

Interview with Charlotte Tracy.

1. First side of tape ends abruptly about halfway through, and second side of tape begins mid-sentence which may mean that some of the interview was lost.
2. It seems like the window may have been opened part way through the interview as traffic noise increased and became much louder. There were a couple of points where I was unable to hear what was said and indicated this on the transcript.

CHARLOTTE TRACY interviewed by Jeanne LaClair and Sheara Billado

I think what I'm most interested in is what it was like to live in Shelburne when you were a girl. Have you lived in Shelburne all your life?

CT: All my life.

You were born here?

CT: Born here. Three or four generations of my family that were born here.

You have seen all of the changes that Shelburne has made.

CT: Well, you see, I lived on a farm, up on Spear Street. I was married and, of course, life was very different then.

How was it different? What was it like being a child?

What was expected from you, for example? At home?

CT: At homeS not so much. You mean duties? Not so much that because it was a big family and a big farm up on Spear Street. And I wasn't supposed to be very well. (laughs)

You were sickly.

CT: I was supposed to be sickly and I went to school in a little are you familiar with Shelburne?

Somewhat. But not the way you are. There was a little schoolhouse up on Spear Street, wasn't there?

CT: We went to the Dorset Street school. That little bit of a schoolhouse, little one-room schoolhouse until my brothers were old enough to come down here to the high school and then I came down. And of course, we used to drive our own horse, always, and then we'd put it up in a neighbor's barn during the day and then drove home at night.

Even, as young children, you drove your own horse?

Yes, because my brothers were older than I and it was in 1896 that they came down to high school and then I came down and was in the grade school.

Is that where the present village school is now?

No, it's across the street. I have the picture. Did you happen to come to the celebration at the library? Did you see that picture? I gave that picture. Now, when I went to school, just the middle of that building was the schoolhouse and the high school was upstairs and there was just one teacher. And, an assistant teacher a half a day. She taught four years of high school.

How many kids? How many children did she have?

There were probably 35, 40, something like that.

And she taught all the subjects?

She taught all the subjects. She taught Latin and French and German and history and English and mathematics. The assistant taught the physical geography, as I remember it, and I don't know what else. I can't think what else she taught.

Did you go to school for a full day? How long was your school day?

Oh, nine to four. And we had an hour at noon and two 15-minute recesses.

Did you go home at that point? You had a hot lunch?

Oh, no. We took our lunch.

What did you take for lunch? Do you remember?

Sandwiches. Oh, when we came to the village, we always had a big jar of milk. We were the only ones in the school that had this jar of milk with our lunch. And I remember how the other children used to make fun of us. And my name was Maeck and they called me ³Lottie Milk.² Lottie Milk. And it was very embarrassing always. But, we had our milk. We had our sandwiches, fruit.

That's interesting. You see kids that kind of name-calling nowadays. I guess that's just part of being a child.

Oh yes. That's isn't very interestingS

Kids, nowadays, I remember we were talking with some junior high school kids about the differences between now and when you were a child and they said, but what did they do for fun before they had television? What did they do with all of their time?

WellS we read. Of course, we read a great deal more instead of watching television. The library. I always had library books on hand. Of course, there was no rural delivery. There was no electricity. There was no furnace until 1906 or 1907. We heated with stoves woodstoves and one big coal stove.

Did someone have to stoke the fire during the night?

No. No. It's one of those big Stewart stoves that three quarters of the way to the ceiling. You don't know, of course.

Very large. Was it cold when you got up in the morning?

Oh. We always when I was a child until we had the furnace we always put flat irons on the stove in the evening, on the kitchen stove. And then when we went up to bed, they were wrapped up and put into the bottom of the bed to warm them. For warmth.

I found that I need that again lately (laughs).

I think a hot water bottle is good. I use the stove quite a lot.

Do you remember any of the games that you played when you were a child?

You mean in school or at home?

Either one. Like at recess or during your noon hour? Or at home?

I've been trying to think. We used to play clap in and clap out. Now what in the worldS I can't remember the details. Someone came out and went in and, if they sat down next to the wrong boy or girl, they were tapped out. And we played hide and seek. We didn't play ball that wouldn't do for girls.

You mean baseball?

Yeah.

Girls didn't play that.

No. As I remember, they didn't.

There was a real distinction then between what little boys did and what little girls?

Yes. You see we didn't have very much time. We had to leave home at quarter past 8 for school and then we went home after school, you see, so there wasn't very much play time.

What about on weekends when school was closed? What did you do?

Well, it was just at home. As I grew older, of course, I helped with the housework. We always had a housekeeper. My mother wasn't well for years and years. She had _____ and so weS

How is housekeeping different then than it is now?

Well, we always had help a woman. The laundry was certainly very different from what it is now.

How did you do the laundry?

Well, we had a big pot of water put on the stove. And the hired man always pumped the water and filled that at night, so that there would be warm water in the morning. Then, we had a washing machine and the man always turned on the washing machine. (demonstrates).

With a crank.

Uh-huh. The hired man we always had a hired man to turn the machine. And, tubs were brought up from the cellar. They had to be kept in the cellar, otherwise they would dry out, you know.

They're wooden?

Some of them were wooden. And we always had to leave water in the washing machine because that would dry out.

That was wooden also.

That was the wooden tub. The early one was. The later ones were metal.

My picture of people doing laundry in those days was on a scrub-board that you didn't actuallyS

We never did that, except as the individual things, like the dish towels sometimes would be scrubbed out that way.

I'm having trouble picturing this washing machine. When the man turned the crank, did it push clothes around?

It was just the same principle as the washing machine now.

Except without electricity. Isn't that amazing!

Yes. There was a thing in the middle. Of course, it was shaped differently with nubs on it that would twist the clothes to go back and forth like that. And the wringer had to be done the man always turned the wringer.

How much clothing did you have? Do you feel like people have more clothing now than you did then?

Oh! My word! Yes! Because, of course, we rode a sleigh is open there was no cover on it and we went to school, we always had an umbrella in the back of the buggy, if it rained when we came home and in the awfully, cold weather, of course, we wore much heavier clothing and in the very cold weather, an extra shawl, which was always a terrible embarrassment to me to have the shawl wrapped around me. But, before I'd get to school, I'd be awful glad of the shawl.

Has the climate changed since you were a child? Was it colder? Was there more snow?

Well, some winters we had more snow than we do others. Of course, the roads weren't plowed except as individual farmers would fasten a plow on the side of the sleigh and then would then plow out on the right hand side of the road and then when he came home, he'd plow the other. And the east and west roads used to drift terribly and lots of times, they would get so full that the horses couldn't go through. All they did was take down the fence and drive through the neighbor's meadow to go around the snow.

People get very upset about those things today.

Oh, wouldn't they! Well, of course, we didn't have cars.

Do you remember the first car coming?

Oh yes! I remember the first car that I ever saw. I went to my mother was ill I went to California the doctors wanted her to spend the winters in California and I went out there with her in 1902-1903. I came home in 1904 and it was during that time that I saw the first car out there in California. And the first one I ever road in, I sat in the front seat and the driver sat back here and there was no top. There was no windshield and I felt like I was going to pitch over the front of the car.

Was it frightening?

No, because you went so slowly. And you wondered every time you came to a hill, you wondered whether you'd get up the hill.

That's really interesting.

Did that make a change in your life? The change in the automobile?

Oh yeah. We didn't have a car until about 1910. Of course, that was a very big change when you could get places.

Did a lot of families in Shelburne own cars fairly soon? Or were there just a few here?

No. Of course they came very slowly. I don't know about the Webbs, but I know Carl Fletcher had car quite early and Mrs. Diette, who lived across the street had one quite early. I don't remember.

They were a novelty more then first.

Yes. Because no one knew how toS well, they were rather uncertain.

Apparently, when you weren't sure if you would get up a hill or not. I was going to ask you when you were saying that you began to help around the house more as you got older, but that you always did have live-in help. Did you have to do certain things that were considered preparation for becoming married? Did you have to have some sort of a dowry or hope chest? Or things that you had made that you set aside?

Well, later, when I was going to be married, but not as a child.

What kinds of things did you make for your hope chest?

Oh, sheets, pillowcases, towels. I've still got some of the towels. And, linen, napkins. There was no such thing as paper napkins at that time.

Did you make your own wedding dress?

But, I wore myS we had a celebration of our 60th anniversary - 50th and I wore my wedding dress then.

Did you! Isn't that something!

What was it like courting in those days?

OhS we used to haveS well, there was an awful lot of groupS not a lot of itS well, most of it. We had sleigh rides in the wintertime and parties at people's houses and that was all the whole group. And maybe you went with a boy, and if you didn't you went alone. It was just a group affair.

What kinds of things did you do at your parties? Was there dancing? Did you sing?

I don't remember. We played games, but what the games were I can't tell you. I don't remember what we did.

Was there a certain age that you had to be before you were allowed to go out on a date? Or was there dating? Did you ever go out?

Oh yes. I lived outside the village, you see. It was a difficult thing to have much of a social life. I'd go with my brothers because they were going. It was kind of much of an effort to do it any other way. We went to church and we went to young people's meetings. Of course, we were self-sufficient on the farm. We raised our own - we had our beef and our pork and never kept lambs. My father kept sheep earlier, but they had to give that up. I don't know why. Maybe when they went into the milk business. You see, the sheep wereS

Did you raise all of your own vegetables?

Oh, yes. And canned them. Although we didn't can so much except tomatoes. We made pickles and canned berries and fruits. We always had those on hand. And we always had apples and potatoes and all those things.

You had a dry cellar.

Yes.

I'm afraid I can't give you anything very interesting.

I can't tell you how interesting this is! I know that it's just old stuff to you and it isn't to us. It's just absolutely fascinating. It gives me a whole feeling of having been there.

That's wonderful.

Do you remember when electricity came?

Oh my, yes! We got electricity in about 1914S 15S 16S was the beginning. Of course, that was one of the awful jobs on the farm was filling those was filling those lanterns every morning and two lanterns. They were always dirty and had often been used in the barn. It was quite a job.

Was that one of your chores?

Well.

Whoever.

Yes.

That would be a terrible chore.

Awful chore. And washing milk pails. There'd be four or five milk pails to wash every morning besides the dishes and

Where did you put electricity first when it came through?

Well, it was not until after I was married and I was living over to the other house. We lived over there until 1959. Then, we sold that house and my husband built this over here. It's smaller. I had just part of the downstairs.

Were there certain areas that were considered more important to put the electricity first or did you have it throughout the house. Lights throughout the house right away?

Yes. But of course, we didn't know anything about the conveniences that it could be the electricity at first. The plugs and the portable lamps and

things like that were justS well, the light on a switch and light in the ceiling, now this system was put in at that time, except there were four lights in the four corners of the room.

They were stationary lights!

Yes. Just like this.

Did you still use oil lamps for moving around at that time?

No. But, of course, gradually, we learned more of the use of electricity. We had plugs put in so that weS and of course, we were able to get a refrigerator and washing machine and flat iron.

It opened a whole newS

A whole new life! Even the hair curlers.

Would you say that the invention of electricity made the most difference in your life?

Oh my, yes! Then they got that to Shelburne. We didn't believe it was possible when they started it. A group of people met. Dr. Mitchell was the prime mover in that, as I remember it. We were terribly thrilled. Of course, there was talk at one time of having electric cars come to Shelburne and there was talk of it going to Hinesburg and they even started that road, you know.

Electric cars? Do you mean like a trolley?

A trolley, yes. They had a right-of-way, what do you call it. Of course, if we went to Burlington in the wintertime, we had trains and it was veryS we'd just drive to the village and put up horse in some friend's barn for the day and go to Burlington. And the trolley car met the train, so it was very easy to get up to the shopping center.

How often did you go to Burlington?

Well, not too often.

It was kind of an event then?

It was an event. Although I took music lessons and went up quite often on the train.

The shopping center in BurlingtonS was that for clothing or food?

Not for food. I never bought food in Burlington. We bought it up here at the store. Of course, we raised so much of own food.

What was the name of the store? Do you remember that?

Yes. It was Tracy, van Vliet and Russell. I think that was the first.

That's where the Harrington's building is now?

Yes.

Were there others shops along that way? Right on that same road?

Where that little country store is over there was the Robertson Viette Store and that was a general store.

You spoke earlier of illness in your family; did you have a doctor here in Shelburne?

There was a doctor here in Shelburne, but my father preferred the Charlotte doctor. East Charlotte. Doctor Riley. And he used toS they had to drive four miles to notify him if you needed a doctor. There was no telephone. We didn't have a telephone, I guess, until 1910 probably. The line didn't go through up there for a long time. You had to drive the four miles and the doctor had to come. You can imagine what it must have been when a baby was coming.

Yeah. I was wondering about that. All your children were born at home.

They were born at home. Not my children. The five of us were all born upstairs at home.

When did hospitals come in here?

Well, Mrs. Rood had a S it wasn't popular to go to the hospital. They didn't have any obstetrics at the hospital. They had ever taken any obstetric patients. But, Mrs. Rood up on Brookes Avenue had a little _____.

In her own home, kind of thing?

Must have been. I never went there.

You'd go there and have a baby?

Yes.

Was she a what is it called?

Midwife?

No. I don't think so. I think they all used a doctor attendant. I don't know about it. My first two children were born at home over here. And then, the next two I went to the _____ Sanitarium. The hospital still hadn't
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Where was that? Where was that?

That was on Bank Street where the big, what is there now? The Federal building?

Savings bank? The Burlington Savings Bank?

The Burlington Savings Bank is on College Street.

That's right. You're right.

This was on Bank Street. And he had a quite a large sanitarium and he was our doctor.

How long did you stay for each birth?

Ridiculous! Three weeks.

Oh, my word! Now it's three days.

Now it's three days.

Isn't that something!

I think it was three weeks. I know that when my first child was born, the nurse stayed three weeks.

At home

At home. But, I had a rather difficult time. I made more fuss about it than most people do.

When did the Mary Fletcher must have been built.

Oh, yes! The Mary Fletcher was<

But they didn't have babies there.

They didn't have obstetrics there that I remember. I don't think there was any obstetrics ward.

And all of your illnesses, no matter how old people were, were handled by the same doctor? You didn't have a pediatrician, in other words, or a gynecologist. It was just your family doctor.

Yes.

And he made house calls!

Oh, yes. He did. He used to come down from Burlington on the train. My aunt lived with us over there and when she was ill, he used to come down on the

four o'clock after his office hours and go back at half past six had supper and then went back at half past six.

What was your wedding like?

Very simple. My father was ill and was just married at home. It was just a family wedding.

Did you go on a honeymoon? Did people go on honeymoons then?

Oh yes! We went over to Willoughby Lake for two weeks. It was a horse and buggy trip. We drove. Naturally, if it was a horse and buggy trip, you drove (laughs).

It's a good way right away to get to know one another!

What kind of occupation

TAPE ENDS SUDDENLY.

SIDE TWO

Charlotte Tracy: S.developments. It was farming.

Farming was the major?

Yes. Of course, Dr. Webb, you see, bought all that lakeshore property and that reduced the number of farms. I suppose people came up the Lake and as the first settlement over there.

Do you remember when that happened? When he brought?

No. That happened when I was too young.

But, he bought up what used to be a number of farms.

Oh yes! The Tracy farm was one of them. Well, you girls aren't interested particularly in that, in who the farms were.

Sure we are.

You are?

Sure. If you remember them.

There were Nash. Well I just remember them from hearsay. There was Nash, Saxon, and Comstock, Tracy and who was the man over here in this houseS Miller, van Vliet.

Most of the people in Shelburne were farmers?

Oh yes.

And you had services to supply their needs like a shoemaker? Did you have a blacksmith?

Oh my, yes!

You had to with all your horses.

Mercy, yes! Have you been to the Museum? Well, that's<

That's our blacksmith?

That's the blacksmith's shop, which was moved from right over here. Then, the blacksmith shop is still standing over at Shelburne Falls, the Hathaway's, where we always had ours<

Where was that?

Are you familiar with the Falls?

I live there.

Oh, you do? Well, you know where Sandra Lewis lives.

I don't live right in the Falls. Actually, I live on Thomas Road. But I go through the Falls.

Yes. Well, the store. Right next to the store, you know where the Beacon Building? Well, that was the blacksmith shop the Hathaway blacksmith shop and I guess it's just about as it was.

Oh my!

Now, I don't know that, but Sandra could tell you.

Was the Falls quite a separate settlement from the village, at that point? When you were growing up?

Yes.

What was the difference between the two? Just separate communities? Or quite different occupations for the two locations?

Yes. There were I don't want to seem snobbish or that sort but they were more of the working people, who lived over there. But, it has risen, of course. Now it's very nice. Now that would sound terrible to you.

No, but that was realistic. That's what it was and that's important to remember. There was once a mill over there, wasn't there?

Oh my, yes! There were several mills and the creamery, of course, was right down there by the bridge where they brought the mill. To the right was the gristmill down that hill, if you've ever been down there.

What kind of bridge was there?

A covered bridge.

There was a covered bridge down here.

Over the LaPlatte down on Route 7, there was a covered bridge?

I have a picture of that somewhere. And, let's seeS what other covered bridges were there.

There was a covered bridge down here, but the one at the mouth of the river was always an open bridge as I can remember.

Down by the fishing access today?

Yes. Right there.

That was an open bridge there.

That was the main drag (laughs) to Burlington. Not in my day, of course the other bridge had been built long before that, but people from the other side used to drive up. Up, well, can't tell you just where the road went. That isn't interesting.

The other, the people from along the lakeshore all went that way to go to Burlington.

Not on what is Route 7 now? But on Spear Street?

No. The road went up, underneathS now I thought by the old Mays, you see. It routes Weed hill and then joined Route 7 way up in South Burlington. But that bridge was built very early.

It was close to the shoreline then. It was closer to the shoreline for people living out at the Point to come that way. They wouldn't come up to the village and then through the village to go to town at all.

No. And I think that the Charlotte people went largely that way and would follow along that road.

What was the relationship between <

(Charlotte's daughter enters and introductions are made. She drops off the groceries and then departs.)

Do you remember the celebration that they had in Shelburne for Admiral

Dewey?

Yes. I do, indeed.

That must have been quite an occasion.

It was quite a to-do! And all the schoolchildren lined up down on the street to see he was a guest of Dr. Webb. What do you see?

Right around 1903-04. Right in there.

It must have been before that. Well, 1898, of course, was the Spanish American War. This was probably '99, 1900. The children all lined up. There was flags a-waving and Dr. Webb entertained him over there at his big house.

They're opening that up to the public much more than they used to.

Did you prepare for a long time before he came?

I don't remember. Were you still a child? You must have been young. I was born in '85. If that was

Fifteen, sixteen years.

I began coming to the school in '96 when my brothers came. I must tell you about how it would be to come to school. You would be so cold in the wintertime, you'd be frozen. And the heat was all from a big chunk stove and, of course, to heat that schoolroom up, the janitor I don't know what time he started the fire, but never early enough and we would take chunks and we'd use in the stove. And there'd be a circle of chunks around that stove and we'd sit on those chunks until about 10 o'clock to get warm.

There was no one there keeping the stove going during the night.

No. That was the first year in high school. After that, there was a furnace. The ells were put on the original building and after that, they had a furnace.

Did you have plumbing in school?

(laughs) No plumbing.

That went through a change, too.

Never, as long as I went to school, was there plumbing.

And the children complain now.

Of course, they didn't have water, you see, in the school until 1940. Oh yes. No, we didn't have water in town until 1940.

People used their own wells?

Their own wells. We had a bathroom at home.

How did that operate?

We had a drilled well and a windmill, which pumped water into a tank.

You pulled a chain kind of thing?

Yes. Overhead tank.

I've seen those (laughs).

(There are several comments made from different people, none of them clear.)

It's confusing. I just ramble.

You've said so many interesting thing, I've justS let see if there's anything else I wanted to know.

Of course, most of our social life was centered around the church the suppers and theS

I know what it was! Is that where you met your husband?

I don't know. He was kind of a little older seven or eight years older than I and, of course, there's a very great chasm between those ages until you get quite grown up.

How old were you when you were married?

Twenty-fiveS twenty-six.

What kind of music did you take? You spoke about

Piano. And, of course, choir rehearsal was a lot of fun. Once a week we came down, the young people it didn't amount to very much, but it was kind of fun. We practiced hymns for Sunday.

How many churches were there in town at that point?

There was the Methodist and the Episcopalian. Dr. Webb had what is now St. Catherine's Hall was over on Shelburne Farms and when he came to town, he used to have services over there for his employees. There weren't as many Catholic families. I know there's a woman who lived up here Mrs. Purger, she used to walk to Burlington to church, Mass. That's what they used to say that she would walk to Burlington.

So the first Catholic Masses were held on the Webb estate?

Well, I don't know what they were. Then afterS then the Catholic church was built perhaps 1900. Around that. Father Compote came up from Vergennes and held the services and then the parish house was built later. I don't know. Somewhere in the early 1900s.

When you were aS I'm jumping around a little bit now.

This is a jumping around (laughs).

When you were a little girl, what kind of clothes did you wear? Long dresses?

We wore long underwear in the wintertime. Long sleeves. We had waistline stockings black, always. Shoes and overshoes. This is winter wear, naturally.

You weren't warm then later in the day when you were inside near the stove. You didn't get overly warm. Did you feel comfortable?

Was that too warm for inside?

No. I don't remember (loud car blocking out rest) open a window.

Ah, right. You didn't have to worry about wasting electricity.

No. No.

What did you wear in the summertime.

Cotton dresses. I don't know.

But long.

(laughs) Well, longer than they are now. And of course, pants were absolutely taboo. Sometimes, if I was going to do a dirty job at the farm, I'd put on a pair of my brothers' overalls, but those overalls had to be off before the hired man came home.

Did the hired men live right on the property with you?

Yes. There was an ell to the house with two bedrooms and then we had a tenant house, too.

What about things like make-up?

Oh, absolutely, no rouge. The older generation and young people didn't use lipstick. The older people I know I had an aunt who used to use some sort of cover, but she was always very careful that it didn't show.

How did people start using make-up? When did it become acceptable? And why? Was there something that changed things?

Not that I

It just sort of happened?

Just gradually began to happen.

What about hairdressers? They didn't have hairdressers.

Oh my, no.

So, you sort of cut your own hair and did with itS

Well, we didn't cut it.

You just let it grow.

Well, yes. We had long hair and braided, always braided. I remember one time I had two very heavy braids and one time a friend, we were rambunctious at school and during the noon hour, we unbraided our hair and ran downstreet.

Flying in the wind.

Flying in the wind. And we were scolded in no uncertain terms for unladylike behavior.

(laughs) That's beautiful.

What were some of the other reasons that children were scolded in school? Can you remember why some of the boys got into trouble? What was considered getting into trouble in school?

Well, theyS of course, if you passed notes and got caught, you had to go and sit down in the front seat. If you whispered. I think of the permissiveness of today.

Schools have changed.

Schools have changed. There was to be no whispering. Across the aisle. You could whisper a little to your seatmate. But, if anyone turned around across the room, that was taboo.

I know. I just thought of something. What was Christmas like?

Oh, beautiful. We used to have a big Christmas tree in church. Always candy and popcorn and oranges and that there were stockings and that was one of the fun things was to go to the to prepare for that. And we always went down to Mrs. Corey's, I know, and filled stockings with popcorn and candy ribbon candy.

What kinds of things did you do at home for Christmas?

We hung up our stockings. We had our own special doorknob that we used.

What kinds of things did you look forward to getting in your stocking?

I don't remember very much about it.

Did you get presents under the tree like we do now or was it mainlyS which kind?

You mean, at home. I don't remember that we had a Christmas tree at homes. There were the stockings and that was it.

And the tree at the church must have been lit by candles. Or was it lit?

It wasn't lit. As I remember that church was lighted. I don't rememberS that would have been took much of a fire hazard.

What happened when there was a fire?

Awful things. I don't knowS in the 1914, 15 there was a hose truck. It must have been later than thatS I don't know. It might have been 1920 before we had it.

No protection before then. Just whatever neighbors could gather at hand.

Yes.

In the truck, how did they carry water? In barrels?

Well, they had a tank. There was a tank on that truck on that first little truck. I don't know much about what they did use.

What happened when you were young when someone broke the law? Who took care of it? You didn't have policemen did you?

Didn't need it.

Why not?

(laughs) We were law-abiding.

You didn't have anyone breaking the law?

No. There were no house break-ins as we know today.

Leave your door unlocked.

Yes. We did until a few years ago. We'd go up street and leave our door unlocked. Never did anything about it.

No murders?

Oh, yes! Sure we had murders.

What happened then?

Who took care of those people? Do you remember that?

Well, they were largelyS I guess it was before my day and it's hearsay. They used to have traveling, which we always looked forward to in the summer. I have to explain what it was. There would be a man or a woman who would come around with a pack on his back and he odds and ends. You know, needles and pins and various little things, which he just carried around and you just bought from him. And I know that I remember that those were the stories one or two of them were killed. One going across he was killed in the woods. It was a gruesome story.

Did they ever find out who did it?

Oh, I don't know. It was before my remembrance.

I was going to ask you. I've heard something about the Old Maids Convention or something. Can you tell me about that?

(laughs) Well, the library. This wasn't the librarian. And my sister-in-law, with whom you are going to see next door was librarian and the library room with which we had was one room up over the store. And one winter, Nan and her mother, who was very much interested and was one of the library trustees, they decided we ought to do something about the library. And they went around and roused interest. I know they came up to the house and we got all the young people together. All you had to do was to tell them to come on to the library at 9 o'clock. We had to wait until the library closed. And, the boys sat around on the floor and the girls sat around wherever they could and we talked about raising some money and to, more or less as a joke, we'd raised some money for the library and what were we going to do? We thought we'd put on a play. They're very short on entertainment. And we put on this Old Maids Convention.

Oh, it was a play!

It was a play.

Did you sing?

Mrs. Maeck, she may tell you this. I don't remember very much about it, but I remember the song and she sang it. ³Why don't the men propose, oh dear? Why don't the men propose? Each seems just coming to the point and then away he goes. We fete the finest men in town as everybody knows. But, Why don't the men propose, oh dear? Why don't the men propose?²

(Everyone laughs.)

Everyone was dressed in these silly costumes and it was just a silly thing. But, we raised quite a little money. We were so encouraged that we had fairs and sales food sales and everything to raise some money and we finally accumulated \$600 and then the library was for sale. Or at least we saw Mr. van Vliet and he would sell that building, which was just a little rundown tenant house and Mrs. Webb gave \$1000 and the town voted us \$1000. So, they bought the building. And that's the start of the library.

Where did you hold this Old Maids Convention?

In the Town Hall? That funny building that you see in that picture.

That stood next to where the school was?

And the seats in that were benches heavy wooden benches would seat four, five, six people, I guess. And they were movable. And a big stove in the middle.

Did brothers and sisters this is probably a very silly question, but did brothers and sisters and friends did they quarrel and fight in that day?

Well, I suppose so. But not seriously. I suppose we did our share of quarreling.

Did your children growing up quarrel with each other?

You hear a lot about sibling rivalry now that's a key word sibling rivalry.

I know. I don't think in these memories. Do you mean my family? My children?

Your own children and when you were growing up.

I don't think so. They all seem very quietS (too much traffic noise to hear the rest of this answer)

I can't think of anything else. This was fascinating.

I know we're going to get home and think of all the other things.

Well, call me up.

Yes. I think we may have to do that.

You know we used to have smokehouses. I don't know whether youS

For the ham?

For meat?

Yes. To smoke. Yes. We'd put our wood ashes in there. We made our own soap. Our soft soap and our wood ashes were all saved. The coal ashes were put on the road, but the wood ashes were saved and then we had, every spring they would set up a beech place in the cellar, two or three barrels, and they were filled with wood ashes and then water poured in the top and then the lye would caught in drip tanks underneath and in our cellar, we had a big iron tub where my mother made this soft soap. The _____ were all saved.

I remember my grandmother doing that.

You can. Well, I guess you've got the back history, too.

She did it along half the time that most people did it; she was a very saving person and I remember when I was a little girl, I remember going to her house and watching her make lye soap. I'd forgotten that.

Then, we had a pull to this S there was this little brick house across the road where we'd put the ashes.

END OF TAPE