

Interviewee: Janis & Tut Coleman

Interviewer: Bruce Beekin

Date: April 5, 2002

Location: Falls Road

Topics Discussed: Post Office, Falls Road, Shelburne Farms, Tink Strong, Lapham Family, Eutie Thomas, Water & Sewage, LaPlatte River. John Tracy, Tracy & Maeck store, fishing, hunting and trapping, World War Two, Shelburne Shinvard. train station. roads

BB: Janis we were talking about the post office and you said there used to be a post office on Bay Road.

JC: That was on the corner where the gas station is now. They moved that to the museum years ago. And they built the newer post office across the road where the children's shop is. The post office was downstairs and he lived upstairs. And then you go to the country store, which is the Country Store, now, used to be the Barbershop. They had a big pot-bellied stove in there and chairs and a chess board so when you went to get your haircut the men would sit and talk and play chess. Then the house next door, Howard Miller lived there, and he ran the bus from Shelburne to Burlington, two or three times a day, because that's the only service some people had. They had a little place on Maple Street where you took the bus to get back to Shelburne, Howard Miller. Bill Dunce lived, he was director of Shelburne Museum, lived in the house that the Webb's still own, the little white house right on Falls Road.

BB: Now I am not sure which house that is.

JC: The one next to Patterson's... I believe. Patterson's Oil Company the brick house was owned by Tink Strong, and everything where the Shopping Center is now was the Truck Garden.

BB: Who ran the Truck Garden?

JC: Tink Strong.

BB: Do you know where the produce was trucked too that was grown there?

JC: Basically he sold it locally. I don't think he ever trucked it because he had his big gardens out back, and it was basically vegetables. The house where the frame shop is was owned by Doctor Ranks, he was the doctor in town. They kept that house and bought the Gadhue's house across from the town hall, which they bought it from Van Vliets, (who) used to own that.¹

¹ The Ranks family stayed in the house until 1917 and then they sold it to Helen and Rene Gadhue. The Gadhues opened an antique store across from the Town Hall in 1939. Cyrus Van Vliet originally

BB: Orient us in time; is this before World War II?

JC: Oh yeah!

BB: Is this before World War I?

JC: I'm not sure.

BB: Is it Depression years?

JC: Yeah, it could have been. Then there was old Doc Norton was the doctor in town. I shouldn't say this, but he drank quite a bit, so he got some of the people's names mixed up. Like Tut we just found out, his first name is not Edward, its John on the Town Records, his name is really John Coleman.

BB: When Tut was born which house did his mother and father live in? Which house were you born in Tut?

TC: 'The next one up from Sandra Lewis'. The second one up from Galipeau's Store. That old house where you see the old guy in there. ¹

BB: Second one towards Route 7 from Gallipeau's?

TC: Yeah. The one nobody lives in.

BB: I know that house! You were born in that house?

TC: Yeah

BB: In what year?

JC: 1925

BB: So Dr. Norton came over to the house and delivered Tut, delivered John.

TC: Gladys could have helped him; he was the one she was telling you about.²

BB: Yeah, but she would have only been a few old then wouldn't she have been?

TC: Well she used to help him. She used to help deliver kids.

built the house in 1885. Van Vliet ran the country store at the corner of Harbor Road and Route 7 as well as an apple evaporator company near the railroad depot.

¹ Falls Road

² See Gladys Morrill interview

JC: He's in his seventies, and she is going to be ninety.

BB: Is there a fifteen-year difference between you and Gladys?

TC: I'm seventy-five and she's ninety.

JC: She's ninety in June

TC: She helped that doctor all the time

BB: She was telling me that today.

JC: We checked to get his birth certificate for something and Colleen looked it up, got the birth certificate.¹ All these years he's been going by Edward John because that's what his folks named him, but Doc Norton only put on John Coleman. He never knew it until two years ago.

TC: Before Tink Strong bought that farm it belonged to Clayton. Clayton bought it, I forgot who owned it before Clayton, but he only had it about three or four years.²

BB: Would that have been a relative of Earl Clays who ran the sawmill over in Hinesburg?

TC: No I don't think so. He's got one of my saw blades. He came down one time, I still got the note around here. He owes for me for that saw blade.

BB: Your going to have a hard time getting that one paid up, he's been gone for three or four years. You know I used to tail that mill for him

TC: Well you were running one of my saws.

BB: An old Lane?

TC: Yeah. He left me a note here, and I called him back, alright you can use it.

BB: Was this a Lane sawmill?

TC: Yeah.

BB: And you showed me a picture of the engine.

JC: That went to Goshen, NY to an Engine Museum

TC: 40 horsepower.

¹ See Colleen Haag interview

² Harry Clayton

JC: And then we sold an old truck, I mean old, that the Guilmettes bought. He wanted that truck. It's way old.

TC: I sold him a planer.

JC: Eutie owned the brick house where the Beans lived. He ran the waterline from up the top of the hill across the river. Eutie put it in himself, and then the town took it over. They had also an irrigation ditch at the bridge here, the La Platte bridge, up over the hill to irrigate gardens everything in the Falls.

BB: The truck farm that was owned by Tink, was that irrigated?

JC: I'm not sure. It could have been. I'm not positive.

BB: So before water became a town utility, people developed these town pipelines, did they sell the water?

JC: Sewage lines the same way. Back in 1966 we didn't have sewage over here, all septic tanks for four houses. We had Munson dig the line, we paid for it ourselves, put the line in. We paid a cut in of \$600 for each house. Then we paid for running into our house separate. That was in '66 Otherwise we all had septic tanks. There was an old house next to us. I don't know who owned it.

TC: One of the Coleman's bought it. Well, Eutie lived here for a year. We used to lug our water from the spring down here. It was beautiful. A little spring.

BB: Coming off the La Platte River?

TC: No it's coming off that bank there. We used to go down there and get drinking water in buckets or milk cans, you know.

BB: Is that when you lived in this house?

TC: Yeah, when we first bought it.

BB: Cistern in the basement?

JC: Yeah

BB: But your garden was never on this side of the street?

JC: No they had, what did they have a pig farm here? In the garage, where the garage is. That was all a pig farm, they raised pigs

TC: No, two or three pigs that was it.

JC: But over by the bridge was deep enough so that back when our children were small, we'd take them over swimming, over here. Now it's all dried up. And they would also canoe from Charlotte to the bridge, pick up the canoe, and then take it down river over here. UVM comes down all the time because it's one of the best glacier stone in the river and also some very old trees over there.

BB: Beneath the ledges?

JC: Yeah

BB: Now there was a lot of fishing that went on in that part of La Platte River.

JC: Right here.

TC: That hole right behind the dam.

JC: Right down below the dam they stocked it every year with trout, everything.

BB: The state did this?

JC: The state.

TC: Except for the last few years. There was a dozen guys down there looking for suckers.

BB: Gladys told me about this, fishing with arrows or spears and there was a light involved.

TC: Well, one guy would be carrying a torch, a big burlap bag put it around a pole, and wire one bag on and wire the next bag on top of that and wire the next bag on top of that and soak it in Kerosene. So one guy is walking down the middle of the river with that. There would be about a half of dozen guys spearing, throwing the fish on the banks. And I'm telling you that we put a fence up one time and a big one came through took the fence right down. Ed Field was down there supervising to make sure we weren't spearing bass.

BB: You were after Mullet?

TC: Mullet, suckers, we used to pickle them. They put em in a brine. I don't know how they did it. You just washed them off and put them in a big trough. With a stone and water on the top.

BB: Did Gladys tell me that those fish were then put in jars and then buried in the ground?

TC: You probably could of. I don't know what that brine was. They dissolved the bones in so they were soft.

BB: Big sardines? So you would eat those in the wintertime?

TC: Yup, anytime you wanted.

JC: They also used to shoot fish at Shelburne Pond.

BB: So Gladys was saying earlier about how she used to sell the fish, sell smelt in her old truck. When was that? Was that after the war or before?

TC: After. Back in the sixties probably.

BB: 1960s?

JC: They probably had 52 pounds of smelt one day. We dressed them out and sold them to the IGA Store, which used to be Doenges and Towle on the corner.¹

TC: What was the old one? Tracy and Maeck.

JC: Tracy and Maeck.



Photo 1 Tracy & Maeck Store

TC: They owned where the doctor's office was and all that side of that road, two or three houses. From Dr. Norton's down, they owned two in there.

JC: Dr. Norton was where the Shelburne Museum office was.

TC: He was down there too...

JC: The creamery.

¹ At the corner of Harbor Road and Route 7

TC: But Tracy & Maeck owned a couple of houses in there because I used to help the old guy.

JC: John Tracy used to have a big garden down across the tracks and to the left

TC: It's the railroad station now.

JC: He grew everything from the melons to everything. He graduated from UVM one of the top students at UVM. Then he went into gardening.

TC: Imagine that! That guy could speak English, Japanese, Chinese, about five different languages, and he loved that garden.

BB: Yes I can imagine that. So when he grew those vegetables did he put those vegetables on the train to be taken to other markets?

TC: Not that I know of.

BB: Was it grown just for himself?

TC: No. No. The store.

BB: So you did sell the smelt. Did you sell any other fish that you caught?

TC: No, well maybe perch, but mainly smelt

BB: And that was winter time that you would do that?

TC: Oh yeah. I had this one guy Bacon; he was the one who did all the digging for the sewer. He'd take a whole god-darn bucket, thirty, thirty five pounds.

BB: When you could get it?

TC: Yeah he would take the whole bucket, and Besette would too.

JC: Perry Mitchell, Jimmy Collette,

TC: Jimmy Collette I'd go in his kitchen get a gallon bucket and dump it right in the sink. Happy as hell.

BB: What about other game? You're a pretty well known hunter?

JC: Rabbits...

BB: You don't sell that. That's just something you have for yourself and you give to your family and friends.

JC: We used to eat rabbits and coon, pigeons.

TC: You know that barn right there, the picture of the barn?

BB: Couldn't get up that high?

TC: If they were safe they would get up that high, wouldn't even break a window. No they used to have that big golf course over on the farm that was the only one around here.

JC: Harry Webb was one of the best left-handed polo players there was around.

BB: Did you ever see polo played in that barn?

TC: No, I never did.

JC: No, not there. Over the mountain we did... Waitsfield. Harry was noted for being one of the best left-handed polo players. They made most of their money, Webbs, from sugar, every bit of sugar you used. Dunbar Bostwick was Singer Sewing Machines back then.

BB: You were telling me... was it you Tut that was telling me about the foxhunts?

TC: Oh Yeah!

BB: What did they used to wear?

TC: I can't. I'm pretty young, but they used to go by blowing their bugles, eight or ten of them, and they had their herds all over the place, and they would ask the farmers if they could come on their land with a big pack of dogs, twenty dogs maybe! They used to go right through town with them.

BB: Somebody was telling me they wore yellow coats. What about this motorcycle, Tut? Was this one that Gladys, this is before Gladys set up in business?

TC: No, she was in business down there then.

BB: Did you get this from her?

TC: Well, I lived with them down there for quite a few years.

BB: So who's motorcycle was this?

TC: It was mine.

BB: You were just up from Boston, were you in Boston?

TC: No, they came up every weekend.

BB: Your talking about George Lafollette?

TC: He was in the air force. He was a gunner on a B-24. I was in the Navy. Nobody thinks I went anywhere. I was gone 21 days and went cross the Atlantic and back.

BB: So you when you came back would you pull into the Chelsea Naval Yard in Boston

TC: I've been in there a lot. New York City.

BB: So when you lived...

TC: I didn't live with them; I spent a week with them before I went in the service in Boston. They weren't there after I was pulling back in from overseas, they weren't living in Boston.

BB: They were back here now?

TC: Yeah, they were back here then.

BB: So this is probably one of the first Harley Davidsons that was sold in the State of Vermont?

TC: No. I say not, but it was the first overhead valve to come out. They brought it to the racetrack and it was fast. I got marks to prove it.

BB: So then where would you stay when you were coming back from the Navy?

TC: I stayed down with Gladys'.

BB: And Gladys lived down on Bay Road?

TC: Yup.

BB: So when you came out of the Service is that when you went into carpentry and building? You were down at the shipyard before the service.

TC: Yup.

BB: But then Flynn Avenue, when did you go down to Flynn Avenue?

TC: Lyman Avenue. I worked the Shipyard when I got back, a welder.

JC: A little bit at the shipyard.

TC: Because the government.... they had a program now...anybody that had come back, they had to let you have your old job back. But I was working there and I was working at the Woolen Mill in Winooski during the war, before I went. I come back and I went down to the Shipyard as a welder. The government they paid so much money towards me learning, you know? I worked on some tugboats down there.

JC: The war years, I was a kid back then in '45, well basically.

BB: What year were you born Janis?

JC: '32.

TC: She's a young kid!

JC: Well, I'll be 70. During the war my grandfather was District Superintendent of the Green Mountain Power so he couldn't go in the Service. Everybody else went. My mother worked at the phone company, so during the war they would give me a grand sack and I filled it with milkweed pods. The white stuff, they used that that to make parachutes, and 50 cents a bag. Do you know how long it took me to pick a bag? So then I would have to go to the Post Office, I bought them every week or so I got my fifty cents, a lot of money back then for a kid. I would go down to the post office and buy three Savings Stamps until you got \$18.75 and I kept the other twenty cents for myself. It was \$18.75 when you filled the book. You kept it and you got \$25.00 after five or seven years, Savings Stamps. During the war we had rationing. Everybody had money, you couldn't buy a thing. No nylons, I didn't wear them but my mother did. You couldn't buy your food. You'd go to the grocery store. Everything was in a coupon book. You had coupon books. You would go in the store. You had money to buy it but you couldn't because you had meat coupons, food coupons. Well, we shopped at the A&P or one of those. They had market stubs on almonds, butter, and all those things. You would get home and you had a paper bag, but you never knew what was in it. If you were a regular customer. Two pairs of shoes a year. Two! And we all put cleats on our shoes because you only got two pairs a year. You couldn't get sugar, five pounds a month or something. Well, my grandfather working at Green Mountain Power. There were single men there. So they would give us extra sugar. But the biggest treat was butternut fudge at Christmas because we had extra sugar. You couldn't buy anything but two pair of shoes a year, no nylons for the women, nothing in nylon at all because it all went to the war. What else was rationed?

BB: Chocolate of course, tobacco? Could you buy cigarettes?

JC: You rolled your own. I got paid for rolling my mother's because she smoked. I didn't cause I was young. They had a little rolling machine. You'd put paper in, put

tobacco in, and you rolled them. I got paid like a dime to roll all her cigarettes for her. Back then they had meat wagons that go around to your house. And they also had ice wagons. We had a refrigerator and an electric stove, but back then they had meat wagons that would go by your house and you would run out and buy meat off the wagon, ice wagons with chunks of ice they would cut out of the River.

BB: Now you are talking about Montpelier, where you grew up, not Shelburne.

JC: Montpelier.

BB: So the river you are talking about is the Winooski River that they cut they ice from

JC: Yup. My uncle couldn't go in the service because he had heart trouble. My Aunt Arlene, my mother's sister and my Uncle Charlie went to Hartford, Connecticut. She worked as Rosie the Riveter, that's what they called them back then until the war was over. I used to go down and visit them down there.

BB: I can imagine that when the war was on, a town like Shelburne was probably a very different place, no young men. There were no men in town I suspect.

JC: I wouldn't think so.

BB: So then when the war ended were there a lot of changes in a town like Shelburne? What were some of those changes, do you remember?

JC: Well it took a period of time for things to change. It just wasn't boom boom, overnight.

BB: Were there new businesses?

JC: Yup. 'Cause a lot of people went back to their old jobs. I know my mother was on Phone Company. She worked; in fact I used to go with her, on the ambulance crew. At night when we had blackouts you had to have black out curtains, they blew those sirens for air raids, everything went black! No street lights, no lights in the houses, and the ambulance crews had to go out. And people had to learn first aid. I knew all my first aid then because I'd go with her because she couldn't leave me alone. School, we had drills. The siren blew; we had to go under our table, all kinds of different things like that.

BB: When did you actually come to Shelburne, Janis?

JC: '53-'54.

BB: Why did you come to Shelburne?

JC: I was married to Bob for like seven years. Tut and I have been married forty-one.

BB: So which house did you live in?

JC: The big house.

BB: The Gadhues? Where Mrs. Gadhue lived.

JC: Yup. Although she did put in the clock in for above the Town Hall for the town although it didn't work for quite a few years. She kept that going.

TC: Then if they wanted to trim a tree down in front of Town Hall, she'd pay for it but she wanted it done her way.

JC: They also had the train station down where the new one is now. That went to the Museum. That old train station is at the Museum, the old one. Don Lubey worked as stationmaster there. They had freight trains come through. They'd side track 'em and they brought things in. And most of the inside of the boxcars were done in sheet rock for certain items. So if you wanted free sheet rock you could go over and strip it out of the boxcars for your house, which was a lot of savings for some of them. Don Lubey he married one of the Salters twins that lived where the frame shop is now, and he was station master back then.

BB: Would people come to the sidetrack with trucks to pick up the goods that came off those cars?

JC: Yup, like lumber. They transported everything by train back then.

BB: What else came off of that train?

JC: Everything.

TC: Coal. I shoveled a lot of it.

BB: How did they get the coal down to the big house at Shelburne Farms? I heard they burned a carload of coal everyday down there during the winter.

TC: Well, like I said, the old dump truck we got across the road over there, old Diamond Dave. We used to go down there and unload them. The old guy could hire kids. We'd all come back looking blacker than hell, but we were allowed to get some of it. We had shoes too. A lot of it you had to handle pretty near by hand.

BB: How did the truck get loaded from the boxcar? Hand shovel.

TC: I was down there and a guy asked me "what you digging in there for boy?" I said \$17.50 a week! "Think your digging for gold?" \$17.50 a week.

JC: My mother worked for the Phone Company, she got \$7.50/week for working and then during the depression she took in washings to supplement the income.

TC: She had three washing machines, and sometimes she melted the snow to make water.

BB: Did you work on the roads after the war too, Tut?

TC: Before the war.

BB: Just before as a kid. Was there a lot of new road building going on then?

TC: Mainly I did a lot of work tarring. A tar Mack would come along, put gravel down and then and shoot it with tar, and then mix it with a bulldozer and then put a rowler over it.

BB: Which roads were blacktopped back then?

JC: Very few.

TC: I did a lot of work up there by the islands, Chimney Corners, up through there.

BB: Do you remember which roads in Shelburne were paved, just before the war? Route 7, was that paved?

TC: This one here wasn't, till way after I bought it.

BB: When did you buy this house Tut?

TC: Jesus Christ I don't know. I need to get my books out. I think my taxes were \$17.50. I think it was \$17.50 a year.

BB: When did they pave Mt. Philo Road?

TC: I don't know.

BB: Was it paved when Gladys moved up there?

TC: Probably wasn't when she first moved up there. I don't know.

JC: I think it was Tut.

TC: She lived in that trailer at Bostwick's for a while.

JC: All the roads around here, Pond Road. They lost the Pond Road one year. It sank and never came back.

TC: They went to the dance and they come back and there was no road there.

JC: It went down.

BB: What time of year was that?

JC: Spring. It went down and never came back.

BB: So the Pond floods right across there connecting that marsh on the right to the main pond.

TC: Do you know that sharp corner up there? Hell of a corner they all roll over up there.

BB: On 116?

TC: Yup. Just before you get there, you look down and see the tree where the old road used to go.

BB: The Pond Road as we now know it that ties into 116 there, that was never there?

TC: No the other one came in from Dubois'. Just this side of Dubois'.

BB: It ran on the east side of Shelburne Pond?

TC: Gladys knew about it because they went to the dance one night and came back and there was no road there. Mimi could tell you more about that.

BB: What is Woodsmen's Hall?

TC: That is a creamery and everything out there.

JC: That little house down here on the corner was schoolhouse.

TC: Woodsmen's Hall is about four or five houses up from Gallipeaus on the right hand side. They used to have dances upstairs there. Then the Creamery across the road used to be a grain mill, where the architect is.

JC: McGee's corner, the little house next door, that cute little house, that was an old schoolhouse.

BB: Is that where Tut went to school?

TC: No. Gladys and Mimi went to it. My brother went to it. I went to the other one. The other one was built in 1925.

JC: I've got a Town Report here somewhere from 1925. They listed all the workman's hours, you know, that worked in town. You see a whole list of all the people that did work in town. We've got the 1925 School Report.

BB: I've heard that there was a little pond right outside the old library. They used to freeze over and they would skate there in the wintertime. I think Gladys told me that. Do you know what I am talking about?

TC: The skating rink? Do you know where they had their cookouts and stuff right in front of the Catholic Church? We used to flood that for skating. We had a skating hut we would put up there.

BB: Where Marcotte's now sets up skating.

TC: No, I don't think so. Right across from the Catholic Church.

JC: Methodist Church!

TC: Yeah. We used to put timbers up and flood it with a hydrant. Didn't we have some ball games? We used to go down with our own lawn mowers and mow the whole goddamn field.

BB: That's where you played baseball in that field?

JC: Behind the school.

TC: The school they just did over. When I was in the fire department we used to go out with our hand mowers and mow it for the kids to play. And the town wouldn't let us use their riding lawn mower. You don't know how to run it. I say we got the guy that runs it all the time for nothing. They still wouldn't let us use it.

JC: He helped build the beach house down at Shelburne Beach. We used to go down Jean Bean and I, swimming right at the beach. You could moor you boats down there, take them out, down the hill and out.¹

BB: This was when Lee was a boy?

BB: Tell me about this bridge. What did this bridge used to look like?

TC: Well it was a covered bridge that's one thing.

BB: Do you remember it as a covered bridge?

TC: No. That's the third one I knew of. The other one was built in 1925.

¹ See Don and Jean Bean interview

BB: Did that use wood timbers?

TC: No.

BB: Steel and concrete.

TC: Yup. I don't remember the other one. The other one before this one was built in 1925, but I heard a lot and I seen pictures of it.

JC: They used to slide down this hill and also skateboard down through here.

TC: I could go from the top of this hill up here I could go clear up to the Catholic Church. It would be slow, but...on one of those flyers you know?

BB: Flexible Flyer, steel runners.

TC: Yeah, I'd go around the corner. The old guy used to whip at me from the horse and buggy. I would grab on to back and he would take his whip and try to knock me off. "The horses are getting tired the hoses are getting tired". He tried and hit me with a bullwhip.

JC: What do they call those skates now with just two wheels?

TC: Roller blades.

JC: Yeah. All the UVM kids would take their ski poles and go up here and go down Spear and back to UVM. But Eric and Beth Hayden both did it.

BB: What did your father do?

TC: He was teamster for Shelburne Farms. He was there forty some odd years. Then he worked for Structural Steel during the war.

BB: Vermont Structural Steel right in Burlington, down on Flynn Avenue?

TC: Yeah.

JC: Another thing during the war too. We had gas rationing. You had tickets. You could only get so much gas. Then later on when they had the gas shortage in town, when Rufus owned the gas station down here on the corner, we'd have to line up by our plate number. We were lined up all the way down Harbor Road, 6:30 in the morning with our coffee and our newspaper. I went Monday, Wednesday and Friday for my gas and you'd have to line up and if they ran out, well too bad. But you had to go by your plate number, and that wasn't too many years ago and then you might get Wednesday, Friday

and Saturday when you could go, but you couldn't go on the days I had unless you had the right ticket.

BB: Tell me about the village itself. There were farms right in the village originally. For example, all by Marsett Road was that farm?

JC: No Marsett Road, there weren't farms back when Barry was a youngster.

BB: Who's Barry?

JC: My son. He is going to be 50 next year. They built an apartment house over there and the girl that lived there babysat while I worked. That whole meadow, up where hillside is, all that was all meadow, all fields.

BB: Was it grazed?

JC: No, they used it for hay. There wasn't one house in there. Up Route 7 from the Museum up, there weren't any houses.

TC: That big farm there on the corner, that was a big farm there.

BB: On the corner of Route 7 and Marsett Road?

TC: Yeah, there was a big farm up there. Strong Farm they had a lot of cattle down there. I can't think of who had it before.

BB: Which farm are we talking about now?

TC: That was Lapham's, up there on the corner where the horses are now, the Morgan horses. That was Laphams.

BB: So it was a different owner on the West side of Route 7 or was it one farm?

TC: I don't know. The only one I really knew was the Laphams right there.

BB: What about the house that we live in, that was a farm at one time.

TC: I never knew they had many cattle back there or nothing.

BB: There was a barn back there. You told me about that.

TC: The next house over from the dance hall. He used to have cows and sell milk door to door and he used somebody else's land. Back then they didn't care.

BB: So he ran cows on somebody else's land. All he needed was his barn.

TC: The barn to milk them in and he sold milk house to house, right there on the corner there, Thomas Farm. Right up here. You know that first sharp turn? The barn burnt quite a few years ago, but he used to. That was Sunny Brook. I used to help him a lot, bottle milk, Sunny Brook Farm. He had bottles that said Sunny Brook. I might have a bottle somewhere around here. I bottled a lot of milk for them when I was a kid.

BB: When did they change, the bulk tanks came in you know they had to change

TC: I don't know.

BB: But these farms didn't have bulk tanks?

TC: I didn't know if they had tanks. Down on the Bay Road he was a Thompson, wasn't he, Ernest?

JC: No, Ernest lived down cross from the cemetery.

BB: So that farm down by the bay that was a dairy farm?

TC: Yup.

BB: Was anyone using oxen or workhorses on those farms or was it pretty much all tractors?

JC: When I was a kid, growing up we had a team of horses come in and plow our gardens....A lot of people used horses to do their gardens. We raised chickens and the people next door had pigs and beef and we used to swap them back and forth. When I was in school we didn't have pasteurized milk we had raw milk.

TC: I love it.

BB: So what Shelburne Farms was doing with their mule teams that were unusual?

TC: My father was strictly horses.

BB: He would take care of the horses that pulled the carriages?

TC: Hay wagons. Maybe 20. Each teamster had his own team.

BB: That was unusual? Other farms were using tractors. Then they got into tractors. Steam. I tried to make a hill with it and I blew a cylinder. It got going backwards

BB: Is it still back there?

TC: No. I had a Packard back there with lots of bullet holes. It was a bootleggers car.

BB: How did that end up back there?

TC: It had thirteen spark plugs

BB: When did prohibition end? Was it part of your life?

JC: That was way back in the 30's, '29. As Selena Webster about the little car they called the Mayflower. They drove it quite a bit, an old model A. They would drive it to UVM and back. Ask her. I don't know if they still have it.

TC: Carey Wood's motorcycle. I ended up with that. I run it for a couple of years and sold it.

BB: What was it, a Harley?

TC: Yeah a Harley. I bought it off Mimi's husband. He had that Harley. He laughed like hell. I think they bought it off him for a hundred and a half for it. I wish I had it now. He bought it for \$75.

JC: David (Webster) lived in the farm over here on Webster Road.

BB: So that farm, those were all hay fields back in there?

TC: Some were and some weren't.

BB: And there was a fox, didn't they used to keep hounds or something?

TC: The fox farm I think was across the road.

BB: But they raised foxes there?

JC: Fox and mink?

TC: He had pheasants. David did.

JC: They had a mink farm too, across the road up where Bisonettes now live. That was a mink farm.

TC: They used to raise them for the hides. They used to take two boards and squeeze 'em to death so it didn't hurt the pelt.

JC: The little Cheeseman house has been there quiet a while, up across from Webster House.

BB: Because of the people who live there?

JC: I think so.

BB: Where were there other schoolhouses? Where were there other schools?

TC: Right up here. Just up over the hill.

JC: Past Deavitts, up on the left where you go on that flat to go to Dorset Street.

BB: Across the street from the farm where the guy where the guy was bringing milk and whipped you when you tried to hoof a ride up the hill on your sled.

TC: No the school is up a little further than that. You got to look at the windows. There is another one too.

BB: On Spear Street? How far along?

TC: You know where Koerner moved his house back? It's almost across the road. Left on Spear Street.

BB: That's the corner of Dorset Street.

TC: On the corner of Pond Road.

BB: So there were two schoolhouses right on that road.

JC: This land across the River over here was all leased land from the Church of England. Then the Trinity Church threw it up and it was sold, but it was originally they paid a dollar a year for the lease to the Church of England. So that was all leased land over here.

BB: And they call it Church Woods, and the church owned it, and that's why?

TC: Yeah!! Church of England. That's Church Lane right in there. You can drive right up through there.

BB: A lot of deer up in there. A lot of old oak trees. They cut down a big oak tree back there that went back to the Revolutionary War.

TC: The deer wander out right there.

JC: With all the building around here we have two bobcats across the road, we have pheasant we have loads of deer, everything...rabbits, bluebirds.

BB: You have otter, I know you have otter.

TC: The otter they like that bank, the clay bank. They slide on their bellies.

BB: I think I know where you mean.

TC: Below the Route 7 Bridge. On the left hand side there. I haven't been there in years but I used to sit there and watch them. They would catch something and put it down, that's their dinner table right there.

JC: There is beaver down there too. A beaver dam...cause the town wanted to take 'em out but its state law that you can't remove them.

BB: So what about trappers were there trappers in town?

JC: Barry used to trap down here when he was in boy scouts.

BB: What was he after?

TC: Muskrats mainly

JC: He did it for a boy scout badge, but you had to check your traps twice a day.

TC: We used to have bags of them, muskrat traps.

BB: You used to trap too Tut? All down at the La Platte?

TC: No, some times when I went deer hunting I would put traps down for foxes, bobcat.

BB: What would you do with a bobcat pelt?

TC: Back then all they wanted was the ears. You would get about \$35

JC: We found a dead one in our garage once, a bobcat. We have all sorts of bats around here. You take off your shutters and there is bats behind there.

TC: I made quite a bit of money in bobcat.

BB: When was that?

TC: Twenty or thirty years ago

BB: Not that long ago.

Edward "Tut" and Janice Coleman

April 5, 2002

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