

Interviewee: Gladys Morrill

Interviewer: Bruce Beeken

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Besides a brief stay in Boston during the Second World War, Gladys Morrill has lived in Shelburne her entire life

Topics discussed: Webbs, Doctor Norton, Morrill Family, Shelburne Falls, Shelburne Farms, World War II, fishing & hunting, farming, Shelburne doctors, transportation, peddlers, Tracy & Maeck, Woodmen's Hall, Burlington, Native Americans, Ticonderoga

Bruce Beeken: When were you born?

Gladys Morrill: June 5, 1912.

BB: We are looking through a scrapbook and we have come across a photo of you. Was it taken in the Falls?

GM: Yeah.

BB: How old do you think you were then?

GM: I think I was about fifteen. Pretty sure.



Photo 1 Gladys Morrill

BB: Where was the picture taken?

GM: In front of a garage...down in Shelburne Falls. It is where my parents lived when my mother died.

BB: So if Tut was 8 when your mother died, you must have been....

GM: 22...23

BB: This picture says "Ann."

GM: Ann was in the house where Tut is now. That was her home.

BB: What was her last name?

GM: Ball.

BB: Did you have jobs when you were this old?

GM: I was working when my mother died. I was just out of school.

BB: Were you working with the doctor then?

GM: No. Maybe I was 18...19. He took me under his wing and I went around with him.

BB: Did you do other things besides helping him deliver babies?

GM: Well. A women worked at the woolen mills. She had two kids and her husband worked over at Shelburne Farms. I took care of her kids during the day.

BB: Where did they live?

GM: Shelburne Farms.

BB: What were there names?

GM: Carson.

BB: Where did you live when this picture taken?

GM: It was here...I think...it was taken at my cousin's house.

BB: What was here name?

GM: Clara White. She lived juts above Tut's. Bob White was her husband. He did carpenter work.



Photo 2 Burbo Family

BB: On the same side of the road as Tut's house?

GM: On the other side of the road....going up the hill.

BB: Were you married to someone else before Bill?

GM: Yes. He was a lovely man.

BB: What was his name?

GM: Burt Wild.

BB: What sort of work did he do?

GM: He was in the motorcycle business.

BB: So, you were in the motorcycle business before you were married to Bill?

GM: Yes.

BB: So when you were in Boston, during the war, you were with Burt?

GM: Yes

BB: Was he your first husband?

GM: Yes.

BB: So it was with Burt that you had the motorcycle business down on the bay?

GM: Yes.

BB: Did you build that house?

GM: Yes

BB: What was there before? Was it one of the first houses in that area?

GM: My brother built next door and we got part of our land off him and we built our house there.

BB: Which brother was that?

GM: Clarence. Robert was the oldest brother.

BB: Here is a picture – I call it the cook shack. It is a cast iron cook stove. It is in the backyard under a roof with a big pan hanging.



Photo 3 Backyard Cook stove

GM: Somebody stole that from me

BB: What did you use the pan for?

GM: It was a serving tray.

BB: Here is a picture of Bill in a uniform.



Photo 4 Bill Morrill

GM: He was in Germany for six years.

BB: When did you get involved with the motorcycle business?

GM: When we came back from Boston

BB: That was just after the war?

GM: Just after the war.

BB: Were you the first Harley dealership in Vermont?

GM: Yes, I think so.

BB: Who bought the first motorcycle?

GM: I don't know. I am pretty sure it might a guy that lived in Winooski – a Frenchman. Boy, he had the most beautiful, dressed up Harley you ever saw. Everything!



Photo 5 Bill and his motorcycle

BB: Was it his main transportation?

GM: I think he had a car.

BB: Here is a picture of a guy on snowshoes.



Photo 6 Robert Burbo

GM: I think it is my brother Robert. I am pretty sure.

BB: Why was he on snowshoes?

GM: He was building his camp at the lakeshore.

BB: Here is a picture from 1945, with a lineup of motorcycles. Was this a rally?



Photo 7 Motorcycles

GM: There was a hill in Richland. They went to a farm and used the hill for the motorcycles to climb up.

BB: Did you climb the hills with your motorcycle?

GM: No, I was not riding one then.

BB: Where did you get married?

GM: Robin's Nest, as you enter Burlington.

BB: What was the Robin's Nest?

GM: He was a minister. He took pictures of people who got married. Tut got married there too.



Photo 8 Robbin's Nest

BB: What were your parent's names?

GM: Wallace Coleman and Alice Burbo Coleman

BB: Where were they from?

GM: Right down here in the farms?

BB: Was your mother born in the Falls?

GM: I don't know if she was born in the Falls or down in the French village. I am not sure where she was born. Her and my father got married when she was 16 years old. She raised ten children.

BB: We have Gladys and Tut....

GM: Robert, Clarence, Bernard, Laura, Ellen, Geraldine.....my mother died in '45.

BB: How did she die?

GM: She was in the hospital...she had heart trouble. She was supposed to come home Sunday afternoon and my father got a phone call to go up to the hospital. He said "She must want to come home this morning instead of this afternoon." He got there and she was dead. That was very, very sad.

BB: How old were you then?

GM: I think I was 22.

BB: Did you have a job then?

GM: I did housework.

BB: For different families?

GM: For one family. She worked in the Woolen Mill and he worked at the Webbs – mostly took care of the horses. They had several hound dogs that they used for hunting. It used to be a quite a site to see them go out on a run with those dogs. Those dogs went through Shelburne Falls and there was somebody there with a whip and made them stay in every step. They were well trained.

BB: What were the hunter's hunting?

GM: Fox hunting.



Photo 9 Hunting Dogs, Webb Estate

BB: Did they have costumes?

GM: Oh yes. The woman rode sideways. Quite a site.

BB: What color coats did they wear?

GM: As far as I could see, it must have been navy blue.

BB: Did they wear hats?

GM: Yes.

BB: Was it a large group?

GM: The Webbs had the hounds for their own enjoyment. Those hounds work for them.

BB: Did they have a horn?

GM: I don't remember. When they came through Shelburne Falls, us kids sat on the lawn and watched them go by. Those dogs wouldn't even twitch their tails towards us. They were well trained.



Photo 10 Shelburne Breeding Barn

BB: Who was the oldest in your family?

GM: Robert.

BB: What did your brothers do for work?

GM: Robert and Tut did carpenter work and built houses. Robert had a shop on Lyman Avenue (Burlington) and one summer he went down to the lake and built a summer camp. He never went back to Burlington – he stayed there.

BB: Where was that?

GM: Lakeview. Right where it used to be a movie. Now it is a nursing home.

BB: Did you father also work at Shelburne Farms?



Photo 11 Shelburne Farms

GM: Yes, for years.

BB: What did he do there?

GM: He had a team of horses and took care of the horses.

BB: Were they work horses?

GM: Yes. Beautiful.

BB: What is your oldest memory?

GM: I remember moving from Charlotte to the Marsett Farm on the corner. My sister Ellen was born in that house. We lived there for quite a few years and my father ran that farm. My father was just a common laborer. There were days when he would even work for just a dollar a day. I don't know a thing about his parents. He must have lived in Charlotte.

BB: The house where you were born in Charlotte – is it still there?

GM: It is at the museum.

BB: Where was it located?

GM: Right at the beginning of Church Road.

BB: Where did your family go next?

GM: My father worked for a farmer by the name of Webster. It was on the side road on the way to Charlotte. You go by Tut's and take that side road. Beyond Thomas Road.

BB: When he was working on those farms, were there tractors on the farms?

GM: He never ran a tractor. I remember sitting on a horse so that my father could cultivate.

BB: Where did you live when he worked for the Websters?

GM: A little house before you go there. He rented it. It's on Thomas Road.

BB: When your mother died, did you have new responsibilities at home?

GM Yes.

BB: Did you have to leave your job?

GM: Yes. At that time I was getting only five dollars a week. Before that, I was getting four.

BB: You told me that you worked with a doctor helping delivering babies?

GM: Yes. Doctor Norton was here in town.

BB: What were your duties?

GM: I took the newborn baby from the doctor and put it in my hands. I had to clean them up and dress them. I did not know how to do it – it just came natural. I had to do it – that's all.

BB: How old were you when you were helping Doctor Norton?

GM: About 30.

BB: Did Doctor Norton make house calls?

GM: Yes.

BB: How did you get there?

GM: I had a car. Of course, most of the time, I had to go in the middle of the night.

BB: Did you live in the Falls at that time?

GM: I forget where I lived. I think I lived on Bay Road.

BB: That was before you were married?

GM: Yes.

BB: Whom did you marry?

GM: Burt Wild.

BB: Do you remember how you met Burt?

GM: Right after my mother died. We never had any kids. He raced up in Canada and I stayed home every weekend to sell stuff. He got hurt up there. They half killed him. They ran over him. He was in a hospital up there for a little while. He broke his collarbone and wrecked his motorcycle bad. I never went to any of those races. Burt was a great great rider. He souped up his motorcycle and did really good.

BB: Did he race for money?

GM: Yes

BB: So you were pretty comfortable with running the business and winning races.

GM: He also made good money welding at the Navy Yard in Boston. He saved everything he could. That is where he got his money to go ahead and start his motorcycle business.

BB: Do you remember any of the other houses that you lived in Shelburne?

GM: There was one house down in the village...for one winter, I guess. Do you know where the railroad tracks are and the houses along the tracks? I lived in one of those houses.

BB: Was it before the railroad or after the railroad?

GM: After. I lived there for one winter.

BB: How were houses heated when you were young?

GM: Mostly wood because my father got his wood by picking it up over at the farms.

BB: How did he get the wood to your house?

GM: A team of horses. They would let him use a team to bring a load of wood home.

BB: How was the wood sawn?

GM: Tut has some good pictures of him as a little boy chopping saw wood from a car with its hind wheels jacked up. The power from that hind wheel made the saw go. He has a good picture of him – just a little boy – cutting some wood.

BB: Where was that?

GM: Do you know where Ken Lewis' wife lives in the white house going through the Falls. She is in the white house before you get to the store. My father rented an apartment. Se wasn't living there but it was that house. I lived there with my father. The kids were still in school.

BB: Where did your water come from?

GM: There was a pump outside. We did not have any running water in this apartment – it was just a plain house. It was not insulated or anything. Our water froze in our reservoir in our kitchen stove at night.

BB: You would use the stove for heating water?

GM: Yes.

BB: Did you have any other buildings on your property?

GM: My mother usually had chickens. Just a little shanty.

BB: What kind of chores did you have?

GM: At the time, my mother had boarders. I remember every Saturday I had to wash the stairs down with a rag and pail and suds. On my hands and knees. My mother used to have an old fashioned wash machine. Before she died, she had a Maytag.

BB: Was it a ringer?

GM: Yeah. We used to live in a house down next to Tut's – it's gone now – just the other side of Tut's.

BB: Going up the hill?

GM: No, down Thomas Road. Us kids would have to go and get some water off the river so our mother could do the washing.

BB: That is quite a steep bank.

GM: We had to be careful not to fall in. It was the only way that my mother could have us kids getting water for her.

BB: Did you have to shovel snow?

GM: No

BB: So the boys and girls had different chores?

GM: Yeah

BB: Did you help your mother take care of the chickens?

GM: Yeah.

BB: You never did have a cow?

GM: I don't remember.

BB: What kind of games did you play?

GM: My brother Robert made a jumper. You sit on the jumper.

BB: It sat on a ski?

GM: Yeah. He made his own. Every night he took that upstairs with him because I know that he had in his mind if my brother Bernard ever got a hold of it, he would have smashed it. I can see it now – painted red.

BB: Where did he take it? Top of Irish Hill?

GM: No, before. A pretty good-sized hill.

BB: Going down to the river?

GM: Yeah.

BB: A lot of that was open pastureland, right?

GM: Yeah. There was quite a hill back there –that is where we used to sled.

BB: What was down there on the river, then? I took a picture of Bill's painting of the gristmill. We know the gristmill was there. Did you use to go to the gristmill for flour?



Photo 12 Bill's painting of the gristmill

GM: Yeah.

BB: What did they grind?

GM: Cornmeal, I think. It used to be awfully noisy there. I could not have been very old when I had to go down there for my grandmother to buy some chickenfeed. She

gave me a handful of change to go get some grain for her hens. It was noisy, I was scared stiff.

BB: Where did your grandmother live?

GM: She lived across the road from where we lived over here in the farms. I don't have any idea where she came from .

BB: Was that grandmother Burbo?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Did she work too?

GM: She was a cripple in a wheelchair. Uncle Robert used to take care of her. He lifted her out of her wheelchair and throw her in bed. He helped her get undressed. He was the only one taking care of her.

BB: Where did your uncle work?

GM: He worked at the Shelburne Creamery.

BB: What was his name?

GM: Robert Burbo

BB: Where did he live?

GM: Across the road from us.

BB: With her?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Besides the Webbs, were there other prominent families?

GM: I don't think so. They were the only ones we knew of.

BB: When you were growing up, when did you wake up?

GM: I imagine kind of early.

BB: Was it dark?

GM: Yeah. We used to live on a side road over here and we had to take the school bus. Nothing but a horse and little sleigh.

BB: That is what the school bus was?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Where did you go to school?

GM: Shelburne.

BB: Right here in the village?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Did you go to any of the smaller schools?

GM: That one on the corner used to be a schoolhouse.

BB: Did you go to that one?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Do you remember your teacher?

GM: Louise Gates. I tell you....you learned. If you didn't, she would pound it into you.

BB: Were there lots of other kids in the neighborhood?

GM: Quite a few.

BB: Would you play with them or with your own family?

GM: The whole family would get out at night and play hide and seek. We did not stay out very long because we had to get in and get to bed. We weren't allowed to be out around town after dark. Something might happen to us.

BB: Did you have your own bed?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Did every body have their own bed?

GM: I think a couple of the boys slept together.

BB: Where did you get your food?

GM: There used to be a good store where the store is now. (Gallipeaus)

BB: Do you remember what it was called?

GM: Bacons

BB: Did the Bacon family own a farm.

GM: I don't think so.

BB: Did you grow any of your food?

GM: Oh, my mom had a beautiful garden. Night and day. She canned an awful lot of tomatoes. She had ripe cucumbers pickles....Are you familiar with ripe cucumber pickles?

BB: Yes

GM: My mother used to make a crock of it. When we lived in the Falls, we had a dirt cellar. We had big great cocks.

BB: What else did she keep in the cellar?

GM: Anything that she could lay her hands on, she would can it.

BB: Where did you get your meat? Did your family smoke or dry meat

GM: My father always raised a pig. Beautiful pigs. We had that to eat on during the winter. Wherever he worked, he got a hunk of beef. We did not have a fridge or anything. We put it out on the screen porch. I can see my mother now out there in the cold shaving the beef so she could bring it in and fry it. Oh my god was that good! We always had a pig.

BB: Wild game?

GM: No

BB: Any deer hunters in your family?

GM: No. Not then. Not until after the boys grew up. My father was not a hunter.

BB: Did your dad work every day of the week?

GM: I guess so.

BB: Did anybody in your family fish? I know Tut likes to fish.

GM: After he grew up. When we lived in the Falls, every Spring they would go spearing in that river. Quite a site to see – a whole mess of men with spears stabbing fish. My mother had a washtub running over with fish. She loved fish. She would clean them.

BB: What kind of fish were they?

GM: Walleyes. Big fish, you know, they were. They were going out the river and out to the lake. Every spring, a whole gang of men would make torches out of bran sacks, soak them with kerosene and that was their light. I never see them but my oldest brother, Clarence and Robert, used to go a join them.

BB: Do you remember your first car?

GM: Model A.

BB: and you had a truck?

GM: Pick up truck.

BB: What did you use that for?

GM: I guess it was the cheapest thing we could find to buy.

BB: Did your father drive?

GM: Yes. He was the hardest man to learn to drive a car. My oldest father used to have to pick his feet up and throw them on the levers

BB: When you moved from house to house, how did you move all your possessions?

GM: Horse and wagon. We didn't have a car then.

BB: You had your first car when you were in your twenties?

GM: I was waiting tables in Milton. Model A sedan. I drove it from Milton home. On the way it broke down I had to have it fixed. I already spent all my money to buy

it and register it. Drove it all the way to Milton to Shelburne. It broke down and I could not afford to have it fixed. Just left it.

BB: Tut was a handy mechanic...

GM: He was nothing but a kid then.

BB: How did they used to plow roads?

GM: Big tractors

BB: With big iron wheels?

GM: Yeah

BB: Did you travel less in the wintertime?

GM: I guess so.

BB: Did you have a wool coat?

GM: Yeah

BB: How about a fur coat?

GM: After I was married. My mother used to make all our clothes. She was an awfully good sewer. She would make me the cutest dress. She made her own patterns. There used to be a women in Shelburne who used to go around selling material. Even curtains.

BB: Did she sell the cloth from a wagon?

GM: yeah.

BB: Did other people sell goods from wagons?

GM: Yeah. In fact, when we lived up here at Marsett Farm, the guy that used to sell spices and jars of candy. He used to stay all night then he would take off in the morning and finish going to Burlington. There used to be a woman – she had a wagon – she used to sell material.

BB: Was there a tinker?

GM: I don't remember any of them going around.

BB: What were the other stores in Shelburne?

GM: Tracy and Maeck used to be on Route 7 for years.

BB: Where was the post office?

GM: When I was a kid, it used to be where the filling station is. It used to be a post office and I think tenants used to live in part of the post office.¹

BB: What kind of items did Tracy and Maeck sell?

GM: They sold food, hardware, wallpaper.

BB: Where did your mother buy seed for her garden?

GM: I can't think where.

BB: Where did you buy your shoes?

GM: Mostly at the store. Tracy and Maeck used to sell shoes too.

BB: Where did people meet to tell stories and gossip?

GM: My father never went anywhere to have a conversation. He worked on his horses and those horses were his – in his own mind. The guy next to him had a team of horses just like his. He was from Canada. He came down from Canada – he must have had ten kids. They all grew up over at the farms

BB: Did you know Ernest St. George?

GM: My father used to pick him up every day on his way to work. How did you know him?

BB: I used to know Earnest. He used to live right next to where I work at the Farm Barn. What was the bridge made up that crosses the LaPlatte on Route 7?

GM: Just cement, I think.

BB: Do you remember travelers or tourists coming to Shelburne?

GM: No.

¹ Tracy and Maeck was located in the brick building on the southwest corner of Route 7 and Harbor Road. The Post Office was located at the northwest corner of the same two roads.

BB: You lived near the train tracks. Did passengers get off the train?

GM: Freight trains stopped very often.

BB: What did they bring?

GM: They brought our motorcycles on the train. I had to go down and pick them up. We used to have trainloads of coal come in. That guy that lived across from the street from us – Walt Ball. He had a Diamond T pick up. He used to sell coal from house to house.

BB: Where did the gristmill get its flour?

GM: I imagine from what the people brought in. We used to have a canning factory down in the village. It canned corn quite a few years. It is gone now, but it was a big building. Do you know where Blodgett's field is? It was somewhere in the field. I never went over there when they were canning, but I could have.

BB: What were some of the other businesses in town?

GM: There used to be a good meat market right before you cross the tracks. Smiths. I am pretty sure that is it. You know where the Craft School is? That is part of it. Smith lived there for quite a few years.

BB: That is the main red building?

GM: Yeah. They used to make beautiful cheese at the creamery. I drove a horse and wagon down to the creamery. I was nothing but a kid. A fellow stepped out from the building and get the two or three cans off my wagon.

BB: Did your father teach you to drive the wagon?

GM: No. Taught myself.

BB: Where did you get the milk?

GM: Down where Tut lives. Across the road, there is a hill out back. There used to be farm. It used to be a pretty good farm. It is all gone now.

BB: Was there another schoolhouse up around there?

GM: At the top of Irish Hill. Somebody made a house out of the school.

BB: Why did they call it Irish Hill Road?

GM: There is a family at the top of the hill named Irish. They named it after them.

BB: How about other road names. Did you know any Spears?

GM: No

BB: Bishops?

GM: No

BB: Webster?

GM: I guess that is the one that my father worked for. Milo Webster

BB: Did you know the Thompsons?

GM: No

BB: Bostwicks?

GM: Dunbar Bostwick

BB: Did you know people who lived there?

GM: I guess not.

BB: Did you know who lived in our house before the Monieres?

GM: I think the Monieres lived there for years and years. That house and Chadwick's old house.

BB: Is the Chadwick house is still around?

GM: Yeah. There is only one guy living there now. That is an old house.

BB: Those two families – they were both farms?

GM: Yeah

BB: Was there a barn at the Monieres?

GM: No

BB: Did the Monieres keep animals?

GM: I don't remember. I remember him having a whole mess of beehives.

BB: Did you grow up with the Monieres?

GM: It must have been Boo

BB: Do you remember when the airport came to Shelburne?

GM: I can't remember.

BB: Do you know anyone who got off the passenger trains?

GM: I don't remember

BB: Who stayed at the Shelburne Inn?

GM: Whoever got off the train. I took the train once to Boston. During the war. When I first went there, I went by Bus. It was night – I couldn't see anything.

BB: How often did you leave Shelburne?

GM: I just went to school and helped my mother.

BB: Did you take a vacation?

GM: No

BB: So you did not really leave town until you got your car. You went up to Milton?

GM: I got my license up there.

BB: Did you stay up there?

GM: They built cabins out back and us girls had the share cabins together.

BB: Did you go up with another Shelburne girl?

GM: No. I went all by myself.

BB: Did you make any friends?

GM: Yah. Another girl from Milton. We were very, very friendly. Even after we were married. She was from Milton and I was from Shelburne.

BB: Did you eat dinner at the Shelburne Inn?

GM: Yeah.

BB: What can you tell me about Woodmen's Hall?"

GM: We used to live right next to it. When they had dances, we used to sit on the porch and listen to all the music. By closing time, they would get into fights and we would have to hurry up and get in the house. One guy we know, his name is Pierre – they bit off half his ear. It must have been a damn good fight because he got his ear bit off.

BB: What kind of music did you hear? Fiddle? Banjo? Guitar?

GM: Yeah

BB: Square dance and contra dance?

GM: Both. We tried to go over there one night and they guy who took us lived next to us. At 10:00, they told Laura and I to go home. They were ready to go home. We were not ready to go home. They went over and got my father out of bed and my father came down and got us tow girls and we went home. During the war, we used to go around Saturday nights to different people's house. There was about four of us. Laura lived here down on the corner. She was a beautiful cook. I remember her making cabbage rolls. A whole tin of them for us to eat. The next night we would go to somebody else's house. We just wanted company.

BB: Do you remember the first time you saw a movie?

GM: My mother and I went to a theater in Burlington. The Flynn Theater. It was an old, old picture.

BB: How did you get there?

GM: By bus I think.

BB: The bus route was Route 7?

GM: Yeah. It came to our house and picked us up. There used to be a guy who ran a bus route from Shelburne to Burlington.

BB: You would call him up?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Did you have a mailbox or did you go to the post office?

GM: They would deliver it.

BB: How has Shelburne changed over the years? What was before the shopping center

GM: I think it was a farm. It was a farm for years and years.

BB: What was there before the golf course?

GM: Just a land I think. A big farm.

BB: How about where Rice Lumber is?

GM: It has been Rice Lumber for quite a few years. I guess they just came and started living there, if I remember right.

BB: When Robert and Tut built their house. Did they get their lumber from Rice?

GM: I think so.

BB: What about Dutch Mill?

GM: I worked there one summer

BB: What did you do?

GM: Cook. I used to walk from Bay Road. I used to work at Rice Lumber.

BB: What did you do there?

GM: Housework

BB: What is the biggest change in Shelburne? Has it gotten better?

GM: People are not as friendly as we used to be. I know that. I guess it has gotten too busy. Some families have broken up. Burt would stop by.

BB: Did you stay friends with Burt?

GM: Yeah.

BB: Where did he live?

GM: Bay Road.

BB: What did Burt do before the war?

GM: He took up welding up after we were married. He did not know anything about it. The government was giving people chances to go to school to learn it. So Burt did it. There were four others from Burlington who did it. They came to Boston and lived with us in Boston. I hated it. It was too busy.

BB: Was Burt in the Navy.

GM: Army. He was in the army in Hawaii. Bill was in the army in Germany for six years.

BB: What kind of jobs did he have before he was in the army.

GM: He went around filling stations and painting gas pumps. That is what he was doing when I got acquainted with him?

BB: Where were you when you first met him?

GM: Burlington. He was out with somebody else and I was out with somebody else. The next day he found me.

BB: Why did Bill close his business down?

GM: He got sick. His back was all gone. Then he had an open sore on his hip. I had to dress it every night. Something caused it. He had to wear a back brace and that did not do in any good. Tut and I had some tough trips taking them down to the hospital. He wanted to go home and die. So he did.



Photo 13 Morrill's Service Station

BB: Did your family go to church?

GM: Catholic.

BB: Did you do other things at church?

GM: No

BB: Did you go on Sundays?

GM: Yeah.

BB: What other businesses were in Shelburne Falls?

GM: There was a sewing factory across from the store. It used to be a creamery. My sister worked there. I could not tie myself down to a sewing machine. I think it was mostly men shirts.

BB: Was the bridge always open at the Falls?

GM: They moved it.

BB: Was there a poor farm here?

Tut Coleman enters the room

Tut Coleman: Way back, they used to have a guy that looked after the poor. He used to give them stuff like oatmeal and help them out a little bit. The Webbs down there used to take care of a lot of people.

BB: Tut, what do you remember of boat traffic.

GM: The Ticonderoga and Chateauguay. The Chateauguay is down on Lake George I think. We used to get a lot of lumber of them. When they stripped them down.



Photo 14 Ticonderoga

BB: Where did you get the lumber for your house on the lake?

TC: Up in Hardwick – D.B.s Sawmill.

BB: Was that after the sawmill closed?

TC: Yes

BB: Were there different nationalities in Shelburne?

TC: Not to many. We had French Canadians here. Some Indians

BB: How did you know they were Indians?

TC: They said so. The Botals were Indians. One of them worked down at the point

BB: That was Frank. Did that make the different?

TC: No. We went to school with them.

BB: Who did fish with when you had the torches?

TC: That was everybody. They were a lot older than I was. They would come from Hinesburg.

BB: Do you know how Lone Tree Hill got its name?

TC: There is more than one up here. I like that spot. Beautiful up there. I have not been up there since Harry died. He wanted to build up there at one time.

BB: Were there a lot more fields when you were younger?

TC: I don't know about that. I know there were a lot less houses.

BB: What do you remember about the dam?

TC: I remember when the old mill was there. It used to flood clear up by where my house is. I have see the field across my lower drive all flooded. With cakes of ice. I do not know when the dam broke out.

BB: Were there any famous crimes in town?

TC: A guy shot himself up at the silo. There was a farmer there. I know a couple of shotgun deaths – three of them.

BB: Did anybody famous visit Shelburne?

TC: Yeah, the Earl of Shelburne when we had the bicentennial. English guy. He came to town hall, parades and everything else.

BB: Did you meet Governor Snelling?

TC: I worked for him. When he first came to town, he sued to rent from my brother on Pine Haven Shores.

BB: Did you see the Ticonderoga moved?

TC: Yes. I forget the guy that they sent up from Boston. He supervised it. I forget his name but he would go fishing with us. They would give him a rental car – the guys he worked for. Every night, when he got done working, he would pull into the boatyard and we would all go fishing with it. He didn't care. In fact, when he left, he had a building locked up. I forget where it was. He kept the tools locked up. He gave me the keys to it and told me to go help myself. When I went there, it was empty. Somebody beat me to it. I forget his name. He was a smart cookie.

BB: It must have been quite the job to just clear the roads?

TC: Yeah. Every other day I would go see how far they got. I had some good times on the Ti when she was running. Big dances on there. They served drinks and food

BB: Were you a dancer?

TC: No. I did the bunny hop. You get behind a girl and jump up and down.

BB: Did you go to Woodmen Hall?

TC: Not too much

BB: Where did you go?

TC: Red Barn out in Williston. The old 1812 down in Charlotte. Once in awhile.

BB: Do you know anybody that played in the bands?

TC: We used to have one guy here in town that was a one-man band. He had a drum in front of him, harmonica in his mouth, played a guitar. He had a drum with a lever on it. One-man band.