

2/3/96. Elizabeth Bischoff Interview

February 3, 1996. Sheila Thomson and Lynn Bischoff interviewing Elizabeth Bischoff in East Orford, New Hampshire.

ST Now, lby, why don't you go ahead and start and tell us about the times that you have spent in Orford and things that you've been thinking about, too.

EB Well, I should probably say that I was born March 30, 1912, and my association with Orford started back when my father founded Camp Pemigewasset, and our summers were spent at Camp Pemigewaswsett on Lower Baker Pond and my associations there were primarily with them. Orford was a little foreign territory, but in 1946 we bought what was know as the Baer property and we became year-round residents in '72. I'd like to talk a little bit about the Baer property, as it was known. Mrs. Baer, the name was Ruth Adams Baer, was married to a surgeon at Johns Hopkins, and he was noted for the fact that he used leeches in bones during WWI. Mrs. Baer raised Chow dogs and she was very much interested in anything Oriental. And she, her husband gave her the Baer farm which was really, the house on it had been built by a Thomas Savage, and Thomas Savage's brother Charles built the house across the way the field which was occupied at one time not only by Macks but by the Gratzes and most recently by the Alvin Gluek family. Mrs. Baer came up from Baltimore every summer to this area that her husband had given her as a Christmas present bringing with her 65 Chow dogs that came on the train to Fairlee, and she immediately began and built a large assortment of kennels, which is across the road from where we now live, surrounded by an anchor fence. Some of the kennels were rather elaborate with an interior balcony and windows and that kind of thing. And she also at that time set out some 1500 apple trees, mostly Northern Spies and Macintosh apples. As a child I remember her as small woman wearing a very large hat, usually with some kind of a pruning gadget in her hand cutting off dead flower blossoms. But this Baer property on Upper Baker Pond was kind of foreign territory to those of us who lived on Lower Baker Pond. In 1937 while she still brought her Chow dogs and, also, she brought up people to help her in the kitchen and maids and so forth from Baltimore, and I'm not quite sure whether Charlie Ladd's wife, Florence, wasn't one of the people that she brought up here. Charlie and Florence were married in the back end of this house and spent the summer in an sort of renovated attic space, and then she employed about five different people who used to do a great deal of cutting. There's a roadway that runs down to the lake. And those men kept the grass cut with a reel mower. She also had a grass tennis court out back here and a place that was like an alleyway. She plantings were very elaborate. She had a vegetable garden as well as doing apples, and her flower gardens were always very well known. In 1937 she decided she would sell the present house, that is the Savage old house built in 1824, to some friends from Baltimore, and she moved across the road and redid an apple house that had been used to store grading equipment and sprays and that kind of thing. So the house across the road has in a good part of it a brick floor, because that was in, and she renovated that house with a very grand staircase which everybody who has seen it

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since says, "Oh, wouldn't this be the place that the bride should come down," and of course she'd end up on the stoop, but that was all right. And, so she redid the house and sold the Savage farmhouse to two ladies, her friend Alice Herran, ^{whose} father had been Chief Counsel of the Southern Pacific Railroad and a Californian by birth, I would say, with loads of money. But poor Alice apparently was schizophrenic and had been showing symptoms at the age of 16. So Lucy Worthington was taken on as the nurse, and they lived together for more than 65 years. At the end when eventually they both died, it was hard to tell which was a patient and which was a nurse. And so anyway, they came up here and bought this house and Mrs. Baer moved across the road where she, also, went into elaborate gardening, and she had a fondness for barberry bushes and everything was outlined with a barberry hedge. For those of us who (unclear) barberry very much it was always a real challenge. So then the war came along and by this time, even though she had a very substantial apple business shipping apples to New York City to Charles and Company which was a well known fruit dealer down in New York City, it was hard to get any people to work in the orchard, and so she began letting it go. In the meantime Dr. Baer had died, and she married a colonel in the Army who preferred Florida, and at that particular point Ralph, my husband, and I and three children had gotten through the war and we had never had owned any property outright -- we always had rented -- and we thought it was time to have a piece that we could call our own. And we had no intention of buying anything very substantial. We thought we wanted about a couple of acres on the waterfront somewhere, but no, Mrs. Baer said she was interested in having us buy the property because she knew that her new husband would not ever spend any time and would, she would be, she made a statement after she had given us. I say give because in this day and age it does look like giving. Included in the property we bought were two houses, the kennel master's house and the house that she was living in, and 120 acres with a third of a mile of waterfront for \$11,000.

LB What year was this?

EB This was 1946. And she made the comment that she'd like to endow our three children with New Hampshire air. So we could only... when we moved in the first summer we spent up here there was no electricity because Mrs. Baer had kept the power company from putting poles on her land, saying God's light was enough light for anybody, and we had one summer with no electricity at all and three small children, and we found it was terribly difficult to control candles and kerosene lights. We did have one gasoline light that we used. Well, after that summer we decided we'd go modern and we'd let anybody put an electric light pole on our property anywhere they wanted. And the surrounding neighborhood was really pretty glad to have that part of modernization. So we took up residence in the summertime only. I was here usually for the two months that we were here, but my husband Ralph worked at New York University School of Law as an administrator and, therefore, he only had one month of vacation. So I was here with the children and enjoyed it very much. But Alice and

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Lucy were across the road. They put a bench at the end of the driveway so that they could look down the driveway and kind of keep track of what was going on. Lucy, the nurse, had really a rough time of it because Alice would say, "We're going back to Baltimore tomorrow. Get the men." And they'd put blinds on all the (unclear), roll up the rugs, and the next day Alice would say, "Oh, it's such a beautiful day. Lucy, let's not go for another week." So everything would be undone. I think everybody in the neighborhood has worked for Alice and Lucy during a period of time. Lucy really suffered a lot because Alice wouldn't let her keep in touch with her family, and she really sacrificed that with the idea that she would be provided for for the rest of her life. And so she was wandering around one time out in the road and I came down for the mail and she said, "Do you think you could hear a whistle?" I said, "What kind of a whistle?" She said, "Well, I carry this around my neck and if I got into trouble do you think you could hear it?" Now what kind of trouble she had in mind I'm not sure. I assured her, "Oh yes, of course I'd hear it." And there are many tales now I can tell of those two ladies, if that's what you think you'd like to hear, because they were here from '37 until we bought in '72.

LB Yes, we'd like to hear more. Let us more stories about them.

EB Well, I think I should probably try and describe a little bit of their appearance. Alice was sort of scrawny, and Lucy was kind of a fat dumpling kind of a woman. And they wore clothes as if they were poverty-stricken. Usually they would have galoshes on if it was raining and would very often have a coat on that they would pin with a safety pin up around their necks. And they always wore a large hat. And they had a Packard station wagon that they, and they hired various people -- one of the Downings to drive and so on -- and they would hire and fire a chauffeur just as a whim that he didn't blow the horn correctly or he stopped too suddenly or would be reason enough to have him leave. They collected everything, just everything, so that when we in '72 moved in here you had in the attic space these large galvanized iron garbage cans that would be filled with such things as a chauffeur's uniform, the whole outfit -- heavy overcoat, and so on. They would be another can filled with pads from dresses and belts, and there would be another one, for example, that had laid thin gauze curtains that had been sun (unclear) and were kind of, but they were saved, and according to the people that had worked for, they were sure that there were large sums of money hidden somewhere. So among all this debris that was around, just packs and packs of stuff that had no value whatsoever, you'd come across little packages every once in a while. You never felt you could throw them out, and one particular package came to mind. It was small; it was about maybe two inches by six, wrapped in oilcloth, tied up, and as we unwrapped this little package, thinking that probably the crown jewels were there, we found that it was screw that must have belonged to something in the house, but what you didn't know. But, anyway, we never found any money at all but just tons of trash, tons. And so that was one aspect, and just, they were always afraid they were going to run out of something and, because they had been here during the WWII years

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there they were sure there was going to be more. It scares me, for example, toilet paper or Lux Flakes, soap flakes, and also Ivory Soap, so that even today in our barn we have quantities of toilet paper and Lux Flakes that we don't quite know what to do with. I tried to give the toilet paper to the Day Care, but they could only use white, and this was a combination of either peach color or blue, so that's the type of thing we ran into. And one time during the Cuban crisis -- by this time poor Lucy was very much crippled with arthritis and they didn't have a regular driver anymore because Alice had broken her hip and had had that repaired, but when Alice went to the hospital Lucy went, too, and had a room set up in Mary Hitchcock (unclear). Money didn't mean a thing, and so I would from time to time do grocery shopping for Lucy and household, and one time I stopped by to see what they needed and Lucy said to me, "You suppose you could get me some sugar?" This was during the Cuban crisis and I said, "Yes, how much did you want," thinking 10 pounds or something. Well, they wanted one of these 60 pound bags of sugar, a great big one, and she said, "You know, we don't know if we'll be able to get sugar with this crisis," so she said, "I went over to the store and I said, "Do you happen to have any 60 pound bags of sugar?" Well, they had one -- it was heavy as lead -- and the man said, "I'll take it out for you," and I thought who'll take it in for me. So I brought it back and I said to Lucy, "Where do you want this put?" And she said, "I don't want anybody to know that we've got sugar." And she said, "I wonder if you could put it into the washing machine." So I came in with the sugar. Well, in no way would it fit; it was, you know, too big. And she said, "Oh dear, I guess the best I can do is when one of the men comes around to bring in the wood I will ask him if he could take it to the cellar." That gives one side of these very (unclear). And eventually Alice died, and Lucy came up. She used to bring a very large and attentive colored lady with her to take care of her, and she got so bad that the colored lady would ask me if I could come over and help turn her in her bed, which I would do from time to time. But eventually she died, but there was a very harrowing tale which I never knew...there was some truth to it, but I don't really feel I can give the details of it. Lucy was under the care of a Dr. Gunderson in Hanover, a very well known heart man, and Lucy also had a niece and her husband who lived down in Massachusetts, and they came up. By this time, Lucy was confined to a wheelchair, more or less, and they tried to give her some medication, and even broke her teeth trying to get the spoon in her mouth. And then they went out to dinner, leaving her alone in the house and having taken the telephone out. And it just so happened that the next morning Dr. Gunderson thought that he hadn't seen Lucy for a while and he would come out. And he came out and found her still sitting in the chair she was in when the niece and her husband were around, but he saw that the telephone had been removed, and Lucy tried to tell him about it, trying to give her medication, and he told them to go and leave and never to come back again. So there was some, something was going on there, and then eventually Lucy died of (unclear). And that was the end the (unclear). (unclear) type of life that they lived here. They used to come up sometimes in the winter. One time we came up when we first had the house across the road and we had the electricity put in and the electricians had locked the

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cellar door which was where we only had any dry wood, and so Ralph had to go and get some from Oscar Ladd to just keep us warm for this weekend that we were going, and we stopped over to see Alice and Lucy, and they asked how we kept coming and going, back and forth, you know it was in connection with the wood, and Lucy said, "Why, why didn't you come over here? We would have given you some. Wouldn't we, Alice?" And Alice said, "No, we wouldn't." I think that's enough of the Alice and, so that that's ah.

ST (Unclear) Just set me straight on this. Now they lived in this house, and at that time you were across the road.

EB Yes, well you see they brought this house from Mrs. Baer who renovated the house across the road from an apple storage place to a house. That's the one with the staircase and the gardens. And really a lovely garden. But by the time we got to it in '46 it was very much overgrown, and I might add about this house now, where we live, is when we bought it you couldn't ...it was so surrounded with trees, there was no view at all. Some people going down the road didn't even know a house was here. And during the war years Alice and Lucy had the house painted green in the summertime and white the wintertime so it wouldn't be bombed.

ST You mean they changed it?

EB Yes, they painted it...

LB I remember hearing that story. I'm so glad you told that.

EB Well, and of course you do know that the Mt. Cube Medical Defense Center was down here at the end of the road, the old schoolhouse where Frank Pushee now lives. And we had a stretcher. And we had some stationary with Mt. Cube Medical Defense Center left here in the house and a few other items that were associated with that. But if you want to know about that you should talk to Kathy Baker because, or Bill Baker, because his father, Dr. Baker, was, sort of masterminded the Mt. Cube Medical Defense Center.

(Unclear)

ST (Unclear)...time when they didn't use any lights at night...

EB Yes...

ST or they closed off the windows...(unclear)

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EB Yes, yes, if you think anybody would think we here in Orford, East Orford, needed a defense, medical defense, center, I mean you've got a...of course Alice and Lucy underwrote it because they must have bought the schoolhouse because then they eventually sold it to Gerald Pease. I probably should make mention of the fact that we when we lived across the road where the dog kennels were the anchor fence was sold to Camp Moosilauke and the, one of the dog houses was moved down to the lake road where it is a garage connected with Merriwood. The other kennels were torn down and removed, and the house that had been the kennel master's house -- and that was Harry Daisy --

ST Harry Daisy was the ...

EB kennel master at one point. And he, that house is, we moved, I can't tell you which year it was, up on the road where Christie Manning now lives. That was the "doll's house". Mrs. Farrell always called it the "doll's house". And that was another thing about Mrs. Baer. All her doorways were very small narrow ones with French doors in them so that in order to get into the room "Throw both doors open and make a dramatic entrance," she would have said. But also this accounts for the fact that the Streeters also worked for Mrs. Baer. And one winter Hattie Baker moved down to Baltimore and was there with her, and that's how Hattie, no, it was Mrs. Streeter went down, and that's how Hattie Baker was educated in Baltimore. Did you ever know Hattie Baker?

ST Yes, yes...

EB And you noticed how she talked? You remember? Even Joan, the daughter, you know, Noyes, if you listen to her talk she doesn't have a New Hampshire accent at all. But Hattie Baker was educated for quite a while down in Baltimore.

ST So her mother had moved down there with...

EB with her as a housekeeper, or something of that sort. And I think, I think Harry Daisy came originally from Baltimore, to be kennel master over here.

LB Is that right.? Well, that's really important to hear, to have these stories recorded because Mrs. Baer was very instrumental having you people locating here.

ST And how do you spell the name "Baer"?

EB B-a-e-r, Ruth Adams Baer. And we have quite a number of books on both sides of the road because as she said in Miami we didn't read, when she moved down there. So she left books. She left quite a lot of things in the house, and ah, the person that usually did a lot of building for her, over on the other side of the road, was Henry

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Horton. Bill, you know, Emma Horton, and Bill McKee was the nephew, I guess, of the Horton. And there was sort of a breakfront piece that Henry Horton had made that's over in the other house. I gave that to Bill McKee because it didn't fit in with what we needed, after we weren't just summer (unclear). But there's a long connection of various workers, people that have worked there, either in the orchards or because, after all it took quite a crew to keep that orchard going with 1500 apple trees.

ST (Unclear)

EB And when we moved here in '46 we, the orchards had gone during the war. Nobody had paid any attention to them, so we wondered what we could do about them and we had the Farm Agency man come and look at them and he said, well, they were pretty old trees because they had been planted originally around 1912 and so they were kind of running out by (unclear) '46. And we offered it to a, the Colton Farms in Thetford, so that they could, if they wanted, to take over, that would be fine, but one time an uncle of mine who was head of a Palmology Department at Cornell was visiting, and I took him up in the orchard. He said, well, you know, this, I think the only use this orchard has is for pathological studies. So we let it go at that point.

LB There are still some trees...

EB Oh, yes, there is a bunch here. We've cut some of them down. There's a whole bunch down here, and then there was a bunch up here, but they were gradually dying. The only time they were really beautiful is in the spring. Sometimes we'll have very good season of beautiful apple blossoms. One time I thought, well, for sentiment's sake I'll pick up enough apples to make a pie, and it took me about 60 apples to cut around the live stock. But people have come, at various times, when...the apples vary so (to people?) apples to make cider.

ST And otherwise the beer and...

EB That's right. (Unclear)

ST And did you tell us how the Baers happen to come here originally?

EB That I don't know exactly, except that they must have been looking for a place where they could summer with their 65 Chow dogs. And this seemed, you know, Dr. Baer had a boat house down on the lake at one point, a very sickly one. But he didn't spend much time up here, but she used to come fairly early in the springtime.

ST Now did she breed Chow dogs to sell them...

EB Yes, I'm sure she must have sold some. She showed them a lot, and one of the

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interesting things is we never found a picture of her. If we'd find a photograph of a Chow dog or something like that she'd have her head cut off, you know, in the picture. We haven't got a sign of what she really looked like, but I don't think anybody else does either. She had a, Mrs. Baer had a, well, very fanciful idea of things because when she renovated the apple house she called it Grey Shelter. But then there was another site off back, down to the southwest, or something, southeast, that she thought she wanted to build a house on sometime, and she had designated that that would be the place a house would be built that she'd call Far Reaches.

LB lbby, was the Griffin's house ever up here?

EB Some people say it was. I don't think it was.

LB I thought Donald had told me that...

EB Oh, he thinks it was out here and they slid it down the hill, but I don't think...at one point Charlie Ladd drew a picture on brown paper and gave it to David of where the barn was, and there was another barn, and so on. (Unclear) But that's the...

ST Now the Griffin's ...

EB It's a cottage down on the lake. It was one acre; it was taken out of this total property. And, which reminds me that when Mrs. Baer sold to the two ladies, Alice and Lucy, she said they were going to have 200 feet of waterfront. But she started up on the road that goes down here, and progressively went this way down to the lakefront, so they didn't have any more than, well, I think if they had 50 feet they were lucky. But, and that was 18 acres went with this house originally (unclear) sale, and so when we bought from Mrs. Baer we owned all around this so that when this house came on the market we felt we wanted to go to an old house, although we made renovations at the other house, when we expected to retire. But we never retired there at all. It was just...

ST Now, did this house not come on the market until ...

EB Lucy died.

ST Lucy died.

EB And it was about 19, must have been about, 1970 (unclear). We bought in '72.

ST And she didn't have people that...

EB She, I guess she didn't want to leave anything to anybody. There was one good kind niece that lived in Ohio that took some of her furnishings, but not many. And

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I was...I don't think you can believe the mess this house was in. And friends our ours would come and we'd peek in the windows before we came up, and they say, "Oh, you're crazy to get involved with it." It was such a mess. Oh, it was terrible.

LB What were their plans for the barn?

EB Oh, they thought they'd have a guest house there in the barn. Of course, they never had guests anyway, but they wanted one. And so you'll find on the inside the most awful looking fireplace. It's sort of built in the Yosemite Valley type of construction -- big beams here and here, and there's a chimney that goes up on the outside. That was going to be part of it. And then they put in a very elaborate stairway that went up to the second floor, and as someone of the contractors said, "Whoever heard of an open stairway going up in a barn. And then they changed the facade here and there, and they thought that they might sometime show movies something to people. They weren't anymore going to show movies to anything, but the fireplace, really, it looks like because it's a full, you know, big high ceiling thing, looks like what you think those big hotels in Yosemite Park, or something. I can't imagine what they thought they were doing." Dr 2

ST (unclear) characters.

EB They were. They were just unbelievable.

LB Well, probably not many people know these stories.

EB Well, those that knew them have passed on. I think Theda would know a lot of them because she worked from time to time here. And May Ladd was the one that, but she had died a couple of years ago(unclear) and she used to work a lot for Mrs. Baer. And if you go down the other way the Rands, let's see, what was her name, Browns, after Allison Brown who lived you know where they lived down on the way to Wentworth (unclear) and Julie Brown Rand I remember as coming over to sell peas or beans or something like that, I can't recall...But they didn't have, there aren't many people that would (unclear).

LB They had some elaborate plans and made elaborate preparations for only being here in the summertime.

EB Oh yes, then at the end they used I think huge electric radiators and then they'd come and load up the stove morning and evening. They did that for not all winter long but some of the winter. They just...if you know the name of Collier brothers -- they were well known in New York, recluses, who when they died they had to kind of fight their way through the newspapers and clutter to even find the people involved there. But they were very much like that (unclear)...just saving and uh, I think Lucy (unclear), is

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there a picture, a religious picture in the -- I'm trying to think -- was it the Catholic Church here or St. Martin's, and you go down the stairs...

LB Oh yes, there is. A picture of a madonna...

EB Yeah...

LB in a gold frame.

EB I think that came from Lucy or Alice, I don't know which one, but I think that was

the (unclear). Another interesting thing is, which goes back before '37, Phyl Lawrence, which is Phyllis Green, they rented this house from Mrs. Baer one summer. And that's ah...

ST I wonder if that had something to do with the kennels.

EB No, I don't think so. No, because I think that was before Phyl got (unclear) animals. But there are various ramifications of people around. It's, ah, it's too bad that there isn't more history of East Orford because the farms that were up here that now the Tomlinsons live in and, ah, the, let's see, the Thorndikes...the Thorndikes -- this is off the track -- but he came up here in about 1912, he was a psychologist, an educational psychologist from Columbia, put out the Thorndike Barnhardt Dictionary, and the Tomlinson's house was rented by the Monroe sisters, or bought by them, and their father was a history professor at Columbia, and the reason the Thorndikes came up here was because his wife had such terrible hay fever at home down in the New York area. And they bought that here. This is one of his sons, that owns it now.

ST And previous to 1912 it was a working farm?

EB It must have been. I don't know whose it was, but it was (unclear) just the same way as the Monroe, the Tomlinsons. We have a picture that shows it all -- see where the pine trees are there? The pine trees come in where open land was, and it was all open right down to the lake.

ST Did you tell me that this house was house was originally homestead of the Savage home?

EB Yes.

LB One of the Savage brothers?

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EB Brothers. They were brothers, yes. I think Thomas built this and the Gluek's house Charles built. And that house over there -- the Gluek's (unclear)-- doesn't look like an old house because they put a second story on it sometime, so the one and a half they put a full story on it. So that's, ah....

ST (Unclear) my notes, it seems like there were the Simpsons, do you...

EB I don't know (unclear). I think their relatives live over the Piermont, don't they?

ST I think they do. I think that's part of the same family. There was a big family of Rollins...

EB Oh, all of the Rollins. Oh yes, the Rollins lived at the, where you go down to Lower Baker, where the public beach is there, just to your left where there's a gravel pit there is a house there with a (Than?) and Henry Rollins brothers lived in and had, Henry had two daughters, Helen and Bertha Rollins and, ah, actually Helen Rollins married someone by the name of Newton, and they live in Wentworth. I think Helen Rollins is still living; she's about my age.

ST So would that be the mother of (unclear)?

EB Helen was mother of... 2

ST Did she up by Atwell...

EB Yeah.

ST Hill Church?

EB But is there Robert Newton?

ST Robert is in (unclear).

EB Yeah.

ST Those were her three brothers.

EB Uh huh. That's right. But, no, my sister and I used play with the Rollins girls when we were growing up.

ST And their house is burned or something?

EB Oh yes, it burned or disappeared a long time ago.

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ST And did I ask you about Stevens?

EB I don't know anything about Stevens.

ST Apparently (unclear)...

EB Well, the Freemans were the ones who ran Camp Moosilauke. And that's, the interesting part about that was Horace and Virgil Freeman ran Moosilauke and that was started before Pemi, so that was in 1906, and he was a teacher at Horace Mann School in New York City, and my father and his twin brother and Dr. Reed were the founders of Camp Pemigewasset, taught physical education at Horace Mann and, therefore, got connected with the Hermans, and they came up here as counselors at the start of Moosilauke, and they got fed up with making tennis courts and doing that kind of thing so they decided why shouldn't we have our camp of our own, so they bought land down at Pemi. That's how that started. But the Prettymans were here for years (unclear) and there was a, the ones that sold the house to Porter Miller, Helen -- do you remember (unclear) lived in Fairlee for a while, and so on. But the Prettymans lived (unclear). I don't think they're, I think Helen and whoever her husband was, they went out and they haven't been around for a long time, but the Prettymans go back to the Camp Moosilauke.

Freemans

ST There is a Virgil and (unclear)...

EB And Horace. Horace wasn't... Virgil was the one who had more to do with Camp Moosilauke (unclear)

END OF SIDE "A" OF TAPE

ST And then probably really early (unclear)...It looks like Lambert.

EB Oh yes, Lambert. No, Lambert, was a son of either Virgil or Horace.

ST Oh, I see...

EB And Lambert and Helen were the two that I mentioned in connection with having...(interruption)

EB Going back to my summers at Camp Pemigewasset, my sister and I -- she's two years older than I -- were the only two girls on the scene at Camp Pemigewasset, and from the earliest times we were not to be playing any part in any of the activities at camp. As a matter of fact, pine trees were planted on each side of the driveway which came from the residence where we lived on the hill, down to the lakefront so that we could walk down to the lake without being seen. Those trees today are like giants in

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the forest...I can hardly believe that they were planted as small trees to keep us...and we didn't, I marvel that my sister and I weren't kind of made queer by our summers at Camp Pemigewasset where we were supposed to be really removed from the scene entirely. Our only swimming activity, there was a special spot on the lake where we'd go and my father built a bench because my mother had to supervise our swimming and, but she couldn't swim a stroke, but she would sit herself down on the bench. And we also...it seemed to be the thing that you were timed as to how many minutes you could spend in the water, so with her large alarm clock Mother would plant herself on the bench with a book, and Helen and I would swim. We also had a canoe at a very early age -- I think at age 8, or was it 10 -- called the Blue Heron, and, ah, that was a very special kind of thing. We did a lot of hiking around, as for example the back, the road up over Ellsworth Hill going both to Wentworth and also coming out here to this road, 25A, and at that time there were 11 houses that have been on that road, and there were at least 5 that were still standing as houses which were occupied by porcupines and woodchucks, and that kind of thing. But it was the old stagecoach road, and, ah, we...there are even remnants of a corduroy road that they'd made through the swampy area.

ST And which road was this?

EB This is the Ellsworth Hill Road to go up Ellsworth Hill, you know, and then take the back road down to Wentworth, and then -- or you can come this way, and you come out here by where Charlie Ladd lived, the old town road. And we also did quite a lot of climbing of mountains, and when I got to high school I worked in the camp office. And I always remember one of the directors, when he was writing letters to, the end of the season, the parents, he was very long winded and he would always begin his letters, "The season of 1929 opened with a bang." So I did that, and I worked in the office through college, and then that brought an end of my activities at camp. But it was a very...the ladies ate in the dining room by themselves, kind of up on a hill, and the food was brought from the main kitchen up to that place. In other words, we were not really visible people, all during that time. But, we did associate with the Wentworth scene, and I remember Wentworth before the big fire where the stores were burned down, and that took place -- I couldn't put a date to it, but it was a Saturday night and everybody was at the Wentworth Town Hall for a dance, and the owner, not the Davises but the other, on the, where the Fire Department now is, started a fire in the ice house and the wind came up and it took both sides of the road at that point. And, but the man was found because he had all these account books and so forth in his car. And, ah...

ST You mean the fire was started on purpose?

EB Yeah.

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ST (Unclear)

EB Yeah, insurance thing.

ST Oh...

EB But he had all his accounts there. And I remember going to church down there, Sunday after Sunday, and sitting by the window looking at the cows grazing out the left side there, between the Downing house and the brick house that was there, and I remember Mrs. Caflin's boarding house down there, which was right next to the store, and I also remember the judge that lived where, just as you come out, the intersection of 25A and 25, where the big white house is there -- Judge Clifford and his two sons and a daughter. We saw the daughter from time to time as a playmate. And, ah, also it's interesting the house across from Camp Pemigewasset, the white house, was owned by a professor of chemistry, Professor Doughty(?) from Amherst. He had two sons and a daughter, Mary, and we used to play with her, and that's how the...the Doughtys had a housekeeper, there wasn't a Mrs. Doughty had died so there was Madame Doughty, Mr. Doughty's mother, and then there was a governess whom the children called True Blue, and then there was the housekeeper who was a German lady, and she married Allison Brown; she was, her name was Willemina. And she married Allison, and that's, and then Julie Brown Rand was the daughter. So you see, it's all kind of mixed up in that area. And Camp Pemi has gone along for years and years under the same management, and my brother's still treasurer of the trustees at Camp. But, ah, it holds many memories whenever I go down there, and I can't get over how the trees have grown.

LB Ibbey, you mentioned before about 1929. Did, was there any noticeable effect during the Depression years? Was the camp...

EB Oh, yes. The enrollment fell considerably. They worked a lot harder to get boys. It was, I suppose the war period was, maybe, or the Depression Era, was one of the low points after it had gotten started. Of course when it first started it, I suppose they had about eight boys, or something like that. Then when the Depression came, why it was really markedly down in enrollment.

ST And most of these boys, the families, were from the New York area?

EB No, because Dudley Reed, who was the (unclear) dear friend of one of the original founders was at the University of Chicago. And Father's twin brother was at the University of Rochester, so that they...And we lived in (unclear) Wesley University, so that there were three different areas that they drew from. And, that was ah...And they've always had quite an assortment of localities that they've drawn from. It hasn't been primarily New York City or Boston, or something of that (unclear).

Wesleam^a
Wesleyea

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ST And, how many would there have been eventually afterwards?

EB Oh, well, at the present time I think their maximum capacity is 165. And, well, I would say during the Depression they might have had as few as 80.

ST And they come for, what six weeks?

EB Eight weeks (unclear). Now they come for seven weeks or else three and a half week half sessions.

ST And in the early years, how did they get here?

EB Oh, they came on the train. They came on the train...primarily to Wentworth, and that would be the, that was the main line between Boston and (unclear). I can remember that, for example, they would, or if they had fish coming as an item or ice cream, you met the five o'clock train in Wentworth because it was, I can still see the barrels that the fish would come in, dripping ice water. The same thing with ice cream. And, ah, that was...I can still remember one time the milk situation was difficult, and they got a farmer by the name of Mr. Reed on the Atwell Hill Wentworth Road there, he had a farm there, and his herd was all tuberculin tested, and he delivered milk. But that was, I mean we take it so for granted that everything...but it would be that kind of thing that was done. Wild local meat was used. Phil Bean, that's the father of...you know, the Bean that lives out here...by the way, the one that had fourteen children, or something like that, and he used to raise veal. You know, I can still see him coming around saying that he had awful good veal for sale.

ST Now, was Phil Jeff's father?

EB Yes.

ST Okay.

EB (Unclear) They had a hard life, those kids, but some of them -- well, you probably (unclear) Beans, I mean one of them has a Ph.D somewhere, (unclear) girls was there, of course, Phil's wife had a terrible death.

ST (unclear) burn (unclear)

EB Yes...

ST Died as a result of her burns.

EB Yes. There were two that (unclear) Don (?) and Cory (?) (unclear)

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ST That's right. I don't know...

EB And one hung himself in the woods, and there was a cross up here in the woods for a long time.

ST I don't know if anyone (unclear)

EB I don't know enough of the details (unclear)

LB lbby, one day you were telling me about 25A. I don't know why -- I must not have realized this -- but before it was paved...

EB Yes...

LB what it was like, and maybe you can remember more about 25A or 25 and houses that were there and maybe not there now. Do you remember much about this area, or did you...

EB Those houses are about the same. No, I remember, let's see, the road was being paved when I was sixteen, when I had just gotten my driver's license, and I was sent over to meet a counselor and his wife in Fairlee (unclear) the summer, and they were tarring the road, and I had to go up over Dame Hill, and from that way and back that way. When I got back everybody thought I was so brave to have taken on Dame Hill. Because it was narrow and not very well surfaced, and all the rest of it.

ST So that would have been around 19...

EB Well, add sixteen to 12 and you've got it. Twenty-eight. 1928.

ST And, so you must remember the Marsten's Stock Farm?

EB Yes, I do. Yep.

ST And that looked like it was quite a...

EB Oh, it was beautiful. And that ramp, you know, that's still there...I can still see the blue Delphinium in front of the barn they had. It was just lovely. And, ah, oh I don't remember that. But you know, it funny, as you're growing up you just don't pay much attention to things. I mean, I, when I think of how casually I would take (unclear) you know, and all the rest of it, and I remember you know where Carol Chivers(?) lives?

ST Yes.

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EB We were, Father was coming up with Mother. Well, he...see, it was a very difficult thing to get boys. You had to set up an appointment with a family, and you'd go and see them, and so Father was seeing somebody -- oh, I think around Williamstown, Massachusetts. At any rate, he'd had an appointment then, and I met (unclear), by that time I was teaching, and I met them and came with them. And we passed, we were getting to Camp around four in the morning (unclear), and that house was burning, the old house, where Chivers... I still remember that...

ST As you came through...

EB Yes, just everything, you know, smoke.

ST Do you recall (unclear)

EB No that was afterwards, before Carol. The Words(?) lived there. And, ah, I don't know who lived there. There again, why should I be interested? And the same thing goes for the, you know where Richard Butnam lives, and the Beal (?) factory. I remember that house that had the ballroom on the top floor. You know, so it was a house, I guess.

ST And that was close to Richard Butnam's?

EB In that area, right there by the, because they were using the brook. But I think so often of how I just assumed that everything would be just the way it is, you know. It wasn't really that necessary to do.

ST And you also remember the Gallon's (?) house down on the Indian Pond Road?

EB No, I don't. That had burned sometime...you know. But I can't believe, you know, from the maple sugar session, and Peter was saying that they'd come up here in '54, and I can't believe we've been here longer. We came in '46 for the summer.

ST (Unclear) I guess it was '54 because Tom (unclear) eleven or twelve. wes 2

EB I know I, Jess Victoria(?) Currier (unclear)... We didn't have much of a view from the other house either, because we had to take down a lot of trees, and so I used to take a hooked rug and go up and sit in her kitchen with her in an afternoon or two during the summer so that I could look at the view. That was, ah... But, oh no, this house was just absolutely surrounded with trees. You couldn't...there were twenty-eight trees between the end of the house and the barn. You know, big trees like this. And, oh, people didn't think I was very nice to have so many trees cut down.

ST And when were they cut?

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EB When we moved in, about '72, because I wanted...over at the other house Mrs. Baer told she had apple there, and she said, "You know, if you're sitting in the tub and tip you head you can look out between those branches of trees and see Moosilauke." 52

ST I think I recall coming by after you did some cutting and I was asking Tom, well this was (unclear)....

EB Because people just didn't...(unclear)

ST (Unclear) before he did.

EB No, it's a...We're so happy that the Hances, who live across the road, have taken such an interest in the gardens, and she does a lot of gardening, much more than I do.

EB And they really (unclear)...

ST Now, have the Hances lived (unclear)...

EB Yes, they sold their condominium in Hanover at Barrel (?) Farms, and they're here. At the present time, they're on a three-week jaunt to South America.

LB lbby, what can you tell us about churches in earlier times here in Orford? Was your, you didn't have much association in Orford...

EB No, I didn't. As a matter of fact, we kind of kept away from the, as long as we were summer people, we kind of kept away from any of the social activities in Orford because we'd come from, you know, Connecticut, and we, that wasn't part of our desire to be (unclear) up here. We wanted to be in the country and enjoy it.

LB (Unclear)

EB So we had nothing to do with the social life at all. It wasn't until the church in Wentworth, that seems very familiar always, but the, for years the camp drama department used to put on a show down in (unclear) Hall as a money raiser for the church. And then they found that it was really disrupting their program quite a lot so they used to take their kids in the church and, on Sunday, have each put in fifty cents, and that was a big boost to the...and then, of course, as time went on, why they got down to providing the music for the church on Sunday, and now, of course, there's the general attitude of not being denominational over anything, but they make a contribution (unclear) without doing (unclear). Occasionally, they will ask...Do you remember Scott Withrow(?)? He was a very good organist (Unclear) but of course they have this Kenneth Wolf (?) who lives there. He's a real organist. You don't know

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who Kenneth Wolf(?)? He's the son of a Chicago attorney (unclear)...

ST Now has it played over at the church...

EB He give concerts down there (unclear) summer. And he, ah, entered Yale when he was eleven, and his mother went with him the first year, then decided that he could do it on his own. But then when he took a pre-med course, no, he majored in music, then when he got through Yale his father said, "Well, now you've got to do something that you can make some money on," so he went to medical school and, ah, and then he couldn't bear the thought of doing a residency, so he (unclear) I think brain pathology is what he does (unclear) medical schools down in the Boston area. But he gives concerts -- he was very instrumental in getting that organ redone -- and he's (unclear), you know, but I've heard him give concerts and he doesn't lose a note. (Unclear) and I do not know how he can do it. But then, he usually has a gathering in his house, and his wife always calls to (unclear) to come(unclear) what can you say but yes. But there's a bunch of people who you'd never seen before and would never see again. So many of his friends from the Boston area come up to hear him. But that's an old organ, just like the one in Orfordville.

LB lby, were you here when there was a fire in Wentworth?

EB Oh yes. It was...there again, I was awful young, but I remember the two rod or railing that had hitched horses to on the other side. That's another interesting thing. My sister was born on the 30th of May, 1910, which is just as Camp was getting underway, and in anticipation of her birth, why two weeks in advance they went by horse buggy down to Wentworth, and she got on the train and she went up to Woodsville, and she rented a room in Woodsville so she'd be near Cottage Hospital. Isn't that something? (Unclear) was born, and they came back the same way.

ST And then she probably stayed for two weeks after...

EB Oh, she probably did (unclear). But , you know Father was a doctor and his twin brother was a doctor, and Dudley Reed was a doctor. They never felt equipped a have a newborn on the scene the 30th of May.

ST Now, going back to the fire in Wentworth. About what year was that?

EB I suppose I was maybe seven or eight, so I'd say about 19... ← ?

ST And how many buildings...

EB Well, the only thing that stopped on the, whatever the side is, the right-hand side as you're going through, stopped the fire on that side where it had started. There's a

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stone wall there. The other side just took store there because the next house was Mrs. Damren's (?), and that was (unclear).

ST So the store and then the...

EB The store where the fire was set. And I think there was a house between that store and the library, but I'm not sure. But that, that was a very interesting spot.

ST Well, of course in that time they probably, the road went right down through the town...

EB Oh yes, and of course the bridge...that was only close^d recently. ✓

ST And that was the only...but I mean...

EB And 25A going that way...

ST 25...

EB Well, see 25, yes...

ST (Unclear) went down through...

EB I've forgotten where they (unclear) that, but (unclear)...

ST So it was probably (unclear)

EB Oh it was. And because it was the railroad station. Warren was a bigger stop on the railroad, but that was a big part of Wentworth. Then, of course, you know about the Count of Wentworth. Ever hear about the Count?

ST No.

EB The Italian count? Well, during the War he was (unclear) and he was an enemy alien, so he went to New York with his wife. And they wanted to get out of New York City, so they could only go within 300 miles of New York City whenever you were an alien. So they put a thumbtack down on a string, like this (unclear). They had to find a place where they could walk to the railroad station, so they could move around, and that was about their only (unclear), so Wentworth fell within that arc, and they bought the Judge Clifford house that was right there, the big one at the intersection of 25 and 25A, next to Bemis's.

ST Beside the..

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EB Yes, that one. They bought that. And his wife sort of fancied herself as an artist -- came from Indiana, her father (unclear) New Jersey, I don't know -- but the claim to fame of the Count was that he had a painting which he was (unclear) at the Metropolitan Art Museum (unclear) as being a Valquez (?) or something, and that was going to behis fortune. And the War came to an end, and they moved back to New Jersey, somewhere, and I never did know whether they ever confirmed the authenticity of his painting. And that was...But he must have had a hard life in Wentworth. Can you imagine? A count from (unclear).

ST Now, if you came up, let me put it this way, came up to the Stop sign at Bemis's...

EB Right ahead of you. And then on the left was a big white house. You turn, and there's the big white house.

ST Okay. The cape that...

EB The center cape. It's bigger than a cape.

LB To the left of Bemis's?

EB No, to the right of Bemis's, but the left-hand side of the road.

ST Okay..

LB Oh, I see. Across from ...

EB That's something I will never understand. I noticed it just the other day. Is why with all the land did they built themselves right up against the hillside, except that maybe (unclear)...but there's a lot of terracing. If you look carefully, there is good stone walls. And yesterday -- oh, I've got to show you something -- I went up to the Aitkins (?) residence, you know (unclear) a good friend of (unclear) -- phone rang: discontinued. 2

ST lbby, I was also wondering if you remember the house and the big barn down by the Tullar farm, across from the Tullar farm.

EB The Sanborn farm?

ST No, after...

EB Oh, I know...the Houghton farm. I remember only the expensive driveway that went in with the trees, cedar trees, planted. I'm sure I was around when it was still

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standing, but I don't remember it. During that particular time it was a real expedition if anyone went to Hanover from Pemi. Everyone went to Plymouth. That was the center. But, gee, if you went to Hanover... oh, that, even going to Fairlee was quite different.

ST (Unclear)

EB It was much easier to go to the Wentworth (unclear). So there's lots of places in the Orford area during that period that I know I have seen but I wouldn't really remember anything about it. I remember the covered bridge well in Fairlee. But...

ST Actually, the covered bridge in Orford...

EB Yes, the covered bridge in Orford. That went into Fairlee, that went into Fairlee. But aside from that I would say that...

ST I think that that was another question that when Tom heard that I was coming out here today, he said well, why don't you ask her what she remembers, what she can think of that has most changed in town.

EB Well, I would say the bridge, for one thing. I'm afraid I don't think it's as beautiful as some people think it is. I would say the farm on the way, you know the one we just talked about, not the Houghton but the...

ST Marston...

EB Marston farm. That has changed the whole atmosphere of that particular part of the town. Of course, I remember when Bemis's (?) house burned, that was in the fall just before we went back to Connecticut, but they put up a house just in the same spot. And there used to be the widow Gail's(?) house that burned also, just a little beyond that.

ST And do you remember when there was a house where Jeff Bean lived? I remember an old garden there, but I don't...

EB I don't...that was where Phil Bean lived, but I don't remember a house. I just knew that was where he lived. And...no, I would say on 25A that it was the Marston farm and its change, and then I say Gail, widow Gail's, was just beyond Pease's.

ST And was that a big farm?

EB Not very big, but it had a porch and I remember it because the man who bought the "Doll's House" from us (unclear) Mr. Bosansome (?) gave it to his daughter, and his

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daughter (unclear), but Mr. Bosansome (?) had a few mental problems and he used to sit on that porch and wave to everybody as they went by. So that was...but I don't remember the house as being anything very special. And, I remember...and of course the other house that's changed is the where Jim Hook lives now. That was a nice old house. And the Lernards (?) or the Larnards (?), or whatever, the Leonards (?) maybe live there. And there have been several changes on 25A.

ST And then, do I remember that that burned a few years ago?

EB Oh yes. It burned. And of course there was the barn at Mel's house that burned.

ST And then Peter's house is sort of...

EB Moved back.

(Unclear)

ST The Gould house.

EB The Gould house. Mrs. Gould was a nurse. And coming down this way, the Ballam's (?) house, but that was not much of a house, before you got into Wentworth.

LB Ibbby, how about some of the town's celebrations in the 40's, when the children were young and (unclear) Independence Day, or...

EB Oh, we didn't...as I said, when we were summer people we didn't do very much about that. I mean, it was the...if anything, we would have gone over to Camp Pemi for the (unclear) spontaneous parade of some sort in celebration there. My parents were dead by the time we moved up here. My father's twin brother and his wife, who was my mother's sister, were still living at camp, and so there was a good deal of going back and forth during those years. They really acted as grandparents to our children as they were growing up. So, as I said, we really...I can remember some minister from Orford calling on us one time, and ah, but aside from that I really don't...

ST I wonder what your (unclear) said.

EB (Unclear)

ST Because I remember that when I moved to town myself I felt it was very (unclear)

EB Oh, it was a long time ago when it was part of a...

ST Which would sound strange today knowing what's expected, but having come

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from the little town where I did (unclear)

EB Oh, actually, Mr. Hollis(?) from the Baptist Hill Church, Atwell Hill Church, called here.

ST Oh, did he? Well, we were thinking that we might (unclear)

LB Tell us what year was it that you were, what period it was, that you were Selectperson.

EB From...I finished up nine years in '89. So it was '80.

ST And were you perhaps the first woman that...

EB I was first woman, I was a first foreigner, and I was elected on a write-in ballot.

ST In a write-in ballot? Oh.

EB I was running against Jeff Bean. That pierces the bubble a little. But, no, those years as a Selectman I really enjoyed (unclear). Times have changed so since then. You know, we... the Selectmen's Office had just moved into the quarters that they were in from the library, and I... there was no telephone, there was no typewriter, and, oh, everything I brought back here for letters, and all the rest of it. I think I took Horton's place, and he and...it was sort of a transition period at that moment because he'd been on for quite a number of years, and George Tullar had been on, and Glen Pease. And Butch Roberts had come on I think to take Glen's place, and Larry Taylor was then on. Then I came on, and Howard (?) and Geri Washburn had done a lot in the way of the bookkeeping and stuff, and then Butch and Marti took a whack at that, and I don't know who wrote letters, if any, and it was ah...so it was really a different set-up. There was, also difficult...Sonny Sunderholf (?) was the Treasurer, and he, but I kept the ledger, and Judy Adams paid the bills. So we had three accounts to come out even, and I...honestly, I think the month before the Town Report went I sat through yards of adding tape... ✓
Horton?

LB I can remember you're doing that.

EB Sitting here, looking for the last penny and (unclear) quite legal to, say, to round it off. Well, you know, to begin rounding off all accounts as you go along...when you come to the end you've rounded off quite a lot, for the total. But no, we didn't do it that way. And it was really a very interesting time, and I think one of the strangest things that happened...Butch was on (unclear) list with me, and where it suddenly (unclear), we were in communication I bet you almost everyday on the phone about something because it was so kind of loose, you know, and then suddenly when he quit it just

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drops out of your life completely. He moved to Hanover, and that was it. It's ah...really a strange sensation to have. The third one, we had Larry Taylor, and then we had Bill McKee for a while, then we had Everett Blake for a while, but not long, and then Robin Taylor came on, and Paul Gaundry. There was quite a rotation of people as the third Selectman.

ST And by that time you had...

EB Gail had been in for two years, and I think it was...really, just changed the whole thing. We had a telephone then, we had...we even had a computer. She was learning to use it, but ah...

ST (Unclear)

EB So it made it, oh much more efficient. Of course, she'd had secretarial training. She was an ideal combination, not only college UVM but Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School, and ah...whereas my typing and shorthand came in 1928. When I was in high school.

ST (Unclear)

EB But it was, ah, not the typing I kept up with but shorthand was...So even today I can write it better than I can read it. Let it be a few hours cold, unless you know what you're talking about, you're kind of off on it. ✓

ST We do sort of take it for granted that the Town Office was there and...

EB Going and...

ST I do remember when I first came to town going to the road at the library and there was a big table that had lots of things on it.

EB I was elected to go through that stuff, and I went through it and this was maybe '80, no '82, and I found a letter which Ralph had written in '46 to explain why we hadn't sent in an inventory. You know, they sent us one because we didn't realize that...it was just there, and this was just the way the stuff was. And then they had a whole cardboard carton right there, and it had a lot of just used envelopes. And I said to Horton, "Why are we saving used envelopes for?" He said, "We use those to start the fire with." I mean, it's just amazing that that's ah...that heap of stuff you just can't believe.

ST And probably they only went there when they were really going to take time to sit and work on something, not just to run in to do some quick things...

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EB Oh no, that's right. And if it really got too cold they met in Glen's kitchen. There wasn't anything secret about it, but that's where they met. And, of course, one of the big issues was when I first went on with the Solid Waste Disposal, the burning of the dump, and there was a case that fourteen towns of under a thousand banned together, hired a lawyer, to see if they couldn't, towns under a thousand, couldn't continue to have a burning dump. That went on for a long time, and ah...then of course we couldn't.

ST (Unclear) a few changes...

EB Oh yes, absolutely. That was a change, and...

ST And you were not working outside the home, so I can imagine that you put in
(END OF SIDE 2)