

Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project
 Interview Transcription
 July 13, 2012

Interviewer: Kaitlin O'Shea
 Interviewees: Harold Wright

Location: N. Hartland Road, White River Junction, VT
 Time: 9:00am

KO: Kaitlin O'Shea
 HW: Harold Wright

The Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project, the 2012 segment, is funded by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for the Certified Local Government Program of Vermont's annual program under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. Previously, Hartford's agricultural oral history has been documented primarily through volunteers, often with interview recordings and transcriptions occurring at separate phases with different people. In 2009, additional historical research was provided through the 2009 Vermont Barn Census. The purpose of this agricultural oral history project is to document the history of local residents who grew up or worked on a farm in the Town of Hartford. The Town is comprised of five villages: White River Junction, Hartford, Wilder, Quechee and West Hartford, in addition to several smaller hamlets.

TIME & TOPICS	TRANSCRIPTION
00:00:01	00:00:01
Introductions	<p>KO: Today is Friday July 13, 2012. I am Kaitlin O'Shea and I interviewing Harold Wright with his daughter Donna Wright for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project.</p> <p>HW: This is my wife Maxine.</p> <p>KO: And Maxine Wright is here. It's nice to meet you. So all of you can jump in as you like.</p>
Grandparents bought farm 1883	<p>HW: Okay, we'll start with – we've been here in this house since 1950. The house was where my grandfather and grandmother moved to on January 10, 1883. And they came from up by the Corner Store. You know where Allen's is – have you seen the tomb there?</p> <p>KO: I have not seen the tomb.</p>

Maj. David Wright tomb	HW: Well when you go by stop and take a look. That's where Maj. David Wright, my great great grandfather, is buried. In those days he was in the Revolutionary War. He was one of the original signers of the charter here. They had this sleeping sickness.
Sleeping sickness	KO: Sleeping sickness?
Ancestors: Gillettes and Wrights	HW: The book says. But he didn't want to be buried alive so he built an above ground tomb and left strict instructions to not to nail his coffin down and not to lock the door to the tomb. But he's still there. When you go back you might stop. I'm probably the only living direct descendant on both my father and mother's side of people in the Town of Hartford. Both my father's side and my mother's side – they signed the original charter in 1761, I think it was. The fourth of July I think was the date. My mother's side was up by Dothan Brook School. That was the Gillettes. And the Wrights were on this side. When my father and mother got married a comment was made that the two originals – they had four sons – and I think I've made this statement before and nobody has challenged it, that I'm the only direct descendent on my mother and father's side.
Married 1950; garden; canning; self-sufficient; potatoes; turkey; chickens; pigs; always food to eat; peddled strawberries	To get back to when – my home was over across until we got married in 1950 and moved over here. We lived during the Depression. We never went to bed hungry. We had a big garden. Did a lot of canning. Jars and jars of tomatoes and string beans and beets and carrots. You name it. And she always made tomato juice. We always had beef from the farm. We always some turkeys and chickens and eggs. We pretty much were self-sufficient. I know one year at Thanksgiving, my mother wanted to have everything on the farm. But I think she had to have some salt and pepper maybe. We always raised potatoes. We had turkeys. We had chickens. We had a couple pigs. We always things to eat. We didn't have a lot of luxuries of life. I remember we had a strawberry bed over here. Picked strawberries and peddled them door to door. And you know what we got for a reward? We went to the circus. The circus came to town. In those days, there was a circus that would come through. And that was our reward for picking strawberries. We would go to the circus.
Circus	KO: Did the circus come on the train?
Ringling brothers; downtown White River Junction,	HW: No. My folks told about the big circuses that used to come by train here. You know where Radcliffe Park is? The siding there. Well Ringling Brothers came here one time. They had a parade the day of the circus. They'd move in during the night and the morning and they had a parade and up South Main Street, around where the Tucker Box is, around there up by the Catholic Street and down Gates Street. The parade was so long

Radcliffe Park	that the end of it was still coming up South Main when it was coming back. So you can see how big it was. But it was here for one day and gone to somewhere else the next day. We never went to that circus. It was gone. We went to the traveling one with the truck.
Benson's Wild Animal Farm; pre-interstate travel	One year I went down to Benson's Wild Animal Farm down in Asheville. I just got a book on it that they a wild animal farm down there. That was before the interstate. You go down Route 3. Take our lunch. Have a picnic. Go to the wild animal farm and come back. That was a nice trip.
00:06:14	00:06:14
Canning vegetables; rummage sales; church suppers	HW: As I say, we never went to bed hungry. She canned a lot of vegetables. Used to have pigs. Had ham, bacon, sausage and all those good things. We used to buy our clothes at a rummage sale. We didn't go to TJMaxx or JCPenney. We went to the rummage sale. I was the third one. I had two brothers older, so everything was hand me down. I think when we got married 1950 I had a new suit of clothes. I think that was maybe the first one. We always had clothes. We always had what we needed. We participated in school things, church things. The church suppers were big. Every fall they'd have a big church turkey supper. We didn't run to McDonalds. The church supper, that was the annual thing we did.
Church	KO: Which was your church?
Sunday school	HW: We went to the Congregational Church in Hartford. I was think it was probably the 6 th , 7 th grade. They were having trouble over there maintaining it so we transferred to the Methodist Church in White River, which was much more active. There was Sunday school and youth groups. And we went to school here in White River and most of our friends were here in White River. The scouts met at the Methodist Church at White River at the time. So it was just a natural fit. We've been members there ever since. I don't know how many years, but quite a few.
Chores around the farm	As far as what we did: we had our regular chores around the farm. KO: What did those include?
Cleaning stables, feeding cattle, father did the milking	HW: In the morning before we went to school, we had to go out and help with the chores around the barn, cleaning the stables and feeding the cattle. We didn't do much milking. My father was fussy about the cows. But we would help him when we could. We used to most of the feeding and cleaning out, putting the bedding in. Then we'd come home in the afternoon and take off our school clothes, put on our barn clothes and do chores again. Help around feeding. We always had chickens to feed and

	turkeys to take care of and things like that.
Mother in the garden	My mother usually did the garden and we'd help her in the garden picking things.
00:09:36	00:09:36
	KO: How large was the farm, acreage wise?
Farm acreage, value of land	HW: Well, originally when my grandfather came here in January 10, 1883, it was about 100 acres. We've added on pieces since to about 500 acres now. It's sometimes you wonder if it's worth anything. Sometimes it's valuable. They aren't making any more land now. So what we've got, we've got. Like a new car, you can buy anytime you want one. You can buy new clothes. You can buy a new stove. But you can't make any more land.
	KO: Good point.
Land use program	HW: So we've had chances to develop it, but we're in the land use program and taxes are reasonable. We like to see it kept open so the people can see fields and what not. My grandson just got married up in the field. You got pictures of that, Donna? Just a beautiful setting. And it wasn't all grown up with brush and houses and everything. I keep a diary and I wrote in the diary, even the dogs had a good time. They ran and played and jumped and chased each other around. It was a nice setting. And if you had it at a reception at some legion hall –
	KO: Not the same.
00:11:25	00:11:25
	{Donna shows pictures of wedding to KO}
00:12:24	00:12:24
	KO: So if we're sitting here in your house, the farms extends back or?
Farm property	HW: I-91 is right straight across. You can see it. We don't own much on the east side of Route 5. Most of the land is on the west side of Route 5. We own clear to the top of the hill. And south that way. Probably 50 acres up there.
	KO: So when you were growing up, your parents had a dairy farm?
Growing up:	HW: Yes. We shipped milk. Way back I can just – my grandparents lived

dairy farm; shipped milk; peddled butter; selling eggs; Bellows Falls Creamery	<p>here. They used to peddle butter. They made butter and peddled butter every Tuesday and Friday. And they would take eggs and they would take, and people would say bring me a chicken. And they'd take that, too. I remember hearing them talking about it. All the time since I can remember, we sold milk. It went to the creamery. We sold to the Bellows Falls Corp, which was very bit at that time. And then we sold to – I don't know, it was taking over by Billings. Then the small ones just got pushed out. And at the end we were selling to Booth Bros. up in Barre, which was bought out by Hood. The big are getting bigger. I really don't know what's going to happen to the dairy industry in New England here. You go out west and milk thousands of cows.</p>
	<p>KO: I've heard that.</p> <p>HW: We have friends out in California that milk 5,000 cows. And some of them milk more than that. I think ?? and his client probably have 10,000 cows. And if they make \$1/cow/day, they do pretty good. If they lose a dollar a day on a cow they don't do so good. They're huge. They have very sophisticated equipment.</p>
Manure	<p>KO: They have more land, too.</p> <p>HW: They buy most of their feed. Their biggest problem today is the manure. The manure gets into the stream and pollutes the streams. Oh, it's a mess. They have to dry the manure and run the manure. It's a whole different story. We used to spread our manure on the field and grass would grow. Out there, it's a whole different story. They dry it. Sort out the liquid. I have no idea how much they have invested in those, but it's a lot. But we're not going –</p> <p>KO: It's quite different from Vermont.</p>
00:16:00	00:16:00
Chopping wood; cash crop; pair or horses; tractors	<p>HW: I was just trying to think of some things that we used to do when we were growing up. We always had a pair of horses. We always cut wood in the wintertime. Cut some logs. That was like a cash crop. We'd sell the logs. We'd cut wood enough for the following year. Like this winter, we'd cut for next winter and have it dry and ready. And when we got what we needed, we'd cut some logs to sell for our cash crop, which helped on our expenses. And we always had a pair of horses. I can remember at first we had one old tractor that wouldn't start. You had to crank it by hand to start. Gradually we switched over. Got all tractors now, no more horses.</p>
Mowing hay;	Mowing hay with them, raking hay. I don't remember so much doing

raking hay	<p>things like that with horses</p> <p>KO: Was that more with a tractor?</p> <p>HW: Yes.</p> <p>KO: So you grew hay. What else did you grow?</p>
Corn for silage; oats; feed for cattle; hammermill	<p>HW: In those days we grew corn for silage. We used to grow some oats for feed. We would thrash the oats and have straw for bedding, and oats we'd have ground up for feed for the cattle. We'd take it to gristmills where they would grind it up. There was a gristmill in Norwich. There was one in Hartland. And they'd have a hammermill and grind it up and put in ingredients like minerals and salt. And usually some molasses. Ground up oats aren't very tasty, but they put in other things for the cows.</p> <p>KO: Someone told me that cows have a sweet tooth and that's why they like molasses.</p>
Cows sweet tooth	<p>HW: That's right. They do. If we had some poor hay that got rained on. And in those days if it got rained on, we still had to feed it to them. We'd put some molasses on it and the cows would eat it. Not that it made them give more milk, but they would eat it.</p>
00:18:58	00:18:58
	<p>HW: Are you a baseball fan?</p> <p>KO: I don't know much about baseball.</p>
Perini Construction Route 5	<p>HW: The Boston Braves were in Boston. Perini Construction, Lou Perini was the head, and the Perini Construction Company put this road in here in the late 20s/early 30s. And it was the first job that Lou Perini ever ran. His father had been in. This was his first job and then he went on to bigger and better thing. But he bought turkeys from my father. He was on the job here. I can remember. That was way back.</p> <p>KO: I assume that was a concrete road.</p>
Water trough for horses	<p>HW: Yes. It was a dirt road up till then. And we had a lot of a water box out here. And we used to get a few dollars to keep it open so horses on the road could stop and get a drink of water. It was another source of income. It was a few dollars, but a few dollars for that – they all counted.</p> <p>KO: So you had a lot of ways to get money?</p>

Diversify for income	<p>HW: Yes. We didn't have a lot of expensive cars or trucks. We didn't go – went to the movies once in a while, on a Saturday afternoon. It cost a dime. A double feature, a western and a thriller</p>
Lyric theater in White river	<p>KO: Was that down in White River?</p> <p>HW: It's the Lyric Theater. The telephone company built that. I guess Felix is in there now, but they have a theater there, a nice theater. Once in a great while we'd go to the movies on Saturday afternoon for a dime.</p>
00:21:13	00:21:13
Fun around the farm: card parties	<p>KO: What did you and your brothers do for fun around the farm?</p> <p>HW: Well we didn't have any TV. We did have a radio. They used to have neighborhood card parties. We would have the group here, where I lived. They used to meet once a month during the winter. And you'd move from place to place and have card parties and play whist. And afterwards they'd have refreshments, cookies and what not.</p>
Trip to Boston for baseball game	<p>Once we really went way out. We took the train to Boston and went to the Braves baseball. Didn't cost us hardly anything. The train went from White River to Boston – to Lebanon, Canaan and to Concord to Boston. We would go in the morning and go to the game. The games were all in the afternoon. There were no night games. And then come back afterwards. The round trip ticket costs maybe \$5. And the ticket to the cost another \$1. So you're talking like \$10. And we'd take our lunch with it because we couldn't afford to spend a lot of money on hot dogs and stuff. We always took our lunch and had a paper bag and sandwiches. I think probably \$10 would cover the round trip.</p>
Trip to 1938 World's Fair in NYC	<p>KO: Sounds like a good outing.</p> <p>HW: We only did that a couple times maybe. And then they moved out. We liked to go down see them play the St. Louis Cardinals. And they came once or twice here. That was a major outing. Another major outing we had – in 1938, we went to the World's Fair in New York City. My mother took the four of us in the car. That was before the interstate. We had some relatives in Demarest, NJ and we stayed with them. From there we went by train to the World's Fair. We maybe went two or three days to the World's Fair and then we came home. My mother took the four of us.</p>
Traveling	<p>KO: That sounds brave.</p> <p>HW: There was no interstate. Took Route 5 and headed down. As I</p>

	<p>remember, we went clear down to New Haven and then Route 1 went across and took the ferry across the Hudson River. My relatives were about 26 miles from New York City where they were. We stayed with them and they went with us to the World's Fair. I think we went two days and then we went back home. But it was quite a trip.</p> <p>KO: Now it doesn't take long to get there.</p> <p>HW: I would have been 12 years old. Edward and David were older. Donald was younger. Donald was 8. I was 12. Edward would have been 14, and David about 16. It was really quite a trip.</p>
<p>00:25:20</p> <p>Interstate emotions</p>	<p>00:25:20</p> <p>KO: I bet. So you mentioned the interstate, that was in the 60s. What was it like to see the interstate come through here? What happened?</p> <p>HW: You had mixed emotions about it. We were in favor of it. It took only a ¼ acre of land from us. It didn't hurt us hardly any. Some of the local businesses – there were three motels in a mile up where Allans' Vending is. That used to be a nice motel. Put them out of business. There were two more down below: the Pine Crest and Maple Leaf. Put them out. If you were traveling, you weren't on Route 5. You were on the interstate and you got the big motels right at the intersection. It put those three people out of business. It's had its good points. I'm very glad we got it. It's brought a lot of tourists to Vermont. It used to be a good three hour drive to Boston. Now it's a two hour drive. You can get on the interstate and go up and go skiing. It's helped the tourist industry tremendously.</p>
<p>Interstate construction; blasting</p>	<p>KO: Did you see any of the construction?</p> <p>HW: Oh yea. It was right on the backside. We could watch it from the house or we could go over. They had some big equipment. Where the intersection is, they blasted that. Morrison ?? brought in a crew from I don't know where. They blasted that ledge up there. And they went from here. They took all their equipment on the railroad and went to some other big job.</p> <p>{In background: MW talking to dog.}</p> <p>I think the interstate was definitely a plus. It hurt some. The one up here, they sold theirs to Allan's Vending. He renovated the place and it's successful. The two down below – one is gone. I guess the other one they help those that have drug problems and other stuff, those who have been in prison. I think the state helped get them going.</p>

00:28:37	<p>KO: So they've adapted down there.</p> <p>00:28:37</p> <p>KO: Who were your neighbors around here?</p>
Neighbors: Melissi, Blanchard, Hanley, Simons, Perkins, Drews	<p>HW: We used to know all our neighbors. Every neighbor we knew from up at the corner down to North Hartland. The Melissis and the Blanchards and the Hanleys and the Simons and Perkins and Drews. We knew them all. Now we don't know any of them. Melissi was over back. He had a few cows. Shipped some milk. His cows get out and come over here. We'd take them back. The Simons had a farm – our big barn is on part of the Simons' farm that we bought. When it was raining and it looked like it was going to rain, if we had our hay in, we'd go over and help them. Or they'd come help us.</p>
Sharing machinery for threshing	<p>When we did threshing, Perkins had a threshing machine and they'd do all the neighbors. They'd move from farm to farm and they'd do the threshing. And the same with cutting corn. We'd cut it by hand and had a blower that would blow it up into the silo. But you'd pick that corn up by hand out in the field.</p>
Haying, threshing	<p>KO: A lot of work.</p> <p>HW: We did it. We never did much sharing of work like cutting wood. Mostly haying or threshing oats or cutting corn. One person would have the equipment and the rest would pay him so much for coming and doing it.</p>
Schedule use of equipment	<p>KO: How was that scheduled because obviously there's a limited amount of time to get it in?</p> <p>HW: What's that?</p> <p>KO: How was it figured out who would go first?</p> <p>HW: That was always a little bit touchy. Whoever owned it. Perkins owned the threshing machine so he would go first. We usually were next and then move to the Simons. And then sometimes go to North Hartland and some there. But he always did his first. Ensilage was cut corn. We had our own and we used to cut ours. [Inaudible because of truck noise.]</p> <p>It was primarily whoever was ready. If our corn was ready, we'd cut it and then go help.</p>

<p>00:32:11</p> <p>Windsor Brown; silo from MA</p> <p>Lumber to mill for staves</p>	<p>KO: Makes sense. I think David Brown told me that you helped build a silo?</p> <p>00:32:11</p> <p>HW: Oh yes. Windsor Brown was quite a wheeler-dealer. He bought a silo in Masscahussetts from an abandoned farm for about nothing. But he had to take it down. Windsor and my brother went down and took it down. It was the metal silo with thousands of bolts. And they'd start at the top and work down. They got it back and put it back up. That was a metal silo. Most silos around here are wood.</p> <p>[Kitchen noise in the background.]</p> <p>We'd cut some lumber and take it down to Hartland. Had to take it down and saw it out to the staves. And they put the hoops around it. Windsor had that metal silo. Edward went down, and spent the better of the week taking it down. It didn't take that long to put it back up. They found out how to do it. Up towards the top it got a little hairy. They didn't have a lot of staging, but they had enough.</p> <p>Windsor was a wheeler-dealer. Buy here. Buy there.</p> <p>KO: He has a lot going on.</p> <p>HW: He sold the Howard Johnson's some property for the restaurant. Did very well. The Browns, I think they came here in the '30s. Maybe '34.</p> <p>KO: I think so.</p> <p>HW: It was right during the Depression. Our original settlement when they came was where the Members' Advantage –</p>
<p>00:34:39</p> <p>Above ground tomb</p>	<p>{00:34:39: DW offers coffee cake and coffee or water or juice.}</p> <p>HW: When you go back, you might take a look at that above ground tomb.</p> <p>KO: Yes, I've been meaning to do that.</p> <p>HW: There aren't too many of them. In those days, they used to come up the Connecticut River. And they came up in the wintertime when the river was frozen because they could come right up the river.</p> <p>I was trying to think of anything else that we did.</p>

<p>Jerseys since 1903; sold 2004</p>	<p>KO: Was your herd Jerseys or Holsteins?</p> <p>HW: We had Jerseys. My father had the first Jerseys in 1903. We sold the herd in 2004. Kept it 100 years.</p> <p>KO: Oh wow.</p> <p>HW: I got old. My brother got old. And we have two sons, and they didn't want to milk cows seven days a week. They'd rather ride on the weekends, do various things. So we weren't big enough to hire help. So we just sold them and kept the land. Cut the hay. The last 10 years, we've been taking trips. We thought going to Boston was a big trip, and going to the World's Fair for a big trip. For a number of years now we've been going to Europe. Last year we went to Wales for the Livestock Show. It's one of the biggest livestock shows in the world. We went to London.</p> <p>{Describing London trip. Visiting ancestors' graves in England. DW brings coffee to table.}</p>
<p>00:38:10</p> <p>Traveling after selling cows</p>	<p>00:38:10</p> <p>KO: So after all these years you finally got to travel. No more cows.</p> <p>HW: After we sold the cows were able to do a few things. We'd been to Wales twice. This year we're going to Dublin. Fly to Paris. Paris for a few days. {Describing trip plans. Someone stops by quickly about hay. HW talks about travels. Battle of the Bulge. Other travels.}</p>
<p>00:44:33</p> <p>Married 1950; unloading government fertilizer from railyard</p>	<p>00:44:33</p> <p>KO: So you never got to travel much when you were growing up other than to Boston?</p> <p>HW: When we were younger, no. We didn't go anywhere.</p> <p>KO: So when you two got married, you were still farming?</p> <p>HW: We got married June 24, 1950. The Depression basically was over after WWII. The farm didn't pay me much. I used to pick up a little money. I remember unloading government fertilizer. Got 50 cents a tons down at the team track. Farmers would get this government fertilizer. You'd have to call them up, tell them to come. The car would be there Tuesday at 9:00 or whatever. They'd come and pick it up and have 40 ton cars. I'd get 20 dollars for unloading a car of fertilizer.</p> <p>KO: Sounds like a lot of work.</p>

Board of Civil Authority	<p>HW: Once in a while, you'd get two cars right together. If you get two cars, you could probably unload – you had two days to unload. Usually somebody would not be able to come the first day and you'd have to go back the second day. Maybe a ton or two tons, you got \$40 if you get it done in three days. It was pretty good money. And I was on the Board of Civil Authority [??]. I was a ballot clerk. That was very interesting.</p>
00:46:43	00:46:43
Town Meeting Day	<p>On Town Meeting Day in the afternoon, some of the older members would tell stories about the old days. They'd tell about in the old days, the farmers controlled Town Meeting. There was enough farmers so they could get most anything they wanted. Well the farmers had to go do chores. The farmers up in Jericho or Dothan, they weren't interested in street lights in White River. They wanted their road kept open so they could get out. But after the farmers all went home, the White River merchants would say, I think we ought to have streetlights or paving. And they'd spend money when the farmers were back home. And then they'd read about it in the <i>Landmark</i> about how the Town voted to put streetlights in and pave.</p> <p>You did Harris Lyman. He came from Jericho and might have mentioned something about that.</p> <p>Listening to the stories – in those days, the Town could vote to be wet or dry. When I say wet or dry, you could sell spirits, liquors or wine. The Legion, Elks Club, and all of those – they didn't want the Town to go dry. They'd come in the afternoon and say they wanted one of those ballots for wet or dry. They didn't care about the selectman. "Give me one of those wet or dry ballots." They were sent down by the Elks, Legion or the Hotel, anybody that had a bar. They had to go wet. And there are a few towns that are still dry.</p> <p>KO: Oh really?</p>
Traveling plays stop in WRJ	<p>HW: I think Athens, VT was one of the last towns. They may not be now. Every year they had to vote for that. They used to have town meetings – you know where the Northern Stage is by Tucker Box? That used to be the Town Hall there. They had town meetings there, basketball games. They had a lot of good traveling plays come through there. They'd play in Boston and Montreal, but they couldn't close in Boston on Sunday night and open in Montreal on Monday. They were going through White River, so some of the business people made a deal with them to stop off in White River and have the plays there. So they had some tremendous plays here that were going en route from Boston to Montreal or Montreal to</p>

00:50:17	<p>Boston. And they picked up a little people and gave them a little exposure.</p> <p>00:50:17</p>
Horse act in town	<p>HW: There was a guy who came through with a horse act. The steps are steep. Have you been up there? Well, they're steep. And this guy took his horses right up the stairs to put on the show. A horse won't go down stairs. Everybody, said how is he going to get his horses down? How did he get them down?</p> <p>KO: He put a board over the stairs? Or backed them up?</p> <p>HW: He backed them down. He took them to the top and backed them down. A horse will back down. They'll look down and jump. And the horse will get hurt and the handler will get hurt. I remember the folks saying, how is he going to get them down. Then when the show was over, he took them down and backed them down.</p> <p>KO: Sounds like that is part of the show, too. Did you get to go see some of those plays there?</p>
Town Meeting Day	<p>HW: Now that was after election days and town meeting days. The ballots were open till 5. We'd have a couple hours to sit around and visit. And that's when some of these stories come out.</p> <p>KO: Oh I see.</p>
Coolidge Hotel	<p>HW: Rachel Gordon was town clerk then. Her father, Van Wheeler, ran the Coolidge. The Coolidge went over 100% occupancy at times. They would rent the rooms out days to railroad people. They would come in at like 8:00 and the Coolidge would tell them they have to be out by 5:00. Then they'd rent them again to somebody that night. And Van Wheeler, he was a wheeler-dealer really. He just was big time. The Coolidge was named after Calvin Coolidge's father, John Coolidge. He stayed there some. Calvin Coolidge stayed there some. Everyone thinks Calvin Coolidge, but it was his father John.</p> <p>{Dog walks into the kitchen and causes short disruption}</p>
00:53:05	<p>00:53:05</p> <p>HW: When the trains were really big, you could go anywhere. If you missed a train you could get another.</p> <p>KO: As opposed to one a day or how many?</p>
Trains in WRJ	

Brothers	<p>HW: I have no idea. There were trains going to Boston, down to Springfield, up to Newport, VT, up to Essex Junction, Montpelier way.</p> <p>KO: Different now. Did your brothers farm around here as well when you were all grown up?</p> <p>HW: David, my older brother, he went through college and was in the Army and got married and went to work for the Extension Service over in Bennington. And then he got a job on a Jersey farm out in Erie, PA. And then he got a job from in Connecticut. And then he bought his own farm up in East Middlebury. That was my oldest brother.</p> <p>Edward never married and he just passed away on May 6 at age 87. Donald was born nearly blind. He could see a little. When he was in high school, he graduated in 1948. He was born in 1930. He graduated in 1947. He had a little sight in one eye. He went to Boston and they tried to arrest it, but they couldn't. And then next year he totally lost his sight. He worked around the farm. He couldn't do any driving. But he'd turn the cows out and get them all in and feed them. Brush them, and things like that.</p> <p>KO: Just by touch?</p>
Donald Wright	<p>HW: And for quite a few years we had horns on the cows and he could tell the horns. Then when we cut the horns off, we put neck chains on them with a number so he could get a hold of that number and feel it. He could tell 34 where she went. Where 68 went. Whatever. He could tell by feeling. He'd run his hand across their back and get ahold of their tail. And he'd tied them all up. We had between 50-60 cows. Put them all in. Did them in the right stall. He could milk them.</p> <p>KO: That's pretty incredible.</p>
Artificial breeding; switch to bulk tank	<p>HW: He did most of our artificial breeding. He went to school to learn how to breed artificially.</p> <p>KO: So when it switched from cans to bulk tanks, your family switched?</p> <p>HW: We put in the tank. That put a lot of little ones out. We had one of the first tanks in the whole area.</p> <p>KO: Which year was that? Late 50s?</p> <p>HW: I would guess the late 50s. Probably the middle 50s.</p>

Can cooler for 40 quart cans	<p>KO: Oh, wow, that is early.</p> <p>HW: We moved up to that barn in the late 40s. We had a can cooler, where you put the 40 quart cans in the cooler and cooled it. We weren't there many years before we put in the bulk tank. That was a busy day the day we took that old cooler out. We had to cement that over and bring in the new bulk tank. I'm not sure. We cemented it and the cement just barely got dry because set the tank right on it. I guess we put some boards down to let that cure a little. And then when the cement dried we moved it a bit. The State is very fussy when they calibrate those to get it perfectly level. And it's got to be hitched down. I remember when we traded the small tank for the bigger tank, we couldn't get it through the door. We had to take part of the milk house off. Take the old one out, put the new one in. The state came and calibrated. The legs have to be cemented down. You picked up the milk in the morning from the old and that night we put milk in the new tank. We were a little late with chores that night, but we got them in.</p>
Bigger tanks	
Cows in/out of barn	<p>We used to turn our cows out at night and keep them in days. In the barn we had fans and it was cooler in the barn. And there were no face flies and then we'd turn around after the evening milking and they'd go up the pasture and graze. They got some sunshine and exercise. It was cooler and no face. It worked very good. We fed silage in the barn in the daytime. Fed corn silage and hay and then we'd milk. And as soon as we got down milking, we'd turn them out so they got 2-3 hours of daylight before the sun went down. And it did pretty good that way. Worked for us.</p>
00:59:40	<p>00:59:40</p> <p>KO: Which times of day did you do the milking?</p>
Milking schedule	<p>HW: Originally we did our milking around 5:00 in the morning and 5:00 at night. But Donald, my younger brother, had problems with his kidneys and he had to go on dialysis. And he had to be over in Dartmouth Hitchcock at 6:00 or 6:30 in the morning. So we used to start quite early. We'd get up at half past 2:00 and get chores done. Edward had to take him over because he couldn't drive. So we'd milk quite early in the morning. Once you get used to it, you get up at 2:30, get the cows in and milk the cows around 3:00. He'd get done around 5:00/5:30 and he'd go home, change and get ready and be over at 6:00 or 6:30 for dialysis. Three days a week: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. But you couldn't get up at 2:30 on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. So we just got up every morning at half past two and did chores.</p> <p>KO: The cows don't mind a change in schedule as long as it's the same?</p>

<p>01:01:38</p>	<p>HW: No. If you change from 2:30 to 5:00 every day, they'd get all mixed up. They used to be ready to come in in the morning. At quarter to three, they'd be at the door, ready to come in. We'd grain them at night after we turned them out, we'd put the grain in the mangers for them.</p>
<p>Differences in farming; modern farming</p>	<p>01:01:38</p> <p>KO: So what are some differences between when you were a kid on the farm v. an adult?</p>
<p>Robotic milkers</p>	<p>HW: I'll tell you – we sold our cows in 2004. Donna and her sister Ann who both work at the school in Hartford. When we went to London, Queen Elizabeth has a Jersey herd near Windsor Castle. And she just put in one these new robotic milkers. They are all automatic. They never touch the cows. The cows come in. They are milked three times a day or twice, whenever they want to get milked. They go in this little stall. There is feed there for them. They get milked. It's fully automatic. Donna and her sister said, if you would have put one of those in, you wouldn't have had to sell the cows.</p> <p>KO: That must be expensive.</p> <p>HW: \$85,000 a unit. And I have no idea how much they support – they have a panel as big as that wall as controls. There are lights flashing. You have to be a technician to run the thing. This one guy was running the Queen's herd that day. He was milking 70 cows and never touched them. All he had to do was feed them. Drive by with a feed truck and feed them. They had loose housing.</p> <p>Loose housing – they have stalls but they are not hitched. They can walk behind them or they can go around. They even have a little robotic manure cleaner. This little thing would buzz around. I don't know how they could tell where the manure was. The cow makes the manure and this little thing comes pattering around there is a hole where it's dropped in.</p> <p>Everybody said, how did you keep the good milk from the bad milk? If the cow has a bad quarter, mastitis or something? They have tests. The cow gets milk and it goes into a jar and it's tested before it goes into the big tank. And if there is any bad milk in there, it's rejected and put into another tank where it's not saleable. There are more and more of those robotic milkers going in. Like anything, they are improving all the time. There are a couple here in Vermont. I think up around Franklin County and one in Orleans County.</p>

<p>01:07:55</p> <p>Games played as kids</p>	<p>KO: Oh I may have heard that.</p> <p>HW: That year we went to London. We spent several days in London. Went to Wimbledon. {Talks about trip to Wimbledon.}</p> <p>01:07:55</p> <p>KO: So I take it you are a baseball fan and a tennis fan?</p> <p>HW: Well I don't know.</p> <p>KO: Did you play those growing up?</p> <p>HW: We played football and basketball, not much baseball.</p> <p>KO: With four boys you have a team, two on two.</p> <p>HW: In the barn we used to have a basketball net. And we used to play basketball.</p> <p>KO: Is it the big white barn?</p> <p>HW: Yup. And there was a barn out here that burned in the 60s. Here I am politicking or editorializing – I think the schools should concentrate more on tennis and golf, more than football, basketball, baseball. {Talking about sports.}</p>
<p>01:09:43</p>	<p>01:09:43</p> <p>HW: I think our school systems, locally, are pretty fairly efficient. {Discusses the current school system mandates.}</p>
<p>01:10:42</p> <p>School</p>	<p>01:10:42</p> <p>KO: You went to school down in White River?</p> <p>HW: Yes. We went to – you know where the municipal building is? I went there for six grades. And then the junior high was where the elementary school and the high school was there – 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades were there where the elementary school. Originally the high school was four rooms on the middle section of the elementary school. That door is closed off now. The entrance is down towards the auditorium. The gym was built around 1937 by the WPA. The 7th and 8th grade, the junior high we went there. For the first six grades we were down at the municipal building.</p>

<p>US Army</p> <p>01:16:27</p> <p>US Army</p>	<p>KO: After high school, what did you do?</p> <p>HW: I went to work for the government. I went in the Army. I enlisted in the Army when I was 17, my senior year. I became 17 in September and I enlisted in the Army Air Force with the understanding that they would not take me until after graduation in June of 1944. I graduated in June of 1944 and they didn't take me till fall. I didn't ask any questions. They said after you graduate, you'll get a notice to report. And then the fall in October or November, I got notified. Well I went down to Fort Devens. Well actually went over to Rutland. Had a bus pick us up and the whole group went to Fort Devens. We were given our elementary physicals, and issued our uniforms. They called up probably 325. They wanted to ship out 300. For once, the name Wright came in handy because it was the tail end of the alphabet. We got left there for six weeks. Did nothing but get up in the morning and report to this place. They'd say, we don't have anything for you today. Report back tomorrow. So we did.</p> <p>It was right after Christmas, and we got shipped out to Shepherd Field Texas by troop train. If you want to have a ride you get on a troop train. I mean, we went [quickly]. I don't think we stopped, but we must have stopped for an engine change. We went sailing through every – six people in a compartment and you didn't know anybody. You were just told you six were here. They had these folding cots. There was one on the bottom. There was back one that flipped up and one that was higher. And we went to Shepherd Field and we were down there for basic training. And we were sent to Bowling Field in Denver, CO. We were on the troop train when the VE Day in Europe. I thought the troop train was going to erupt. They were just all over the place. We got to Bowling Field and we were there for six weeks. Took some training for military police. I was 6' tall, 200 lbs and I was the smallest guy there. They told us we weren't picked for our size. Everybody was 6'3", 250 lbs. They were a big group of boys. Then we went to Orlando. And then to Fort Belvoir in Virginia and the war in Japan ended. VJ Day was in August of 1945. And we had a choice of coming home or reenlisting for three years in the Army of Occupation. I took the choice in coming home. Some took the Army of Occupation and it was a great experience. They went to Germany for three years and toured around and they went to Japan for three years. But I had no desire. I wanted to come home.</p> <p>KO: Come home to the farm.</p> <p>HW: Yea.</p> <p>01:16:27</p> <p>HW: And that in, I think late 1945 I got home. I never was in any battles</p>
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	<p>or any fighting or anything else. Down at Shepherd Field, I can sympathize with these people who have mental conditions. They taught us to kill. You kill him or he'll kill you. You've got a choice. They drill that into you head. You kill him or they'll kill you. After you've heard that long enough, it's a little scary. This one sergeant in particular. He had a dummy hanging up there. He ran a bayonet right through that guy. He said he wanted us to do it and do it vigorously. You run it there and shove it. It wasn't very good. Fort Belvoir, VA is a regular Army base. They had brick buildings. And Bowling Field, they had tar paper shacks. They were just rough. But we survived.</p> <p>Orlando, can you imagine? When we were there, it must have been in 1945, there was one theater in Orlando and it was closed in the summer because there was nobody down there.</p> <p>KO: That's so funny. I just think of Disney World now when I think or Orlando.</p> <p>HW: If you had been smart and grabbed a bunch of that land and just sat on it –</p> <p>KO: Which Walt Disney was.</p>
01:18:28	01:18:28
Return to the farm	<p>KO: So when you came back did you help on your parents' farm?</p> <p>HW: I helped with the farm here. We had barn here where we could tie up about 25 cows. And we built a new barn that tied up between 60-70 cows. At the time we moved in there on our DHI Association, we were the biggest herd in the association. By the time we sold out in 2004, we were one of the smallest. Others got bigger and bigger, added on.</p> <p>The little ones were all gone. The 8, 10, 12 cow herds –</p> <p>KO: It's too expensive.</p>
Lumber, selling hayl cash crop	<p>HW: But in those days, we used to cut some lumber. We'd cut some wood. We'd sell some hay. We had more hay than we needed. It was a cash crop. In 1958, I went to work for the post office. I was selected to be the postmaster in White River.</p> <p>KO: In Lyman Station?</p> <p>HW: Well, across the street.</p>

<p>Working for the US Postal Service in WRJ for 30 years</p>	<p>KO: The actual post office. Okay.</p> <p>HW: On August 22, 1958 and with 14 employees. It was a nice job. Everything was nice. As the railroads closed down and highways carried the mail more we had a temporary facility made. You know where that discount food place is right behind Junction Crossroads Café? Either the day before or the day after 4th of July in 1960, there were four of us. Frank Gilman – have you heard? Valley Land. He owns half of White River. And P.X. O’Connor was a post office inspection. Dayton Wakefield who was a real estate officer and myself. We needed a temporary facility. Frank says, “when do you want it?” We said August 20. Frank said I think I can make it alright. In those days you didn’t have to have hearings. So he had his bulldozers there that afternoon and they were digging the footings and they were putting the walls up. We moved into a temporary facility the 20th of August. That was 1960. And in 1962 we moved into the present facility. The first time we built it was 20,000 square feet. And then the next time they doubled it to 40,000 square feet. And then next time they doubled it to 80,000 square feet. I was in the post office for 30 years. I retired on my 30th anniversary. I had my health and I had a good pension. It just seemed like the time to go. We went from 14 employees to the peak at White River, we had near 500. And we the main sectional center for about 1100 people. It was a full time job. In 1988, when I retired, we had an excellent crew of employees. We won the best in our whole area three years in a row, based on production, safety, customer complaints and everything. We won for the region. It was sort of nice. And when you’re ahead, that’s the time to quit. I don’t say quit, I say turn it on to somebody else. The post office, I don’t know where they’re headed. It’s going to be difficult times for them. We went from 14 employees to about 1100 in 30 years. I don’t know how many they have now, 300 or 400 I guess.</p> <p>Originally we had all manual distribution. When I say that, I mean a person was in front of the case and sorting it. We went to mechanized, that’s a letter sorting machine with 12 positions and the letters would be put down in front. They would key them. They make 256 separations. It took 18 people to run it. You had 12 keying. You had 4 people putting mail on the trays for the keyers. And you had 2 people on the backside switching the mail out in the separation. And then just the last year before I left, they put in OCRS – Optical Character Readers. On the manual sort you could do about 300 pieces an hour. On the mechanized you could do 1200-1500. On the OCRs you could do about 30,000 pieces.</p> <p>KO: Per hour?</p> <p>HW: Per hour. For two people.</p>
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<p>Farming while working for USPS</p>	<p>KO: Oh my goodness.</p> <p>HW: One putting it on. One taking it off. And it would be so fast you couldn't even see it. And we had two or four of those. The people within the post office, any time there's change, there's some resistance. And there was some resistance to the optical character readers because it would reduce the number of employees. But they did sort mail. And if you didn't have the proper code in there – and you had to have it – it took a good technician to code those machines. I had 30 years and thought it was time.</p> <p>KO: Fascinating. I love the postal service.</p> <p>HW: It used to be a very good job. I mean, you work the post office and you are never going to be a millionaire, but you were going to have a check every other Friday and it was considerably better than the average. We used to hire people from the VA and our pay scale was better than the VA. They'd come down and want to get on.</p> <p>KO: So all this time you worked at the postal service you kept on farming?</p> <p>HW: Oh yea.</p> <p>KO: So you had long days?</p> <p>HW: I'd help with the chores in the morning. I'd help at night if I got home in time. The post office has a very liberal leave policy. At the end I was getting 26 days a year and 9 paid holidays, and 13 days of sick leave. I never used a day of sick leave when I was in the post office for 30 years. A couple days I probably should have but I didn't. So when I retired, I had over 3,000 hours of sick leave accumulated. And they gave me credit – I got about a a year and 1/3 added. And then I got my military time. I was a substitute rural and that was a strict giveaway. I paid nothing into the plan, but somebody in the government decided. I worked as a substitute rural carrier out of the Army and father was. For two or three years I was. They added that to my length of time. So in total I had 33, 34, 35 years, which helped my pension. It all helped a little bit. The pension with the post office is very good. That's why we travel, and take trips to Europe.</p> <p>We have been very fortunate with all sorts of travel with the Jersey functions. We've been to probably about 30 of the last annual meetings. They have the meetings around different places in the country. The next year is in Texas. This year it is in North Conway, NH. Last year it was Wisconsin. The year before that was in Seattle, WA.</p>
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<p>Fairs to show cows</p> <p>01:30:06</p>	<p>KO: Did you travel with your cows ever? What goes on at the Jersey meetings? It is a show? Do you bring the cattle?</p> <p>HW: No, we just go ourselves. If it was in Pittsford, we drove to it. Next year in Texas, we'd fly to it if we go.</p> <p>DW: But you did go to fairs. You went to fairs.</p> <p>01:30:06</p> <p>HW: What did she say?</p> <p>KO: You did go to fairs.</p> <p>HW: Oh yea.</p> <p>KO: Did you show your cattle?</p>
<p>Shows with cows to earn prizes</p>	<p>HW: In the early days we used to go to 6 or 8, 9 shows a year. We'd try to make enough money to pay our taxes at the fairs. We'd go to Hartland, Canaan, Huntington, Keene, Plymouth, Greenfield, Mass., Eastern States. That was the group we'd go on. And as some of the fairs – like Hartland fair they stopped. Canaan stopped. So we didn't go there anymore. We cut back and went to Champlain Valley and Rutland. And Greenfield and Eastern States. Plymouth doesn't run anymore. The last few years we only went to two. We went to Tunbridge and Huntington. We went to four for a number of years, the Champlain Valley. And then we would go to Huntington and Tunbridge and Deerfield, NH, which is a very good far. It got harder to get away and we just cut back and cut back.</p> <p>KO: Would you win prizes or money?</p> <p>HW: We'd try to win prizes. Tunbridge doesn't pay a lot of money, but it is the local show. And we wanted to support the local show. Huntington is just outside of Concord and there were no farmers. Practically very few real farmers. We'd do pretty well down there. For a while we could go to Essex Champlain Valley and right down to Huntington the same week. Between the two of them we could make a pretty good week's pay. And then they changed it, scheduled it as Essex so they overlapped. You either had to go to Essex or Huntington. Huntington was closer, so we went to Huntington. Essex used to be a good fair years ago. ?? was a general manager up there and he was a farmer. He'd come to the barns and give us free tickets to the stage shows if you wanted to go in the evenings. He'd give us tickets. All he'd ask is don't take the seats don't front of the paying customers. Take the seats out back. We'd go to the free shows and</p>

<p>01:33:22</p> <p>Family run farm; children involved</p>	<p>he would always take care of us.</p> <p>01:33:22 [phone rings]</p> <p>HW: They made it more of a commercial.</p> <p>KO: So when you – you said you worked for the post office and you still helped on the farm. Did you hire people? Who else worked?</p> <p>HW: We didn't hire hardly any outside help. My two boys - Richard who runs the sawmill and Harold who works at the Gateway. They would help out. When Richard was not at the sawmill, and in high school and college, and Harold, when he was in high school. He used to help more than Richard. He used to get up at 3:00 in the morning and help do the chores. In the wintertime when it was cold and the gutter cleaner would freeze – he'd get up on the elevated gutter cleaner outside that goes into a pit. And the chain on the upper end would get frozen. He'd have to crawl up on the edge of that chain and take a sledge hammer. He didn't like to do the milking. He'd rather do that than milk. I'd rather have him do that. But he helped. We couldn't have done it without him. It got to the point where we were asking him to help a lot, and he got a job. He doesn't want the responsibilities of running the farm. So my brother and I, he was two years older than I am, he was 87 and I'm 85. We either had to get bigger and hire help or get out. We took less of the two evils, I guess. We could have added on, hired help.</p> <p>KO: It was more of an investment. That's what I hear a lot – you either get big or not.</p>
<p>01:35:53</p> <p>Jameson, Melissi, shipping milk</p> <p>Expenses for starting a farm</p>	<p>01:35:53</p> <p>HW: Up at the corner here, at the Members Advantage, that was the Windsor Brown farm. There was another one across the way, the Jamesons, down through. Melissi shipped milk. Blanchard shipped milk. Frankie Russ shipped milk. Simons did. We did. Perkins made brother. Willis {??} he made butter. Burt Smith, I don't think he ever shipped milk, but he might have. [??] shipped milk. Then when they put in the bulk tanks, it just eliminated all of them. They just couldn't. So some land became available. Some of it was rented out. Some sold. But there's been a lot of changes, a lot of changes. I don't know how a young person could ever get started in farming today unless they had relatives and somebody that had a place to start form. The price of land and equipment, tractors. \$100,00 for a tractor. We just priced a new mowing machine. They call it a disc mine now. \$28,000. And you only use it for a few months in the summer time. Rakes used to buy for a few hundred dollars. Now \$3800. Tethers over \$5000. It just –</p>

01:37:48	<p>KO: It's amazing, the expense of it.</p> <p>01:37:48</p>
Current use of the farm	<p>KO: So what goes on on the farm today?</p> <p>HW: Today we cut hay and sell it, basically. My son runs the sawmill. He cuts –</p>
01:38:05 – 01:40:14	<p>01:38:05 – 01:40:14 {HW talks to his wife Maxine. Pause recording while they step out for a few minutes. KO talks with DW. Resume recording when HW returns.}</p>
01:40:15	<p>01:40:15</p> <p>KO: So, one of the last questions I like to ask is something along the lines of: what does it mean to you to be someone who grew up as a farmer and has deep connections in Vermont?</p>
Feelings about farming	<p>HW: To me, I'm real happy and proud that I am a farmer. Some people seem to be sort of ashamed. I think farming is a noble occupation. The farmers should be real proud of their past history that came here, settled here, developed the state. I would do a few things differently, if I had it to do over again. I would probably seriously consider reenlisting in the service in the Army of Occupation and touring a lot of Europe. Or gone to Japan. It would have been an experience, and who knows – maybe I would have got shot. I don't know. I know some that did do that. They just traveled around. The war was over, they were conquering heroes, in France, in Belgium, all those places that the Germans occupied.</p>
Things he'd do differently	<p>And the second thing: when I got home, my folks wanted me to go to college. I would have gone to college and got more education. I think that's quite important. But I was gung-ho over farming and didn't have time to go to school. But as I look back on those two things, I would have changed. I don't know. We're not wealthy, but we're reasonably positioned unless something traumatic happens. I've been very fortunate in my health. I was 60 some odd years old before I spent a day in the hospital. I had a hip replacement. I've never been able to walk right since then. I had prostate cancer. Had surgery. Never quite got it all. It keeps cropping up. Right now, I'm taking treatment for it. Overall, I think that my career has been farming and the post office. We had six children. We lost a boy when he was 15. Got killed in a tractor accident. But the rest are all reasonably successful and around. We have four grandchildren. One just got married. The other got married last fall. The other two are both going to college. I guess that's about it.</p>

	<p>KO: Sounds good to me. Thank you.</p> <p>HW: I'll show you some pictures. We sold our herd and now when we got the fair, we take the whole herd: we have just a pair of ?? horns, steers. That's when they were younger. That's my granddaughter. She wanted to show them. She could drive them alright, but she just never spent enough time with them. She doesn't live here. She'd come down at night and put the yoke on and drive a few minutes. Then got to go somewhere else. Never got it. This was taken a couple years ago at the Tunbridge Fair. These steers have quite a background. They started over in Rutland. A fellow by the name of Ralph Griffin bought them as calves. I don't know where he got them. And he took them to Fryeburg Fair. Have you ever heard of it? It's a big fair. It's the biggest livestock fair in the east.</p> <p>KO: Where is it?</p> <p>HW: Fryeburg, Maine. It's just over from North Conway. They have the biggest sheep show, horse pulling, ox pulling, beef cattle. It's just a big, big fair. He took them there. They won. And he sold them to a fellow from Albany, NH. That's right out of Conway. He showed them around next year. And they did very well for him. And I bought them from him about four years ago.</p> <p>KO: Do you still have them?</p> <p>HW: Yes. This was taken at Tunbridge. This picture nearly got us in trouble. That was at Tunbridge and they won the best match. The people we beat aren't very happy. This girl comes from over in Maine. She knew the cattle and wanted to know if she could show them and she did. {Flips through recent fair photographs.} We have a [??] and off ox steer. That's Rex. And this is Dan. He's the off steer. {Flips through pictures.} This is the best picture of the whole bunch. This is up at Fryeburg and they won. {Flips through pictures.} When we got to the fair now, we take the whole herd. Only got two. It's going to be a sad day when they go on the beef truck. They're like pets.</p>
01:47:55	01:47:55
Pair of steers	<p>KO: How long will you keep them?</p> <p>HW: I don't know. I sold them once. I sold them to go to Texas for \$4,000. And the guy got home and it was going to cost him another \$4,000 to get them home with the trucking. He called me up and said, I'll send you a check for \$4,000 and when you send them to market, send me</p>

	<p>what they bring. And I said, “No, I guess as long as they’re here, I’ll keep them mine.” What if one of them dies? You call them up and say, one of your steers just died. He’d say, you’re a heck of a guy. And someday they’ll have to go. I should go now because they are probably \$3,500 for beef. About \$1/pound, so like 3800. They don’t have a mean bone in them. They don’t bite. They don’t kick. They stay in the pasture. I would to keep them in days in the barn, where it’s cooler, and turn them out at nights where there are no face flies. Out in the hot sun, it fades them – their good red color. The sun fades them. But my fences aren’t very good. I don’t want the police to call me up at 2:00 in the morning and say, “your steers are in the road.” Or something. I put them in at night. And that’s the way we go. A week from today they have the New England Show & Pull up at North Averill. We’ll show them up there for the first time. I’ll probably get beat.</p> <p>KO: Good luck.</p> <p>HW: They’re a good pair of steers. I think if they’re beat, it’s going to be a good one. I don’t know who is coming. We’ll find out.</p> <p>KO: Sounds good.</p> <p>HW: Is that a new car you’ve got out there?</p> <p>KO: Yes it is.</p> <p>{Interview ends talking about cars.}</p>
01:50:21	END OF INTERVIEW.