

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

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Name of Person Interviewed: Truman Richmond  
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LL: It is April 22, 1999 and I'm here to interview for the Agricultural 20th Century Project, Truman Richmond in New Milford, Connecticut.  
Truman, thank you for agreeing to...to do this interview for the oral history. Can you start by telling where you were born?

TR: I was born in the New Milford Hospital on Whittlesee Avenue, a one-family house that was the home of Dr. Ruppert (DAY).

LL: It was a house and a hospital?

TR: The hospital itself was a house, just a plain, ordinary house and it's still standing on Whittlesey Avenue. It was prior to the New Milford Hospital as we know it today.

LL: Was your...had your family lived in the area a long time?

TR: Yes. My family had lived in this area for generations. Owned a good portion of Northville and Chestnutland and my dad and...was... Many generations of...of my family, both on my mother's side and my father's side were born and brought up in New Milford and went to school here and I came home to my homestead here in the Northville District of New Milford, which is a little hamlet on the North side up on which is now 202, and when I was born there were all farmers, mostly in the tobacco industry. Everybody the...here this valley raised tobacco. And the tobacco that they raised was used exclusively for cigar wrappers. Nobody had (money) everybody was almost poor, very poor. My dad worked sometimes...I have his diaries back in the 1900's that state that he received Twenty Dollars for a full-weeks work.

LL: What was his job with the tobacco...?

TR: Well, he worked...he raised tobacco himself where we are...we are located here now and we have nine acres here and raised nine acres of tobacco. And then he worked in tobacco...several tobacco warehouses. I think there were seven of them in New Milford, large tobacco warehouses where the tobacco was shipped by the farmers and sorted out and packaged and then shipped to the cigar manufacturers. Several of them in the Trumbull area, Bridgeport area, where they manufactured the cigars, hand-rolled cigars.

LL: Where does your family first come from before they came here?

TR: Well, that goes back very many generations. I imagine they came from Scotland and Ireland or Scotland and England.

LL: Do you know why they...why they came?

TR: Probably like everybody that came here from Europe, to seek prosperity. Yeah, they...when I was a little boy, just for the use as a comparison, I have grandchildren today who have forty...forty or fifty stuffed animals that every Christmas they are given numerous of them and when I was a boy, if I received an empty wooden cigar box for a Christmas present, I thought I was a millionaire. That's how times have changed.

LL: What are some other things you remember of growing up, when you were growing up?

TR: Well, I...as I say, my dad raised tobacco and he saved up enough money to buy the plants and I at one time rode...used to ride as a child on the tobacco set machine that set and took and watered each plant, driven by a team of horses and the reason we went out of the tobacco business eventually, was because we became plagued with hailstorms. And if you had a whole big field of...of tobacco almost ready to harvest and had one hailstorm, your complete crop was ruined. You pulled it up and piled it in piles and burned it.

LL: So this broadleaf tobacco was not shade tobacco?

TR: No.

LL: Okay and I don't know that much about tobacco.

TR: No. The only place that they use shade tobacco, and that was done several years later in the Connecticut Valley, Connecticut River Valley. They still raise some shade tobacco out there now.

LL: And was there tobacco there then that was called shade tobacco?

TR: Well, they call it shade tobacco which...because you had...it's covered with a...a...cheesecloth and that's primarily to keep the insects out. And...

LL: Do you have brothers and sisters?

TR: I had one sister and she's passed away sev...for several years now. And we went to the little one room school around the corner and there were eight grades in one...one teacher in a one room school with a potbellied stove in the center that's for heat. No facilities. Outhouses out to the back. No running water. The water was...we had a tile set in the ground behind the school for our drinking water. The largest boy would go down with a bucket and lay on his stomach and dip a bucket of water out of the tile spring and

then it was poured into a crock in the entry way, school entry way and each child had his own drinking utensil, cup or glass, with his name on a piece of adhesive tape on the side of the glass or cup and we would drink that water until it was gone and then it would be refilled as I stated. One teacher taught eight grades including subjects such as penmanship and geography, which is no longer taught in...in any school. The teacher would go out during recess or noon hour and play ball with us, baseball or softball or...and she could hit a ball and run like a deer. She was a...the numerous teachers we had were mostly middle-aged and very dedicated to the profession. They were more interested in teaching...in teaching our minds than their own welfare. They would deny themselves in order to teach us.

LL: Did they live in the area also?

TR: They...yes, they lived in the area and they were...the teacher would pay one of us children five cents at the end of the day to sweep the schoolhouse. With that five cents, we could get a large ice cream cone or five pieces of candy down at the Northville General Store. And...what...

LL: Did many of...how many of you then went on to...was there a district school for the higher grades?

TR: Eventually, as the school got...personnel got larger, the student body got larger, they took the eighth grade and went...they sent it by bus down to the East Street School in New Milford. So that left seven grades and then this...the one room school continued on for...oh, up...my children went there and after that they finally closed it and now they bus all the children to New Milford. The school is still remaining in good condition; but I had made several attempts to restore it as it was originally when I was...attended it, but had a little trouble getting support for it.

And the desks were taken out and the teacher's desk was taken out and the stove was taken out and now it's just a...an empty building. I would very much like to see it restored as to its original condition with everything as it was; the blackboards that were taken out and it's kind of nice. There's been several schools in this Town that have been restored to its original so that children...a lot of generations can see how we went to school and studied.

LL: Let's go back to your family farm. Did you grow any kind of vegetables or food for your own use?

TR: Oh yes. Everything we...everything we had, we...we grew. We raised...well, we had chickens and pigs and grew large gardens. We had practically everything we ate we...we raised as did everybody. Most of the neighbors around, the Polish and Swedish families moved...came in to Ellis Island and settled up here and one of the funny things about that I remember was Swedish and Polish immigrants who settled up in New Preston, which is the Town north of...Village north of where we are now, worked in the...they worked in the tobacco factory in New Milford and they used to walk by our house here with their shoes tied together by the strings over the...over their shoulders. And they'd go by barefooted all the way to New Milford and only when they...after they had entered the tobacco warehouse to work, would they put on their shoes. That was a sign of being real frugal. They didn't want to wear their shoes out. Yeah, we raised corn and one year my dad raised acres and acres of strawberries and we crated them in crates and took them to New Milford to a...to a store and sold them for fifteen cents a quart. I guess you pay a little more than that today.

LL: Now, was this after you did...you...you raised tobacco and the hail or was it...?

TR: Yes. Yes.

LL: What other kinds of things did you grow to sell? That were...

TR: Well, one year dad raised Hubbard squash. We had a pile of Hubbard squash probably twenty feet high in the front door area out there and we sold those.

LL: You would sell these right...because you're on a main road here? (Yeah.) And so that...you didn't take them to market or any place, you sold them directly?

TR: Yes.

LL: And who are the people who bought them?

TR: Oh, people passing by and in the cars would stop, you know, see the pile up there in the door yard and they used those, of course, Hubbard squash was an alternate for pumpkins and make Hubbard squash pie which is almost...you wouldn't know the difference between them. If you were told it was pumpkin pie, you probably wouldn't know the difference they were so much alike. And we'd sell them probably for, one, two feet in diameter would probably go for anywheres from fifty cents to a dollar. So you didn't get very rich at it.

LL: Those were big Hubbard squash. They're not that large now. The Hubbard squash?

TR: Oh no. Hubbard squash would be...they were... they're those warty ones.

LL: Oh, oh. I had the wrong idea. Okay.

TR: There are numerous variations of squash that they use for pie today but the Hubbard squash is one of the most difficult to use 'cause it's so hard. I can remember when my mother in order to cut them up they're so hard that she would take a large butcher knife and hit it with a hammer, you know, to cut the squash up when you couldn't...you know. They have the little acorn squash today that you can pare like even you do an apple or, you know, that are a lot more easy for a lady to prepare.

LL: What were your neighbors like?

TR: Oh, we had...the neighbors were...were wonderful, wonderful people. We had...there was so much more we...you knew everybody. I could go from the center of New Milford, which is five miles away, here and I knew everybody that lived on both sides of the road. Today you don't know, most generally you don't know who lives next door to you and in most cases, you don't want to know. And that's the difference between then and now. If my mother was taken ill in the Wintertime, one neighbor, Mrs. Charlie Smith, across the...Lucy Smith, across the street would come in with a big dish of scalloped potatoes and the lady across the street from her, Mrs. Bowers, would come with a casserole of baked beans and another neighbor would come with apple pie, another lady with a cake. They'd all get on the phone and they'd say, "Gee, Ruth's sick and she can't take care of her family. She needs help." And that has disappeared today. The concern for others is not like it used to be in those days. I can remember my dad looking out of this window, seeing across the street, Charlie Smith trying to get in a field full of fresh-mown hay. Dark rain clouds overhead. Rain ready to come down any minute. My dad would run to the phone and call several neighbors and say, "Hey, Charlie Smith has got a field of hay down and he needs help. It's going to rain any minute." And they'd all come running, you know, a half a dozen men and they'd work like a dog to get the hay in for him and you...and things like that have disappeared unfortunately. The feeling for others is not...it's such a fast life today that the concern for others is not anywheres near what it used to be in those days.

LL: Now, is the building we're in...was this part of the original building on the property?

TR: This house used to be...years ago used to be...it's pretty much as it was except that it had a porch all the way around that dad tore off.

'Cause he got tired of painting all those pickets. But this was a tavern once years ago. It was a Post Office and it was funny, in those days, we had...we had our own little Post Office in the Northville General Store next door and each letter...each neighbor would have a pigeon hole. We call them pigeon holes or a slot in a rack with a name on it and the store owner would put their mail in the...and then they'd come and pick it up at their convenience. Then from our own Post Office, we went to...it was discontinued and it went...we went to two deliveries a day. We'd have a delivery in the morning and a delivery in the afternoon. Then...

LL: So you were on a rural route?

TR: Yes. Then they changed that to...back to one delivery a day and as we have now. So, in other words, from a Post Office to two deliveries a day to one delivery a day. We're going backwards in service.

LL: Who delivered the mail?

TR: There was a...they had a rural Mail Carrier that came from the adjoining Town of Preston; drove down through and picked up the mail in the...out of the mail boxes and delivered it back on his way back. Delivered our mail...

LL: So, as you went from this other busi...when did you start this business?

TR: Oh, I didn't start this business until about twenty-five years ago.

LL: So was there something between the time that it was a tavern and a Post Office...

TR: My dad lived here.

LL: Okay.

TR: My dad passed away. We...

LL: Where were you during that time. Did you leave the area for a while?

TR: Yes. I...after high school I was fortunate to have a very good architect...dra...drawing teacher in school, New Milford High School, and I took one year of architecture and one year of mechanical drafting and after graduation I went and stayed weekdays with my aunt and uncle in Bridgeport and I worked for Chance-Vought Aircraft in Stratford. I worked there for nine years, worked my way up to a lead inspector. I watched Igor Sikorsky build his first helicopter. I inspected the test samples on them and being an inspector, my time was mostly my own. I could regulate my own time. I could, you know, work inspecting a bench full of parts or I could put it off for a couple of hours. I was my own boss and I met and new Igor Sikorsky who was quite a brilliant man. I watched him day in and day out working with...when he first built his first helicopter. And then we built the two-seater observation plane that had either pontoons or wheels, two of which were on every Naval destroyer and then we made the gull-wing Corsair that won the War in the South Pacific. And we made three flying boats for...four engine flying boats for Pan Am that all at one time or another over the years cracked up on landing and sunk in the ocean. And recently, probably two years ago a wealthy man in Florida retrieved one out of the ocean and donated it to the Airplane Museum outside of Hartford, Bradley Field and it was transported to the hangar in Stratford at Stratford Airport and several men that had worked on it originally...built it originally,

volunteered to restore it so they can be transported up to the museum and on display. They also have quite an interesting museum, aircraft museum there next to Bradley Field that's...I imagine this flying boat is there by this time. They have a Corsair there on display, they have a Jap Zero and flying fortresses. They have all kinds of aircraft there. It's quite an interesting display.

LL: You have a collection of Indian head...of arrow heads.

TR: Yes, I have a vast collection. I have probably twenty thousand items of Indian artifacts. I do all the appraising for the American Indian Institute in Washington and people donate collections. Elderly men on numerous occasions have donated collections to the museum to preserve them and I appraise them for the Institute and we give the donor a letter stating what I think they are worth, the collection is worth and then they can deduct it from their income tax.

LL: How did you get to be a...?

TR: Oh, I've been an Indian enthusiast all my life. I marvel at the way the Indian lived. I admired the way they lived because they never killed any animal other than what they needed for their own survival. They didn't waste, they didn't take more than they needed. They raised vegetables and didn't pollute as we do today. They didn't spread salt on the road in the Wintertime to run into the streams and pollute them as the State Highway Department does.

LL: When...when you were at Sikorsky, did you serve in the Military at all at any time?

TR: No, I didn't. I...I remained all during the war as an inspector, an aircraft inspector. My eyesight, sounds kind of funny, can't go in the Army because your eyes aren't good, your eyesight isn't good enough but you can inspect airplane parts.

LL: What was your father doing while you were away? What was he doing with the land?

TR: My father and I, after we went out of the tobacco business, we went into the nursery business and we raised nursery stock for years. And we had nine acres here of nursery stock and then down at my other...my home on Paper Mill Road, I had between three and six acres of nursery stock down there. And then as my dad got older and less able to work why we went out of the nursery business. It's...that too has had its day. We used to, when I was a boy and working with my father in the nursery business, we would put plantings in around lake estates; Lake Wauramaug, Lake Candlewood, up to several thousand dollars. Today, they build a new house and you can take a pickup truck and throw the entire planting, foundation planting for the house, in the back of a pick...a half-ton pickup truck and so the big estates, the wealthy who are...they spent thousands of dollars is disappeared, you know. A few hundred dollars to plant around...entire planting around the house.

LL: So you were a local distributor of your own plants. You did the landscaping?

TR: Yes.

LL: Or did you sell it to other people?

TR: No, we...we did it ourselves. In other words, we...we would...what I did is, I used to...a man would build a new house and I would make a...take a photograph of it and then make a sketch from the photograph and put the...draw the...in pencil the planting as I would propose it and then submit it to them and they could change it any way they wanted to. But, I would suggest the way, you know, between the windows of the house you put an upright and on the comers you put an upright and then in between you

put the spreaders.

LL: How had you learned about the different kinds of shrubs.

TR: Well, I didn't have anywheres near the knowledge my dad had. My dad was quite a...had quite a way with the ladies. Especially he could quote the Latin name of every flower and tree there was, which I couldn't do. But that, you know, made a big impression with the prospective buyers and so I learned from my dad.

LL: And where had he learned from?

TR: From my dad.

LL: No, where did he learn it from?

TR: Oh, I...he just...he studied books and he was in partners with another man before and he a...he graduated from Brown's Business College in Bridgeport when he was a young fellow and so he had a pretty well...pretty good mind.

LL: So this was; in relation to where he was in tobacco, when did all that hap...when did he go to school?

TR: Oh, he...he went to school when he was young.

LL: Oh then he came here and worked in to b...and bought the land and bought and went into tobacco?

TR: Oh, this was his father's place. His father left it to him as my father did to me.

LL: Okay. So then he graduated in business from Brown's in Bridgeport you said?

TR: Yeah.

LL: Then he came back home?

TR: Then he came back home, yes, and went into the raising tobacco and then into the nursery business.

LL: What do you think's going to happen to the property? Are you passing it on to your family? Are they interested in it at all?

TR: Yes. Yes, I have...I have three sons, only one of them that's... that's here and he's going to have this place. What he does with it is anybody's guess but...

LL: Do you still have acreage further up...?

TR: Oh, yes I have nine acres.

LL: You still have the original nine acres?

TR: And a big tobacco barn, one of the very few left, an old tobacco barn.

LL: Oh, that's right. I'm going to...I want to take a picture of it. What changes do you remember the most about any technology or changes related to what you were doing on the property?

TR: Changes in technology.

LL: I'm just thinking of, as I gone around, people have talked about when they went from horses to tractors, talking about when there were different kinds of...

TR: Oh yeah. Well, when I was a boy, my dad didn't drive, didn't own a motor vehicle. He...our mode of transportation was horse and buggy and you go to New Milford and in the center of Town there'd be horse and buggies all lined up, you know, at the hitching posts and they had the big old granite horse trough in the center of the green which is now up in...by the Galesville Fire Department, I'm sorry to say. I taught my dad to drive an automobile when he was fifty-five years old. I had...my first car was a 1930 Model A Ford and I'm quite interested in old cars. I belong to the Antique Automobile Club of America, as you can see  
I presently have a 1930 Model A Ford Pickup that I have fully restored. It's better than it was when it came from the factory. Yeah, if I'd a...if I'd a kept all the cars that I'd owned in my life instead of trading them in, I probably would be a billionaire today. All the old cars. I have an old Studebaker too, a '61 Studebaker and...

LL: What did...was there a business after the greenhouse and nursery business?

TR: This business here, that I have now.

LL: How did you decide to go into the tack shop business?

TR: Well I had naturally being brought up with horses, everything we did was with horses in those days, you know. The transportation and we cultivated the nursery...the rows of nursery stock with a...with a one horse cultivator. We had an old horse that used to go down the end with a cultivator and my dad would walk behind it and go down the end of the row and he's just slap the rein and the horse would turn right around and go up the next row and he didn't have to holler at him or pull or tug the reins or anything, you know. He'd just go down one row and go up the other one, down 'til the whole field was done. And we burned wood, of course, wood burning stoves. We had a big round stove in the center here. In the kitchen we had the old kitchen...cast iron kitchen range with the water tank on the side that in the Wintertime we'd have a round galvanized tub in the center of the kitchen floor and dip the water out of the tank and for our Saturday night bath and...

LL: Did you have electricity?

TR: No, not in those days. No electricity. We had lamps, kerosene lamps.

LL: Do you remember when electricity came into your life?

TR: Oh sure. Sure. And it was quite a...quite a job installing electricity in the old houses after they're already built, you know. It's not as easy as...as matter of fact, I have some of the old...old lamps. I've got a lot of old antiques myself. I'm a, you know, as you become an antique yourself, you become interested in antiques. And I'm an antique. I'm the oldest living native of Northville.

LL: Are you? What do you remember about the Town? What was it like and did you ever get involved in Town activities or politics?

TR: Oh, I sure did. I was...I was probably the youngest member to go on the Democratic Town Committee in New Milford when I was twenty-one years old and I served on the Democratic Town Committee. I went to several Jefferson/Jackson Day Dinners in Hartford. I took a picture, a thirty-five mm picture of Harry Truman one time and was a guest speaker out there, met him. I...and on another occasion out there, I met and shook hands with John Kennedy, Ted Kennedy and Robert Kennedy. John Kennedy and Harry Truman, in my opinion, were the two...two of the most intelligent Presidents this Country has ever had. I was coming back on a train from New York City when it was announced that John Kennedy had been shot and I thought the world was coming to an end then. The same with Franklin Roosevelt who, in my opinion was one of the greatest Presidents.

LL: How did you happen to decide to go into politics? Had your dad been in politics?

TR: No, no. My dad had never...the only thing my dad ever was, as a matter of fact, I've got a paper from the Governor, I can't tell you his name now, he was a Census...appointed by the Governor of the State of Connecticut as a Census Taker and I have the plaque that was presented to him by the Governor and I ran in ...in the 1950's, I ran for First Selectman with E. Paul Martin, who was one of the finest gentlemen that ever lived. He just passed away last year at a hundred and three and he and I were...served on the Board of Selectmen. The first term I was Third Selectman. We had three Selectmen then, the First Selectman, the Second Selectman and the Third Selectman. And the first term, I was in charge of Lynn Deming Park on Lake Candlewood and I was in charge of the payroll and the Town Farm. At that time, we had a Town Farm with a lady...we had a lady run it and we had probably a dozen, fifteen patients that were...had no place to live and they lived in the Town Farm. And then the next term I...the next year I ran I was elevated to the Second Selectman and I became in charge of the Highway Department and ran the Highway Department for two years. Then I declined to run for a third term and went to work for the United States Post Office in New Milford. Worked there for four years.

LL: How big was New Milford at that time, approximately?

TR: Oh, I would say around fifteen thousand, somewhere in there. Maybe less than that. Less than that.

LL: So as it developed and people who had had the nine; farms with that kind of acreage, they were gradually being sold off or were people keeping them? Were they developing them? What was happening to the land?

TR: Oh, yes. New Milford has been...had a terrific boom in construction. Unfortunately, we've had a lot of out-of-town developers move in and buy up all the land they can, the farms, and build condos and individual houses.

LL: Is there any farming at all still in the area?

TR: Very, very little. Very little farming. It doesn't seem to be profitable around here.

LL: Were there any big farms?

TR: Oh, yes. There were a lot of big dairy farms and they've all disappeared practically. They have the Sunny Valley Farm now in New Milford what was owned by George Pratt from Bridgewater and a wealthy man and he is more or less runs that as a...oh, it's for the general public. More or less of a showpiece. We have a very fine young couple that operate it and raise a few cattle but the milk business in this area has disappeared. There are very, very few...maybe a handful of farmers still send milk.

LL: Were you ever involved in the Grange or 4-H or the Farm Bureau?

TR: Yes, I belonged to the...at one time in my younger life I belonged to the Wichita Grange which is Warren, in Warren, Connecticut. The next town above us here then when I went to work out of town in Bridgeport, I couldn't attend anymore so I more or less dropped out. I belonged to Good Shepherd Lodge of Odd Fellows, Independent Order of Odd Fellows doing...up until just recently. I resigned from it but I had a grandfather, I had uncles, cousins and sons all belong to the same Odd Fellows Lodge. I belonged to...I was a charter member of the New Milford Rotary Club, charter member of the Northville Volunteer Fire Department and I started it many years ago. That's about the organizations I been in. Oh, I was a Deputy Sheriff of Litchfield County for four years.

LL: You have a number of items here that show that you're interested in government and patriotism and I wasn't sure at first which Party because you've got some from other...you've got some from the Republican Party, too.

TR: Oh, yeah. I even got old Wilkie buttons. I got a lot. One old guy says I got a museum here. Yeah, see 'em up here? Abe Ribicoff was a personal friend of mine. I've got letters from him and Ella Grasso. I walked the streets with Abe Ribicoff when he was running for Senator. He was a fine man and a fine Senator, perfect gentleman. He had the most amazing mind of any man I ever saw. He...he came to a meeting at the old Green Lawn Restaurant in New Milford one time as a guest at a...and there were about two hundred people there and as they usually are, they are introduced to everybody in the hall, you know, and most generally, you can't remember all of them. If you were in a room of two hundred people and introduced to two hundred different people that you'd never seen before and expect to remember them, you know. That happened and he was introduced to Paul Martin, who was...E. Paul Martin was my running mate when we were Selectmen and after the party, sometime maybe a month or so later, Paul had to go to Hartford to the State Capitol and he's walking down the aisle and all of a sudden a door opens out of the side of the hall and out walks Abe Ribicoff and he walks over and puts his hand out and says, "Why Paul Martin, how nice to see you." An amazing memory remembering people's names. Yeah, there's a lot of them up there. There's my charter membership to the Milford Rotary Club. I got Weicker buttons and Wilk...there's a Wilkie button. Ella Grasso, I have letters from her. I don't know if you want to see any of those or not. I got them here.

(End of side one.)

I found it. Before it was Sunny Valley Farm it was the old Fairgrounds. They used to hold fairs over there and they'd have horse racing, you know, on dirt tracks and they'd have all these agricultural displays at the fair and this is one of the programs that... 1889 and 1890.

LL: Where there a lot of potatoes in this part of the State? How much longer after that...?

TR: Well, it was...it was no great amount of them, just for their own, you know. They had contests, potato crop contests and they had...and there was...it was comical. If you took this out and saw and read the inside of, you know, they'd have the award for the best product would be something like seventy-five cents which would...But seventy- five cents in those days was a lot of money.

LL: Like how much were they...how much would a person...what would seventy-five cents buy?

TR: Well, you talk, as I said, a quart of strawberries we sold for fifteen cents. These are all pictures of old...there's my dad when he raised gladiolas. He had...this whole field down here was filled with gladiolas. Here he is later setting....some difference. I have pictures of this backside hill with tobacco right

down to the... There's my family. There's my wife.

LL: And how many of them...you said one son lives in the area. The others live out of State?

TR: I have a son in...lives in Mill Valley, California. I have a son in Hyannis, Mass. I have...one son stays...lives home with us. And then I have a daughter that's a...one of the top designers for Hallmark in Kansas City, Missouri. My Mother and that's me. Pictures. I wanted to show...I see cl...my class pictures and there's my son that was in the Air Corp. I lost a son in Vietnam, this one here. She's the designer for Hallmark. He's a pharmacist in Hyannis. He's a musician and I lost these two. (Sorry.) I went down and showed the artifacts and talked about Indians in the classes of school children down in the Main Street School are time. This is the letter that they sent me in the mail. They all...they all printed their names and they didn't write it. They all print...well, one...one can...I guess that must have been the teacher but these names that are on this here now are grown up and have children grown up of their own.

LL: We need to go back and talk about how you learned about Indian artifacts.

TR: Well, I collected...all my report cards...we play checkers on them. Indian artifacts, like I said before, I was...I was interested and admired the way the Indians lived and the way they preserved the land and the...and wildlife and only killing what they needed to survive themselves. And I ---like they are now. They'll go out and kill fifteen...ten or fifteen deer today, although it's illegal, they do it. And they don't need that much.

LL: So where...where...how did you learn about them and then how did you go about collecting? Did you find something first?

TR: Well, I...ever since I was a little boy, I would, you know, when I'm working in the fields well I could...after the...you plowed or after you cultivated you would unearth them and, you know, and just...you'd see them laying there and pick them up especially after a rain. And I became into...and, of course, I knew a lot of Indians. There was an old man that used to go fishing down on Lover's Leap in New Milford without a fishing license. He was a...he was an Indian and the Game Wardens used to try to arrest him...fishing without a license. He says, "You can't arrest me. I don't need a fishing license. I'm an American Indian. I could fish all...for the rest of my life without a license." Which was true and they never made it stick. But...and I've been around to...I got invited to, oh gosh, I went over to South Britain Congregational Church one time with an old friend of mine, a former Town Clerk Howard Peck. He talked on Dudleytown. I talked on Indian artifacts and brought a lot of my stuff to show them and those women sure put on some feed for us out there, I'll tell you. Church women church ladies, you know. Then I've been to a class of school children and talked. I've been to two different...two or three different Granges and one time, very humorous this, I helped the Indians, the American Indians institute get started over there in Washington. I gave them several hundred artifacts for their fund raising parties and one time this elderly lady, I would say she was in her...pushing eighty, came in and stood at the counter there where you are and said, "Would you be interested in coming up to Wichita Grange in Warren and showing your artifacts and talking a little on Indians?" And I said, "Yes, but I know a man that's forgot more'n I know, the teacher over at Gunnery School, a Ned Swiggert. Why don't you contact him?" She says, "Oh, he charges." I sat there and I just laughed. So I said, "Yes, I'll go up." So I went up and I brought a lot of my artifacts and...and there were people there from Metichuwan Grange in New Milford and they asked me if I'd come down there. So I wound up going down to that grange and... But I enjoyed it. I knew most of the people that were there, you know, and the members and. ..and...

LL: What is the difference between the light arrowheads and the dark ones? I...I know it's the kind of rocks that there were around but did they come from different parts of the State?

TR: Not necessarily. Now that frame there, there's two hundred on that board, they were all found in the Town of Morris by a man by the name of Edgar Benjamin going up the hill just before you...come to the Town Hall in Morris. The white ones, there's a hundred white ones and a hundred dark ones. The dark colored ones are flint and the white ones are...are...the white are very brittle, very hard to work with. Quartz, they're quartz. And I've got cartons and boxes of them all over the place. As a matter of fact, I'm even getting ready to get them to the point of what... what's going to happen to them when I go. I would guess that at public auction that big ax there would go for at least a thousand bucks. You want to shut that off for just a minute?  
Lafayette Boulevard. It's on my dad's stationery, my dad's stationery.

LL: 202 was Lafayette Boulevard?

TR: Yeah. And why they dropped that name, I don't know.

LL: Oh look at that. That's back in '58. Now...and so then they paved it in the '30's? You said you were a small boy?

TR: I think '36, they built this road. There was concrete first. You see, it was all concrete. And then, of course, they black topped over it and then they continued to black top over it now. I've got pictures of this when it was a dirt road. I'm sure it's in here somewhere.

LL: How about telling me about the English walnut here.

TR: Well, this man moved in and he was a next door neighbor of mine and he had a little nursery and he and my dad were partners for a while and he thought...he had a dream. He thought he could raise English walnuts here which he couldn't do. But he got out all this literature and pamphlets of it, you know, and passed them around when...and it was a fluke, it was a farce.

LL: That's why he's an entrepreneur.

(End of Interview)