

Today is March 21, 1995. This is Orford, New Hampshire. This is Sheila Thomson and I have with me Lynn Bischoff and we are visiting at the home of Theda Pease who lives in East Orford. Theda has agreed to have us visit and let us tape our conversation about some of her early experiences in the Orford area and the surrounding area.

TP All I can ??? years ago, probably sixty, seventy years ago was the Morrison's. The Morrises, and they raised registered beef cattle. I don't know what breed, and I don't know when Pierce bought it but I think he kept sheep when he was there and I know he was there probably in the early 30's, because Glenn's sister, Doris, worked for them and also Irene Chase. Irene was Irene Mack Chase, Morris Chase's wife. They worked for them and went up to...they had a summer place in Maine, Pierce's folks did. Doris took care of the kids and Irene cooked, and they went to Maine with them for the summer to their summer place, and then in the fall they went to Florida with them for the winter, and that was in the early 30's.

ST Now the place that you are talking about was Marston stock farm?

TP Yes, I think so, I think it was Marstons.

ST I think the people that lived there were Morrises, but for some reason they called it the Marston stock farm and I was wondering why.

TP Well, I don't know, it might have been somebody in the family. Perhaps it belonged to some Marston before Morrison was there, I don't know. I don't know if Harry Franklin would know or not. He's about the only person in town that would know anything about that now, I think

ST We'll have to check with him but you remember that farm when it was still there?

TP Yes, I remember when ????? were there, yea, and it was the late 30's when the buildings burned, and, of course, ????? folks bought it after there was no buildings there anymore.

ST And how did that farm burn?

TP Well, as I understand, someone was working there for him and they had been cleaning up leaves and stuff in the spring, you know, and everything, and plowed up there and Swartz says, "let's burn this stuff", and the ^{Pease} other fellow said, "no, its too windy, you can't do it", but they said Pierce did it himself, as I understood, and he lost everything they had.

ST And it wasn't just the farm; it was the house and everything.

TP The house and two big barns.

LB I've seen those pictures, it was so beautiful.

^{TP} ST Yes, they have pictures out at the library, I think, and that would tell you just when the fire was, but I think Gerald said when he first begun to go to school, whether it was his first year of school, that might have been '37 or '38, that he remembered having to wait a little while before the bus could come through, on account of when the house was burning.

ST So that was quite a while ago.

TP That's right, in the late 30's.

LB And before that they raised sheep.

TP I think, Pierce's folks had sheep and I think he lost his money in the stock market when the stock market crashed, if I remember right. He had money, I guess, but, I guess, did everything. I don't know that for sure, but seems as if that was it.

ST Like a lot of them.

TP That's right, and of course this side of there, the first seven buildings this side of there, was Charlie Bean, and that house is there still on the left as you are going out, almost across from the big one they built out in the field, the big, new one, and this one this side on the left hand side was Charlie Bean's.

LB That white cape?

TP Yes, and he was, they had quite a big family, six, seven boys, I think, and two or three girls, and he was a self-taught veterinarian. Of course we never used to have veterinarians around like we do now days, you know. And he was, if anybody had any trouble or sick cattle or something like that, well, they call Charlie Bean.

TP I was born over on ^{Atwell} Apple Hill, April 28, 1906, and I lived there until Glenn and I were married, 1928. We were married down to Canterbury, New Hampshire.

ST Oh, how did you happen to...

TP Well Glenn used to laugh about it. Well, we didn't know the minister that was down to Wentworth, and we didn't know the one out here, but the one, Mr. Vance, that used to be in Wentworth, I knew him because he used to come up on the hill and fish. And Glenn knew him because he used to see him at Grange down Wentworth, and he had moved to Canterbury a year or two before that. So I say, "why don't we have him marry us"? So I wrote him and he said yes, so we went down and were married in his house down in Canterbury.

LB How did you meet Glenn, Theda?

TP Well, of course, our families had always known each other more or less, you know. Because some of the folks around the neighborhood used to go on ^{Atwell} Apple Hill to church and of course Glenn's sister, sister next to him, taught school ??????

LB Oh, I thought it might have something to do with square dancing.

TP No and...

ST So your family had lived there for a number of years, and Glenn's family had always lived there.

TP Oh, they lived there for a long time.

ST And the house that was here, he built this one?

TP Yes, I don't know, have no idea how old the old house was, but I know Glenn's mother said at the time, when her family bought here in 1866, bought the farm here, that the man told him, I think his name was Haines that he bought from, that the water had been running from up here, of course, there is a spring up back here 90 some odd rods from the house where we get all our water. Everything, this house and the barn and everybody, it had been running here for eighty years. When it had been running for eighty years in 1866 there must have been a house here at that time, and also Glenn's mother said there was a well out on the corner here just on the left as you go around the house, so they must have had a well before they had the water from the spring. So I can't imagine how, if that's the case, this must be one of the older homes in town. Must have been and this was a plank house. Three inches stood on end.

ST Isn't that amazing!

TP Was the side of the house, of course, the kitchen wasn't, but the main part was that way.

ST So the homestead that was here originally dates back to the late 1700's.

TP Well I would expect that if that man knew what he was talking about when he told about the water...but, of course Glenn's mother's father bought here in 1866, so it's been in the family for quite a little while. Glenn's mother was born here and lived here practically all her life. Glenn was born here and lived here most all of his life.

LB And were the barns too?

TP Yes there was another barn out back there, but this one part of this one was the original barn and used to be, I don't remember seeing it, but Glenn said there was another barn up here on the right as you're going down into the barnyard and there is a walkway across the driveway that goes right out into the barnyard that goes from one barn to the other ^{by} a little road.

LB Were there other houses around in those early, early days did anyone mention that to you?

TP Well of course there was the one over here where...used to be Harry ^{Goodman} Goodman's place. You know Harry Goodman? Used to be a game warden for years. His mother was second cousin of Glenn's, and then there was the house down here across from the school house I should know the name of the people that used to live there. Then the school house.

ST Now across from the school house do you mean the Nutter's?

TP Yes.

ST And that's been there for quite a while.

TP That's been there for a long time. I guess the one down below here just below where John Ladd lived, I imagine that has been here for long time too probably I don't know how long, but I would expect probably???? And when Glenn's mother was a little girl the school house was on the other side of the road on the right hand side going down just about across from Nutter's. And I think the new school house where it is now was built in 1902. So Glenn's older sister must have gone to the old school house. I guess Doris and Glenn went to school in the new one. Of course I was over here and worked for Glenn's mother for about a month in the winter before we were married, so maybe that was what started it I don't know.

- ST So that could be!
- TP Well as I say you know who the families were and knew each other when we say them, but that was about it.
- ST Was her family originally here?
- TP Yes.
- ST What was that family?
- TP Sherburn, s-h-e-r-b-u-r-n.
- TP I've got a picture of him, would you like to see it?
- LB You have such a keen memory, just think!
- TP Things back there I know, but if you tell me something now in ten minutes I couldn't tell you. (laughter)
- TP That's Glenn's grandfather, Sherburn.
- LB Oh my what a wonderful picture! That's a great picture.
- TP I never saw him. Glenn was only about 5 years old when he died.
- LB Now this was not his father but his grandfather?
- TP Grandfather.
- ST Isn't that an interesting beard? I loved to see the different styles that the men wore their beards over the years.
- TP Yes. I think Glenn was about five when he died, but you see he ... what do you want me to tell you?
- LB Theda, anything you would like to talk about we would like to hear.
- TP Well I might get all mixed up and go back to something somewhere else. But where were we? We were out to Charlie Bean's, weren't we. I might as well go on from there perhaps. Then the next place of course you remember where Jesse(Jeff) Bean lived probably you knew where he lived.
- ST Yes.
- TP Well that was where his folks lived. Shelby was one of Charlie Bean's sons and that was Phil???Jeff's father...
- ST Now there used to be a big barn there. I remember that and then, now Jeff had...

TP Yes, there was a big house there.

ST Oh, that's what I was wondering.

TP Yes and that...let me see, back in the mid 30's I think, you see, his wife was a sister to Glenn's sister's ???
Phil Bean's wife was...she was Gweneth ??? and I understand that she was getting supper, and she went
somewhere to get...her fire had gone out or something, and she picked up a can that she figured, thought was
kerosene...folks used to start fires with kerosene, and she thought it was kerosene but it didn't prove to be...it
was gasoline in it and it exploded and set the house on fire, and she got burned something terrible. I don't
know whether she was alive when they got to the hospital or not but she didn't live any length of time, and of
course that was a big house there.

ST I think that was exactly what I was going to ask you about; I guess I thought it was down at the other Bean
house but that was...

TP That was a big one there. And of course the next building was a school house. I forget what the man's
name is that lives there now. Burt and Eloise Bean used to live there, he works down at the Hanover hospital,
don't he?

LB Yes he works at the hospital.

TP That was a school house that was the Beantown school house. That was Beantown out there.

LB I didn't know that.

TP Yes and down here in this section right through here they used to call this...

ST Davistown?

TP Yes Davistown. Used to be there, used to be a Davis that lived up here where Pete Thomson lives but I'm
not sure. But I know evidently there were Davis here sometime. This section was known as Davistown. Of
course now it is East Orford.

ST Now you remember down at Beantown that school house on the corner there?

TP Yes that goes up toward Baker's, and Florence and Ralph Bean lived up that way and then farther on, Bill
Baker.

ST And how long do you think that was used as a school house?

TP Well I don't know if they closed that the same time they did this one down here or not. This one was
closed in '35, '36, something like that. Mid '30's when they closed this one.

LB Maybe we can look that up I think the other school house was closed about that time too.

TP I think probably they were but I don't know that. And I don't know of course...Malcolm Bean, that was
one of Phil Bean's boys, lived there for a while after it was closed. I think he bought it from the town and lived
there and...

ST And then if you go out that road, out the school house road, I have never been out, apparently there is more. I've been out there once I guess, apparently there are some more homes out there.

TP Well of course the first one would be Ralph Bean's place, Ralph and Florence Bean, you probably heard of Florence Bean, she died here four or five years ago, and he was related to the others. I don't know just how but and then up farther was where Bill Baker lives and I don't know how any more beyond that.

LB Irene Marsh, did she live out there?

TP She lived out there somewhere but I don't know where, of course the Marshes lived around through that way but I don't know just where.

ST Who were the people in the Baker house prior to the Bakers?

TP I don't know.

ST Something like Manchester.

TP There was Manchester around but I don't know ^{? why} why it could have been there, might have been.

ST For some reason I connect it with Mrs. Underhill from up in Piermont, that she lived there.

TP Could be, I don't know.

ST That was probably in her very ^{early} hearty days.

TP Well that could be perhaps. Her parents lived there, I don't know.

ST And then you thought the Marshes were out in that area.

LB I think so, on the Baker Road.

TP I think so, up in that way somewhere there was a big family.

LB The house isn't there anymore.

TP I guess not. Think there were twelve Marsh children. Of course Alice, Ed Bean's wife was a Marsh and, of course, as I say, the Charlie Bean's, Phil's and then the school house and then it was Ed Bean's and that is where they have the pottery business; that was Ed Bean's place.

ST Oh, yes.

TP Yes and of course that barn burned over 15, 20 years ago. There was a big barn up above the house; it was struck by lightning, I think I think it was in the fall or sometime. But I know it was a good thing that the wind was blowing from the house to the barn. If it hadn't been, the other way they would have lost the house too. Of course Burt Bean, that's another one of Phil's boys, he and Eloise, did you ever know Eloise Bean?

LB Yes.

TP Yes, well that was her, and they lived, I think, where the first trailer is as you're coming this way on the right I think that was where Burt Bean lived. Of course after they came here, well their house burned. Do you remember they had a big party for them to give them a lot of things to help them out after their house burned?

LB I don't remember that ^{it} though they lived in the old school house, Eloise did.

TP Eloise did yes, but these other people lived where Burt and his first wife had a house; where this first trailer is as you are coming this way. And they, that house burned after these people that lived there in the trailer came up here from Connecticut. Yes, Burt was married before, I think they had two children and she died, and then later on he and Eloise were married.

ST Okay, would this be Jim Cook's house that we are talking about?

LB No, no.

ST There was another home in there that burned.

TP Yes, where this first trailer is there was a house there, where Burt Bean used to live. He was one of Phil Bean's boys, Eloise's husband.

ST Are we still on Route 25A?

TP Oh, yes, and then of course that would be the last house until you get up to Mel's. There was nothing else in between there. And of course you know where the road goes down Indian Pond way, down by the ??? house there, well, of course, that .. they... that's where Victoria Downing, Jesse Currier's wife, her folks lived down there; she was a Downing.

ST Do you remember that?

TP I was down there once when Mrs. Downing...went to the funeral when Mrs. Downing died. But that's the only time I was in there. Did you ever hear your folks speak about George Downing?

ST I don't know.

TP He was that...they used to tell about how he always ^{make} maple syrup. Of course everybody made maple syrup years ago. And they used those felt strainers, you know, to strain the syrup through. They were probably that long and maybe that big around from the top, kind of from down here, smaller. And they said after he'd strain syrup and it would get a little old to strain syrup he would cut off a little and wear it for a hat.

LB That would be practical.

ST And I bet it was warm.

TP I imagine so. I think I told Mel that one time, they had that Senator from Texas up here a few years ago.

ST Phil Gramm was here.

TP Didn't they have a picture of him with one of those felt hats on?

ST Everybody wondered what on earth this new fashion was.

TP Well, of course, that Mrs. Downing, Victoria Currier's mother...Luna, they always called her...Luna or Lunnie Downing, she was Victoria's mother, her name was Poor.

ST Oh, yes, now you said you went to her funeral?

TP Yes.

ST Does that mean the funeral was at the house?

TP That house there, oh, that was a long time ago.

ST And they would actually have the casket and everything there?

TP Yes, usually you did funerals in the house, Grandfather's funeral was here in the house. They used to do that a lot.

ST Would there be room for everybody?

TP Somewhere, somewhere around there was. She was a great friend of Glenn's mother. That is how we happened to go.

ST And apparently that house must have burned.

TP Yes that house burned here quite a while ago. Why I don't know.

LB When I hear you talking about all these fires I wondered when you were growing up did you live in fear of house fires and...

TP No, I don't remember we had any fires over on the hill. I don't remember we did have a one. Can't remember that we ever did.

ST And what year was it that your house burned?

TP '57.

ST In 1957?

TP Yes.

ST And were you away at the time is that what I remember?

TP I was down at Gerald's staying with the children because they had gone to the movies. Glenn had gone to the school meeting and his sister Leslie Donnelley's ^{daughter} sister was here. And she was here alone and we never knew what started it. I think she went to the wood box there to get some wood and the shed was all full of smoke so she went right to the telephone to call Stanley, Stanley Chase. I guess he came down and called the

fire department or something. We never knew what started it. The chimney 's were both standing and the house was all gone but where it begun nobody knows.

ST And who was at home?

TP Glenn's sister Della, Leslie Donnelley's mother. You know Leslie Donnelley, Hazel's husband. His mother was Glenn's sister and she was here staying with us here and so she was here. And Gerald and Doris and Ken and Evelyn Nutter had gone to the movies that night. And I was down his place staying with the children. And there was a school board meeting so Glenn had gone to the school board meeting. And weren't just a very short time, Della said, before she knew there was smoke out here in the shed. Somebody came to the door, she went out onto the porch and talked with them, and far as anybody knew everything was all right.

ST And what time of year was it?

TP That was in September, the fifth of September, I think.

ST And then the house was built back the following spring?

TP We stayed down to Ruth Brown's that winter. There was nobody living there then, Charlie was living down here in the little house where, just beside the brook, you know. And Ruth, of course, was down Springfield or somewhere where she was teaching school or something. She was gone anyway. So they said you might as well live down there, so they begun to work on the place here and we moved back into the place first of April. Everybody, I don't know, even people we didn't even know or anything, everybody was wonderful to help out and they...Mel was down here the next morning after the fire to see Glenn to see if he needed some help and wanted some help. And if he had any insurance or something. And Glenn said yes he got a little bit, didn't amount to much. So Mel went right around and got a hold of everybody and they had a big time for us out the 'Ville and that stage out there was just covered with stuff that they had given us.

ST Oh, isn't that wonderful.

TP And then of course, Glenn calling changes for dances down to the Painted Barn down below in Wentworth, and they had a dance down there and gave everything that they got, I think we got about \$200 down there.

ST That was quite a nice sum of money back in that time.

TP Yes it was.

ST And if I remember right, Tom said something about some men, probably your husband, logging the college lot or something.

TP Yes, you see of course this side of the mountain, what belongs to ??? Young I think now, belonged to Dartmouth College at that time. And the man that had charge of it, I guess they called him the forester or something, had charge of it. He had been here to see Glenn on town business, you know, town tax business or something. So he knew Glenn and had been here to the house, and he told him afterward, he said, "I didn't realize what a hole it would leave with no house there". He said, "you go up there on our lot and you cut whatever you want". He said, "I don't care how much it is, to build a house whatever you want, if you want to build it like it was before or you want to build something different, you cut whatever lumber you want" And people went in and somebody give them a time and they would cut, and somebody else would draw some out,

and somebody would take it to mill, and somebody saw some of it, they used to have a bunch here, come here when they were putting in the cement foundation and some of the kids and neighbors, ??? and I used to get dinner for them out in the garage when they was working here.

LB Did you take any picture of that time?

TP Well a few but not a whole lot I don't think but...

LB That 's the kind of thing you think about afterwards.

TP That's right.

ST Do you have any pictures left from before the fire I mean were they able to get anything out?

TP Yes, they saved quite a lot of stuff, if I had any wits about me why I could have got a lot more because I knew how things were, which other people didn't.

ST But of course you don't have your wits about you at a time like that.

TP I didn't and I came up just as quick, I guess as Gerald got home so... didn't, but I could have come into the house just as well as other people could and they got quite a lot of stuff out. We had a big freezer out on the back porch, and they got a hold of that and put some rolls under it, a piece of wood or something, rolled it right out into that field and we took it down to Gerald's the next day. That was all right but they did save quite a lot of course. There was a lot of things we lost that never can be replaced.

ST But when they rebuilt the house, now is this almost...

TP Oh, yes, it is practically the same as the other one was. The pantry isn't as big as the other one was, because we have a bathroom now which we didn't used to have. We always used to go out in the shed. So we put the bathroom...was part of it out of the pantry and part of it out of Glenn's mother's room. So the pantry isn't as big as it used to be. Maybe we could look at some of the other family pictures we have in here. Perhaps you would like to see them. That's a picture up there and that is...that third man from the left in the back is Glenn's father. He had six brothers.

ST For heaven sakes!

TP And that is Glenn's mother, and Irene. And this is Glenn's father and mother and Glenn when he was about a year and a half old. And that's me when I was about a year and a half old.

ST Oh, I love that, that's wonderful. Now Irene was your daughter?

TP Yes, she is the one that worked for Mel for a little while you know.

ST And she died at a very early age?

TP Yes she was 21 in February before she died.

TP That was taken of Glenn and I that fall after were married. We had a picture taken for Christmas and that one is fifty years afterward.

ST I would say that one of your sons really looks like his dad.

TP Gerald makes me think of him. To me Gerald looks more like him. Some people say Arthur does, but he don't to me.

ST I was going to say Arthur does to me.

TP Yes, well a lot of people think so. This is Arthur here. This is Arthur and Judy and that is...this is Arthur's oldest boy, Glenn. And this is his wife and that is her mother and father and sister. And this is Arthur's youngest boy, Jeff. And that's when Janet and Gerald's girl...Janet and her husband were married and Glenn and I. And that is when Harry and ^{Blonda}???? were married.

LB These are wonderful pictures, TP

TP That's the kids graduation pictures. Of course, Arthur wasn't very big at that time but...and this is a picture of Glenn's father mowing right out here with a pair of white horses. And this is almost pretty near the same place, of course, the same amount in that. And I say that wouldn't happen very often that you would have as much difference between probably twenty years or more where somebody mowing each had a pair of white horses. That's the barn up ^{at} the Stanley's, that used to be two barns up there where Stanley Chase lived.

ST Oh, I see okay, and in the background what would that be?

TP I think that would be where Peter lives. And of course, Glenn's father is mowing right out here. There was a little bit farther than where Glenn is. These pictures over here, a lot of them are Harry and his brother, and his two sisters when they were married. When Harry was married, and that's when we had...and that's Irene when she was married with Glenn's white horses. And that, those two pictures there are when we had the family reunion down to Gerald's.

ST Oh my word, that looks like quite a large...

TP And that picture up there, Harry sent me when he was over in Saudi Arabia. He says they used camels, of course. The Saudis do you know, but he says a lot of them have a jeep and they put their camel into the back of the jeep and they go off into the desert and then take the camel out. This is the way the old house used to look it is practically the same. There wasn't, there was no porch. Glenn had one put on after a while, but at that time there wasn't and there was a front door here which there isn't now, what was in our bedroom.

LB So you made some changes but...

TP Not too much. No, well we had...Glenn's mother had the door taken out a long time ago when we were first married because the house used to be a...this was a big living room and then there was a door that goes into my bedroom, another door over there. There is a little narrow hall that went into the other bedroom in back and that was where the front door was and long window along each side of the door, you know. You know what I mean? And she had the partition and there was just a little small back bedroom just big enough for a bed and a bureau and that was all in here right out of the room. So she had it, the partition, taken out so it would make

our bedroom bigger. And that is not too much difference in it and of course that was some pictures we had a family reunion a long time ago. And that is Arthur?

ST A little boy.

TP And that is Glenn's mother and that's Glenn's older sister and that's another sister and that's Glenn and that is a nephew and this is a nephew and a nephew's wife and Glenn's sister's husband and another nephew and that's another sister of his and another one in here. And his sister Doris over here.

ST He had a lot of sisters.

LB That is a big family reunion.

TP He had six sisters.

ST That looks like it would have been about in the...

TP Arthur was born '35, so that s about '37. He is about two, I think.

ST Arthur was born in '37. ?

TP No '36, Irene was born in '35, and Arthur in '36.

ST I thought he was more like my age.

TP He was about two so that is probably about '38.

(some discussion about photos being looked at

LB Now you saved these from the fire, or did somebody have these for you of the old homestead?

TP Well I think all those we had after that of course. This big one I don't know how we happened to have that one. Somebody had it I guess or else, I don't know how we happened to have that. Those of course, that's Francis when he was in the service and this is Francis here. Of course he was in the Air Force twenty years. He was a mechanic on planes.

LB So you raised all your children right here in this house?

TP Yes, Irene and Francis were born here in the house. Howard and Gerald were born down Plymouth in a private, a lady had a place there where she took in people that had babies and things like that. Arthur was born up to Woodville Hospital. But I was going to stay home when he was born because that was the time that, oh, what was her name lived up here where Peter lives. She was a nurse and she was going to take care of me and I was going to stay home and then they sold their place and moved away so we couldn't find anybody else so I went to Woodville.

ST And what year would this picture have been?

TP I don't know, that was somebody that was here coming around to ask questions about different things that used to be, I don't know, 1980. I think I am shelling peas.

ST That wasn't that long ago was it?

TP This is Arthur and Judy and the boys when they were smaller. And that's Glenn up here, the big one, the oldest boy, and this is Jeff over here. Jeff graduates from Dartmouth this year. Glenn did three or four years ago. That picture there is Arthur when he got Granite State Award of some kind down at Plymouth here quite a few years ago.

ST Now there is an older picture there in the middle.

TP That was the day Glenn and I were married and that's the minister that married us.

ST He looks like such a kid doesn't he?

TP I know it. I was about three weeks older than he, somebody laughed at him one time about marrying all the women. And this is at Gerald's at Christmas time, that's Arthur's oldest boy Glenn, this is Arthur and that's Jeff, Frances, and Howard. He looks like Glenn more so than Arthur.

LB I think so, I see that.

TP That is Pat ^{Pat}???? They used to have a ^{band}???? Glenn called with him for twenty-five years I guess. They are having dances down at Wentworth, have had since last fall, once a month.

LB I can remember being here one night when we did some square dancing, remember that?

TP Sure.

LB About ten years ago or so.

TP Must have been. I was thinking about that.

ST Well that is one of the things Tom asked me to ask you about. How long was he playing, how long did Glenn play with the group?

TP Oh, he called changes about 50 year, I guess. Because he was calling when we were married.

ST Oh, for heaven sakes and that was all around or...

TP Lots of different places, of course, he called over to Warren. First Pat ^{Pat}???? his orchestra, he called with him about 25 years and they used to call in Warren, Wentworth down to the Painted Barn down towards West Rumney toward the bridge just where you go down the...turn goes up to Dorchester. The building isn't there any more they moved it.

ST Oh, okay, yes.

TP And they called down there and then Glenn called summers down to East Thetford. Used to be a dance hall down East Thetford. He called down there quite a while and different places. Some times it would be, I think, he told me different places and I counted about 50 different places he called.

ST Was he ever down at the ^{Bedell} ~~Dot~~ barn?

TP Never much of any, he used to once in a great while but he never did much.

ST Was there a particular group that used to play down there?

TP Well, of course George Bedell(?) so he called there, but Glenn used to call out to the Hay Loft that was almost across from Bedell there. Chet and Dorothy Pierson's, Chet's mother run the dances there at what they called the Hay Loft just down below Dave's garage on the same side of the road was a big barn-like building there and they had dances in there for a long time.

ST The place where the Pastures is now, the camp ground?

TP No right beside the road.

ST Yes, put up there where Dot Parkington lives.

TP Maybe, I don't know about that.

ST Matter of fact, I think they just took down that barn a couple years ago.

TP Yes they might have.

LB The barn was across the road, was it?

TP Where Bertha Brenard used to live. That was Bertha Brenard's place where they had Bedell's barn.

ST Gosh you've seen a lot of changes TP, over the years.

TP I sure have, that's right.

LB Well why don't we sit down.

TP That's something I thought you might like to look at. Of course Glenn's father was road agent here for a while and that is the book, evidently, that told something about it.

ST This was from 1904?

TP Yes.

ST And his father was the road agent?

TP Down from the Mt. Cube house I think it tells in there if you read it. I can tell you what they are talking about, the roads they're talking about.

- ST It says to Francis Pease, Orford New Hampshire this is to certify that you have dually...
- TP They left out a word there, there should have been but they didn't get it in there.
- ST Have dually been appointed and legally qualified as highway surveyor in district #5 of said town the amount to be expended not to exceed 1.75 and the wages not to exceed 1.50 a day.
- TP That was 1904, I thought.
- ST Beginning at the Mt. Cube house and running to Wentworth line.
- TP That's down here by the pond, you know, where the Wentworth town line is.
- ST And I...
- ST Also beginning at the house of Dan...
- TP Simpson, down here on the corner where you turn to go out by Camp Moosilauke, Pond Road they call it.
- ST Past Bakers...Upper Pond so called, to Piermont line on the two roads also to the house of William Bartlett.
- TP I don't know where that was.
- ST Also from Piermont Road to the house of Fred Mack.
- TP Yes you know where Fred Mack lives?
- ST Yes that was...
- TP Where Walter, around Ralph and Delbert's, all of them's father.
- LB Oh, where the Gluek's live?
- TP Where the Gluek's live, yes.
- ST And past the house of ...
- TP Savage?
- ST Someday by the name of Savage.
- TP Yes, well that is I think the place where Bishoff's folks are, I think Savages lived there years ago.
- ST And then to the new school house; so the one where Mr. Pushee is now, okay.
- TP Yes.

ST Also from the bridge near the new school house to the house owned by Webster P. Blodgett.

TP Well that was down where you turn to go up right across before you get to the bridge. You know there is a road, an old road, that goes out through there and there is a trailer right in here, down in here. It's what they used to call the Old County Road, that was the road, there are quite a lot of farms and houses up on that road, and that road come out over on Ellsworth Hill years ago.

ST So that was a public road at that time.

TP Yes, yes I don't know just how far, he went, as far as the town line went.

LB Was that the road that was used as the mail road?

TP No I don't think the mail went up that way.

LB I knew there was a road between Ellsworth Hill and somewhere over where the Tomlinson's are now. I don't know I might have it mixed up.

TP Ellsworth Hill is in Wentworth way down this road. Tomlinson lives up this road.

LB Yes, but you can go over, oops, I'm going the wrong way.

ST In other words that logging road down by the mobile home of Rodney Estes.

TP I guess so, I think that's what Francis said. Of course that was just about...

ST Eastman, the young girl that lived there with her mother was Eastman.

TP Just about that place were Charlie Ladd used to live.

ST Anyway there was a logging road that goes out through there and I think that was usually a public road.

TP Yes, Old County Road they called it.

ST From the main road to the house of Fred Rawlings.

TP I don't know just where that was.

ST So I think I've seen on a map that there was a Rawlings house.

TP Well used to be Rawlings lived down here ??? the lower pond on the left almost opposite this end of the lower pond.

(second tape March 21 and we are at Theda Pease's house in Orford.)

TP The biggest part of my going to school there wasn't but 7, 8, 9 students in the whole school. We had the whole eight grades, if there was somebody for each grade, which often times there wasn't.

LB And the big children helped the little children.

TP Oh, yes, we done what the teacher said, she was the boss you know then.

LB Times have changed somewhat.

TP For the worst I think.

LB And you had to bring the wood. Did all the children bring a little wood?

TP No the town used to buy the wood somebody had to...I don't know if the teacher built the fire I don't remember, she might have. But always had a wood fire of course and the kids that lived a great ways off they brought their dinner. Of course I went home for dinner because I was right near by. The other children used to bring their dinners of course.

LB A bit different today.

TP I think so.

ST Did you go like a regular school year or did you go...

TP Yes we went September until sometime June. I don't remember how much time we had off. We must of had some at Christmas time probably. We used to have a Christmas program the children always had a program for Christmas over to the church and Mrs. Chase was the superintendent of Sunday school here for years. And she always came up to church and stayed that day because we was going to have a Christmas tree. She was there all day and kept the fire and we went over and practiced for our part, you know. And we put on the play, whatever play the children would speak, and we'd have something going on over to the church for the Christmas tree. Then we'd have the Christmas tree afterwards and church. Usually have popcorn or fudge or something that they passed out to everybody. My sister used to make the fudge a lot of times. The Sunday school furnished the sugar and she'd make the fudge and I remember we went outside. I don't remember how many of us there was, outside around the end of the church and we marched in singing Hark the Herald Angels Sing, marched into the hall singing.

LB I bet that was a lovely sight.

TP Something a little different. And everybody in the neighborhood would take all the gifts for everybody in their family up there. That was your Christmas tree. My mother, I don't think ever had a Christmas tree at home. I don't remember she ever did. Everything to the family, the gifts always went up to the Christmas tree at the church and that was Christmas.

LB For heaven sakes, that's a nice tradition if you have a close-knit church like that.

ST Did you continue going to that church later?

TP I used to...some of the kids used to go...we used to go over to Sunday school...Arthur used to...

ST And how was that school just through eight grade?

TP Yes, and my mother almost always boarded the teacher, boarded the teacher there for years. The teacher that taught there boarded there.

ST Boarded at your house? Was it usually a women?

TP Yes, always.

ST Always.

TP Never had a man teacher. I never remember a man teacher, always a woman. And then Glenn's sister taught school where I went to school there for one year, and one of his other sisters taught there. It might have been before I was born or before I was big enough to go to school anyway. Different people from down around Wentworth, different places, and we had cadet teachers from down Norman School, you know what I mean?

LB Oh, like student teachers?

TP Yes, they was called cadets then and they'd be, you'd have four a year and they had them...I think a year over on the hill and we had them three years here.

LB Would this be people studying in Plymouth?

TP Yes.

ST And that was like there training?

TP Yes they'd come and stay. We would have four of them, four girls through the school week. It was kind of interesting. The ones you had of course they all come from the Plymouth Norman School, you know, around, some from Maine and different places.

LB What's your favorite memory of when you were at school?

TP I don't remember. We used to play hide and seek, drop the handkerchief, wasn't it drop the handkerchief, Ray? We used to play when we lined up in a great big circle?

Ray I never played it so I don't know.

TP Seems that is what I know we used to play it, and it seems that somebody went round, round, the outside and we dropped the handkerchief.

LB You were all different ages and the big children were kind to the little children?

TP Yes, we never had any trouble.

LB How about the big boys were they....

TP There weren't any big boys when I went to school.

LB Sometimes I think they were needed on the farm and maybe they weren't able to stay the whole year.

TP Well I think they did then of course years ago, they didn't used to but when I was going to school they did...went the whole year because I remember I'd...

ST And then it wasn't long and you were over here in this part.

TP Yes, that 's right, been here since 1928.

LB You've seen a lot of changes.

TP It just seems like home here.

ST When did you get your television out here?

TP The first one we had, Gene went in the service in '53 January, I don't know if it was that Christmas or the next Christmas he sent us a television the first one we ever had.

ST Pretty early.

LB Early on, of course you didn't have electricity.

TP No we didn't have electricity until '41.

ST You had electricity in 1941?

TP Got it in '41 in the fall, yes.

ST Now was that late compared to like the Main Street?

TP Well ??? they headed out to Orford and down Wentworth and a long time before we did though here this was the REA that the government started you know to go around through the farming communities for people that didn't have it couldn't get it through. They weren't near enough to the village to have it. That is what that was started for.

LB How did that change your life once they got electricity?

TP Well it made our work different.

LB I bet it did, although you probably did pretty much the same things just from habit.

TP Yes a good deal, yes.

ST And how soon did you have a telephone?

TP They had telephones through here quite a while before they had electricity. There used to be one years ago before I came over here, there was a telephone. There used to be, I think it was a Mrs. Bean that lived out that way and she had the telephone that came in through here and she also had the one that come the other way so if

anybody wanted to get hold of anybody on the other line you call her and tell her what you wanted, she'd call the other person, tell them.

LB Relay it, huh?

ST What did they call it? Sort of a central office?

TP I don't know just what they called it but I know she used to do that.

LB Now I know where that game the children play called telephone comes from where you relay something on, sometimes by the time it is relayed again and again...

TP It isn't what you started out with huh? I bet not.

Ray When my dad lived up in Peacham they had a local phone. When they wanted to get on to New England they called one of the neighbors. He'd reach under the couch close a knife switch, they were talking on New England. They had a cracker box right over it so no body could see.

TP We weren't suppose to be doing that you see.

Ray They'd come look his house over. They didn't move the cracker box so they didn't find the switch.

TP There are all kinds of ways for everybody to get around all kinds of things.

LB Well what do you think the biggest change is in the town over the years that you have seen?

TP Oh, I don't know.

LB I think it is maybe...

TP The farmers have gone out of business, practically everybody in town had two or three cattle. Now I guess George Tullar is the only farm in town that milks. Because Larry Taylor sold his cows.

LB Larry did?

TP Yes, couple, two or three months ago, he is down at the hospital has been. Whether he is home yet or not I don't know. He had ??? French's told me I guess it was must have been one or two weeks ago I guess. He was doing something out in the barn, went to push something with his foot up into a shovel or something with a piece of wire in it and it, went right through his shoe into foot.

ST My son was there when this happened.

TP Yes?

ST And he came home and he told us he said it was incredible amount of blood and he said I really think he should have gone to the doctor's and he didn't. And I guess he waited until Susie got home.

TP I don't know, I don't know particulars, but I think he has been down the hospital. I guess a week or more.

LB Has he got an infection?

TP I understood they operated once and it's kind of filled up again, swelled up or something.

ST Yes, at one point they thought they might have to even amputate and then they decided they wouldn't have to. They were able to do whatever was necessary but he has been there a week and a half. But I think he was expecting to come home at the beginning of this week.

TP Well he sold his cows here must be a couple of months ago, weren't it Ray?

Ray Yes, it seems as though it's been that long.

TP He went to Pennsylvania to some Amish family and as I understood Gerald, he sold, Larry sold them to some cattle dealer in Massachusetts and they made arrangements with a cattle dealer in Pennsylvania.

ST And what kind of cows did he have?

TP He had Holsteins and there were four of the Amish men that came up and looked at them. He didn't know, Larry didn't know what they paid for them. He got, he dealt with the Massachusetts fellows and got what he asked for them. And he don't know anything about what they charged to them.

LB I think he still has about fifty head.

TP Yes, he's got quite a lot. Somebody said when his heifers came in he was going to go back to milking again. But of course it may depend on how his foot comes along because his son, as I understand it, wanted to be a farmer.

LB No, he wants to be in logging.

TP He didn't want to be tied down all the time night and morning week after week so he logs. He has horses and he logs, but he is doing the chores at home as I understand; takes care of the cattle and everything.

ST When you folks were farming how many did you milk?

TP When Glenn's father died I don't think they had any more than five or six and the farm was kind of run down. The buildings, the barn was in pretty bad shape and Glenn worked liked a dog for everything, done everything under the sun he could do. Whatever work he could do anywhere to bring in a little something, worked, logged, he worked here, there and everywhere to get built up, you know. And the last of it he had about 60 head of cattle. He weren't milking sixty but he had about sixty all together. Of course he added on the barn, put another piece on just as big as it was in the first place so it would make the stable a lot bigger.

ST And now it is out here on the mountain it wasn't river front.

TP No.

ST Riverfront fields...

TP He used to hay and plant corn all along the street and he hayed out around there and he hayed down to West Rumney. And he planted corn down to West Rumney and anything and anywhere that he could get it pastured. His cattle were wherever he could find a place. And I remember, heard him say one time when he was logging up here on the mountain, he used to leave home around half past five or so in the morning and he'd get up there and was coming down with a load of logs and the man ahead of him evidently, I forget whether he was tipped over or had trouble, anyway he was, it took him quite a while to get him straightened out and around. So Glenn had to wait all the time until this other fellow got out the road and he didn't get home, I think he said about half past seven he said, "I done three dollars and a half myself". "My team," he says, "I knew I was poor but I weren't that poor". And he said, "I didn't go back".

LB Well you must be awful proud of your family, TP .

TP Well...

LB You've got some good family members.

TP Yes, I remember saying one time when the boys were boys, I guess in high school he always says each one has his chores to do. Somebody done this and somebody done something else. Glenn says, "they done their own but they was very ????, they didn't help the other fellow" He was out the garage having the truck, something done on the truck, and it was taking longer than they thought it was going to be and somebody says, "I guess your chores will be done when you get home you'll be late doing chores." The boys will have them all done when I get home. They thought that was something if the boys would do their chores when their father wasn't here.

ST One other thing I was going to ask you about, did you ever get involved in any of the plays that they used to have down at the 'Ville?

TP No.

ST Probably being on this side of the mountain you didn't.

TP For a good many years we never went out that often, you know. We went Wentworth and there was of course a few grocery stores down there, a railroad station and all kinds of things. And that was closer to go and so everybody around here went to Wentworth instead of going out the other way. And I don't think I was ever in the valley until I was, probably, toward twenty. Or I ever went over to the valley until I was married. And of course Glenn joined the Grange when he was fourteen. He said he graduated from grammar school Friday night and joined the Grange Saturday night and he was a Granger for over sixty years. And I think Harry Goodwin, of course, Harry lived over here then I think he was Master of the Grange down Wentworth at one time. I think that is how Glenn got to going because he used to go with Harry.

ST And are you still a member of the Grange?

TP Yes, I belong down Lyme. We joined down Lyme after we had to give up out here. I joined the Grange, took a first and second degree Grange the night before we married. And I stayed in a few years and then of course the kids come along and we couldn't take them with us. And we didn't have anybody to leave them with and so I dropped out until after Glenn's mother died in '56. I went back to the Grange again. I've been all through, belonged to the State Grange, National Grange, seven degrees.

s And when you were in Grange did you do some projects?

TP Used to do some, yes. When we were down Wentworth we used to have what you called neighbor's night and invite other Granges from around you know. Sometimes we did a couple hundred, come in for supper, we did oyster stew and always had oyster stew that was the thing for Grange supper was oyster stew; And you didn't have to pay for oysters the way you do now days.

LB Are you still quilting?

TP Yes, do you want to see?

LB I'd love to see it.

TP All right.

LB I knew you did that and are you still making pajamas and things for...

TP No, some, not very many.

ST Did you make that dress?

TP Yes.

ST The blue that you had picked out and used with it is so pretty.

TP Yes, I made this long time ago. I don't make any clothes myself now. I have them given to me and they last me for ever, you know.

(everyone goes into another room)

TP See this was Glenn's mother's room and part of this room was taken off to make the bathroom. And part of it was the pantry. This was always our room and this was Arthur's room later one.

LB Oh, look at this.

TP That was my state quilt.

ST That's beautiful, when did you do this?

TP Oh, I finished that up 1987. I don't know how long it took me to do it. I sent to the ??? magazine and got the transfers, stamped them, you know.

ST It has every state on here.

TP And I wanted fifty squares to make the squares come out the size I wanted, you know so I put the four corners just the same. Each corner is just the same. And then a boy that went to school with Arthur drew that from a picture and that is the...rose is the United States official flower, so by doing those four corners in those made the square that I wanted. And some of these squares didn't take to long to do them or perhaps for this one

you've got all your lines, but when you come to get something like that it takes time. Some of them take six-seven hours to do a square.

ST And these little things are kind of time consuming aren't they?

TP French knot, yes. it don't take a great while to make them.

ST Doesn't? Okay.

LB You have to know how to do it. Now are these numbers signifying the order in which they became a state?

TP Yes and that is why I started them up here the first one was a state, go this way and then beginning to the left and go every row.

LB Lovely, New Hampshire with the lilacs.

TP I took this down to a Grange fair here a year ago last summer and I got third prize on it.

LB I don't know why they didn't give you first prize.

TP Somebody said I ought to got better than that, but...

LB Yes.

TP I made, I probably made a dozen of those New Hampshire ones and some of the others I've made too. Now I've got a different one here. This is just the flowers of all fifty states. I had a bright idea that I wanted to put some flags in but when I got started I found it was a lot more job than I thought it was going to be.

ST A wonderful idea though.

TP I said if there was a state business it would be nice to be flags and I had a piece of paper or a little book I got somewhere, I don't know where, that showed a picture of every flag that the United States had and told when it was..well I cut all those pieces out of a piece of cloth, you know and fixed them on there and...

LB You could cheat and just use stripes. You did it the hard way.

TP They are not all the same and my squares are just the way they should be because some of them they come pretty darned close. They should have more space.

ST So this is every state and their state flower?

LB And the date for the flag.

TP Yes.

ST In any particular order?

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ST So this is every state and their state flower?

LB And the date for the flag.

TP Yes.

ST In any particular order?

TP Yes, I put them just the same as I did the other one. As they were admitted to the Union. It don't say so on there but I lined them up just the same as I did the other one. That one up in the corner was the first one I done. This one here, you should have had more room over here.

LB Nobody will notice. Look at the stars and circles.

TP The first one I made to look like stars. Well after I got done and started on some of the other, why those pieces aren't big enough to make all those stars. So then I had to make French knots. One of those flags I had to take off and rip it all off and put on a bigger piece of cloth. They aren't striped just the way they should be.

ST Is this something you put together recently?

LB 1994, it is right there.

TP I put it together this last year, last fall sometime, but I had the squares made for probably a year and a half or more. Maybe two years, I don't know how long it's been since I made the squares but I haven't got it put together. I'm going to use just plain white like this for the back, you know, and then it is going to be tacked up here in the corners and I've got some dyed blue just about the color of that and I'm going to tack it there.

LB That will be very nice.

ST Are you working on another?

TP Yes, I've got some little ones for over here and there. I've got a lot of pieces, so I've got to use them.

ST Yes I would think so.

TP It will give me something to do. Things are a lot better if I've got something done. When I get something done, I don't have much housework to do, nor much cooking to do when I get that done why I've got some squares going. I go sit down and work and if I don't have anything like that going I just sit around and I'm half asleep. So this keeps me busy.

LB Oh, that's sweet.

TP This is after the senior dinner they were telling that they would like people to make quilts for children to go to children's homes or places where children that didn't have much of anything, you know. And they wanted them either a yard square or 20 inches square. So I made one and gave it to them a while ago, and I had squares left, so I started another one. I got two here ready to take and I've got another one started.

LB Well I say you're going to have to get up pretty early tomorrow morning to get right on this.

TP And this is the other one and this I had a lot of pieces that someone gave me there were a lot of squares all cut. And some of them, see these in here are smaller than these are. No, I guess this is the one that is smaller because I like to have, if they are right, the corners should come just exactly together but of course those bigger ones they didn't but this one is just pieces.

ST I like that they have the Smurfs and Strawberry Shortcake.

TP So I had to just put them in to make a corner.

LB I saw a quilt that you made once with butterflies.

TP Yes, those are appliqued. Oh, I probably made...

LB TP, you are quite a person.

TP I've probably made, of the crazy work, that's some of those, did you every see any of those glassplates? There are a bunch of those there. A friend of mine, they belonged to her brother and she let me borrow them. This is a quilt I made for Gloria Donnelly and this is a queen size.

LB Oh, my goodness, look at this!

TP This is a crazy quilt and old-fashioned crazy work. That is the way they used to make...

LB That is the way they did those.

TP Anyway, you start out with something in the middle, and then you can put any shape or any size that you want.

ST Now, do you sew those on the machine?

TP Yes, it is all done on the machine. I don't do hand sewing. I like machine sewing. The machine that I use belonged to Glenn's sister and it is probably more than eighty years old. And I've got his mother's machine, it still works. Pedal machines. I don't give a darn for electric ones.

LB You know Ibby uses a real old machine.

TP I know she does, she's been over here with it.

LB She wouldn't know what to do with one of those. This is beautiful.

TP Well I've got the New Hampshire square in the middle here. That's what they wanted put on the green so this, every square in that row is got this same, came out of the same piece of cloth. They are different pictures, but up and down this center row and down to the bottom I had a, made a special square for the end here, way down here. That was a whole piece of cloth, this big...and I hated to cut it up. I said it was foolish if I cut it up. So I put it in the middle and put these around here.

ST And what did you say this was?

LB Its was for Lloyd Donnelly, Hazel's boy.

ST Hazel's son?

TP Yes, when they come up in May, their daughter graduates from college in May and Hazel and Chubb (can't understand what she says here)

ST What was her name, the daughter?

TP Jennifer. I probably made twenty-five quilts after that. Because the boys, all four of the boys, and the grandchildren, and all that...and the great grandchildren all have baby quilts.

ST Do you have to get any sleep at night?

TP I've got one all made, I've had it made for a couple of years I guess, for Arthur's boy for when he graduates from college. And I told Arthur a few years ago that I wanted Jeff to have one same as the other kids have, you know. But I said by the time he is through college and gets married I said maybe I won't be making quilts. What am I going to put on it and he says put Dartmouth on it, and 1995. And put his name on it, so I did and so that is what he is going to get for graduation.

ST Oh, he is at Dartmouth?

TP Yes, he graduates this year. He has been out to the State of Washington and he's been to California to see...he is way up in the computer business and he has been to both places to see about a job. Arthur said he thought he would be going to Washington. He didn't know for sure.

LB There is something in here, a picture.

TP Yes, that is ...

LB To be kept with the quilt?

TP Yes, because that is supposed to go to Lloyd, that's Glenn's sister, Della, Lloyd's grandmother and grandfather, and that is Leslie, Lloyd's father, and this is Bob, Bob Donnelly.

ST Now Bob was the one from Lyme?

TP Yes, he is in the hospital now again.

ST Now would that be the father of Bill here in town?

TP Yes.

ST What is his last name?

LB Kathy, Kathy Donnelly?

TP Yes and there are others. Butch lived over in East Corinth when...he's supposed to be in North Haverhill.

ST Oh, is he now? I didn't know, because years ago he used to work at Hanover, didn't he?

TP Yes, Bill worked down at Hanover, too.

ST Right. Well how is Kathy doing?

TP Well not awful good I guess, she is having quite a hard time.

LB Can I help you with this Theda? It is so beautiful.

TP This of course won't be so big, because my squares aren't going to be in there and this quilt is suppose to stay in the family. The oldest of each generation is supposed to have it. This one I don't know what I'll do with it. I may sell this one, if anybody wants it.

LB Why don't you put these in a quilt show? You put to shame a lot of younger people. I don't know how you accomplish all that you do.

TP Well of course I never did anything like that when the kids was all home, I didn't have time to.

ST So you're having fun?

TP Yes.

ST Are those from this area? I noticed one said Piermont.

TP Charlie Wright used to live over on Apple Hill, and he took pictures up through here and Piermont and down around Wentworth and through this area. His sister lives up to North Haverhill. I knew her, we went to school together when we were kids.

ST Can you look at them and figure out what they are?

TP Yes, he tells on every paper here what they are and where they were taken.

ST Now can you have pictures made from it?

TP Yes, I had pictures made from it. That picture ???? did, were made from some of these. Arthur took them and had them done.

ST East Piermont school district taken 1912.

ST Hold it up to the light, that's wonderful.

ST East Piermont, is that up on the road to Indian Pond?

TP Right over by the Apple Hill Church then it comes out up into Lake Tarelton up in that section. Arthur took a bunch of those pictures down and had some pictures printed from them.

LB Of course, you have another historian in the family, that helps a lot.

TP Yes.

ST The whole family and some more.

TP I think that was Charlie Wright's family; all his brothers and sisters, I guess. None of them that I know, so.

ST The baby, the dog.

TP That was quite a family.

ST Now I was trying to think, the Wright family, I know that Brenda Thomson is related to somebody name of Wright. That man up in Woodsville, or Haverhill, he is quite a tall fellow, I'll think of his first name, maybe it is not the same family though.

TP I don't think so.

ST You have quite a supply of books here, are they...

TP Some of them are old books that I bought at market.

ST You have the Blaisdell set.

TP Yes, I bought all hers. They are very interesting too, I think. Never used to be a door there and outside door in there in the old house, never any door there.

ST So when they did the new one?

TP So Glenn said, "when we build the house we are going to have another door in the other end of the house." Of course there never used to be; only door was out of the kitchen and of course the front door there. But the time of the fire alarm before that, there was no front door. All there was were doors out of the kitchen.

ST Where does this door go to now?

TP This goes out onto the back porch.

ST And do I see your handy work on that curtain there?

TP No, I didn't do that.

LB I wouldn't be surprised, I mean because in case you had a dull moment...

TP ??? gave me some cornmeal the other day so I want, we used to make brown bread and always used...of course, Glenn always had cornmeal to feed the cattle, you know, hogs and everything. He used to bring some in and I shifted out the coarsest part of it and that is what I used, the fine part, to make my brown bread. What we always used for brown bread was that.

LB Really?

TP Yes always.

ST You are telling me you got this at the grain store?

TP Yes.

ST And you are going to put it in your bread?

TP See that is what it looked like now.

ST Pretty fine isn't it?

TP Yes, you sift it, so, with a flour sifter you sift out the coarsest part, you know. And, of course, that was Mrs. Gail's recipe, that used to live over here, Harry Goodwin's mother in law's recipe for brown bread that I have always used for years and years. I wanted to make one a while ago, I made one here a little while ago with the regular cornmeal that you buy nowadays, you know, but it was pretty solid and hard and I told Francis, see if you can buy some meal over to the grain store. I didn't know whether you could or not, you know. That is fifty pounds and that is what you had to buy. So I said if I didn't use it the cattle would eat it.

LB I have a suggestion for you. You know when your hands get a little tired from quilting and embroidery, you might want to try your hand at doing a cookbook.

TP Oh, yes?

LB Yes. Try to put down some of those recipes.

TP Well that is what somebody told me that I should write one. Well you know the Senior Society put out a cookbook last fall.

ST Well, the seniors' dinner group?

TP Yes, from different groups from the...out of Lebanon and I guess here and down, up to Haverhill and different ones, and they asked everybody to give recipes for it and so I think I gave her eighteen different recipes...old fashioned ones and I thought it would be a recipe book more for seniors, you know, from senior dinners. I expected it would be but there isn't much of anything in there. Most all macaroni and spaghetti and all this kind of stuff we never knew anything about when I was a kid. We never heard of such a thing. I was kind of disappointed in the book.

LB Did they put your recipes in?

TP They put in just one.

LB Isn't that too bad.

TP So somebody says, "why don't you write a book of your own?" Put in what you wanted.

ST Well, I would think so, because that's fun to have the old recipes. As a matter of fact I just came across an old recipe book from 1898 or something. It is interesting to see... I did make up one of the coffee cakes and it called for a lot of molasses and Tom and Stacey didn't care for it. I did.

TP You could use maple syrup in it.

ST Maybe that is what I'll try next time and maybe it was just wrong for them. I was going to ask you this was...

TP That is Glenn's father and mother.

ST I see.

TP And that is his grandmother Pease over there in that big picture over on the wall. Her name was Sarah Jane and her husband's name was Samuel James, so there initials were just the same.

ST This was a popular picture wasn't it?

LB Did you do this?

TP No someone gave it to me. That is too small for me. No I don't like to do that small stuff. My granddaughter does this counted crossstitch and she does beautiful work. And she says, she told me that some of the patterns they do sixteen and eighteen stitches to an inch like canvas.

ST Now who does this work?

TP Francis' daughter done that.

ST Irene.

TP Yes, she made those for me. And that bureau is an old one, that belonged to my aunt.

St Is that something that they saved from the fire?

TP Yes.

ST That is a treasure then, isn't it?

TP That's right. Antique man would like it.

ST Don't you dare!

TP Well you Yankees, you always save everything. I don't know how old that is, how long she had it, but she must have been toward ninety, I would think, when she died. And when she died, and she died in 1928, so that has been around a while.

ST We aren't going to keep you much longer.

TP You can stay as long as you like.

LB You are probably going to stay up hours later than we are.

TP I don't go to bed usually until about 11 o'clock. If I go to bed too early then I wake up along 3-4 o'clock and lay awake two or three hours and I don't like that. I'd rather go to bed at 11 o'clock and sleep. I am usually awake by 5 o'clock.

ST Well, you have to stay right there by your stove so I can get one more picture.

TP You are so good to have us.

TP Tell anybody if I can tell them anything.

ST Thank you.

LB You've shared so much with us, sharing you just take for granted, a lot of people don't know about that kind of life.

TP No I don't suppose they do.

LB How the town was back then.

TP It was a lot different. We'd be a lot better off if we did some of the things like they used to. If Kids had the discipline that they used to have, how much better off they would be.

ST Do you suppose that after we adjust this and we get a little more at ease with it that we could come back?

TP Sure, just let me know ahead of time.

ST This is the first time we have been out with our recorder. If we think of something...

TP If you think of something you didn't get...

ST Or if you happen to write down some notes, keep track of them for us. You can tell us somemore things, I know that I talked with you one other time when I brought pictures out and...

TP And I might have some more pictures, perhaps, that you would like to see if I looked them up. Older pictures that you would want to see, probably.

Corrections\Fillins for Theda Pease Oral History PDF

[Art Pease, 8\2019]

I have tried to make corrections that are not clear on the pdf copy. If one can write on a pdf, it is beyond me. I've added likely text and/or explanations.

2 TP\1 'remember is that'

2 TP\4 'Pierce's' . . . 'Schwarzes'

3 TP\7 "Well, of course . . . sister was Dorice, who taught at the Atwell Hill school for 2 or 3 terms.

4 TP\5 'Goodwin'

5 TP\last 'Bean'

6 TP\1 "sister's 'husband, Amon Burnham'

9 TP\last Les Donnelly's 'mother, Della,'

11 TP\1 'neighbors'

12 TP\3 'Glenda'

13 TP\3 Arthur was born in 46, so that's about 48 I'd change the 36 to the correct 46 and the 36 to the correct 48.

14 TP\5 'McIssac', 'band'

14 TP\Last 'McIssac'

15 ST\1 'Bedell's'

17 ST The names in Rollins, not Rawlings

20 TP\7 Ma must have said 'They had it out to Orford . . .

21 The Ray is Ray Keneson, Ma's sister's son, who lived with Ma at the time of the interview.

23 TP\3 likely 'careful that', said half-jokingly

29 TP\5 Atwell Hill, not Apple Hill. Not sure what she said but they are talking about several glass plate negatives that Charlie Wright took and Ma had. I have them now.

31 TP\2 Gale, not Gail