

**CONNECTICUT 20TH CENTURY AGRICULTURAL HISTORY PROJECT  
ORAL HISTORIES**

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Name of Person Interviewed: Lucille Manning, Interview #1  
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LL: This is January 16th, 2001, [Unintelligible] in here and I'm here with [Oliver and Lucille Manning]. We'll just start by talking about, please, when and where were you born. Lucille, do you want to go first?

LM: I was born in [Unintelligible], at the old St. Francis Hospital which is unusual at that time, but my home was between – like they call it [Beaver Hill] between South Windham and North Windham, just go up through the 32. My father was a pioneer in the poultry business, and as we look out our window, I can look at it, the sunset shining through the windows of what later I discovered is now my husband's [Unintelligible] father's place.

LL: Okay. Would you like to tell us about when you were born again?

LM: I believe I was born in [March Hospital] but my folks lived on – they called it [Unintelligible] and they found it, what, a year before I was born. Basically, that's always been home even though I've lived away from there several times.

LL: You were the youngest of nine?

LM: Nine. Six brothers and three sisters.

LL: Did all of you go into farming?

LM: All of us were just born in on it sometime during our livelihood [Laughter] – stayed in it per se.

LL: Were you an only child?

LM: I have two – a younger sister and a younger brother.

LL: Where did you go to school?

LM: I went to school in [Unintelligible] and also in [Unintelligible].

LL: So, even though your father was employed, you lived in the country though?

LM: Yes, but only two and a half, three miles from the city. If necessary, I could walk it and as a teenager, I did sometimes.

LL: What was your school like?

LM: Well, I was a “fortunate child” in some respects since my father had been an orphan, brought up with his uncle, but he started the poultry business on his own on the family plot and followed what was later the extension and the university projects so that by the time I was in school, I had a silk bow in my hair and a Mickey Mouse watch on my hand and we had a car. The poultry business, even when the years were poor for many, [Unintelligible] getting in school and taking it home for lunch rather than having guidelines but when I was in first grade, I had [Unintelligible] and was sick for one whole class so I needed some special care. I never heard from [Unintelligible] on this though.

LL: What about your schooling?

LM: I studied through one school in [Unintelligible] and just went forward “nine grades” because I started before I was six years old and they didn’t have kindergarten but I went to what you call the kindergarten today because there was nobody home to take care of me.

LL: You were babysat at school.

LM: Yes. At the time, I was from a minority group of English descent.

LL: What other nationalities were in school?

LM: Most of the rest of that school were [Slavic].

LM: However, your aunt –

LM: I guess when I originally was going to school, my aunt in law was a teacher. I can’t remember it, me and my teacher, that’s how young I went. [Laughter]

LL: You went there first?

LM: Yes, and her office, we always went there [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: This was financial or choice?

LM: Well, actually, I don’t know. Both. [Laughter]

LL: Because you mentioned the idea of what happened to you in town – well, on your farm, I think. So how long has your family been on this land now?

LM: This is blood. The farm was here even before I was born. He actually was an electrical engineer. He had been a superintendent and a power plant engineer but was changed and downsizing and all these other things. They were bought out – [Unintelligible] I guess owned and went out for it. There were problems and they had to straighten it out and then they sold it to somebody else who owned him. [Unintelligible] right off the month to present it. This is why I can’t afford [Unintelligible] with my eight kids [Laughter] any less than that [Unintelligible].

LL: So that's why your grandfather is a farmer.

LM: No. My grandfather's farmers right down to the [Unintelligible].

LL: He came back to Connecticut because of family?

LM: Yes.

LM: Then he purchased the farm on a chapel in [Europe]. That farm property at that time of this revolution was probably three others because of the way [Unintelligible].

LL: When did you meet?

LM: Actually, we probably – the first remembering of how we met is probably when I was seven years old. [Laughter]

LM: His sister came to visit us at our new house because in the right time [Unintelligible]. We still in – '32, my father was doing well enough to take the chickens and so he built a new house and gave his friends an employment at that time when employment wasn't that available. I'm able to remember laying on the floor in one of the rooms in the living room. I think maybe we were even shaking my bed with [Unintelligible] or something like that and then this couple came in with a shy little boy who wouldn't even come into the corner of the room and we've made it a matched memory and decided that's when we first met. [Laughter]

LL: Interesting.

LM: So, I found among–my grandfather sent us the invitation to a wedding of his parents. We had to go to his mother – Oliver's mother – with [Unintelligible] but when he came to my school, passed my grandparent's house on [Unintelligible], and at that time, people knew everyone. As a young child, we were driving around the countryside and gramps –from the afternoon and grandpa would say "Oh, that's someone's new house." And that was someone's old house but now, there would be a new European taking over what was the old [Unintelligible] farm.

LL: Where was it? Where [Unintelligible]?

LM: To the city where they had more lucrative jobs and things like that.

LM: [Unintelligible]to high school and leave them also after being out of school for a year or so, but he went to school [Unintelligible].

LM: Your mother and your father graduated in 1904 from high school in Windham and for a woman to go to high school was very unusual.

LL: Yes. You said he just thought of electrical engineering then he got on to college, right?

LM: That's a start too. He went to Yale but when his mother found out he was taking engineering, he said that the minute he – the funds stopped.

LM: [Laughter] Actually, families are important so far, right? Well, that's a family story, it is.

LM: You don't need to tell her that. [Laughter]

LL: When your father bought his farm – so he graduated electrical engineering. Did he continue on working?

LM: Well, I don't know if he graduated but he had more schooling in electrical engineering.

LL: So then, how did he happen to leave Connecticut? He worked for [Unintelligible] and they sent him out, I think that was what you said earlier.

LM: Yes. He worked some at the power station in Southampton then as probably a contractor and [Unintelligible]. Not a very [Unintelligible]. In fact, I guess [Unintelligible] but he is one of the first people in [Unintelligible] probably committed to work. This had been in the late 20's and 30's.

LL: [Crosstalk] to get to work?

LM: He had to do a lot of people work.

LM: [Unintelligible], isn't it?

LM: No, they got colleagues in Indiana.

LL: Who did he buy this farm from?

LM: I don't know [Unintelligible] it was a dealer.

LL: So it wasn't unusual to do it like that, [Unintelligible]?

LM: Yes. Well, he was a dealer [Laughter] but farms were cheap then. We can't really compare – and he had how many boys?

LM: He had five boys at that time.

LM: Five teenagers.

LM: Well, we had five teenagers because [Unintelligible].

LM: Yes, but they were...

LM: There is an [Unintelligible] going, what, seven?

LM: Do it.

LM: No. My oldest brother –

LM: Okay. All right.

LM: [Unintelligible] about seven and I assisted him [Unintelligible].

LL: So what were your days like then growing up on this farm?

LM: My situation is probably a little unique because when she was talking about the incidence first meeting when I was seven. The reason I was with my sister at that time was [Unintelligible] my [father] died. He died in the spring of '32.

LL: Was it sudden?

LM: Basically, yes. [Unintelligible]

LM: That was before [Unintelligible] or [Unintelligible]. He caught pneumonia in the springtime.

LM: He had pneumonia [Unintelligible] because I was so sick.

LM: Yes, he got it also. They thought they were going to lose him too.

LM: [Unintelligible] that was who's next. They didn't even have a job [Unintelligible] or a place to go.

LL: So then after your father died then your older brother took care of the farm?

LM: He helped my mother around the farm[Unintelligible]went through the during different stages of doing things. [Laughter]

LM: However, your mother – he was really–he went to school and he was so young was because your mother wasn't at home.

LM: My mother was in the[sanitarium] at the time [Unintelligible].

LL: So she was in the sanitarium the time your dad died?

LM: No, she was not. [Unintelligible]

LM: He was arrested for a while.

LM: She would do nothing else [Unintelligible] [Laughter] She was home at that particular time.

LL: When did you – you said that she wasn't going at home at [Unintelligible].

LM: Actually, [Unintelligible]high school, it's correct that I do see all the [Unintelligible] allmy duties since I got my [Unintelligible] on operations. Working with the [Unintelligible] at the time.

LL: [Unintelligible]?

LM: No.

LL: Okay.

LM: The one thing that my mother gave me when he was in high school, she had him about [Unintelligible] because I was right with the ones who were home that particular time. At the farm there was the two of us together. So, I inherited the farm with the mortgage after the farm [Unintelligible] [Laughter] and I loved it because I've been so involved all the time in the lot staying in that so [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: So when did you meet then? When did you start to go together?

LM: That's another story. [Laughter]

LL: We need to bring you up to date. Let's go back up. I'm going to ask that to you. [Laughter] Let's go back to your school when you were young and as you were growing up, you went on to school also?

LM: Yes. After completing high school, I went to the[Unintelligible]and I took a two-year –

LL: Where was this?

LM: In Philadelphia. I think my grandmother was awed at the fact that I would go so far away from home.

LL: How did you happen to find him?

LM: Through a friend who were at the school and I was interested in making child experiences and religious visitations meaningful and vital and not just a humdrumthing. So I needed a three year course but they were destined at [Unintelligible] of making it a two-year. So I got clear with two years. I got my accreditation which is at that time was equivalent with a normal school. However, one of the motivations [Unintelligible] getting two or three years was because it was this guy[Unintelligible] that I found him interesting. [Laughter]

LL: How had you run back into him over the years? [Laughter]

LM: That's another long story. My widowed mother – my father died when I was nine and then when I was about 13, my widowed mother was [Unintelligible] Manning. He had a little brother that came along and he's taking me to go to school dances and we made sure to make toll house cookies, that was a new thing then. Then in the afternoon, he decided to show up, Oliver. Sometimes, Oliver went on to visit my cousin [Unintelligible] so that he didn't bother his and my cousin anymore. He would just hang around so we're going to school dances and things like that, and so my doors and my mothers were[Unintelligible]and...

LM: We [Unintelligible] [Laughter] accepted so well. [Laughter] I was brought into the picture.

LL: He was your brother's assistant?

LM: He was my brother's assistant, right.

LM: I went down to see what [Unintelligible] women, thought it was your uncle. [Laughter]

LL: That's right. [Unintelligible]. Okay, I got it.

LM: Meanwhile, his sister was in Philadelphia going to Women's Medical College in her doctor's and they – so we had to meet [Unintelligible] and as I said, we had mixed really at the beginning so [Unintelligible]so we came back and we got married. Of course some of the [Unintelligible] barn areas and that type of thing but we had our home and later, we're all good to [Unintelligible].

LL: So, have you been a traditional farm doing all these?

LM: Yes.

LL: When your father – who did the poultry business pass on to then?

LM: My mother. My mother struggled with it with hired help and I had even a coop of chickens [Unintelligible] and that type of thing, and my brother was nine years younger and I helped with him and I helped some at the farm. When I was very young, I was– there wasn't any friends to play with. I really wanted playmates but I was getting tagged along so I got to experience chasing chickens, touching chickens, finding the chickens that didn't really fit in, and I found later on when I worked with learning disabilities in school that not fitting in, I was very helpful and so... Then when I was a teenager, he worked at the farm and then he'd come over for supper and then he'd see him on the way in the morning. I learned ahead of time that some things are really notlike [Unintelligible] [Laughter]. So, we were like brother and sister for a while.

LL: So then naturally married. You were living on his barn.

LM: Yes.

LL: This is the dairy farm? Did you have any chickens at all? Does the poultry and dairy ever go together?

LM: Speaking of getting together, I remember as a young child delivering chickens to the farm with my dad, and the roads were very muddy. They were huge [Unintelligible]roads along that area and this was—as a very young child, [Unintelligible]. All we had was a few at one time. So, I had a chicken [Unintelligible] dozens of [Unintelligible].

LL: Did your mother's business then – was it producing the poultry? Producing the eggs?

LM: My father bred chickens for [Unintelligible] and breeding and he [Unintelligible] and he sold chickens too and chicks.

LL: How far away did he sell this?

LM: I remember delivering in Brooklyn. Particularly that was the time that the poultry business was expanding into different—in the Brooklyn area and all over. In fact, I remember in one place he delivers baby chicks to somebody's attic. This was back in – this was when the chickens [Unintelligible]—particularly in Women's College. I had pictures of a group of people visiting at the farm sitting on boards across boxes and this was the tour of poultry people, and I remember going on a poultry tour even in New Hampshire. This was before the day of the infection in the poultry business that really went from one place to another [Unintelligible]. My father died in 1938 in the spring.

LL: When did you [Unintelligible]?

LM: [Unintelligible]

LM: We had it earlier and had it drilled well so the chickens— I remember the [Unintelligible] and like that, they were young and they protected the house, and then slowly [Unintelligible] going with my mother and the hired men [Unintelligible]bailed water and made sure because we didn't have [Unintelligible]. We bailed water and the chickens [Unintelligible] and on my[father's hut], a lot of coops.

LL: Did they last through the hurricane?

LM: Yes, they did. The chickens are [Unintelligible]. They blew around but they got on the coop, like on the shelter.

LL: [Unintelligible]?

LM: We had a partner that was first – when my father and mother [Unintelligible], they built two separate buildings. One was a two-car garage and then our three-room apartment with a roof above it. That's how we got it. Later in the 30s,[Unintelligible] built another house. Well, built our house there today, and then we had first one single-story coop and then later several-decker coops.

LL: Like how many were they?

LM: [Unintelligible]around 20,000.

LL: About 20,000, that's big. Where was the hired men from? Were they local?

LM: Well, we had different local persons. We worked with different people. I remember we had a deaf-mute one time back [Unintelligible] and he was one good man. One of the things he did was all the grain from [Unintelligible], he was [Unintelligible] and he actually with the auto grain and I've shown him on the grain class and then he had grains and then he takes orders. So, he was on the first [Unintelligible] and he helped to organize [Crosstalk].

LL: Where was he coming to?

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: [Unintelligible]. Did you have a garden too for your own family use, especially garden [Unintelligible]?

LM: Not a lot. Early on, we had some garden and some garden but for the most part, it was [Unintelligible] and the first – the poultry [Unintelligible] and we had a dog, Bruce, who was a border collie and he kept the chickens in line. He kept the chickens from going across alone and the farm was located kind of on a terrace and it was blocked all around so [Unintelligible]. That is a [Unintelligible] but it wasn't a problem with the neighbors. Bruce was his dog. He was a very friendly [Unintelligible].

LM: Actually, we were in the chicken business too because we had I believe 500 of them at various times. In fact, when I first [Unintelligible] the chickens [Unintelligible] and get the boys to go to [Unintelligible]. You can't when you're getting ready to go to the 35, 40 [Unintelligible]. It flew down into [Unintelligible]. [Laughter] We had another building that was [Unintelligible] and there was kind of a hurricane and we lost some chickens and also – actually, my brother and I [Unintelligible] at that time, he [Unintelligible] so he put the chickens preferably in the old barn [Unintelligible] effectively in the farm [Unintelligible] poultry business back then.

LL: [Unintelligible] you should know?

LM: I just said it. [Laughter] Firm.

LL: Firm? Okay.

LM: [Unintelligible].

LL: All right, and you had a blue coop.

LM: Yes. My dad had built the coop, throw an incubator himself. I particularly remember having one bad chicken into the rest [Laughter] of the baby chicks.

LL: So [Unintelligible] right after that?

LM: Well, before my dad died, he was with the boys and he had [show birds] and [Unintelligible] and all of those types of things that we [Unintelligible].

LM: We had a Saturday route then.

LM: I don't remember but my sister does – actually, my mother started the route [Unintelligible] and the stuff that we manage. I do remember when my dad and sister [Unintelligible] in the 1930s.

LM: Yes, but he worked.

LM: He worked with all that kind of business and [Unintelligible].

LM: Your brother [locked up] is a good way of not having time for any arguments. [Laughter]

LL: So then you don't consider that you had a dairy farm because every time we're talking –

LM: We also did. My older brothers all had registered [Unintelligible]. I mean, it's [Unintelligible].

LM: Those were the ways then in what years?

LM: I think that was in the late [Unintelligible].

LM: Way back in the 70s, I did a rule study of our herd and I determined that three quarters of our dairy were hanging from those [Unintelligible], some of those [Unintelligible].

LM: You're talking about the offspring of some of the [Unintelligible].

LM: That's when we first married. I said, "Wow, if we had a barn full of those, we'd do okay." On we did.

LL: So then how many cows did you eventually grow your herd to?

LM: Probably about 125, [Unintelligible] on eight different farms and most of the people [Unintelligible].

LL: Talk about that. You said you had probably eight different farms. How close were they to your own farm?

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: So you said that you were growing the food, you were growing the corn and grains?

LM: Yes, [Unintelligible]

LL: Can you talk about the difference in the dairy farm?

LM: One of the differences was in the 1950s, we built the first trench silo in the state of Connecticut and it was an adventure at that time, what it'd look and with the dimensions of it was deeper, and when you were first visiting, it's always thinking to fine-tuning it. If we don't have the information for it, we wouldn't have built it like the [Unintelligible], but it worked. This plan of the land we have is grasslands, heavy and it's very difficult to dry the hay, and we got the fertility level up so well that we thought back that three days to dry the hay was difficult, and in fact, the university did an experiment on the fertility of our corn. At one time, they wanted the lot and they said it far exceeded what they got on the Corn Belt when they tested, partly because we mined it when we first outlined it all.

LM: [Unintelligible] taking on some to the [Unintelligible] in the state.

LM: It was the 1950s so if we got a truck filled, we would go to [Unintelligible] and bring back a load of lime. Anyway, so we started in 1950 with the trench silo, and when the silos become more and more—we saw one in Massachusetts [Unintelligible].

LL: Who was the [financial agent] at the time? Who did the [insurance pileup]?

LM: Probably the [Unintelligible] that first started it.

LM: [Unintelligible]. Once we had a thing—I mean I remember we were among the first [Unintelligible] but the thing that we really did, we just we didn't put the bull out with the [Unintelligible]. Our first cattle were bred artificially. I was keeping us [Unintelligible], and this doesn't mean a farmer who had more than 30 animal and he didn't know who was from who. So we had some very simple card file. We had a card for every animal that cross-referenced breeding, the HIA, and also [Unintelligible], and that one card—and he offered me [Unintelligible].

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: When is the year you were married?

LM: October 19, 1948.

LL: You had?

LM: Four girls between 1950 and 1955.

LL: Busy years. [Laughter]

LM: We had them so close together we didn't have a chance for [Unintelligible] program. [Laughter]

LL: You had parts on your girls. [Laughter]

LM: When it comes to the girls, it was great. We raised them tremendously and as they got a little older, the joke was, and we didn't tell you, that dad, you could do just beneath us. They did. They [Unintelligible]the machinery, they ran all of the machinery, and I remember [Unintelligible] that 12-year-old, we took her out in the lot one day and we said, "We want you to know how to drive this car. In anything happens to anybody around here, if you know how to drive, maybe you can know how to get help." So the theory was if they could do it, we'd encourage them to go get a hold of it.

LL: Did any of them go on to marry someone from any farm then?

LM: Our oldest one married [Unintelligible].

LM: He keeps the family where I come from.

LM: [Unintelligible]

LM: She wanted to be a vet. 1976, during the 80s, we drove halfway across the country and we visited vet schools all along the way. Just what were the possibilities?

LM: She might not have been able to get in if she didn't have an alternative [Unintelligible] and ended up with what she chose, Nutrition. [Unintelligible] helping me with the [Unintelligible] and now she's [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: Really? I thought you said she wanted to become a vet. [Laughter]

LM: She could be on the country with somebody who monitors [Unintelligible].

LL: Where did she go to school?

LM: [Middlesex].

LM: [Unintelligible]and she worked for a doctor who was in [Unintelligible].[Laughter] Eventually, she had her own business with –

LM: Clientele.

LM: She got herself expectant mothers [Unintelligible]she had to receive people, men and women going to their own business. [Laughter]

LL: Yes, very interesting. So, now, at the time when you were running your own farm now with the family, before they got old and actually helped, who helped you run the farm?

LM: At first, we did it all ourselves, in the first year, and then we would get occasionally a high schooler or a [Unintelligible]. Well, a couple of other times, nephews stayed with us – sixth, seventh graders.

LM: [Unintelligible] with my oldest nephew, but he got married.

LM: A lot of the times, at first, we had high schoolers. We had to teach them how to turn a wheelbarrow. [Laughter] We needed to wait but then a little later on with the high schoolers and then by the run, college students who were in agriculture or wanted to go into vet school and wanted the animal experience, hands-on experience. So, we had several working hands on [Unintelligible].

LM: [Unintelligible]

LM: We made milk but the young people were unemployed [Unintelligible]. Sometimes they boarded with us. One girl was the daughter of a counselor in Europe but she needed to be in this country for a little while so she was with us for a while. We had women and because we had our own girls working, the girls did everything too. As they got a little older, we said, “Okay, you can do what we have to hire somebody to do. Keep your eyes,” and we’d keep track of them but then we didn’t have to pay out the pocket so we said we’ll write out an IOU, and they earned their way through college – part of it, yes, because I kept a time chart, everybody kept a time chart and they had it all.

LM: At the end of the year, I wrote them a check and I wrote them a note to get the money back. [Laughter]

LL: Yes, I understand. [Laughter]

LM: She wanted to give up doing the lot. [Laughter]

LL: What were your neighbors like?

LM: Originally, some of them were producing milk except [Unintelligible] when I was in [Unintelligible].

LM: Most of the people were working on farms but very quickly, of course with the war, then they quickly went to Hartford and to New London for work.

LM: [Unintelligible]

LM: No. When I was around, there wasn’t even any guys in it.

LL: Then those that chose [education], you could [Unintelligible] if they were at the farm, but they went –

LM: They told you they were getting drafted.

LL: I understood that they drafted originally and then they discovered what was happening and they had to –

LM: I was just enough [Unintelligible] by the time I came along, [Unintelligible] it’s been a year and I think [Unintelligible]. Some other men that were too soon [Unintelligible].

LL: So then after the war, how many came back to farming?

LM: Most of them didn't. What year was it just that they started with [doctor's practice and knowledge?] '53, and at that time, we counted the [Unintelligible] a while and we counted, what was it, a hundred farms in the [Unintelligible].

LM: It might be in '46 when I started [Unintelligible].

LM: By that time, it had gotten to the hundreds.

LL: They sold out the [Unintelligible] or what happened to the farm?

LM: All of them were [gone]. If the folks got old and they went out and that's where I [Unintelligible] [laughter]

LL: Did you renew [Unintelligible] all the time?

LM: Well, when I first started farming in '46, [Unintelligible] 15,000 was just above the average. When I went out to about 125,000 in 1989, I was still just above average.

LM: That was average in production.

LM: Numbers.

LM: Numbers of cows.

LL: Above average. You said in 1946, average milking herd was 15 cows. This is the [Unintelligible] and you said he was above average. How many cows did you [Unintelligible] typically?

LM: [Unintelligible], probably in a year, it was [Unintelligible] 10. Herd average or cow average at that time, it was 7,500 I think. My herd average was 7,500 this year and it's [Unintelligible] average. I think for about '83, the state average was about 6,000 and the national average was about 4,000.

LL: Wow, okay. [Audio Gap] the changes that took place as you were in the primarily dairy business?

LM: Well, I think probably the biggest impact was the milking. [Unintelligible] that most people would make that big investment, bigger investors in the space, and thought they'd make a little bit more on the [Unintelligible].

LM: The other problem was you couldn't afford to justify the milking if you didn't have [Unintelligible]. So you had to get bigger, you got to get bigger or get out, yes.

LL: Then you went from what size to what [Unintelligible].

LM: Well, I think we didn't grow up that much immediately. [Laughter] I think it was like a [Unintelligible].

LL: Yeah, okay.

LM: The same year, [Unintelligible] the other. Everyday pickup.

LL: I see. So that's basically it doubles your [Unintelligible].

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: The problem is the [Unintelligible] They charge you, or that you were charged?

LM: The top charge has rented it every other day. So for the other day, you had [Unintelligible].

LL: Your expense has doubled basically.

LM: No. A minimum [Unintelligible].

LL: I think the other [Unintelligible] we might now and we don't hire anyway. Just to hire one person for one hour would cost [Unintelligible].

LL: Probably \$300,000.00 for the use of thing [Unintelligible]

LL: Okay. Could you have student labors anymore?

LM: No.

LL: Because you automatically [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: Okay.

LM: [Unintelligible] and the other thing we did in '75, [Unintelligible], and that made it very clear – and we've always operated with exemptions if anything happens to him or me, we wouldn't like [Unintelligible]

LL: If you hadn't incorporated that, you might now have?

LM: In 1976, the Federal State Tax [Unintelligible]

LM: I would mostly have somebody help me with a [Unintelligible] around here.

LL: What is your [Unintelligible] thing? You said she [Unintelligible] while you were getting your supplies through your dairy business. What is you [Unintelligible]?

LM: At that time, [Unintelligible] taken over the store owner. I can [Unintelligible].

LL: Then you had to pick it up, or did they deliver it?

LM: No, I usually pick it up, but I can [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LL: Did your [Unintelligible] – what did your [Unintelligible], the trench...

LM: Bigger trench [Unintelligible].

LL: Have you leased the other part or did you buy the other places?

LM: I bought one [Unintelligible] he was using.

LL: [Unintelligible] because of 490. You were in to [Unintelligible]?

LM: Yes. In fact, he was one of the first promoters of 490.

LM: You tax it, you [Unintelligible] optimum value, [Unintelligible].

LM: He was one of the first [Unintelligible] Another one too. [Unintelligible]

R: The clinical [Unintelligible] everything you have something, you can even live with. [Laughter]

LL: Who was [Unintelligible] it?

LM: Some of the student legislators. [Laughter] That's my –

LM: There was a big change as we went from rural to urban, and [Unintelligible] a lot of things happened.

LM: Well, one of the other things that happened was the 1965, 1966 when it was – county doesn't [Unintelligible] House of Representatives [Unintelligible] both of those representatives, up until then we always had two which in the last few years, we really had more than our share but when we took two or more, I said that was kind of unfair. [Laughter] That every time I have a representative.

LM: Then they divide the population and they cut it. [Audio Gap]

LM: [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LL: So, then when you have now sold out how many [Unintelligible] your farm?

LM: The biggest for me, [Unintelligible]

LL: This is probably the retirement picture.

LM: Definitely. [Laughter]

LM: Essentially, that's what people have. The farms when they retire. Then you get all [Unintelligible] tax.

LL: Does it help insuring incorporated?

LM: Well, incorporated may gave us a cushion that we used that the farm would be wiped out [Unintelligible] for either one.

LM: [Unintelligible] when the tax gets in. We probably wouldn't have bought it, but things grow in value. They hardly keep them. [Laughter]

LL: [Unintelligible] farms and trucks because of the things or the situations [Unintelligible]you mentioned, I want to switch the [Unintelligible] business. You mentioned international people coming [Unintelligible]. Were these primarily the students from Utah who came in, or were there others too?

LM: At first [Crosstalk] yes, farm use exchange. We had people from England, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark...

LL: [Unintelligible]

LM: ...and Nepal. Then we – 1948, I had been involved with [Unintelligible] International [Unintelligible] that was just before we were married and the farmers have looked after the animals before it was shifted to us.

LM: We have a holding area there. [Laughter]

LM: Then later on in the 1970, mid 1970s, we had trainees, farm trainees from Africa, and then over a period of time, we've had some several places in Africa, South America. Meanwhile, we've also shipped animals overseas. [Unintelligible] Guatemala, or the [Unintelligible], like Guatemala–

LM: [Crosstalk], how did...

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: How did you get –

LM: [Crosstalk] his brother worked for...

LM: [Unintelligible] in Utah, when he was [Unintelligible]

LM: We have a [Unintelligible] one. I remember the one we bought that is [Unintelligible] when was that?

LM: Princeton, New Jersey.[Unintelligible]

LM: Anyway, we bought this, we didn't want to ship, this is a young cattle we paid as much for her as you would a good cow. [Audio Gap]

LM: \$350.00 is [Unintelligible]

LL: In what year is that again?

LM: [Unintelligible]

LM: Anyway, we came home, we put [Unintelligible] on the back of the car and brought her home.

LL: Placed her at the back of the car. [Laughter]

LM: Yes. [Laughter]

LM: Inside of this.

LM: Inside of it. We made it. Okay. We took a rest stop and we used it and we stopped at one toll booth and the guy said, "Sit down at the toll booth." I want to make sure we're this is Labor Day weekend, I wasn't drunk. [Laughter] I had to go buy and they see these like big Mickey Mouse cow ears and profile slow down because they really see [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LL: How did you find your sales in these other countries? How did they go to other countries?

LM: People came asking for them because we had –

LL: When you bought it, it was registered and then let you have it?

LM: Well, yes, but according to the [IGGHIA] records–

LM: [Unintelligible] for these things for six years in a row, I think.

LM: [Unintelligible], and the other nice thing with this, we have student's goals that did use this occasionally, and those [Unintelligible], alright, sound would [Unintelligible]and they produced like crazy. So, we had [Unintelligible] plus they have a higher protein. That was before [Unintelligible].

LM: Most of the time.

LM: Most of the time. [Laughter] [Crosstalk] They were more fun to work with.

LL: These are pictures too with...

LM: We didn't do a lot of shopping, but some of them were...

LM: [Unintelligible]. That's one of my favorite pictures. This is me. [Unintelligible]

LL: That's wonderful. Which child [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: [Unintelligible] and our daughter, one daughter has [Unintelligible] so we had all [Unintelligible]

LL: So, were all [Unintelligible]

LM: No. [Unintelligible]. Only one [Unintelligible]

LM: We were the only ones that went that far with, anyways. [Laughter]

LM: So was that after the club, the club that she was [Unintelligible]

LL: So, when you [Unintelligible] you get a whole [Unintelligible]. You said with the others?

LM: You get a black [Unintelligible] Oftentimes, it was a [Unintelligible]. [Crosstalk] We enjoyed the [Unintelligible].

LM: Brown [Unintelligible], identification program. If the cow gives enough milk, [Unintelligible] then the next generation can [Unintelligible]

LL: As a brown [swift]?

LM: We have some [Unintelligible]

LL: Did you get involved in any activities in town or like you mentioned the farm bureaus for – did you get involve with anything in the [Unintelligible] or in other agriculture [Unintelligible]?

LM: One time, [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: Then all these church activities.

LM: [Unintelligible] 20 years now. [Unintelligible] some of the combinations with [Unintelligible]

LM: Regular thing is then just completed the study.

LM: [Unintelligible] took six years to [Unintelligible]

LL: Did you feel anything [Unintelligible]?

LM: For about 22 years I worked part time in a public school in [Boston]– before that, I substituted [Unintelligible] for 22 years I worked with special classrooms and I worked half day, half the time. I enjoyed the creative teachings [Unintelligible].

LL: This is why your own family is growing up.

LM: Yes.

LM: [Unintelligible]substituted [Unintelligible] two years in a row, [Unintelligible]. Otherwise, the [Crosstalk]

LM: I [Unintelligible] kindergarten, and the girl said “We can have you teaching full time, mom. [Unintelligible] [Laughter] and then but shortly afterwards, we had [Unintelligible] married and we had a little space. One must have been at the age of 16 and the others, I had parents and grandparents [Unintelligible]. Shortly after that time, we had[Unintelligible] trainees. I used commonly some other places for 1988.

LM: [Unintelligible] two years, we had [Unintelligible] two Chinese [Unintelligible].

LM: They were from Central China [Unintelligible] hands-on cow care.

LL: How did they find you?

LM: The director had previously spent one month with us, on her Sabbatical. She has written the manual, international manual on goat care, but she said, I wanted [Unintelligible] for my cow care, so she lived with us for a month.

LL: How did she find you?

LM: Well, through our donation of animals.

LL: [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible] daughters had been [Unintelligible]agriculture in China.[Unintelligible] international meeting, and he comes in our kitchen and talked [Unintelligible] for three hours and [Unintelligible] bright students.

LM: So six was there, very capable [Unintelligible] They’re with us and other farmers, and of course at that time, opened up farms.

LM: [Unintelligible] looking at that over a thing, whether it was a workable project [Unintelligible].

LM: So, two years we had Chinese trainees living with us and working at the farm. We were living at this house.

LM: We basically would’ve [Unintelligible] is paid an honorarium that paid their transportation over here and[Unintelligible].

LM: They had to pay their own transportation. One of them came and that’s two or three months old son and he got letters and [Unintelligible] child wasn’t doing too well. I got worried because I’ve had one girl from China and Africa. They’ve lost a baby while they were here, and that’s tragic. Finally got a letter, the baby is doing better now. [Unintelligible], and now Chan, is the director of the [Unintelligible] project, and they are feeding their people. I asked them one day, I said you’re a little smaller than some of the other Chinese and well, maybe it was because there wasn’t that much food when I [Unintelligible]

LM: Most of these people end up [Unintelligible], and we all knew [Unintelligible].

LM: In fact once they all came, they did not – they even have a picture of his wife and child, the one [Unintelligible]. He sent them back twice and he’s very helpful because he has the dialect [Unintelligible] and so they are – and our grandchildren, two of them, went to China a couple of years ago and they were treated like [Unintelligible] and people are feeding them stuff and they’re sharing [Unintelligible]

LM: They went with some of the [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: They're feeding the children, the children are getting schooling, they're getting houses, [Unintelligible]

LM: The fact that they were both [Unintelligible] government, but they were also [Unintelligible].

LM: I always wanted to travel [Unintelligible] unable to.

LL: How did you get involved with [Unintelligible] project to begin with? You said that that's how [Unintelligible] take care of the cow, but how does that [Unintelligible] to do your first [Unintelligible] project?

LM: The first one was I'd say, someone knew something about [Unintelligible] project and moved into us, and [Unintelligible] back in 1947, and we had [Unintelligible] into the denomination and we wanted something that was outside of this [Unintelligible] was one of the [Unintelligible]. [Crosstalk] I know I worked with her daughters [Unintelligible] organizing public health at the time, whether that was [Unintelligible].

LL: No, that's all right because this is the important part of what people [Unintelligible] farmers and agriculture and they have a picture and they don't [Unintelligible] of the contribution that people [Unintelligible] communities.

LM: I feel, so, the young people that we worked with over the years, the college kids [Unintelligible] and helped us, but it was a mutual experience for them and us along the way. [Unintelligible] skills and some of them are very skilled people in their own field. So, it's fun to see [Unintelligible] There were about five, four couples, and that [Unintelligible]. They were like extended family, and now they have kids. We were the first ones to hire women, we have our daughters, yes, sure we have some women and they did a good job, and yet [Unintelligible] to do that.

LM: [Unintelligible] Unites States. I mean, a lot of the women, that was – the inspector we're going to [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: Well, I know some of them where grandmothers were doing it. The guys were [Unintelligible].

LL: Well, let's just say that I almost know [Unintelligible] your brand satisfaction over these years, your life [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible] for young people.

LM: The young people.

LL: Your agriculture was a vehicle for doing this.

LM: Oh, yes. However, we did have some mothers that would come, why won't you please hire my son, oh boy [Laughter]

LM: I had one that I just couldn't – and he [Unintelligible]. [Laughter] I have boys that walked in on their own [Unintelligible] that I didn't know.

LM: Yes, that's one thing that I really [Unintelligible] heart goes out [Unintelligible] young people on [Unintelligible] accomplishing what to do.

LM: Necessary, productive...

LM: More than just taking out the garbage, and I know some days, we try to find help to pick up hay and [Unintelligible] there's a couple people and we're so glad you've [Unintelligible] if you need them, we decided to have them. The work and the liability is so restricted. They don't have the [Unintelligible] to do that.

LL: Is there insurance?

LM: Well, yes, but which [Unintelligible] is today, we don't have working compensation insurance and they found that you've hired somebody, they can fine you \$1,000.00. They have a basic policy, worker's comp policy that costs [Unintelligible] couple hundred dollars' worth of [Unintelligible], your basic price [Unintelligible] are pretty high, because agriculture is one of the higher markets, the last I knew, it was something like [Unintelligible]

LM: You don't want anyone hurt and [Unintelligible] equipment and machine, you've got to be careful with it. So, you want it well done and if someone got hurt, you wouldn't want them to be careful without moving your farm. So, it's a catch 22 for all of us.

LM: So we got to have enough turnover and hire enough labor so that you only have to take the basic rates at least, you don't have to pay the [Unintelligible] policy cost extra. That's the blank space in the [Unintelligible].

LL: What are some of the other mechanical changes that you thought are important? That you think are important?

LM: Well, it's basic. [Unintelligible]. We had automatic takeoffs [Crosstalk], there's just no comparison to which –[Unintelligible] the first to my memory, [Unintelligible], there was people that had no commissions in 1930 [Unintelligible] at that time. They have milking machines there. [Unintelligible] by hand again. All these various things, there weren't many days before, but most of them are [Unintelligible]

LM: The mechanization...

LM: This is how it works. If you had five cows for me and you had a lot of cows.

LL: And so the mechanization while you have bigger herds, but you have a [Crosstalk] problem too, you didn't need as many people although maybe that's working an odd with it because...

LM: One of the examples I like to give is about helping exchange [Unintelligible] on a wagon, and you're going to back up to the house, and you get there and it's late for dinner, so there needs [Unintelligible] to get another[Unintelligible], but if you take a truck and go down and drove [Unintelligible] and you go back up and back up and at 10:30, you go back and get another [Unintelligible] before dinner, you really did [Unintelligible] physical labor,[you got one caught up], and the men did more work too because [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: Yes, they're doing more faster. [Laughter]

LM: A lot more faster. When you [Unintelligible] a couple of acres a day and would you up and [Unintelligible] \$200.00 and less, [Unintelligible] an hour or half an hour, so all the difference in the world. I mean basically, at the time I would sign this one, I was doing [Unintelligible] I was taking care as twice as many animals than most people were, and [Unintelligible] more and more equipment and more and more help and all that because [Unintelligible] I was getting in my \$70.00 a week [Laughter]

LL: What did you do for leisure? That was work.

LM: [Unintelligible] helped the salesman [Unintelligible]. They talk and talk and talk, but we had an arrangement with the salesman. The salesman that got sent to me, I'm the one who's supposed to say... [Laughter]

LL: Did you take any vacation?

LM: I was lucky. Well, two things happened. One thing is I started farming in 1st of February 1946, and then 1st of December 1946, I had to [Unintelligible]. I was in the hospital, so [Unintelligible] and so if I can take two weeks off [Unintelligible] whatever the rate was, most of the time I could get away for three days.

LL: Which was unusual for [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible] we talked, was with the [farm] group. Well, that was the second. The first one we took our daughter to look after the farm and we went across the country [Unintelligible]. Then later on, we took the farm [Unintelligible] [Laughter] and that was so helpful to see huge dairy farms and some of the things we need, this is what we do.

LM: Might not work [Unintelligible] almost not still working. That's beside the point, that's another...

LM: Than we thought –

LM: My justification [Unintelligible][Crosstalk]

LM: That was when I went to school in Hawaii and we had a native with it, from Hawaii.

LM: We looked up people [Unintelligible] knew over there. I went to the extension office –

LM: In Honolulu.

LM: In Honolulu, and they've contacted the person that's there in Hawaii, and I got a tour of six farms and [Unintelligible]. I mean, we didn't go to Waikiki Beach. [Crosstalk]

LM: That was later.

LM: Basically, then we went to the 16 ranches, well I don't know the – when the farm managers thought of it and [Unintelligible] and got married. He took a picture of us with them [Unintelligible]. These people walked in...

LL: How did your daughter [Unintelligible] one?

LM: [Laughter] [Unintelligible] He was teaching [Unintelligible]

LL: [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: She was a student. That was a little – it was a [Unintelligible]. [Laughter] Then she went to college.

LM: It would cost us [Unintelligible] to send her to college.

LL: What do you think the future of agriculture is in Connecticut?

LM: Well, I think it depends a little bit on what some of the pros of being recognized. This is one of my last episodes when they were having a breakfast for [Unintelligible] I decided I was going down, [Laughter] and I got a chance to talk to the government group. I sat through a point [Unintelligible] I said,

“I don’t think you really appreciate what agriculture does to you in the State of Connecticut. [Laughter] I’m not outspoken. I’m a little shy but when I want to say something, I say it. [Laughter]

LL: So, what did he say?

LM: [Unintelligible] gentleman being a farmer [Unintelligible] [Laughter] Well, once I get involved in some of these...

LL: Well, on the other hand it seems that you’re concerned that [Unintelligible] [Audio Gap]

LM: Probably unique in that bit. Probably one of the first [Unintelligible]

LL: Have they talked to you up from the [Unintelligible] area? There’s [Unintelligible] that they’re trying to do this. [Unintelligible] leave the town. They’re trying to do it. [Audio Gap]

LM: It’s done, here our prototype. Just a...

LL: So they could use it as a reference to see how they did it. Somebody up in northeast area, some [Unintelligible] up there.

LM: As it is, the farm that we had, and across the road and [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible] property. This is the first operating farm that they [Unintelligible] at the time, it was [Unintelligible], but this was the complete unit going.

LM: Then on the other hand, one of our neighbors come to us [Unintelligible] what she did, and I guess maybe that’s something I could do too.

LL: How long did it take to process?

LM: [Five years].

LL: [Unintelligible] have in Connecticut, as they pass the law that they did back in [Unintelligible].

LM: Well, at first they put some money out [Unintelligible]

LM: That’s part of what...

LM: The cost. There’s coops in there, in which [Unintelligible]. We took about [over] four years, but here’s one of the things I’ve worked on it, 45 years ago trying to get the program [Unintelligible] before the state – at least probably before the state got into it, and then get into [Unintelligible] all these years in case you ever applied in it. This is [Unintelligible] assets and capitals that they [Unintelligible], why should I [Unintelligible] I sold one asset, it’s growing. To guarantee, we said agriculture having [Unintelligible] and they’re trying to study milking the cows at the time we bought the [Unintelligible].

LL: The nature that someone like him as a person who started in agriculture...?

LM: [Unintelligible]

LM: He put his money into the [Unintelligible] [Laughter] You’ve got to erase that. [Crosstalk]

LL: Is there anything else you’d like to talk –

(End of Interview)