by the bottom of the Quechee Gorge. I believe the name was the Jemery Farm. That was quite a journey for them to get out milk out of that. You used to go down in there by the gorge and gift shop. You'd go under the gorge and there was a narrow way that went all the way down. That's part of the North Hartland dam area where there's now flood control. But that farm sat down there and all those fields are still down there, now mostly under water. The house of the farm burned in the mid 50s I believe. Shortly thereafter the flood control dam was coming in and the farm had to go anyway. Nevertheless, you hate to see a tragedy like that anyway. But it wasn't a very easy place to get to and to get fire trucks down there. They just couldn't save it.</p>
Childhood home	<p>KO: Is the house you grew up in still standing?</p> <p>PS: It's still there. They [Deborah Doyle-Schechtman] did a history on Quechee including the early 80s when Quechee [Lakes was developing and earlier history]. The ell came from a building that was moved in from Grantham, NH. It was a library building and that was used as quarters. It was a building ell put on the main house. The house was quite narrow, two story, as a main farmhouse for the simple farm of the St. George family that owned it before us. They owned it for about 25 years. Prior to that, I can't remember all the different names of who owned it. It had been built, I believe it, back into the late 1700s or the early 1800s. It's been there quite a while.</p>
St. George home	<p>KO: Is it part of Quechee Lakes property?</p>
Quechee Lakes	<p>PS: I think it's part of the Landowners' Association. I don't know if it's Quechee Lakes itself, how that was left. There was a lot of resentment to see somebody come in to take it (the village) over. But that's what was going on. And if it hadn't been, a lot of those buildings probably wouldn't be standing today. And you wouldn't be able to look back and say, that old place looks pretty good. That's an old farm or whatever. You've got to look past some of those issues. The village itself is pretty much the way it was. The fact that Hurricane Irene went through there and took out the bridge in Quechee and devastated the Emporium building, that was never there to begin with. That was a warehouse on that end and the bridge was open. The [original cover] was removed at some point and it was an open bridge. When we grew up it was an open bridge.</p>
	<p>KO: Was it a metal truss bridge?</p>

<p>Bridge damaged by Tropical Storm Irene</p>	<p>PS: [No. It had a concrete deck on it and it had a metal frame under it.] I remember we used to walk from school across and when the water came over the dam, it would mist and the wind would blow it up. The weather would ice it over. I remember grabbing the rails. The sidewalk would be icy lots of times. That end where the bridge washed out, the building that was there was the warehouse where they loaded the cloth in from the mill. I think it's going back the way it was. I think it's not going to be part of that complex anymore. It will be left an open area.</p> <p>KO: I know the bridge is being replaced.</p> <p>PS: Yes.</p> <p>{Bids for Quechee Covered Bridge. Taftsville Covered Bridge.}</p>
<p>Spooner farm; Riverside Farm</p> <p>River</p> <p>01:36:39</p>	<p>PS: All these old farms, the Spooner Farm – there's a restaurant there now. We go up from time to time, it's a nice restaurant. We reminisce about how there used to be cows lined up and now we're sitting there. The old Riverside Farm in Quechee, the red barn beside the Parker House and the post office. We were in there [(doing repair work after the flood). They were tearing it out. There was stuff still in the barn on the concrete that was left by the cows. They had buried it. I can remember as a kid being there more than once, and going over to visit].</p> <p>In the spring, there was another thing to help make a few extra bucks to register your vehicle or to get some extra money. Quechee Fells was right across, the Eastmans, and they were very good friends with the folks and used to visit with them a lot. Where the golf course is, by the way, that was a big cornfield. I have a picture of it, back from the Collamer Abbott photos that are around that show that farm, a big farm. Harold, the father, was still alive. He was in the Genesis Nursing Home over there. I had a copy of it and took it over to him. I think David ended up with it. I said make sure you get that picture that was over at the nursing home. It's a neat picture and you ought to hang onto it. So you talk about co-op and the size of farms. That was a large cornfield. That was a pretty good size operation.</p> <p>The river was usually lower enough so we could cross it on the corner of our tractor. [I'd go over in the spring and plow] until dark or 9:00 and go home, and go back over and help so they'd get their corn in a little faster. In the spring, our sugaring operation wasn't that big. So I'd go over and help them tap. They used to hang about 2,000 buckets. So we'd go over on February vacation and get the buckets out and get the sugarhouse going.</p> <p>01:36:39</p>

<p>Community</p> <p>Eastman; Henderson; Dan Brockway; Cole Farm</p>	<p>KO: So it sounds like there was a sense of community. It was your family, the Eastmans – who else was right in that area?</p> <p>PS: Right. And the Henderson Farm. That was right above the Quechee Fells. That's Town Farm Road. I don't know if the name came up – George Cole Farm. If you were to go out the main street and you get to where the river goes out to the [Eastman Quechee Fells Farm (now the clubhouse)], if you went straight up the hill, there was a little small farm. That was Dan Brockway's farm. He did mostly work with horses. He later on had a tractor and did some work with tractors. That was a little farm, maybe 10 cows. I don't recall him shipping milk. He was elderly then. I think he had given up the dairy part. Then you went up a little farther and on the left was the George Cole Farm. And you take a left and that would lead you to the Henderson Farm, a very nicely run farm. That was a large farm. And then on up to the Town Farm, which we should have today. You talk about ideal situations for people that have a tough way in life and don't have a home. They could work, produce their own food, have cattle, have a purpose and have a job until they could get on their feet again. And you stop and think about all these little farms. What a way to give people a purpose and to learn to be self sufficient. Who knows? I never understood why that didn't take off again. Why have so much welfare and food stamps. People need help.</p> <p>KO: Right, keep people wanting to work.</p>
<p>Town Farm</p>	<p>PS: So there was that farm, and Town Farm in those days. I don't remember milk being shipped out. And then you went down and took the West Hartford-Quechee Road and back to West Hartford, to the Clay Farm where the Clays were and then down through there, there was Will Curtis. He was a writer. Jane Curtis, you might have heard that. They had a farm there, and were good friends of the folks. He sold his place and went to Hartland and owned the farm down there where now there is more of a commune type of farm. It's built up right there in Hartland Four Corners. Then he sold it to that operation. And just beyond the old Curtis Farm on the West Hartford-Quechee Road, there was a sharp turn, and the road that went off that was the Howard Farm. That was a beautiful farm, a great big old farm. [The main house burned and they replaced it with a smaller same style house, but it was about half the size.] And then on the corner was the Fogg Farm. I don't know if you've interviewed Nelson Fogg, but he might be a good guy to get a hold of. Nelson and Ray. Nelson would be a good one to talk to.</p> <p>KO: Is he still around?</p>

<p>Nelson Fog; Logan Dickey; Marsh Farm; Dewey Farm</p>	<p>PS: Yes, he's on Christian St. It would be Nelson Sr. It would be in the phone book under Nelson and Mary. And while we're talking I can get you the number. His dad sold grain and they had a dairy farm. His father was a grain dealer and used to come down to the farm to try to sell grain products. And then like I said, from there you went down Clay – Curtis, then before, the Town of Hartford used to have the West Hartford dump just beyond the Fogg Farm. There was a road, the old Quechee Road, and there was another farm, I can't remember the name of it. I think it was Logan Dickey who owned that farm. And that was a dairy farm, a pretty good sized one. They also owned the Marsh Farm in Quechee. They are the ones who were there when the dam, the flood control, was put in in North Hartland. They raised it and kept going. And before that dam went in, the old Dewey Farm, where the polo field is in Quechee. The Marsh Farm is the big place. There was another Dewey who had the Dewey's Farm. That went away when the flood control dam went in and the mill moved out.</p> <p>KO: I think you may have the best memory of where things are. David Brown is good, too.</p> <p>PS: David Brown from Quechee?</p> <p>KO: Windsor Brown.</p>
<p>Brown family farm; Punt farm; Albert Meade Farm; Luce Farm</p>	<p>PS: {Looking up Nelson Fogg number}. He's a neat guy to talk to. We always reminisce about stuff. He's probably 10 years older than me, so he would have been in the stage with horses. There was a farm on Route 4 – when you get off the interstate, you get off at the Quechee exit and swing around. There's a farm that sits there. You might have seen a tractor sitting. That was the Punt Farm. They owned all that land by the Quechee Mobil and the Moseley Associates property management. They owned all that land. It was a pretty good size dairy farm. And as you went to Quechee, you went across the Flat and around and there's the Fat Hat Factory. That was the old Albert Meade Farm. I can remember coming to White River and him up on that side hill. There's a church up on that side of Route 4 now. He had a team of black horses and would be up there mowing that with those horses. He'd use a dump rake and then go up with his wagon and load it up loose and bring it down to his farm across the road which is now the Fat Hat. It was a small farm. I couldn't tell you. You weren't around when they were picking up milk. They usually picked it up at 5 or 6 in the morning. And so I don't know if he shipped milk or not. From there back into Quechee towards the Quechee Gorge there was one little farm off Hathaway Road. That would have been maybe 10 cows or so. I don't remember him shipping milk. My sister Kate now owns that old farm house and has raised her family there. And that would have been in Quechee's</p>

	<p>main area. The next big farm would have been at the bottom of the gorge, which burned. Then you had a little farm right in the village, Russell Luce. He was a brother to Albert Luce of Luce Farm in White River Junction. Mike Luce, who you probably talked to.</p> <p>KO: Not yet. I talked to Carol.</p>
<p>Sugarbush Farm; Rutherford Farm; Maxim Farm</p>	<p>PS: Yup, Carol Hardy. And one you can talk to is Scott Luce – Arland. He’s a good one, plus his brother Larry. Larry and Betsy and they’re at Sugarbush Farm. They have the cheese shop and maple syrup and raise beef cattle. Larry was one of the ones that would be at the farm with the corncobs with the blower. He was in high school in those days. As you come back in Quechee, Russell was his uncle who had that farm. I do believe they shipped milk. They had 10 cows or so. And then from there, you had the Dupuis Farm, which was pretty well known and been around. And that was the Gilson Farm. And then if you took the North Hartland -Quechee Road and started up through there, you had the Three Pines Farm that shipped milk. I don’t remember the name of the people. They had a nice little farm. And then you had the Rutherford Farm. That barn has burned since then. Then all the way over to Hartland there were farms, but I can’t tell you the different ones. But as far as that neck of woods, the only one I know shipping milk is the Maxham Farm. I don’t know how big a geographical area you’re trying to take in –</p> <p>KO: Just Hartford.</p>
<p>Lyndon Nott; Gauthier; Wallace; Murton; Lyman; Robinson</p> <p>Doth Street; Nott; Clay; Cole; Old Billings Dairy; Henry Hazen Farm</p>	<p>PS: Okay, with that grant I see they don’t want to pay for Hartland. I think that pretty much makes the circle. Well, I take that back. You come back down Route 14 and you’d come up over the hill. You had [the Savage farm Lyndon Nott over Jericho Street. You had Armand Gauthier. The Lymans had two farms. Then the Parker Farm. The Wallaces. Up the road you go up Jericho Street to the Robinson Farm. Then Merton Nott. She was a longtime schoolteacher and he was a dairy farmer. I don’t remember him producing maple syrup.]</p> <p>If you back up, now what was going out to the Nott Farm, they changed that to Dothan Road. You come back, it makes a swing, and that used to be called Dothan Road. Dothan Street. That would take you right back down to Route 5. So when you swung back you come back over and come down on that side. In those days you could barely get a tractor down. Then you came to the Sprague Farm. I think that’s what they called it. Leroy Nott owned that. And just below that, in the early 80s, Dennis Clay, the son of Lawrence Clay, he built a small dairy farm on 10-12 acres of land and leased land around it. He was there for about 10 years and then sold it. Then you go down the hill to Route 5, if you</p>

Brookside Farm	<p>went right to White River, there was the Colton Farm next to where the Old Billings Dairy used to be. And if you went left to Norwich, the Henry Hazen Farm. That stopped in what must have been in the early 60s. There's a sag in the road on Route 5 and the cows were in the road. He was trying to get them out of the road, and I think it was a Dartmouth student or somebody coming through at night and it was dark and there was bad visibility. He might have been under the influence, and hit him and killed him. And he had family. That was an old generation farm. I think he had some kids at the time. and the farm burned. Or, the barn burned thereafter. [The farm went away. It's basically the homestead there. The mother finished raising the children. And the younger son, Henry Hazen, started that back up. It's now called Brookside Farm. And Henry, have you talked to him? He's quite a bit younger, I don't know how far back he goes. He runs the farmstead. It's more equestrian. He put a big riding ring in. He produces hay. Then he's got all that land that goes there. That farm and the land, all the way] from Route 5 on the other side clear to the Connecticut River. That was divided by the interstate. So some of that land got kind of landlocked unless you go in. It's pretty tough to get to.</p> <p>KO: Must have been a lot. The interstate is pretty large.</p> <p>PS: It did a lot. It had to happen, you had to get a way to get through there. But it sure divided a lot of beautiful farms.</p> <p>KO: It seems like it divides the Town of Hartford a lot.</p> <p>PS: It does.</p> <p>KO: I guess because we have two here: 89 and 91.</p>
Urban Renewal in Hartford; Twin State Electric; Father	<p>PS: The other thing my dad did was start Urban Renewal in the town of Hartford. There are two or three people – Ralph Lehman – was the town manager in those days. Great guy, great manager. And Larry Chase and Twin State Electric and couple others. [The program came out to start urban renewal and town planning. When they started working on urban renewal. There was talk of the interstate. I can remember Dad] getting ready to go down a town meeting to explain to them the importance of urban renewal and town planning, trying to get some budget money out of the town to keep the office going. They had a little office on the backside of the Coolidge building, the old telegraph office or something. They were doing a model and mockups of what the town might look like. He had a couple kids in class build a model and how the town might look with the interstate coming in. There were people in town who weren't buying that year. The bridge across into White River, you go left and go across the new bridge, or you go down and go under</p>
Growth of Hartford;	

growth of Burlington	<p>the underpass. The new bridge, they located that bridge in 1960. They said by the year 2000, White River would be the same size as Burlington, VT was in 1960. That goes back farther than your time. Burlington itself in 1960. If you go up today you get off the interstate and you go to South Burlington or you go to Burlington. But if you went up there then, you headed off into Burlington and there was nothing there. You headed up to the top of the hill. [There's the water tower and you started down there to UVM. You had Champlain] College, a couple of buildings, the green, the city of Burlington, stuff on the lake side and around Battery Park. Then there was nothing else, just a few camps on your way out to Mallets Bay. It was very rural.</p>
Subsidizing farming income	<p>You think about that and what White River was in 2000, they weren't too far off. So that interstate plan began with the idea that the intersection was going to be the cloverleaf and would be one of the drawing cards to make this area grow. So he worked on that for 3-4 years trying to get a program through. He always had something else going to help subsidize the farming income.</p> <p>[There was a farmer who would watch him and check the time he'd head for work – when he'd get done with chores. I'd have to go to school, and he'd finish up. He'd try to get to the office around 9:30/10:00 and he'd stay and work. This farmer who would watch him go to work and then call the town manager, so he knew when he was getting ready to go down to work. That was kind of comical. I think that stuck. Because of his education he was able to do a lot of things. Some of the other folks, dairy farming was their limit. Not that they weren't smart people, but they had their limits. And that's true with anything. If you have somebody in competition, but a little different edge, it's hard to understand what is going on sometimes.]</p>
01:58:38	01:58:38
Best parts of farming	<p>PS: Well, we've gone two hours. You're probably ready to fall asleep.</p> <p>KO: No, no, I know I look tired today, but I really like talking to you. Your Dad sounds like a fascinating person. You did a great job covering all sorts of topics. Thank you. I like to close usually, what was the best thing about growing up on a farm, or what was the hardest thing? What did you take away?</p> <p>PS: The best thing was, I wouldn't have traded it for anything in the world. If you want a family to stay together, that's the best way to bring a family up. You learn to live together, work together, sacrifice together, enjoy the good times. You certainly go through bad times. It keeps a tight family knit, I think.</p>

Hardest part of farming	<p>The toughest thing for kids – as I look back –was having friends in because you were remote from places. The athletics at school. I played football my freshman year, my sophomore year. My mother got sick my junior year and I didn't play. I enjoyed playing but I had to come home and start chores. My father worked out, so as soon as school let out, I had to come home and start chores. Then you didn't out of the barn till 6 or 7 at night and then had supper. You think you're going to hit your books. That didn't happen. That was the toughest thing because you didn't have time to keep up with your studies like you should. So your grades showed it. But again, I wouldn't trade it for anything.</p>
Benefits of family farms	<p>I think today if we had those same family farms, we wouldn't have the drug issues. We wouldn't have the work issues. We'd have people who knew how to work. I always said when I started my business, if I wanted a hard worker, I'd look around for somebody that came off the farm.</p>
Hard workers	<p>To this day, and I said this after 40 years in the electrical business, we are going through a terrible recession. We had an electrician close down about 20 miles up the road. He had two people working for him and he had a father-son team. The father was my same age, brought up on a dairy farm in Connecticut, the same way. His son works with him on the job. He called to see if we were hiring when he got laid off. I had him send a resume. And after reading it, I asked him to come talk to me about hiring, and I hired him. If I could have found him 40 years ago, and his same work ethic in the company, he would have made all the difference in the world. I see a guy – he's thorough. He's dedicated. He follows things to the end. He knows what it's like to work hard. He reminisces about the farm and what's related and how it works today. It's the work ethic and to work together is something that's not there today. It's getting worse. It's really tough to find somebody that will give you total focus in the business, in the trade, in their job. It ends up costing everybody more, and really costs more to you as the end user because as all this develops and it takes longer to get something done, it costs more. Somebody's got to pay for that and unfortunately it's the end user, no matter what type of profession it is.</p>
Losing farming and a lot more	<p>So, my honest opinion and my feelings are, when we lost this lifestyle, we lost an awful lot in this country. And this country wasn't built, wasn't put together by the way it's being run today. And you stop and think about it. And you think about what the greatest generation did and how they were brought up and all those times, how they came back and reestablished things. That's when a lot of this started flourishing, because these guys came home and turned the guns into plow shares and stuff like that. In my case, in my father's case, he came home. He</p>

	<p>was an educated engineer and started a business. He was doing well. He would travel from Lexington, Mass to Burlington, VT on a sales route on roads like Route 4 all the way up there. Tried to do it in a day's time because they didn't have the money to stay in hotels and stuff like that. And he just said, this isn't a lifestyle I want to do. I want to be with my family. I want to get into dairy farming. He put his heart and soul into it. Unfortunately it was in the era when it was changing so, from the horse farming days to the tractors to milk production and how to get that produced. If you weren't an established generation family farm, that meant you were borrowing money. And you trying to make this work, and it just couldn't work. It wasn't enough. Even working out didn't make it pan out. It may have if my mother hadn't gotten sick. I think we would have stayed at it longer. Who knows, we would have been the owners when Quechee Lakes came around. Long and short answer to your question is, I wouldn't have traded it for anything and I tried to bring my children up in the same format and with the same values that I was brought up in. And grandchildren, I try to promote the sugaring, doing things around here so they can get to work together and see what that's about. Very good.</p> <p>KO: Thank you.</p> <p>PS: Thank you.</p> <p>KO: So much.</p>
02:06:28	END OF INTERVIEW.

