

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

Interviewer: Luane J. Lange, CANR, Extension

Name of Person Interviewed: Lucille - Oliver Manning, Interview #2  
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LL: [Side Conversation] All right. Lou Anne Lang here, continuing the interview with Oliver and Lucille Manning. We didn't finish. [Laughter] So, how do you want to start this today? You want to start talking about the nitty gritty?

LM: We want to start talking about specific things that's so special.

LL: Let's start with the nitty gritty. How do we do that? Okay.

OM: Yes, when I was first - I can remember people bringing gravel to put in the yard in the dump cart got two horses. Also, another 10 years I can remember we had a home. It'd be a double, a square box with steel bridges that late in the afternoon some in the days when it had thawed, we would go down scrape the road and smooth it up so when it froze up, we could ride on it [laughter] for the next few weeks.

LL: To clear it and then because of mud?

OM: Well, most of it was dirt road. Know where you're going.

LL: Do you do this with other farmers in the area that each took care of their own section of road? Is that what this is?

OM: No, this was [laughter] a special set up. I don't remember just how my brother talked the town into loan us the homes. We could [laughter] shut the door in any way we did.

LM: It wasn't only the hones. Hoeing of the roads and clearing it up.

OM: This is special. Each spring I had a road grader pulled by an old Caterpillar tractor that they went through straight the ditch and back into the middle of the road and threw the stones on the edges so next year it was muddier. [Laughter]

LM: Before that, they had oxen pulling them.

OM: I don't remember. [Laughter]

LM: Right. Why the road - they've been using roads was choose your route carefully because dad is delivering chicks, baby chicks, newborn.

LL: Chicks?

LM: To the ponds. Must've been - this farm was one of the - because I really - that's where the pussy willow has been great and I was - that was before I went to school. Of course, I didn't go to school until I was in first grade so I was - I tagged along. Lots of trees and they were oh, boy. I remember when it was too early [Unintelligible]. It was frozen and it came out of the hill and it was bad. Now, the farmers on the other hand, they were talking with the assistant the common points. They helped each other to do the cracking. For example, when it was corn cutting, they go from farm to farm, the local farmers and helped each other. They were [Unintelligible] and then go on to the next farm to get their crop in due course. Of course, the house, the wiser grandmas served it to the crew.

OM: They said they were starting back the cut, the [yada yada]. The same cuts, you put high stakes on the sides and then you use cutting [Unintelligible] across the corn. You're going to cut the corn by hand with a corn knife and you throw the corn on your wagon and that way, you could pick it up. We probably had two or three teams that would be taking it to the farm and then they dump the cut to the corn, the corn of the grower and you have to put each about three starts and then [laughter] the chopper, the motor, the pipe into silo.

LL: What was used for energy to make that in the chopping?

OM: I know that they had - when I had corn, we were on probably [Unintelligible].

LL: Generator?

OM: Motor.

LL: Motor.

OM: We used our own motor in the chopper. I think the first I remember within a year or two I've got - one of the neighbors had a tractor and we blew the tractor and my dad bought a tractor in '39 I believe which was the time they did that.

LL: Do you have any idea how much the tractors cost?

OM: I'll look if I can find the invoice when we brought it. [Laughter]

LL: That would be terrific. I would like to see...

OM: It was around \$1,500.00 the tractor and some of the equipment that went with it. The tractor is something I'll suddenly [Unintelligible] on.

LM: One of the problems were [dangerous things] ago since I knew [laughter] just why the flat belts that will be how long?

OM: Well, you probably put the tractor a little 15 feet away from the chopper for various reasons. [Laughter] I don't know all of them but part of it was accident along the belt. We had to stay down better than nothing.

LL: What happened when these belts broke?

OM: Well, I could tell you some interesting stories [laughter] about the belts. One of them, my sister was down and about and the neighbors got very badly hurt because they didn't wait until the belt had stopped biting after it stopped and then tried to push it off and speed up. What happened, the belt started pulling the shed back there. I think both died, I'm not sure but I also remember once, my brother's later - I wasn't there [laughter] but he was telling me about it. The belt came off and wrapped around the coil on the tractor and so it was dropping dirt and stones and stuff 20-30 feet [laughter] in the air while it was... [Laughter]

LL: How did they shut it off then?

OM: [Laughter] You didn't. You let it run out of gas [laughter] because you didn't dare get near.

LL: Get near it, yes. [Laughter] So farm safety was a real issue back then.

OM: [Laughter] Yes. It still isn't totally safe. [Laughter]

LM: Back then, it was hazardous in many ways. My father had a drilled well and this pump and exposed belts with the belt pump and the pulley. It's a small one but that one corner in his pants caught in it one day and he got a slight burn. After that, he didn't wear any padded pants anywhere.

LL: As I've talked to people, there had been incidences of fires. Fires were of all kinds, combustion in the coils sometimes.

OM: Usually that would be hay mounds. In about 1940s, many people started putting chopped hay and there's many instances I think the combustion was in the hay mounds. I had an incident myself where one night, I got stuff blown in although it was a little bit too wet. I knew it was going to start that night and cut the - picked up the outside swarth and chop it in the morning. Probably it was a week later, [Unintelligible] because it was time for the town's fair, I remember. [Laughter] By the end of the morning, I just smelled the heat. I can smell heat. Because of that, I often wondered how other people watch their mounds because I sensed it when it was probably early on...

LM: Just before that, there had been a barn that had burned because of that. In fact, the fire company pulled out the hay and as they pulled it out, it ignited because it was exposed to the air.

OM: Anyway, I watched it all night. Take the stake [Unintelligible] heat thermometer. It was up in Litchfield County.

LL: A heat thermometer?

OM: It was a thermometer that was semi-protected. It's on a long stick...

LM: It was on a long metal rod.

OM: Probably 15 feet long, you just stick it into the middle the bale and see if the temperature is in the center. As I recall, the temperature was up around 185 which is getting close to the point where it rose - raises fast.

LL: So then what would one do before the fire started?

OM: What I did, I kind of watched it that night and as soon as it blew smoke in the morning, my brother came over and we threw out about a ton of hay at the very top of the pile this extra heap because the steam had been going up, making it very damp and we threw that off and within 15 minutes, the temperature was right down to less than 180.

LL: So it was caused by not dry hay but the moist hay that will be like a compost.

OM: Yes. It created heat. The dry hay won't combust. If the hay is over - down about 30 something degrees percent moisture, it has a tendency to heat. If it's - if you put hay in a tray style and you try to have it around 65 degrees so that it [Unintelligible]. At 65% moist is it will go [Unintelligible]. If it's higher than that, it's kind - it's kind of messy sires.

LM: What we're needing is a [Unintelligible] char with it and later on in the year, you pull out this dark charred hay.

LL: Which can't be used?

OM: Well, actually it's caramelized and the cows almost enjoy it. [Laughter] It's almost sweet.

LM: Like caramel corn. [Laughter]

OM: It's caramelized. That was one of my incidents myself with it. There's rooms with charred hay, actually. First we mowed it and made hay and then put it through the chopper, the blower and then it must've been late 40s when my brother bought a field chopper and he chopped it in the field.

LL: So when you're chopping - forgive my lack of agriculture. How big are the pieces when it's chopped?

OM: Between an inch and two or three inches. It's two inches probably.

LM: Right.

LL: Yes. I think it's hay mills when they had to fork it down and then it was just hay. It wasn't...

OM: That would be...

LL: Way back.

OM: Well, my first memory of putting up hay was you rake it with a dump rake and then my first job was riding the horses. Well, my older brothers built the road and then it got to where I had to help moving around stuff and the...

LL: How old were you when you were riding horses?

OM: [Laughter] Probably seven. [Laughter] I was much older than that when I started driving a truck. [Laughter]

LL: Yes.

OM: Then of course as I graduated, I got where I built the road and all my brothers kind of positioned it from the ground and I stomped it in and then it got where I actually built the road myself. I

hate to brag but I think I probably can build a better road [laughter] than that 99%. [Laughter] I built some pretty big ones. [Laughter]

LL: You talked about sharing the cropping and somewhat - whose equipment was it and how did anyone decide - like rain was forecast, whose crops got taken in first?

OM: You didn't. On the actual hay, most people with the corn silos where some people had anything the motor or the tractor running or the [Unintelligible]. But that was it.

LM: Who had those machines?

OM: Well, we got it one time. Then two months after that that we had our own.

LL: So when he had the only one and he would take it from place to place, then did others pay towards it?

OM: Yes. You hire them to - you're going to hire them to help get you around or you traded help move it around and tell them where you have to do it.

LL: You trade a lot of help?

OM: Greater than that. My brothers, a lot of them they were trading that between themselves and my cousins, they had a [Unintelligible] to support the hay.

LM: You help me and I help you and you shared equipment so there was only one equipment.

OM: This is one of the reasons why it irritates me now. You promise to exchange help or hire each other's used equipment except anybody doesn't have any decent equipment. The state has to get a 6% used tax on it.

LL: When you hire each other?

OM: Yes. [Laughter] How's that? [How high] can it be? [Laughter] Because you have to do it a different way than you did years ago.

LL: Did that come in within the last 10 years?

OM: No, I guess a little more than that. It's about 10 years ago when the registrations - it is a big favor. They took tax off from the used parts and put it on all services.

LL: Because that's when they started putting taxes on other kinds of things too. Now, didn't they take that back off of agriculture?

OM: Not yet.

LL: Not yet? They took it off of some things. About two years ago, they took it off of some things and I can't remember like landscaping or something that was - something not at the level that you're talking about. Interesting. [Laughter]

OM: In fact that I brought that up in the legislatures when we had a farm meeting the other night. [Laughter] I told them it just doesn't make sense to have this type of law that evens efficient use of exchange equipment and labor. [Laughter]

LL: What about the roads and the ability to get in and out of town? Now, how far for the tape? I'm from where your center of town was which was Lebanon at the time. Still is?

OM: Well, Lebanon San Antonio went to church but purchases was from Willimantic. The other interesting thing I can remember as a child between six and 10 was that they had a red man in and out, there was a fisherman that came around, there was a Rally man that came around.

LL: Rally?

OM: Rally. I think they called him and he had spices and stuff.

LL: Can you spell Rally? Is it like Rally cigarettes or was it a colloquialism?

OM: No, it was a particular name.

LM: It was a trade company and they carried...

OM: Spices at the time.

LM: Spices, herbs, also over-the-counter home remedies like the poultices.

LL: Yes. Slowly blowing the entire state.

OM: Yes.

LL: Yes. It was a big company that used to travel initially when I did this up in the state.

OM: In fact, the other one was Bricktop Laundry Laundromat used to collect laundry. Some of the people, at least from us because we got a pretty big bag of laundry done all the time. [Laughter]

LL: Well now, this goes off to something else. When electricity came to these houses, until that time, the home part of it was done and I've heard people talk of the fact that the power companies were promoting a whole use of electricity and appliances and so on because the farms by themselves wouldn't have a needful on the electrical service sufficient to be able to allow you to have a pole. Do you remember any of this happening in this area? You had to pay for your own pole when they came up here.

OM: Yes. Well, I predict if you have a long driveway, you had to have extra poles in there. I know even though my dad was an electrical engineer at Montville, we didn't have electricity. It got to within about a half a quarter of a mile of us for how many years.

LL: What year was that? What years would be...?

OM: Well, my dad died in '32 so it was probably '32 it was coming up from south [Windham]. We didn't have it until '38. Yes, because I can remember before we had a refrigerator put in the floor so it would stay cool between meals or anything that was left over or the milk that we brought up in the house.

LL: You had ice?

OM: Well, we use - put it on the south row and make it about 50 [Unintelligible] at 60 degrees.

LM: In the house it was the local - most of the year there was a little [Unintelligible] monitor in the basement anyway.

LL: Okay.

LM: There was a bit...

OM: Drain out of the corner.

LM: Drain out of the corner and that actually bring the [Unintelligible] underneath the road.

OM: It didn't drain any [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: So then to bring water in the house, was this the same stream when they diverted?

OM: No. We had two wells, one in the yard and one out in the field. Of course, folks can move there but the one out in the lot never goes dry because he built it.

LM: Pail is dry. [Laughter]

OM: You put a wall, you put a three inch piston water pump behind it and you pump it dry. [Laughter] Then you put a toilet on it and then you put water bowls in the barn for the cows. [Laughter]

LM: The cow drinks about 10 gallons of water for every gallon of milk.

LL: Through that water supply?

LM: Later on, before we expanded, we made sure that we had an adequate water supply. Before we expanded. We have a drilled well.

OM: It's two but it's - [Crosstalk] drilled well would've been in about '46. It was the time before I took over. Maybe even '45. I checked the pump but it only had gas or [Unintelligible].

LM: So people who rely on a natural pond or streams, when drought sets becomes - Lebanon has many springs and my personal theory is that this is one reason why the area has sudden growth. There are springs in various places. It's where the works begin. There's two reasons. Not getting someone else's filth from a run through water and you have clean, fresh and good supply of water. There was a little pond down in the Kick Hill Road bridges the waterline...

OM: Chappell Road.

LM: Chappell Road by the pond which is a water supply and frozen that goes down the crest. The vision and there was a little pond there that always seemed to have water just down the hill from the farm and they dug into that and they found a fantastic spring.

LL: How did Kick Hill Road got its name? You named a couple of other roads that was strange names too to me.

OM: Chappell Road it's from the haunted chapel, three houses further down the road. [Laughter]

LL: The road in his house.

OM: He was apparently murdered in about 1885. That's another long, long story but as Ian say, just an interview. This is an old [Unintelligible] for years and years and years. Obviously, compared to what the [Unintelligible] at that time because he had things in the oil spill and he had a big house and...

LL: Beautiful house and servants.

OM: Maids in his quarters.

LM: They say that early on, even slaves built the walls near.

LL: So money became his mistress [laughter] after his - he has the same shelves up here? Is that what you're...?

LM: No.

LL: Then he was murdered.

OM: He was murdered but I think it was about...

LL: They never found out?

OM: Nobody was ever finally - prosecutor, the police department [Unintelligible]. If some people in the old [Unintelligible] was the judge at the time. Sometimes they got saturated. We suggested what we thought was...

LL: Interesting story. [Laughter]

LM: I end up with a woman who had spent 20 years as a missionary in China and she was a child. The folks were just going to move in and help me.

LL: So you had no other relatives?

OM: Well, she was a niece or something. [Laughter] But he [Unintelligible] himself for many years.

LL: Just then things changed in agriculture, what do you think had been some of the biggest challenges? I see you have some papers here too and I wish those things would - might relate to that.. [Laughter]

OM: I know where there was a [Unintelligible] or something he has to run but I couldn't remember that type of a piece of equipment [Unintelligible]. I can remember using it for the corn to...

LL: That's quite small actually. From front to back, how many feet?

OM: Not over six, it will be only five. [Laughter]

LL: Yes.

LM: That's a dump cart.

LL: All right. It was pulled by two horses?

OM: Yes.

LM: The other thing, way out in the fertile lots, there would be piles of stones only three feet high and there would be dump cart loads of stone that was just dumped.

LL: In the corners of the lots.

LM: Or in the lot or past the trees that was very - they call bony which really means...

OM: Stoney. [Laughter]

LM: Stone.

OM: Basically, it went from doing almost everything by hand. There were hay loaders in 1900s because I have a catalog from Sears [Milford] that had hay loaders listed in it for \$26.00 or \$36.00 or something. Most people in Lebanon didn't have hay loaders since after 1930.

LL: What year would you say the catalog was from?

OM: I think it was four.

LL: Okay.

OM: We get many drivers [laughter] [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LM: True. [Laughter]

OM: She was looking at just being an accountant at 18.

LL: Oh my goodness, yes.

OM: Then later in the book, there was accounts and my mother and my brothers in the 1930s.

LM: I've got 1938 accounts for the family. The account book.

LL: So those become very important because they're detailed stories. They help set the timing and the price of things and...

OM: [Laughter] Granted. That was...

LL: Yes, so you had ledgers from the middle 1800s.

LM: I have ledgers from...

OM: [Laughter] When they were listed in pounds in money.

LL: [Laughter] I hope your family knows about all this and they have sworn to keep them. Are you going to turn them over on Lebanon Historical Society or something?

LM: Well, no. Just like what happened with the barracks at [Unintelligible].

LL: Let's see.

OM: Think of the paper you generate now to have 100 years of...

LL: Let me see. Look at the handwriting. Look at this.

OM: From 1874.

LL: 1874. Wow. 1877.

LM: These are from my - pulled out on my other book.

LL: So these are bills of sale?

LM: Yes.

LL: Okay. Well, that doesn't say what they found on these records with people, with the transactions and that's how they could kind of surmise what the wealth of the community was or the wealth of the family or who within the family or who was working there and - that these become very important documents.

LM: I know. I didn't understand that because this depends on time.

LL: Yes, that's right. [Unintelligible]. [Laughter] Less time to report, isn't it? [Laughter]

LM: We use this book. It's one of the resources put together.

LL: Okay.

LM: We had a spring annually [Unintelligible].

OM: The tanner. Show me the one where they said about stock.

LL: Norwich town.

LM: Yes, this is the shop in Norwich town and here is this...

LL: Cheddar cheese.

LM: Before. With this all, [Unintelligible] his great grandpa sold this one. I was good - I had a court for this one.

LL: I guess so. [Laughter]

LM: This was just an old book. [Laughter] So, we here we are.

LL: Listen, I know we're together, we're talking about reading. Yes, go ahead.

OM: [Laughter] My dad's early class was - didn't fare very well because he didn't wear a reading glass so we read it [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: He had good memory. [Laughter] Wow. This jumps in from the 1870s to 1938.

OM: Well, no. There's a gap in between.

LL: Yes, right. There are some blank pages in the middle.

OM: This was - we used the book.

LL: Yes. Used the book, yes.

LM: It's a leather bound book and in fact at the town hall, old books are all leather-bound. Excuse me, they had redone these books. You can read down here.

LL: Now, at some point, do you know when they changed from the pounds and pence to...

OM: I think whenever the books make.

LL: Did these ever change to dollars?

LM: These are all dollars.

OM: Yes. These are dollars. This one was out of the new book.

LL: I see. All right.

LM: Yes, that's out in the old book.

LL: I see.

LM: The old book changes.

LL: Yes, very interesting. Now, just the history of it. Very interesting. Okay. What else do you want to - this is 1938.

LM: This was the year of the hurricane.

LL: That's right. 1938 hurricane. Now, what happened to...?

LM: Just before the hurricane, they got the electricity. I noticed in January, February, they had purchased the refrigerator actually on time.

LL: Oliver's rubbers. They've got some boots that year for \$1.25.

LM: Yes.

OM: [Laughter] '38, I would've been what? Teenage.

LL: Black, red and darning there.

LM: He kept everything.

LL: All of them for church?

LM: \$0.05. Yes.

OM: [Laughter] Well, this was after the rest of my brothers and sisters were on their own. Of course, I was - after that, I was turning this on my own.

LL: Kerosene. There's kerosene each month for the lamp.

LM: Yes.

LL: Yes. Worth \$3.69 here and then over here, it's \$3.00 or something so that was a primary expense back then.

OM: Yes, it was probably delivered and put in two or three 55-gallon drums if I can remember.

LL: Haircut for Ernest, \$0.40. Rat poison. [Laughter] Oliver's gloves. [Laughter]

LM: Big expense was Federal Land Bank.

LL: Well, here for land. That's rent. That's the other town. [Laughter] We've got rat poison here and rat trap over here. Federal Land Bank, here you go. So what were they doing?

OM: Well, they paid the mortgage.

LL: All right. So, how did they get it from the land bank? When did this happen?

OM: Well, the land bank situation started up late '20s, I believe. Basically, the federal government put the basic funds into it, finally fund cooperative fund credit at it is and now, bought the stock and got their name there. This was only in the last 30 years. [Laughter]

LM: No, the story goes about when your father came back into town. Of course, he was ineligible to man it so he borrowed some money. Do you remember what the...?

OM: [Laughter] Yes, that's one of the stories because some of the people in the bank he went to high school with. [Laughter] He went in one day to borrow money while they were signing for the [Unintelligible] for the eastern states green or what it was but for his own use. [Laughter] Anyway, he got it that way. [Laughter] The old Windham National Bank.

LL: Yes. [Laughter] You forget. Now, what is this? It says rent from marsh land. This is income evidently. Difference of balance due. I'm looking at the column here. At that time, were they renting some - am I right? This is what they were getting for land?

OM: No, I'm not sure.

LL: \$25.00 here and \$25.00 here. It looks like every month they get \$25.00 from somebody for rent. It doesn't look like - it's not in the same column.

OM: No. I don't know. I'm not sure. That one just doesn't ring a bell with me.

LL: Now, look at this person. Total at the end of the month, groceries for the month. Took all the itemized items and total about \$21.33 per month. Now here, this brings up another point. Grocery A for and then there are some initials for March. All right. So they were helping someone. Did people - who took care of the people in the community when there were people who were in need? They didn't have all the...

OM: No, I'm not sure whether my mother had a little bit of life insurance for my dad so the time comes, a lot more than most people have.

LL: Sure.

OM: Most farmers didn't have any life insurance until - well, even when I was getting there, very few farmers had life insurance.

LL: Yes.

LM: 1950.

OM: 1950. I guess my dad had a good job and he's - he had a large family so he - I forgot now whether he had \$5,000.00 or \$10,000.00 worth of life insurance.

LM: No. Again, how [Unintelligible] in long tradition in the church.

OM: Took care of it.

LM: Took care of it for he tried to find - I'm going to insert he did have boot. There would be some clothing found and she'll recycle. I remember.

OM: I remember buying clothes from a person who had one [Unintelligible] and that was two or three years older than ours and we bought clothes from them all the time in about 25%. [Laughter]

LM: Yes, I used to buy second hand clothes from the firm for my own girls at about 25% of the cost.

LL: Sure.

LM: She was an only child and that helps a lot with my four girls.

LL: Absolutely.

OM: Of course, my wife was laughing at me. We went into Salvation Army the other day and I bought five pairs work-type pants for \$14.00 where [Laughter] probably each one of them would cost more than that new.

LL: That's right. Well, I have many friends and relatives and children who shop that way. [Laughter] Now, this is interesting. Here's your laundry. That's interesting to me that the people actually sent their laundry out. Why wasn't it done at home?

OM: Well, two reasons for our family. Because my mother was sick and away and my teenaged sister was going to school.

LL: Men didn't do laundry. [Laughter] No, I'm just saying back then, it was not the thing that would've been done. You wouldn't have had the necessary - the washing machines are not here, there's a refrigerator that was purchased, \$150.00 for refrigerator.

LM: Yes. Before the electricity got in and I also noticed there's a note in there about how much the wiring costs for the house that time before electricity.

LL: That's interesting. [Laughter]

LM: That wired the whole house.

OM: Well, finished partially. [Laughter]

LL: Then there's transportation to school and transportation college and something etcetera. Very interesting.

OM: Let's see. At that time, my youngest sister was - in fact, the day of inheritance, she was headed for Cornell. She never got there until two weeks and they couldn't understand why she couldn't come to school. [Laughter]

LL: Was she on the roll?

OM: No, she was sitting in the aisle, ready to come out of the aisle.

LM: The weather was so nasty and they watched the chicken coop go down. The house shifted on its foundation four, five, six.

OM: The house next door [Unintelligible]. Many of the old buildings at the farm took off at that time. Well, we got a picture on here that shows what it looked like around the next day and they talked about this devastation. [Laughter]

LM: The other thing is, the way you cleared the road, there was no mechanical saws. We used the old-fashioned crosscut, one man on each side that culminated in the weight...

OM: The local tent [Unintelligible] probably just three trees. These three that were two-and-a-half to three feet in diameter across the road.

LL: What happened to the cows and the chickens?

OM: Well, the chickens...

LL: The chickens were in the coop.

OM: The chickens themselves were reasonably - I can remember, we had chickens out on - we call that on range and small open houses and we were going to put them in this poultry house. He said it went down and there's 35 [Unintelligible] that my dad had bought don't want to be the last thing to be done. Instead, picking up the chickens in the early part of the storm and then the bottom of the building started going out like that and he decided of [laughter] pulled during the day.

LL: So you left them out in the rain?

OM: So he left them and went in the house.

LL: They survived?

OM: Most of them survived. Anyway, it was 30x40 coop. It was about 10 or 15 feet away from this big old apple tree. That coop opened up and went right up against that tree for about a minute before it broke and crumbled down. In fact, one of my sisters was in the car ready to leave. It was up there, they drove away, moved the car out of that area then it landed. [Laughter]

LL: Something you don't forget.

LM: Well, the other part of it is...

OM: [Unintelligible].

LM: They wouldn't plow the road unless...

LL: You didn't have to go anyplace. Is that what the thought was?

OM: The biggest problem is you had to carry the milk in the truck and I can remember from '32, we had to take the crosscuts with the wagon and brought the milk didn't stale. Even after I was a farming after 46, there was a problem and then the problem, I rode it on, even after - yes, even after 46. A lot of days, I took the milk on the tractor up to the neighbor's milk room and he said if he was milking out in the farm so that they'd be sure to be there when the truck came in because I remember I couldn't guarantee I can get up the next day at 7:30 in the morning.

LL: You helped do this book on Lebanon?

LM: Well, I helped again with the...

OM: Some of the information.

LL: I haven't realized the last time I was here that I was passing the [Unintelligible]. [Laughter] Is the Trumbull relative to help fund this [Unintelligible]?

OM: Yes, in Trumbull Avenue.

LL: Yes. I understand he's - I don't know why or where he is but that he's never been to Lebanon.

OM: Yes, he's been to Lebanon.

LL: Yes?

OM: Many times.

LL: All right.

OM: I'm sure that the last few years there's been more towns, I guess. One of my projects was getting 150,000 pounds of camera equipment rotating here and up into the gaps so that I can take a picture of the [green] at 7:30 in the morning. [Laughter] They didn't tell me that when they asked to unlock the church in the top. [Laughter] I used the bell rope to tie it on the camera and then I pulled it up while the bell locked up so the thing carried it up.

LM: I think that's the unique thing about [Unintelligible] is creating, testing and making something work. My sister come in and fix the toilet, she came bubbling over just before the Christmas dinner. Who went to the rescue? It was the farmer's son in law. [Laughter] [Side Conversation]

LL: Let's go on then. Anything else that you can think of before we switch to her unique side?

OM: I don't know if you want to talk - the progression is, say, to haymaking? I first remember when I would have been seven or eight years old to what it is now?

LL: Yes, do hay because other people have talked about the dairy industry and how that changed. If you do that, that would be good.

OM: As I first remember...

LL: Okay. Go on with hay.

OM: ...because I was talking about building hay, the hay was pitched down by hand. That would be in the 30s, early 30s. You went to chop and first you had the hay on the truck. They load it into by hand in different - grow and chop hay that way. Then after that, we did quite a few chopping in I think about 4:00 in the morning, so we chopped the hay in the field after it was dry and dumped it out of the truck, and then moving into 1950, we could have been one of the first [Unintelligible]. First it was [Unintelligible] and then they tried to get it to higher so it was now aged which is [Laughter] in-between.

LL: How many usually were there?

OM: Yes.

LM: That was quite [Unintelligible] because the people didn't know [Unintelligible] just going to do work.

LL: What I'm thinking is, how did you keep up like this? How did you just happen to decide to do this?

OM: Well, I've been a part of it and my wife is - before we were married, it's no lunch ride but she is [Laughter] [Unintelligible] as a younger girl. She said, "Why do you have to dry the hay to the

right?" I know we've tried different times of putting hay or grass in the sun whether it's old straw or any of these types of things. It really wasn't totally satisfactory though, but it got to where what I was using for hay storage facilities, I had it so full when chopping hay.

LL: Because of the increased size of your herd?

OM: Gradually, and actually the increased amount of crops per acre I was growing. I often think when I was first [Unintelligible], in the extension people were asking me, the people on whether we're going to have enough food in another 20, 30, 40 years and I said, "Well, I go around the neighborhood and look at what I grow on my land and I look at what some of the other people are growing. There's a possibility we're growing a heck of a lot more food than we're growing now through these procedures." I was farming – the farm was only 65 acres or so and probably half of it – just over half of it might have been semi-terrible. I was in a lot of cropping after that. [Laughter]

LL: Is this from personal experience?

LM: Some in Massachusetts, of course I think that was - and the word was that in [Unintelligible] for some reason, they had private feeds.

LL: How did you know this?

LM: The extension census.

LL: Okay, all right. [Laughter]

OM: I remember going on that field trip to Massachusetts. I looked at these couple of pretty rough-looking silos but they do tell me some of the problems they were having.

LL: The downside of it. [Laughter]

OM: Well, [Pause] you have to be able to green unless the hay is real dry. Otherwise, I experimented with many different things to put over the top of it with citrus pulp, the lime, and the [Unintelligible] chemicals.

LM: Of course, Agway at the time was doing really experimental things. It was neither of these mistakes. [Unintelligible] people it's going to be and so it's a little vague because –

OM: In the North, I knew that when they're putting signage up, [Unintelligible].

LM: I knew you were following someone with the procedures that you would do to make you qualify. [Laughter]

LL: Okay.

LM: And it would [Unintelligible] and how much you had to work [Unintelligible] so we backed it up [Unintelligible] - I mean, the trucks absolutely took a beating but that's how it is.

LL: I want to insert something here. [Unintelligible] several times doing this. You were...

OM: I heard about some of those things and so she asked stupid questions and I picked up on it.

LL: Really? So it's a team effort in a sense. Did you take your part in the actual production on the farm?

OM: I drove every piece of equipment we had. That was one of the criteria when I was first buying stuff is she had to know how to use it.

LM: I made sure I did. Part of the situation with both of us losing a parent and who we are, and so okay, for our family's survival, I need to know what's going on in case something happens to him. He needs to know my end of this function in case something should happen to me. From that give-and-take situation, that was the basis of our marriage and working together. The other thing that leads is to think ahead at where you're going and what are your objectives and what you want.

OM: One thing was that they're needing - and I've crosswalked various times with surplus milk and lower prices back in about '64. They were crying about surplus milk and we only had a half a can of milk out in Wisconsin somewhere that was surplus, and jeez, you couldn't buy anything to supply the market. Then it all turned around. It only takes one dozen eggs to make a surplus. [Laughter] I mean it's attitude I guess.

LL: Okay. Go on with the hay.

OM: In losing it after 1950, we couldn't return to silo. As I said, we used many different types of things to try to cover it, plastic or - then things to preserve it. My personal experience and how we kind of experienced it - University of Connecticut were the same hit with the most efficient, most [Unintelligible] the semi grind to the most independent.

LL: The questions [Unintelligible] with you? I looked through this photograph because I'm saying I remember seeing you.

OM: He came to the house with his dairy tools. I know, I actually built the silo. [Laughter]

LL: Because I have some of his pictures that showed the building of some of these.

OM: I think about '52, they had a [Unintelligible].

LM: He had released everything. Then the next step was to make it bigger, wider.

OM: That was when the extension needed to be continued now, and put it [Unintelligible] closer to the areas. The next one I just built right on the side of it. Of course you've seen now that it's [Laughter] about 50 feet high.

LL: Then you see them with the bulldozers going in and then —

OM: Then the payload is downed on there, and the other thing —

LM: One of the dangers of those silos [Unintelligible], they could get too hot. Then if they're frozen, and you get this...

OM: Overhang.

LM: Overhang of frozen silos and then when it comes crashing down on you, you're in bad shape. So now then you're making them so hot.

OM: You have the - I mean, in the beginning, I'm not practical unless you have enough animals to feed [Unintelligible]. There's an upright side and you just spend a couple of pieces off the top, and they say it's gone. If you have a side that you're breaking loose, the air gets in it necessarily.

LM: Then the air gets into it and then it starts to oxidize and it smells. It is thick. I was thinking when you come in the house, it's thick for us.

LL: These things have been - for the tape, they look like a house foundation. It's one word to say. In common language, they're the —

OM: No, [Laughter] I suppose yes but —

LL: Open in one end.

OM: Yes, they're usually open in end and they usually have a little tap.

LL: Tapering at the bottom of it. It's not a level floor so to speak.

OM: No, the squalls wreck the bottom then at the top. Most of them was built later. Mine was poured in place of concrete there. Most of —

LM: Before pre-cast concrete?

OM: But most of them - everybody that feeds doesn't have pre-cast sections.

LL: So they just bring them in, put them together.

OM: They're just four-feet long and eight-foot high. It's got a wide basement, built in structuring kind of.

LL: What do you see are the challenges facing agriculture?

OM: Keeping suburbanized. Getting so close that they're totally unhappy with the smells and odors and noises.

LM: Yet people are moving out. They don't want to live in the rural areas.

OM: They don't want all of that. [Laughter]

LM: The boonie's great, definitely with the odors and the [Unintelligible].

OM: [Laughter] [Unintelligible] and it's so easy to lose 500 this year.

LM: We've always commented that most - our investment is losing forward and gets stuck. On the other hand, your father commented about the milk in a —

OM: Some of the neighbors couldn't afford to drink milk at home because it's [Unintelligible] making money on 10 cents a quart. What? The kids are drinking and I only get two cents [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: How do you mean that? Was it tragedy?

OM: No, but if you bought it...

LL: Yes, I see. He was saving up by not buying it at the grocery store.

OM: He had been paying ten cents a quart in [Unintelligible], Indiana so he knew what it was worth.

LM: Yeah, and remember he had the expression about one boy.

OM: One boy is a boy, two boys are half a boy, and three boys are no boys at all. He had six of them. He ought to know. [Laughter]

LL: That's good.

OM: It's realistic. [Laughter]

LL: Yes, I understand. Okay, I wonder if you can speak a little bit about the barn.

LM: [Unintelligible]

OM: '66, if you remember, we built it.

LM: We built the [three-story] barn.

LL: That was new, the barn?

OM: That was one of the many milking [Unintelligible] at least coming in.

LM: We visited one and...

OM: [Unintelligible] my wife and I, we organized it out and [Unintelligible] about that last time we did. This building has been in use - it's a 20-year building and it's been used 40 years now.

LM: And then the open [Unintelligible]. It's now that there is a building [Unintelligible].

OM: Well, he's going through. Then he'd tell us that [Laughter] he was in the car for a 23-hour ride.

LM: My theory was the girls were young. They were helping. They would say if they were helping in this.

OM: They had to be efficient.

LM: They needed to be efficient workers. In a few hours, if you're doing the work that you have to hire some of them, in a few hours, we can't afford to pay you but we'll give you an IOU. That helped through college. They were on their way to college while they were in high school. Getting up, technically settling down. Then they did the [junior] work, sell equipment. They were running the equipment.

LL: Now, where you're living right now is not on the initial farm - I know somebody mentioned [Unintelligible]. How did you happen to end up with the family farm? You were just alluding to that at the end of the last tape.

OM: Well, as my older brothers got ready to go out on their own or expand, and my mother was still alive and she had kind of pulled the flock together. The various brothers, they've had all some kind of - but not - most of you [Unintelligible] so they had help going to college and all of this. We worked out that my brother [Unintelligible] and others south of my high school. At that time my mother thought I should come back and she was farming at the farm that I wrote back to be with her. So I was back with her and all my other brothers had been working on various things.

LM: Actually this guy had heard and had gone off to set their own farm or other businesses.

OM: I think there was some really idea here. My mother had active tuberculosis again so was going back at the same time and I'm way back [Unintelligible], she stopped to put on clicks. All of the [Unintelligible], and she signed the deed over to my brother and I. [Unintelligible] all of the rest was on it which at the time the actual value – net value given to us wasn't great. [Laughter] She just gave me an opportunity to see if I wanted it, I could try, plus when I got to doing it and [Unintelligible] to try, [Unintelligible] given what the whole situation actually. So I've been working my butt to earn and see if I wanted to try to buy it and with that, bought it by doing businesses in his name for six months and [Unintelligible].

LL: Where did he go?

OM: That time was...

LM: He was married to my mother. He had a poultry farm. And so he ran out [Unintelligible].

OM: While I was in high school, we were running both farms during the war. Later after I had my license and all, I went to [Unintelligible] went to school. [Laughter]

LL: What kind of license are you talking about?

OM: My driver's license.

LL: Okay. [Laughter] Back then it was 15.

OM: No.

LL: Initially you could drive at 15.

OM: No. I actually didn't get my license until I was 17.

LL: Okay, or actually it's a different thing. [Unintelligible].

OM: I thought I wanted to wait. I didn't think I was a good student [Unintelligible] studying to be a doctor. He says, "Well, if you want to go to school and you drive the professors nuts, could you probably make it?" [Laughter] "If you wanted to run your own business, you probably can't do that too."

LL: So did you ever go to any kind of school after?

OM: I went to UConn for one of the short [courses] on genetics, to Dr. Collins.

LL: Okay. Then those things you picked up from other kinds of magazines, meetings, crop places you'd go to with these tours you went on with someone?

OM: I think as it got said, it registered with me. One of my older brothers - well, all of them were going to UConn and [Unintelligible]. They'd come home and say, well, the professors [Unintelligible] truck registered with me when I was seven. I later proved to myself that it was definitely so. You'd press it. You don't trample down half of the crop walking on it [Unintelligible]. There was - I had a piece of [Unintelligible] I think it was. [Unintelligible] approaches and then another comes a big break on a wet lot, and it was just so wet I could not harvest it when I wanted to, [Unintelligible]. That was the third run into leaving all the food to the cows and don't make them jack up and walk through the briars and [Unintelligible] and all these other things. Even though after I read the [Unintelligible], for a few years, I left the cows out in the summertime. When you got them and you let them go to pasture off, 99% of the cows never seek pasture. We'd probably pasture our heifers along with the [Unintelligible]. I

didn't put them on to that pasture in May and figured out I was going to bring them in in November [Unintelligible]. They knew they were connected to me. I've heard stories about [Unintelligible] running around over town and 50 people trying to go around the map and I come on the scene, I'd give one shout and I heard the cows stop and I tell the [Unintelligible] go all the way in, I move them back down the road and take them back to the pasture. They know who they're supposed to follow. So if you want to go back [telling] your old difficult stories, I can prove them. [Laughter] Like the [Superman] in Nashville. [Laughter]

LL: Okay. So now, let's go to you now.

LM: It was really just in 1938 on the farm, there were 19 heifers, three cows, one or two horses, and then there were chickens.

LL: This was 1938?

LM: Yes, ma'am. Part of the reason, there was a farm there that would come and take one or two cows but some of these animals have gone with his brothers, okay?

LL: Definitely. When you took over the farm, how big was the herd?

OM: I bought 16 cows and one heifer for my brothers. I remember it was pretty young in the business at that time. I think he saw some of the cows also there I think. The heifers, I didn't buy. He was running over them and he had some of them on. I brought them and secured in the fall, so I was milking over 20 by the end of the first year.

LL: That was a big herd.

OM: Yes, at 15, I was above average and I told you that, I was still above average at 125.

LL: Then when you sold it, how many cows did you have?

OM: I had about 230 [Unintelligible] 130. [Unintelligible]

LL: This is not the original farm that you had.

OM: No.

LL: When did you make that move?

OM: I bought this in '82. I was thinking about building a house, an original farmhouse for labor and various things listed my farm in the market and I see the signs and I called them.

LL: That makes sense.

OM: The time was simple...

LM: This one - yes, so you could walk across. I had already had listed these objectives and the outlines of what I wanted for a house in this day. We recorded what I wanted but some others would say, [Unintelligible], it's not time to do that. Calm down." [Unintelligible]. We got very fortunate.

OM: That was an interesting story too because when we talked to him, he had an asking price and we made an offer and we didn't hear anything. After a couple of weeks, finally he called again and [Unintelligible] and so it's been sold. So, okay. So then I went along a few more days and we come back and I found out it's been sold but it's been sold to me. [Laughter]

LM: A retiree with the business [Unintelligible] - we had a barn right when we first got the mortgage [Unintelligible] and I didn't know it for years. I had dreams about working on another room and well, it'd probably about another year. That's what it took. I learned how to plaster and I learned how to refinish. The extension showed me how to refinish floors. In fact, I was very proud of the kitchen that I finally developed a new concept. I had a moon-shaped kitchen with an island, and in fact, the [Connecticut] University put some things together because it was a new concept. When was [Unintelligible]?

OM: No, we started that in '48.

LM: No, I didn't kind of increase it. In fact, that first year my mother said, "We shouldn't get our hopes up." I was like, "Fine." Well, I'm getting a stainless steel kitchen which is safe. It has [Unintelligible] on the side. I put it right in the middle of this [Unintelligible],

OM: Seven or eight doors.

LM: Eight doors. That was the old-fashioned dining room you had with the round table and that was this Grand Central Station of the house. I put the kitchen sink right in the middle, and then made my little island in a [Unintelligible] counters.

OM: At the back of it.

LM: Around it, the whole [Unintelligible].

LL: You have a very inquisitive mind. Where did this come from?

LM: I don't know. It's been there, I guess.

LL: She starts things, doesn't she? [Laughter] She's perpetrator kind of thing. [Laughter]

LM: Yes, I enjoy it. [Unintelligible] cooling in the couch.

OM: A little bit apt.

LM: I am visual, I know that, and [Unintelligible] to evaluate it. What's the goals and objectives?

LL: Yes, and [Unintelligible]

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: That's right, makes sense.

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: Remember in the last 10 years, going back to [Unintelligible] and so many, how long are you going to hear that alarm? What they did to these [Unintelligible] the business desk, and now the government does it. [Laughter]

LM: [Unintelligible]. Well, the other thing is the [Unintelligible] that was in South Philadelphia all gone. How do they do without it, and also [Unintelligible] - what was it, a market space? [Unintelligible] 300. [Unintelligible] take a picture of what they're doing. Now we have to write down our observations. What can you see? Not what we saw but what things have definitely - and I'm thinking perhaps it's been very helpful what we perceive and also what really happened.

LL: What kind of participation did you have in the community? You've helped with [Unintelligible]. Did you do other things?

LM: I worked with the church on this project on the system that of course as a Christian, you had [Unintelligible]. Well, the one person that did [Unintelligible].

OM: [Unintelligible]

LM: Yes, but early on it was cooperative [bake sales] and some of these things, and some of them [Unintelligible].

LL: Where was it held, like a Jewish...?

LM: At first it was homes because I think [Unintelligible] do anything. We just [Unintelligible]. Other parents together and we had one at our home for a couple of weeks and they wanted to share, and then we [Unintelligible] with them. Some of the churches had facilities and they're like [Unintelligible], whatever. [Unintelligible]. We had all the churches in town cooperating with them.

LL: [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LM: We didn't have - and then just before that, they started a Kindergarten. K-11, public schools, that was a new thing. [Unintelligible] can do that. That was really before my time. Oldest [Unintelligible] went to school together which is only like a second floor of them with only our house and no one [Unintelligible] for Kindergarten. You might hear this kind of thing in 1955. I had, at that time, three more [Unintelligible] - we had four doors in 1955.

OM: I had to be happy because I always fight little girls. [Laughter]

LM: He was great with it. He's like his father. He'd join, doing everything [Unintelligible]. Meanwhile, [Unintelligible] make sure that the [Unintelligible].

LL: Which becomes - now it's so much for [Unintelligible].

LM: Yes. Are you sure that the lower windows had adequate precipitations? Was it consistent? [Unintelligible]. He took my compliment like that. Yes, well then, he [Unintelligible] and he said "Well, [Unintelligible]. She's a woman." [Laughter] I experienced having [Unintelligible] got some other women together and we [Unintelligible]. Then I was on the board for the community, [Unintelligible].

OM: The part that she got involved in is she got together with some of the other mothers [Unintelligible].

LM: Yes.

LL: Port Chester, New York? [Unintelligible]

LM: No, that's beyond. That's Port Jefferson, I'm thinking.

LL: Port Jefferson? Into the city.

LM: Well, we just go over to New York once [Unintelligible].

LL: What did you do with this information?

LM: [Unintelligible] we'd get down to the clinic and the [Unintelligible].

LL: What year was that?

LM: [Unintelligible]

LL: How did you know?

LM: [Unintelligible]. It wasn't the usual [Unintelligible] fun destination.

LL: How did you decide that this was an important thing to do?

LM: Because I felt it's so involved [Unintelligible] and then the children were [Unintelligible].

LL: You loved it?

LM: Yes, I love it. I remember one of my friends - we were friends. I was helping in school. A couple of kids didn't show up and we sat down and [Unintelligible].

LL: As far as grandmas made time, that was the labor supply. [Unintelligible]

OM: We had to use the churches and the priest would be sure to have at least [Unintelligible]. Be fruitful and multiply, the old Jewish....

LL: Well, it isn't all of that subject.

OM: Yes, but I mean I could remember hearing ministers saying about having families.

LL: It's kind of like flexibility to a community. It was interesting as I was reading about how - I think I talked the last time about how the colonies that were forming then - the New England colonies were more stable because they encouraged families to settle here, whereas the Southern Virginia, they had singles settled there and it was much more a lot to do with rowdy as far as the lifestyle, but that New England brought in the church values and families and that's how New England I guess prospered compared to what was going on further.

OM: It's interesting when you say that because I noticed a lot [Unintelligible] studied across the country, it seemed to me that the further we got away from Lebanon, [Laughter] the less stable. A family always had various aspects that go [Unintelligible] and there was somebody along [Unintelligible] and we had it here but percentage-wise, it was a lot more personal land owned so as you're farming your own land, it is [Unintelligible].

LL: The interesting thing is that one of those world sociology bulletins talked about immigration patterns in Lebanon, a group of these old books. As I began to - there are a couple of these books out on the 1900, 1800 and so on, and they talked about immigration patterns and how people who came from different countries settled the way they had lived in their home country. So if they settled in, if they came from countries where there were communities with the centers of town and [Unintelligible] and then they found their land outside, that these counties are what were replicated when they came here. So if they moved West, there were different kinds of patterns that the people - so people who moved West - some people have not left [Unintelligible]. They didn't move. They were now isolated. So you came in living on your farm if you had one a month without being near a community. That's what began to transform the Midwest and further out.

OM: Because Lebanon, when you examine it, everybody's farming [Unintelligible].

LL: Yes. Let's talk about now your other things that you have. You have a picture of a [Unintelligible] dress and you have pictures here of a lot of things. You have to tell me what you have.

LM: These are more of the private and that's going to be [Unintelligible]. That we had [Unintelligible]. One left this spring - these people moved now [Unintelligible]. He said goodbye to us in a way and [Unintelligible] and his brother. We have a few of them [Unintelligible].

OM: Is that a couple of grandparents?

LM: [Unintelligible]

OM: Where are they from?

LM: [Unintelligible] over that.

OM: She asked the state, [Unintelligible].

LM: [Pause] My great grandfather and grandmother. Grandfather George [Unintelligible] married Louise James Chase. She was the housekeeper at the [Unintelligible] up in the yard. [Unintelligible]. My grandfather [Unintelligible] and they were married. That's my grandfather, and the way [Unintelligible] in blue is silk. It was made in New York but [Unintelligible] stores so others were involved in [Unintelligible].

LL: That's right. That's the store [Unintelligible] I think.

LM: [Unintelligible] and this was the farm home. This is what the stores saved. Stores since she left it for me among the [Unintelligible].

LL: So they had moved to New York City at the time when the [orphanage] was made into an agricultural...

LM: Right.

OM: The old folks [Unintelligible] - poor folks' home, I guess that's the other side of the family [Laughter]

LM: So my grandfather was brought up on [Unintelligible] and he helped to care for the [Unintelligible]. I, with his brother - I remember this is after my grandfather was gone. I visited when he lived with my great uncle and he said that they would have teams of oxen and they would hand the vegetables at the farm.

LL: Glass jars.

LM: In glass jars and pack them in straw and take them down to the Eagleville train station and they would be sent to New York City from this state at their home.

LL: So they had become gentleman farmers, if you will?

LM: Yes.

LL: They still owned it but they were living in New York Cit.

LM: Yes, although I'm not sure if it was [Unintelligible]. I'd have to get the documentation on that, which one it was. I remember my grandfather said to me that he'd like to come back to the farm. He

had this [Unintelligible] at the farm kitchen table and he enjoyed his boyhood when he stayed at the farm. Of course that was [Unintelligible].

LL: How had they become so well off that they left for New York City.

LM: I think it was the silk industry. I'm not sure. [Crosstalk] because my grandfather attended school and he was among the [Unintelligible]. They had a [cultural school, the stores had a cultural school] before it became the State of Connecticut - whatever the first name was.

OM: [Unintelligible] was the one.

LM: I know the comment was that someone looking through the records that this is [Unintelligible] how much you have missed being on cue. I noticed it was just picking up [Unintelligible], and it gives some release, like that position is [Unintelligible] calm.

LL: Why do they call that the Rosewood Barn?

LM: I don't want to comment here. I'm not sure. My cousin has a [Unintelligible].

OM: That was a brother of the late [Unintelligible].

LL: Yes, I think it was.

OM: But it could have been they had their own farm whereas her great grandfather was the caretaker at the store.

LM: The store at the state, and he was not the landlord at the time. [Unintelligible]. Those books had originally come from opposite Massachusetts. An earlier time, [Unintelligible].

(End of Interview)