

**Interviewee: Jim and Pauline O'Brien**

**Interviewer: Joan Madison**

**Location: 2301 Brand Farm Rd, South Burlington**

**Date: February 12, 2002**

**Jim and Pauline O'Brien belong to a large family of Shelburne farmers. James O'Brien is a wealth of knowledge about farming life around the Dorset Street area.**

**Topics discussed: Shelburne area farms, hired help, Shelburne area families, milking and dairy, schools, Burlington, roads, post office**

Joan Madison: Jim, we will start with you. Could you tell us your full name, where you were born and anything from the early years?

James O'Brien: Well, Joan. My name is James David O'Brien. I was born at the old Fanny Allen Hospital in Winooski on September 15, 1924. My parents were Frank and Alice O'Brien<sup>1</sup>. They moved to Burlington and after a few years, bought a store on Shelburne Road where they had a grocery store and gas station where the road be up into Rice.<sup>2</sup> We had a large family. I had four brothers and sisters older and four brothers and sisters younger. We ended up with nine children – we lived up overhead in the apartment. My father was a farmer by trade and he owned a farm up on Moulton flats before he moved to Burlington. He then bought this farm out on Dorset Street in Shelburne right at the corner of Cheese Factory and Dorset Roads. He moved out on April 1, 1931. What I remember most, I guess, about moving was that we were getting into a pickup truck and getting stuck in the mud on Dorset Street.

South of where we were moving to and on the town line there between Shelburne and South Burlington we did a dairy of about 40 cows. I think there was about five horses and a big horse barn there. I think there were five stalls with hay storage up overhead. The front part of the horse barn was a big garage and the water system was something else. There was a huge water tank there that was supplied by a well. The water first went to a large tank upstairs in the house. The overflow from that tank went into this big cement reservoir there in the horse barn. The overflow from that went to the barn down across the road. I don't remember us being short of water.

Everything we did, of course, was with horses. My father raised horses. The first horse he got was a horse that Walter Webster had – he lived down on Webster Road.<sup>3</sup> It was a mare that had never been broken. As I remember it, she was about four years old. My father brought her home and broke her to ride. Then he started raising colts from her. She was at least half Morgan. There was neighbor who lived down here

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<sup>1</sup> Frank O'Brien was a long time active member of the Shelburne community. During the 1940s, he served as both Selectman and Town Representative.

<sup>2</sup> Rice High School in South Burlington.

<sup>3</sup> Walter M. Webster (1873-1939) was born in Swanton and moved to Shelburne in 1896. He served the Shelburne community as Town Clerk, Cemetery Commissioner, Justice of the Peace and Select board member. He was the Town Representative in 1917.

on Dorset Street at a farm called the Wheeler Farm. He ran the farm for H.H. Wheeler. He had a stallion that he drove from farm to farm. He ran this farm for the Wheelers. As I remember at that time they ran the farm to halve. They would do all the work and at the end of the year, they would divide up all the money. Each would have half – they would divide up calves and...it was one way for a young couple to get started in farming. It was quite common then that people would own the farms, say from Burlington, and have somebody running it for them. I remember just south of us on Dorset Street there was the Munson Farm. A Doctor Lerner, who was an eye, ear, nose and throat doctor from Burlington and he had Karl Munson running it for him.<sup>1</sup> The other farm was the Wheeler Farm that was run for years by Louis Slocum who lived in Shelburne in his later years. It was quite common for people from out of town to own these farms and hire somebody to run them and they would split the profits. The Palmer Farm was another one. Loren Palmer was an undertaker. He always had a couple who were real good farmers including Stearns Allen. He ran the farm for Palmer.<sup>2</sup>

Getting back to our own operation – I look back now and wonder how we ever got the work done but they did. I remember my father used to start with a team of horses and a single walking plow. Just south of our buildings there was a meadow there that was about a half mile long and he would start out plowing there. He always got it done but I don't know how. Most of our haying, of course at time, was done...we would cut the hay with a team of horses, rake it with a rake and then you would tumble it. We had a tumble it so that there would be two tumbles on each side of the path that the team of horses pulling the wagon could go. A man on each side to put the tumble in and a man on the wagon to place it. This went on until...it was 1931 when we started.... it must be about 1940. At that time, different farmers that had equipment like a big baler would come around and bale up your straw. Frank Blair who lives south of us there on Dorset Street had a big thrashing machine. He would go from farm to farm and thrash your grains. Usually it was oats, then oats and barley mixed. The thrasher would bag it; the farmers would take that and usually trade it in to a grain company for mixed grain. The straw was baled and used for bedding. The stationary baler – what they used then – was huge. That went on for a few years before the farmers started getting their own equipment. I think the first tractor that my father owned was probably about '38 or '39. That kind of took over for the horses. My father raised horses for several years. He would raise them, break them for work and then sell them. There were several farmers around Charlotte and Shelburne who would buy horses from my father. George used to break them after they bought them. My brother would work with them for a while. For years, we had a team out. We usually had a foal running with the team. If it was heavy work, it was just three horses. Everything seemed to get done.

JM: Did your father have to hire help?

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<sup>1</sup> A.L. Lerner owned 239 acres of land that he eventually sold to Cornelius "Karl" Munson in 1944.

<sup>2</sup> See David Palmer interview. Loren Palmer was the co-owner of the Corbin and Palmer Funeral Home in Burlington. Along with his brother Raymond, Loren owned 27 acres at the northeast corner of Dorset Street and Hinesburg Road as well as ten acres on the south side of Hinesburg Road right at the Charlotte Town Line. By 1963, the Palmers owned 63 acres of land. Stearns Allen lived on Spear Street extension.

JO: Well, we usually had hired help. There was one gentleman that came from Goshen every haying season. About all he did was pick up scatterings after we had picked up the hay and the bundles or tumbles. He would just pick up scatterings – any hay that was left he would pick it up and pile it and then pick it up. As I remember it, in the 1930, there was help available because there was no work to be found. There would be young gentlemen, real good fellow, who would come around...if they could just move in...my mother was a great cook...if they could just eat and get enough maybe for a pack of cigarettes or something... they would work and they were good help. Usually there were one or two of them around ready to work. They were happy to get a place to get something to eat and someplace to sleep.

JM: Who did the milking on the farm?

JO: You started milking by hand when you were quite young. I can remember that I could not wait till I was 12 because my father told me when I got be 12 I could get up in the morning and help too... Bad decision on my side...(laughter)...I always enjoyed it...always enjoyed farming. We milked by hand for quite a few years. We had lanterns in the barns. We finally got a milking machine – it was run with a gasoline engine. It was part of luxury for us. We had five boys – we kept busy but we always enjoyed it. Everything was by hand - clean the barn by hand. Now I understand that the farmers can't spread their manure in the winter. At that time, we would go out in sleds and spread by hand...very cold, but it made you work harder.

JM: Where did you send the milk?

JO: At our farm, we had a good market in Burlington...there was the Burlington Cooperative Milk Building...in fact that, I think the building is still there, on the corner of King Street and South Winooski Avenue. When our boys and my brothers were old enough to drive, they went to high school. I guess I will back up a little, there was the Sutton School right there on the corner of Dorset and Cheese Factory and Barstow Road. I think our family kept going there for quite some time. This teacher we had when we first moved out was Miss Myra Brand. Now these condos that were are living in were built on land that her folks owned – the Brand Farm. She taught the eight grades for quite a few years. And I remember that Mary Noonan, from Shelburne, was a teacher there for a number of years.<sup>1</sup> I was probably one of the only the ones in the school at that time. I would go and start a fire in the morning. We had a rural mail carrier – Mr. Bacon.<sup>2</sup> I still remember that he had skis in front of his car and you could check your clock by him. He was there everyday. After Ms. Brand and Ms. Noonan and other teachers – they would keep their cars in the barn there during the day just so that they would start at night when they are ready to leave. I remember when my father had hay or something ready to be brought in the afternoon and he didn't have help, he would stop by and we would leave school to help and when we were done, we would go

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<sup>1</sup> In 1933, Myra Brand's salary was \$589 and Mary Noonan's was \$558. Mary Noonan lived on 117-acre farm on Dorset Street near the former J. L. Barstow farmstead. She also owned a house and land right in the village that she inherited from her parents, Edward and Anna Casey Noonan.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Bacon

back. They never questioned it at all. Our family grew up away from that school. It was too cold. There was a superintendent from Winooski that would stop by twice a year to see if we needed any supplies. George Stackpole<sup>1</sup> – he was big man. .... We took the milk into Burlington. We took the car into Burlington. We would take it with us when we go to school in the morning. We were going to high school, which, at the time was at the head of St. Paul Street – St. Paul and Pearl. There was a grade school and then a church – the cathedral and then the high school all within a block of each other there. We would take the milk in the pickup truck, deliver it there and park our truck there in the back station yard and walk down at noon for our lunch. At night, after school, we would bring the cans back.



**Photo 1 Picking up milk cans at the Burlington Cooperative Milk Creamery**

There were different farms along Dorset Street there. There was Frank Blair who used to live there. Frank and his family lived on the west side of Dorset and on the East side was his brother Ed and his two sisters, I think, Jenny and Mabel. I think his son Alec built the house right there. Then the big Chittenden Farm, which is was very good farm –there is cider mill there now. We used to either ride with them part time or they ride with us into Burlington. They went to Burlington High School and we went to Cathedral High School but we always met at noon and had lunch together. Great friends back then. I was on the basketball team, baseball team. Played football. Every Sunday there was a big gathering and we played games. Out behind the horse barn there, there was a large open field there we used to call our ball field. It's not an open field any more.

Around the corner on Cheese Factory, there was the Lane family. Will Lane worked in Burlington.<sup>2</sup> Next farm down at the end was the Attwood Farm, which was a real nice farm. My father ended up buying that – I think there was – I remember it – seventy acres on each side.<sup>3</sup> The north and south side of Barstow Road. We bought that farm from the Attwoods. It was then bought by an attorney – the Clapps. They fixed up really nice.<sup>4</sup> Lets see, farther down from them was the Stewart Farm which was the Governor Barstow home. That was a nice farm. John and Lucy Stewart and their family lived there. John used to do a lot of trucking –he had a big truck, a big platform truck, that he carried milk in. He would pick up from farms all around and bring it into

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<sup>1</sup> George Stackpole was the superintendent of schools from 1935-1947. He was replaced by Robert Lull who served as the superintendent of the school until the formation of Champlain Valley Union High School in 1964.

<sup>2</sup> William P. Lane and his wife, Elsie, lived on a land that originally belonged to J.L. Barstow.

<sup>3</sup> George and Helen O'Brien purchased the farm from Frank and Cora Atwood in 1955.

<sup>4</sup> Michael and Elizabeth Clapp sold their land to George and Helen O'Brien in 1970.

Burlington.<sup>1</sup> Chris Fowler owned the farm over on Spear Street. His feather was a great farmer too. Down below the Stewarts was Jim Kelly – he and Evalina. They owned the brick house there at the end of Barstow Road.<sup>2</sup> Jim and Evalina had just one child, Rita. She and her husband Vic Meilleur lived there on the farm and I think one of their children owns the brick house now. Just north of them there was the Comeau Family that had a farm right there by the cemetery. Fred Comeau. In his later years, he worked at the Shelburne Museum. That was a nice farm in there. They had three boys and three girls. One of the boys, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, was my age – two days apart – he got killed in World War II. Some of the family still live in Burlington. His brother Clem married a Depeaux girl from Shelburne. She died of cancer but he is still around.<sup>4</sup> Going south on Spear, the farm up on the left was belonged to Harry Thibault. He lived there for several years.<sup>5</sup> Jim Byrnes he lived close to Bishop Road there on the east side of the road.<sup>6</sup> He had quite a lot of property. Besides quite a lot in Burlington, he owned a small farm down on Cheese Factory Road – right across from the Cheese Factory. He used to drive down through with his team of horses – they were nice horses but one was a lot of faster than the other. He owned that farm down there for quite a few years and then I think he sold it to the LeDuc family.<sup>7</sup> And on the north side of Cheese Factory road was the Slocum Farm – Elmer Slocum.<sup>8</sup> Every Wednesday, he would take his horse and buggy and take his cream, butter and eggs and he would take it into Burlington and peddle it. He did that for years. His sons Lewis and Kenneth ran the farm for quite a few years. Betty Bandel<sup>9</sup>, a professor at the University, now owns it. The LeDucs were across the road.... and the LaPierres owned a farm. Years back, at the time that we owned it, we always called the Elliot Farm because there was a family of Elliots that lived there. The barn had been built by Earnest LaPierre. His father owned the property and Earnest and Joyce lived there and ran it.<sup>10</sup> They lived in the big house there. We always called it

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<sup>1</sup> John and Lucy Stewart inherited the 206 acre “home farm” from J.L. Barstow in 1929.

<sup>2</sup> The Kellys originally bought the 130-acre “Johnson Farm” in 1930. Parts of the Kelly’s land was eventually sold for the Hullcrest and Westview subdivisions in the 1980s. Rita Claire Kelly married Victor Albert Meilleur on November 24, 1956.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Comeau was one of two Shelburne residents who died during World War II. Shelburne sent over 100 of its children to the war.

<sup>4</sup> Clement Donald Comeau married Dorothy Marie Depeaux on June 21, 1947. Dorothy was the daughter of Jeremiah and Alma Depeaux owned land on the East side of Falls Road. This land once belonged to Edward and Kathy Sevee, and before that, Truman Webster. Clem was the son of Alfred and Marie Comeau who bought their 149 acre farm in 1932.

<sup>5</sup> Harvey and Robella Thibault owned 149 acres on the east side of Spear Street. Their family purchased the farm in 1946.

<sup>6</sup> Jim Byrnes was married to Mildred. Jim sold some of his village property to Norm and Rita Marcotte (see Norm and Rita Marcotte interview).

<sup>7</sup> The Leduc family own a large parcel of farmland on the south side of Cheese factory Road. Prior to the Leducs, the land belonged to Asa R. Slocum who came to Shelburne c. 1790. The Leduc’s homes sits on the site of the original Slocum homestead which is known as the “Vermont House” and was relocated to the Shelburne Museum.

<sup>8</sup> Elmer Slocum was married to Cora Slocum.

<sup>9</sup> Betty Bandel is a Professor Emerita at the University of Vermont and lives in the c. 1825 Slocum farmhouse.

<sup>10</sup> Aledric and Mary LaPierre sold a 190 acre far, to Alfred and Marie Leduc in 1934.

the Elliot Farm. I think when we got it, we bought it from Clarence Bovat. His brother Harry owned the Shelburne garage.<sup>1</sup>

JM: When was that?

JO: We moved on January 1, 1950 or 1951. We started farming there on January 1.

JM: How big was this farm?

JO: I think the original farm was about 186 acres. Then we had a lot over where that quarry is now. I think that was about sixty some odd acres. We only used the pasture for heifers. The years went by and we purchased the farm down on the corner. Ed Bessette and his family lived there. I think Tom Koerner moved it back a ways from the corner and fixed it up.<sup>2</sup> Roger Lewis and his father and his mother lived just north of that. They didn't have too many acres in there -they had a small farm. Ralph Lewis<sup>3</sup> used to drive the snowplow. The first snowplow that I remember was like a huge bulldozer with a plow. Ralph Lewis<sup>4</sup> and Orris Knight<sup>5</sup> who lived around the corner on Irish Hill used to drive it. It had one huge light in the front. You always watched for the light coming down the road. My mom used to do all of her own baking – bread and donuts. She always had donuts and coffee ready for them. They would turn into our yard and stop for donuts and coffee. George Deavitt married a Knight girl and lived there on that farm until George died. I don't really know....I think maybe some of George's family might still live there.<sup>6</sup> Across from road from them was the Garrett Crowley Farm. Garrett had a big horse barn out back. Garrett had two children – one son. One time I heard he was part of the a Flying Tigers. There weren't too many people that were six feet tall back then but this tall Crowley was a few inches over six. He was quite tall at that time now it is quite normal.<sup>7</sup> Chet Norris, who used to drive the school bus, lived there for several years. I don't know who does live there now.

JM: Where is this house – I can't picture it...

JO: It is on Falls Road.

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<sup>1</sup> Clarence and Laura Bovat sold their 180 acre farm to James and Pauline O'Brien in 1951. The Bovats had purchased part of this property from Earnest and Juliette LaPierre in 1945 and part of the property from C.H. and Mary Munson in 1948.

<sup>2</sup> Tom Koerner purchased the land from Ed Bessette in 1978

<sup>3</sup> In 1963, Ralph Lewis was employed as a hospital porter.

<sup>4</sup> Ralph K. Lewis married Irene. In 1954, they inherited 159 acres of farmland from his mother. In reality, the estate was bequeathed to Ralph's son, Roger, but Roger conveyed the property rights to Ralph.

<sup>5</sup> The Knights lived on thirty acres on Irish Hill Road near the Marble Quarry. In 1934, Orris Knight was reimbursed \$56.90 for season's worth of snow plowing.

<sup>6</sup> George and Alberta Deavitt owned a plot of land on Irish Hill Road that they inherited from Orris and Grace Knight.

<sup>7</sup> Garrett Nicholas Crowley married Ann Mary Hayes on June 16, 1922 and they had two children – Mary Teresa and Paul Hayes. A third child was stillborn. Garrett Crowley served the Shelburne community as a Lister, Cemetery Commissioner and pound keeper.

JM: You are a wealth of information about the people of Shelburne. How about your own family?

JO: This is a different memory here. When I got out of high school, I stayed home and worked with my brother George on our farm.<sup>1</sup> I left high school in '41 and then went into the Marines in '44 for two years. When I came back from the Marines, I was looming for a job which they were none to be found. I get a call and they said there was an opening at the Strong hardware there in Burlington which was there at the corner of South Winooski Avenue and Main. There was a hardware store, the Strong Theater and office building up overhead. It was quite a nice building. There was a little old diner on South Winooski Avenue too. I went to work there in August and Pauline was the office secretary. The office was upstairs. It was New Years Eve - we went out for the first time. We went to a midnight movie right there at the Strong Theater. Eleven months later, we were married. When I first met her, I applied to the State Police and after a few months, I had been accepted. They were training in theater. I think Governor Gibson was the governor started the Police then – that would be 1947. I was in the first class of State Troopers. As soon as I got out of training, we got married in November. My first assignment was in St. Johnsbury. We lived there for a few months. And then I was transferred to Chester, down near Springfield. So we went down there and bought a little house down there. I think we paid \$6250 in a little development there a nice little house. We had two children there and then we went started looking for something different. We moved up and bought the house to the south. We moved up and January 1, 1950 we started farming. And that is where we brought up our family. Indoor plumbing didn't come in – I thought it was – until 1940. Our house- the Elliot Farm – the only hot water we had, that we didn't warm on the stove, was in the heater room in the milk room. We had hot water to keep the utensils clean. I don't know what year it was ...we purchased the LeClair farm too.<sup>2</sup> I think it was 217 acres or something like that. We paid \$25,000. I think probably Doctor Madison was one of the first ones that we sold land to after we stopped farming.<sup>3</sup>

JM: When did you stop farming?

JO: Back in 1965, the postmaster job came up. The postmaster, Ed Sevee<sup>4</sup> died. At the time, it was all political. The democratic were in control – I think Lyndon Johnson, I think, was the president. I applied for that and I was appointed. We did consider keeping the farm going but with the boys, we thought that they were going to be hurt by some of the equipment.

JM: Then you started to sell lots?

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<sup>1</sup> George was also a janitor at the Shelburne Village School during the 1930s.

<sup>2</sup> In 1962, Norbert and Eva LeClair purchased land from the O'Briens. The land used to belong to the LaPierre family and it was located on both sides of Dorset Street and it bordered Shelburne Pond.

<sup>3</sup> James and Joan Madison purchased 11 acres of vacant land from James and Pauline O' Brien in 1968. This was land that originally belonged to Clarence Bovat.

<sup>4</sup> Edward T. Sevee, who was married to Katherine, served as Shelburne's Postmaster in 1963

JO: Yes. The town wasn't.....I don't know what the word is.....but if you sold three lots, then they wanted you to give them a.....for all the land you owned and you were considered a developer and they taxed accordingly which we could not afford. So we kept selling lots, mostly to pay the taxes. They don't do that to them these days. I think they have other ways now work with them and then, they made it to difficult, that they had to sell. We had a good life there. The barn that was there was 100 feet long and sixty feet wide. We had a good farm and good dairy. We added on to the barn. The barn that was there had been built by Ernest LaPierre. He had cut all the wood for it off the land- hemlock. There was a sawmill, I think it was set up on the Sutton's land. Now they are just staring to develop that. The sawmill as set up and I think they sawed up all their lumber there too. The Suttons built their barn and Earnest built this one. After we had been there for a little while, we added 55 feet to the north end to it. Norman Marcotte<sup>1</sup> built it for us. After we quit farming, we torn down the old barn. I think the part that Norman built is still there. We had shad upstairs equipped with basketball, pool, Ping-Pong.

JM: Does your family still get together?

JO: Yep. Every Saturday night as a group. Sometimes small, sometimes not so small. The only one we don't see very often is our son Dan, who works for Delta Airlines out of Georgia. <sup>2</sup>

JM: Tell me a little more about your life as postmaster?

JO: That really led do a lot. We belonged to the Postmasters Association and I was quite active in the state chapter. I was president for couple of years. We had a national convention every year at a different spot. I might have missed one or two years but most of the 20 years that I was postmaster, we went to a convention and we did get to see a lot of country. We did pay our own way. We went to Hawaii a number of times. I think we have been Hawaii four times. We went Salt Lake City one year. In fact, I think Salt Lake City was our first convention. Yes, as postmaster, I did make new friends.....good friends.

JM: What people from Shelburne stood out from the early days?

JO: Once I did get into the Post Office, I kind of got away from town affairs because I was a school director just prior to going in. You were not supposed to if Federal money was being spent. Phil Smardon, the rural carrier – he kind of gave up his too.<sup>3</sup> The Askes were always around. Wendell was the town manger for awhile and his brother

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<sup>1</sup> Norman Marcotte is married to Rita and they live on Route 7. They run an appliance shop from their home. See Norm and Rita Marcotte interview.

<sup>2</sup> Jim and Pauline, who were married November 11, 1947, had ten children – Ann, Daniel, Elizabeth, John, Mary, Sheila. Jim, Frank, Patricia and Karen.

<sup>3</sup> Philip and Louise Smardon lived on the south side of Webster Road. He was the rural mail carrier from 1954-1969.



Jerry ran the shipyard. Young Jerry, I think, still lives out there. Jerry Sr.'s wife was very active in the church- she was a wonderful lady.<sup>1</sup>

JM: What events in Shelburne's history stand out in your mind?

JO: Probably most of them were church related. I was active in the Church Pastor Committee. Father Morencey was a great priest. Father Cain<sup>2</sup> was the first one, then Father Brennan. Father Cain was very active in Town affairs. He was a school director at one time and a member of the water commission. There is Governor Snelling and Barbara, who was the school board. If her husband had not been governor, she would have been. There are so many of the families that I consider good friends. Rufus Morrow and his wife Ruth. Rufus is a ballot clerk and I would go there in early in the morning and catch up on old times. His kids are friends with mine.<sup>3</sup> The Thomas's are a great family. Father and Grandfather. The Father was Jerry and their grandfather was Ted. Eustace Thomas<sup>4</sup> was a school board member for 30 odd years and he was a good farmer. His grandfather was a good father. The Marsetts were always where Marsett Road is. Their farm was right on the corner of Route 7 and Marsett Road. The McGees. The McGees owned the farm of Falls Road and Marsett Road that was mainly the Magee house. John Magee was a principal and teacher. He was great man. He was great educator and a nice person. The Bacons. Tommy Bacon lived in Shelburne. Tom's father, I think, was Bob Bacon.<sup>5</sup> At one time, he ran the farm where the golf course where Brad Caldwell was. Then he was contractor. This is going way, way back. He took some of the stone out of the quarry over there and see if it would qualify for a piece of the thruway that Governor Hoff developed in the 1960s. They told him that it was too soft. – the road. Hundreds and hundreds of tons have been on the road since then. His father.....I think it was his father.....was the mail carrier.....Allan Bacon. I remember that he used to drive his car with a ski wheel in the front.<sup>6</sup> The McDonalds. The Noonans. Ray Noonan ran the farm for Bostwick for years and years

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<sup>1</sup> In 1941, Horace Corbin leased the Shelburne Shipyard to Donovan Contracting Company of St. Paul, Minnesota. J.L. Aske arrives from Minnesota to start building subchasers for the United States Navy. Five years later, Corbin sold Shelburne Shipyard to L Jerome Aske. Along with his brother, Wendell, Jerry Aske formed the Shelburne Harbor Ship and Marine Construction Company. Wendell Aske was Shelburne's first town manager, 1968

<sup>2</sup> Father Cain served at Saint Catherine's Church in Shelburne from 1934-1953.

<sup>3</sup> Rufus and Ruth married in 1947. Ruth grew up in c. 1852 Home at the corner of Irish Hill & Spear Street. She attended the Palmer School on Dorset Street. Rufus Morrow served the community as a select board member, cemetery commissioner and auditor. Rufus worked in the Creamery for a brief period and he was the proprietor of Morrow's Texaco Service Station.

<sup>4</sup> Eustace Thomas came to Shelburne with his parents in 1901. He went to high school at Saint Michaels in Winooski. Eustace served the community in a multitude of ways. Eustace Thomas served on the school board from 1929 to 1961 and he also served as Shelburne's Town Representative in 1961. He and his wife, Lena, ran a farm (the former Andrews Farm) near the junction of Spear Street and Thomas Road. Over the years, the farm grew to over 550 acres and it had over 400 apple trees.

<sup>5</sup> Robert and Margaret Bacon had seven children – William, Anne, Elizabeth, Frederick, Phillip, Robert and Thomas. Thomas was the third youngest. The Bacons owned a house directly north of the Shelburne Village School and the family owned land on Thomas Road as well.

<sup>6</sup> William Bacon was the town's rural mail carrier for many years and than Allan's son, Robert Bacon, held the position. Allan Bacon served as Shelburne's selectman, county senator and fenceviewer.

and years. He was very active in church and town affairs. His brother Bob and Bob had young Bob - RJ who was a coach at Rice for years and years and years.<sup>1</sup>

JM: You are a wealth of information. Is there anything that we missed? What about the changes?

JO: Well, I guess probably I thought the change was good for Shelburne. They had a good road commissioner. Way way back....Jack Ready was the road commissioner. Down Cheese Factory Road from the corner of Dorset, there stone walls on both sides....they were on Dorset Street too. I remember when I was sixteen years old, I took my father's tractor...I worked with Walter McKenzie...he lived right there in the Falls across from Church.<sup>2</sup> We would move each stone and place it a certain way all the way down that road. That is one thing that road will never get again. That was back in 1941. And after Jack Ready<sup>3</sup> it was Bob Collier<sup>4</sup> and after Bob it was Paul Goodrich<sup>5</sup>, who does an excellent job. As you go through the town officers, at one time, they came to town office and they stayed, stayed, stayed. Like Eustace Thomas for thirty years, my father was selectman for thirty years. My brother George was a Lister for years and years. Then as GE was getting active, people were moving in. I think a lot of it was they wanted the fact they were a town officer on their resume or something because they would change. They would go for one term and that was it. I think Shelburne is a great place to live. We have all the same service here as we have then – church, doctors, hospitals are closer, grocery stores. Pretty much the same.

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<sup>1</sup> Raymond and Catherine Noonan owned land on the south side of Falls River next to the LaPlatte River.

<sup>2</sup> Walter and Annie McKenzie lived on a ¾ acre lot on Falls Road between the Village and Falls that they bought in 1944.

<sup>3</sup> John Ready and his wife, Ruth, owned land on the southeast corner of Mount Philo and Falls Road. He served as the Road Commissioner from 1930-1948

<sup>4</sup> Robert Collier lived in a home on Falls Road that had been in his family since 1931. Collier served as the Road Commissioner from 1948 to the early 1980s

<sup>5</sup> Paul Goodrich started working for the Town at the age of 16 and by 1968, he was a full time employee.