

**CONNECTICUT 20TH CENTURY AGRICULTURAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**ORAL HISTORIES**

Interviewer: Luane J. Lange

Name of Person Interviewed:           A:     Greg Curtis  
  UV:     Kathleen Curtis

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Interviewee Address:

Q:     ...Greg Curtis. It's August 13, 1999. Greg had been an Extension Agent and County Director for years. Thank you very, very much Greg for agreeing to do this. Can you tell me first, where were you born?

A:     I was born in New York City.

Q:     And how did you happen to go into agriculture?

A:     I..I...went into agriculture because I wrote to the Department of Agriculture in Washington. I always had a natural yen for the agriculture business. I asked them what would be the best place in the United States to go to if I wanted to study agriculture. And he right away...he wrote back and said Iowa State in Ames, Iowa.

Q:     You were in New York City. Had any one in your family been in agriculture?

A:     No. None so.

Q:     Did you have brothers and sisters?

A:     I had one brother and he was only interested in baseball. He had nothing to do with agriculture. My father, a physician in New York City, had died. My mother was a nurse and she was away most of the time. My aunt worked in the Post Office and she was away most of the time. We were with my grandmother, there. They felt that would be a good idea.

Q:     So you went to Iowa State. What was your major? Was there a particular focus?

A: My...my real love was Agronomy because I was always intrigued with grasses and how they grew and how they were harvested and all the rest of it. (Soil erosion) So I was an Agronomist from the word "go."

Q: When did you decide to go into Extension work?

A: ..Well, I spent three years in the war after I graduated. I married and had one child before I went in the service. Then I wondered where I...what I was going to do. I had a very good friend who was a teacher at Iowa State and he suggested that I come out to his place and stay with him for a while. So I went to Iowa. I went there with my wife and newborn son. and we stayed with him. He was in the farm management business and I was a part-time farm manager at that time. His name was **Bill Conover**.

Q: Bill Conover, um hmm.

A: He was from the State of Kansas and he was in agriculture in Kansas. Actually, he was driven out of Kansas by the dust...by the duststorms (of the 30's) that they had in Kansas some years back. And so, we came to Iowa. He had gone to Iowa and was on the instructional staff. I worked with Bill and with his farmers for...for the period of one year. Finally I decided that...well the reason I decided was because the Federal allotments for G.I.s ran out and so they were going to discontinue that. I don't know what we got but we got so much a month. Bill couldn't afford to hire me for...for the balance of the money because he was just starting up. So, I decided then that I would leave Iowa and come back to...to New York City and see what I could do there.

Q: Before the war, before you went in the service, how many years of college did you have?

A: (UV. Five years.) Five years. I was one year in NYU in New York and four years at Iowa State. So...I...I had finished my...they mailed me my diploma and ...

(UV. Well, I was expecting a baby so he came home and the baby was born a week after he came home.)

(Tape interruption.)

(UV. Before the war there was no ROTC training. And, his first year at NYU, he had no training in military. When he went to Iowa, he was merely a second year but the first for Iowa and the first for the four-year requirement for ROTC. So his fifth year, we got married and I lived in Iowa with him.)

Q: Are you from New York?

A: (UV Yes, we met in high school. So I came home early because of pregnancy and then he followed hitchhiking. And so his diploma was mailed. So our son was born.)

I came home from the hospital there was a telegram: Report for duty at Fort Riley, Kansas. This is...this is the start of the war for me. It had been going on for a year or so ahead of time.

(UV. Yeah, but he finished four years of ROTC. So when I came home, they said he had to report. Our doctor gave us an extension of one week. So we christened our son who was two weeks old. Then he left the next day. By the time he finished military and came home, our son was three years old.)

I went in the service as a second lieutenant. It wasn't until I was discharged at the end of three years that I became a captain.(UV. He was in field artillery as a forward observer which was very dangerous. But, in the process of camps from Virginia and different ones, he got into the stockade with the prisoners and through that he got into military police. So when he went overseas, he was in the Military Police.

I was an MP when I went overseas.

Q: I see. So now you're back in New York State, again...after the war and after you had been in Iowa with Bill Canover

A: And he didn't have enough money to pay me to make a good living. I wrote then to the Soil Conservation Service and asked them if they had a job. They said they did but it was in...it was in Connecticut. I decided I'd take the job and so I came to take the job with the Soil Conservation Service.

Q: How long did you work for the Soil Con...?

A: Seven years. At the end of seven years I heard that there was an opening for a County Agent in Middletown and so I decided I'd fight for that job.

Q: And...and your...the SCS job had been in Middletown, too, in that same office?

A: No that was in the New Haven office. So, I decided that I would take the job in Middletown. So I...I severed my relations with the folks in New Haven which was a wonderful relationship. Not only did I enjoy the people but I enjoyed everything I did. It was really a problem for me to decide to leave the Service (SCS). It was. And so I applied for this County Agents job. There are letters pertaining to that in here and I...I won out. They said they didn't know what they're doing hiring somebody from New York City as a County Agent but...I...I looked pretty good. So, I was hired. So that's the way it started.

Q: What were your duties like when you first joined Extension?

A: Well, I was an Agronomist so everything I did had to do with the soil and what...what grew on it and that's what I did. I was a farm adviser to every farmer in the fifteen towns in Middlesex County. I enjoyed that very much. So I started off that way and I ended up that way. Although as time grew...as time went on, I began to have interest

not only in the crops that grew but in the farms that they were growing on. I ended up talking about open space allocations to the various towns. I ran a program then in the fifteen towns about open space.

Q: What year was th...what years would those have been?

A: I...I would have to look it up. I was a County Agent for about 20 years.

Q: So if you were there...you came here after the war (Right.)...worked in Iowa for a couple of years so, '46, '47?

A: I worked in Iowa one year and I came here the next year, 1947.

Q: Okay. So you joined Extension in about the middle '50's? Is that right?

A: That's about right. Yeah. 1955.

Q: So you went into "open spaces," early?

A: Really before it started. I had contacts in Hartford with key people in open space who worked for the Department of...DEP. Oh...oh it wasn't DEP at that time. It was just the Department of Agriculture I guess. (All right.) And...I forgot what they called it and I...I...George **Russell** was running my...leading people that I worked with and he is now retired. He lives at Storrs now.

Q: I think they've moved to Carolina.

A: They said they were going to. I...I said to his wife...Maria, I said, "Maria, that's the wrong move 'cause George will never be happy in...in California...in Carolina. He loves this place, here." She says, "Look, you should just shut up." That...that Maria could tell you in no uncertain terms. So I don't know how they made out.

Q: Was your family surprised about your interest in agriculture?

A: Well, you see, my father had died. I was almost a lone person. I made all my own decisions. They would advise me. They didn't advise me, they consented to what I was saying on everything. What ever I wanted to do, that was okay. So that was it, and they knew it. Oh, I...I missed one thing. Prior to...to that time, this...this is going back several years, when I got out of grammar school, I went to Pennsylvania to live on a farm. I lived there for three years. That's where this whole thing started. But it didn't start with my interest, it started because I lived on a farm in Towanda PA for three years when I was twelve years old. I milked eight cows every morning and every night for three years.

(UV. By hand.)

Q: Then, did you go back to New York to high school?

A: Yes I did after...

(UV. See, what happened, his father was a surgeon, ear, nose and throat surgeon, and his mother was a nurse. They met in the hospital and soon married. When his father was thirty-five doing an operation, he had a small cut on his hand. 'An infection from the surgery got into the cut his hand as he was removing his gloves. He died of blood poisoning in two days. His mother was left with two little boys so she had to go back to work as a nurse at the hospital where she worked, Manhattan Eye and Ear. There was a nurse from a farm in Pennsylvania and she invited Mary, his mother, and her two sons for a summer vacation, two weeks. So they went on the farm. He loved it. His brother hated it because he liked to play kickball in the streets. They went home; he stayed on the farm; asked if he could stay. He ended up staying for three years. But then, when he was in...a year before he graduated, his mother said, "No more, you're going to get ready for college. You're coming back to the city." So he came back to the city. His senior year in high school he was in my class and that's how we met. We graduated together. But, he...his love for the farm is because of that incident with the nurse inviting him to live there.)

That's right. Sis is exactly right.

Q: What did you enjoy most when you were on the farm in Pennsylvania?

A: I loved everything about it. I...I loved milking the cows, I loved...I loved putting up the hay. I...I was going to say baling the hay but we didn't have a hay baler at that...at that time. I loved everything about it. Everything. I was just enamored with agriculture. That's why I...that...that didn't change. It's why I wrote to the Department of Agriculture and asked them when and where to go to school. That was it.

Q: Let's jump ahead, now, to when you were working with Extension. What were your days like as an Extension Agent?

A: I had a rigorous program of night meetings. I'd work all day and I'd work most...most nights in the week. No question about it. We had a committee for everything and I was on the committee all the time. I began to have all kinds of friends, it was farmer friends, everyone. And I loved it. I gravitated to it. I still have them. I...I know every farmer in...in the County or I've heard of them one way or another. My job at the time was wonderful. I loved it and I still did...still do. Finally, I retired from the job at age fifty-five. The reason I retired was because Federal Government wouldn't...wouldn't up my salary any...any at all. They...I would have to live at the salary all the time. So I said, "What the hell, if I have to live at the same salary, I'll go out and get something else." So I retired at fifty-five and that's when I ran for the State Senate. I had no previous connection with any town committee or

any political party. I just ran as an independent for the State Senate and I fell on my face pretty good.

Q: It happens, yeah.

A: After that I ran for first selectman of this town and I was elected. I...I enjoyed that thoroughly just as well. That's why I never missed leaving the...the...the agricultural enterprise because I had such a good job with the farmers and the town of Durham doing whatever had to be done. That's where I got the inkling of this preservation of land. That's where that came from.

Q: You mentioned before, when you were in Extension you had committees. What kind of committees were they?

A: Well, I have...I have a....a...I think you should...should read this.  
(Tape interruption.)

Q: I'm going to read from this article from 1987 where Greg Curtis has received the Rockfall Award for Conservation Certificate of Merit. It said, "*He served as the Middlesex County Agricultural Agent for twenty-one years. During that time he developed a system of preparing land ownership maps based on mosaic photographs, organized a fund to purchase the eighty acre 4-H Camp in Moodus and established the Extension Headquarters in Haddam for all agricultural related agencies. As early as 1963 he was actively embarking on a program with County leaders that resulted in maintaining open space. He contributed to the establishment of Conservation Commissions in ten County towns and Planning Boards in twelve towns. He worked with several towns to obtain tax benefits for open space preservation and to establish the Connecticut River Estuary — Agency*".

A: That was PA 490. (Public Act).

Q: Oh, 490? Um hmm. "*And he was instrumental in establishing the Connecticut River Gateway Commission, a board of local representatives charged with the protection of the lower valley of the Connecticut River and served as the first Chairman of the Gateway Advisory Committee. His publication, the Connecticut Historic Riverway, a case study of acceptance and rejection of a national recreation area is based on his involvement with this pioneer preservation effort.*"  
(Tape interruption.)

A: You mentioned...I mentioned open space. I was mainly active in my own town in open space. We developed a plan for the purchase of the hundred and ten acre **White** farm. This is the **White** farm (indicating on a map) and also the two reservoir sites...three reservoir sites. The primary site, the...I forget the name of the guy but the central...central location in Connecticut and one in the north. So we ended up by having three referendums at different times. We purchased all three sites at a...at a

total acreage of six hundred acres. So that's what this town has, six hundred acres of land that was purchased through this program. The White farm was the start of it.

Q: I see, I see. Now, had you known the people on the White farm?

A: I did just as a farmer. Yes, I knew 'em. Yes, I knew them all.

Q: And why did they decide to...to leave farming? Do you remember?

A: The prices were not that good, they were getting on in years and they decided that the...the grant that they would get from the State was sufficient and they didn't have to change it. It would remain in agriculture, you see. It wouldn't go into housing. It wouldn't go into a development of any kind. It would remain agricultural and they could farm it if they wished to continue. They all wished to continue. That was the crux of the whole thing.

Q: And this was in 1965?

A: Yeah. And that...that program still exists.

Q: Yes, it does. Wonderful.

A: The State will pay so much per acre for your land if you sign up with that program. And,...it...it doesn't change it from being agricultural at all. That's the key feature of it. There are three kinds of land. There's agricultural land, forest land and small open space land and all three are involved in that.

Q: I see. Go back, what were some of the committees that you had that you worked with farmers?

A: We had the Dairy Committee, we had a Crops Committee, we had everything. We had a Land Use Committee, Forestry Committee. We had all kinds of committees and I was on all of them? It...it was wonderful because every...you see a farmer is connected to all of them too. You know, it wasn't just myself, every farmer in the place had a part of the forestry, had a part of the open space, had a part of the crops and part of the dairy business. And they...they had hogs or chickens, they were all involved with this. So every farmer was a part and parcel of this kind of an...of an arrangement.

Q: So how many farms were there in the County at that time? Do you remember approximately?

A: I guess I...I wouldn't have any idea.

- Q: Were there some primary production areas that this County had compared to other Counties? I mean, some parts of the State were big in dairy, some of them were big in potatoes way back. Were there any...or were they diversified?
- A: We were probably large in dairy to begin with. Speaking about livestock, we were large in dairy. The second would be poultry and that...that would be about it.
- Q: There's a lot of nursery, greenhouse, now. Where did these come from or what...?
- A: Well, most of the farmers would rent...rent some of their land or sell it with the stipulation that it still belonged to them and they would encourage the greenhouse business and ..some of them do it themselves. Like we had one farmer, his name is **Herzig**. He grew Christmas trees. But that came later on. He was in the dairy business first of all. Now he's totally into Christmas trees.
- : And he still is in the business. Of course, now he has a son and his son has taken over most of the tough work. When you leave, we'll go down and pick up sweet corn at his place see. He grows...he has a shop out there and he's one of the best suppliers of...of vegetables for the town.
- Q: What did the farmers do with their crops and their milk when you were working with them? How were things marketed?
- A: Somebody paid them. I never really was in on that. I never knew anything about it.
- Q: You were responsible then for growing and developing and managing it but not...
- A: Not selling. Never. No. They used to have livestock auctions and some of their cows would go to the auctions. I was never involved in any of that. I was involved in the raising of crops and the cultivating and harvesting of them.
- Q: What do you think are some of the changes that in the raising of crops that happened in your twenty-one years with Extension? A lot of changes happened in this hundred years and a lot of them happened after the war.
- A: Most of them were involved with changes in land use from agriculture to housing. Well, my son was a very prime example of that. This farmer owned twenty acres and Brian bought the fifteen acres and has a house on it now. There's a place for his three kids on that same place at sometime in the future.
- Q: When they were cultivating the crops, were there any differences in the equipment that came out?
- A: There were things that are different. Some of them had better tractors, some of them...Almost...almost all had tractor equipment.

- Q: This happened mostly after the war too, that people got tractors.
- A: Yes, yes. It did. They got mechanized quite a bit and especially as the younger kids grew up. They demanded that the farmer change from hand cultivation and hand raising to tractor cultivation and such.
- Q: Who used to do all the milking and the work?
- A: The family. Most...most of them changed from hand milking to machine milking and many of them changed to loose housing and to erecting milk parlors. They would...put them in...in the milk parlor and that way they wouldn't have to have a barn. They would just let the cows from the one barn into the milking parlor and then take another ---run them through the same milking parlor.
- Q: And where did they stay when they weren't in the milking parlor?
- A: Out in the field. They let them out.
- Q: What's open housing for cows?
- A: Loose stalls. They didn't need a stall, they...
- Q: Just big large spaces and they all were in one space?
- A: That's right.
- Q: What about fertilizer and pesticides and things like that?
- A: Well, they always used that. They always used fertilizer. If you didn't use fertilizer, you wouldn't grow anything.
- Q: Because of our soil, here?
- A: Now, our soil is no different than anybody's soil. It takes...it takes fertilizer to grow good crops. It just does. Yeah. Now this year, it is not a...not a year to use fertilizer because we've had a drought and the damn grass doesn't grow. It's just...it looks dead but in another month or so if it ever starts to rain, they'll go back to using fertilizer again. At least for the fall they will.
- Q: Did they change the kind of crops they grew? For example, when different kinds of corn came in, different kinds of seed came in...
- A: They would change. Whatever...whatever was out. Eastern States ran the show pretty much in this County.

Q: Eastern States?

A: Eastern States. Now it's called Agway. But they used to be called Eastern States. They would sell you most everything and they would be very quick to change if a good idea came along.

Q: So was this at that time, a cooperative?

A: Oh, it still is. Still is. It is a cooperative but everybody is welcome even though it's a cooperative. You can be a member of the Eastern States just by signing up. As far as I know it's Statewide and I think it's nationwide.

Q: Agway. What are some of the things you remember that you liked the best working with the farmers?

A: I liked the cows.

Q: But when you came back working with the farmers themselves, what gave you the most satisfaction?

A: Most everything they wanted to do I was interested in. I really had no particular bent. I stayed away from forestry and pretty much confined myself to agricultural things, farm things. Forestry never really interested me that much although now I have a different attitude toward it.

Q: At that time, where did they get their forestry help?

A: Well, every farmer had a wooded area.

Q: Woodlot.

A: They had their own...own woodlot.

Q: Did anyone help them manage it? I mean, like did the Experiment Station or Yale or...?

A: Oh, no. The farmer always had a kid or two or they hired. Hired help was a great...a great enterprise at that time. Everybody wanted to work on the farm. Prices were not that good but better than most. So they would use a chain saw or whatever they could and knock the trees down.

Q: Where did the hired help come from?

A: Locally. Most....

Q: Other farms?

A: Other farms, yes or from the town itself. Anybody who needed a job would end up milking maybe a month or two on the farm and then back in the city, again. A farmer is very enterprising and very quick to hire and to...to let go.

Q: Where did their...

A: You know this goes back...I could remember everything that happened in **Towanda**, which was Pennsylvania. Of course, I still have roots there. Everything...most of the changes that occurred here also occurred in Pennsylvania with the selling of farms and changing of the enterprise and everything else.

Q: When people sold these farms...are people buying up the farmland (Oh, yes.)...to make bigger farms? Are some of them going into bigger farms?

A: To make housing.

Q: It's all housing?

A: Mostly housing because that's where the money is. And people gravitate toward money. That's exactly what it is. If they can...if they can pick up a ten acre or five acre or two acre or one acre plot of land. It depends upon what the price...the price they get, they can double their money just overnight and that's what they do. So everybody loves to buy land and they don't have to sell it again, quickly. They can keep it in their family for five or ten years and then sell it. Like my son, now he has fifteen acres. He only used one acre of it but pretty soon he'll parcel out the other acres, see?

Q: Some people I've interviewed talk about how they carefully decide which to sell. And, by selling the land, some of it, enables them to stay in farming.

A: Well, that's true too.

Q: So they...sell along the road or certain places they'll sell deliberately. Well not deliberately but because it becomes a necessity...(Yeah.) to allow them to stay in farming.

A: Yeah, they do that or they do it just to get wealthy, that's all. Just to make money. I have a folder here that I want to show you. I invest in the stock market too. That's another one of my interesting things that I do.  
(Tape interruption.)

- Q: What were some of the biggest problems that you found farmers facing when you worked with them?
- A: I think the thing...the thing that most farmers resented, and were against, was pressure from the outside to develop their land. They did...they did not want to sell the land and they would get all kinds of pressures to get rid of their land at a certain price. They...they hated that.
- Q: So the pressure was coming from the local towns, coming nearby?
- A: From developers. (Oh.) From housing developers. Not...not from town. Any...any guy who had an idea how he'd make...make some money by building a half a dozen houses. Well, they're building a bunch of houses on Brick Lane just now. He started out it was piece of crappy land but it...they drained it and they filled it and now they're putting houses on it.
- Q: So the pressure for the farmer would be if they needed money...(Money.)...then they might be forced to and if they didn't, their neighbors might
- A: They...they---would be forced to. If they had children they would need to put the kids through college and look what it cost to put a...one child through higher education nowadays. Even UConn. The...the price has gone up tremendously up there. Now when I went to college, two thousand dollars would buy you a year.: But we...we have...we give each...we have twelve grandchildren. We give each of them a thousand dollars every year for...  
(Tape Interruption.)
- Q: What were some of the major crop problems that you faced, that you...with your farmers? In other words, were there certain diseases or were there certain methods? Did they work to change crops?
- A: I was always an Agronomist, dealt with soil erosion. You see, I...this is one thing I...I...saved this folder out. This is from one of the top Agronomists at Iowa State and he's a great Agronomist. The only thing is, he's so good he's a little irrit...he's been a bit  
of ...irritable streak. But, he's great for making pamphlets and everything else so.  
They sent me this whole folder 'cause I asked him for it. That happens to be a picture of me,  
back...
- Q: Oh, let's see. Let me see this.
- A: That...that was something I did down at Iowa State. See, all of these pamphlets were written by either him or somebody connected with him. He wanted to continue with this as a...as a part-time Agronomist and the...the dean would not...did not want him.

Rejected him. He applied three times and they rejected him each time. And he's mad as hell. This is...this is...that just happened last week. He's still mad. He...but he's a powerful man and he knows everything. He knows enough to...to...

Q: This must be Hartford, 1972. (Looking at pictures)

A: These are old...old stuff.

Q: Yeah. Now his name is Pappanos. So he used to be in Connecticut?

A: Oh he...he was an Agronomist here. On the UConn staff. He was wonderful.

Q: And where is he now?

A: He's....he lives in Hartford. But I'm saying, he asked...he asked the dean to employ him in this business but at UConn they don't pay any attention to farmers and their...their crops or anything. All this stuff has gone by the board. I don't know who the hell they got running this stuff but they don't...they don't seem to have anybody. I object to it but it doesn't bother me because...I haven't lost interest. I would love to read this stuff.

Q: Now when...how...when did he leave UConn?

A: Couple of years ago.

Q: Tell me about the Ag Agents Association.

A: Oh, that's...that's a wonderful. The only thing is, it will die. It's bound to die because of our age.  
(Tape Interruption.)

This is...this is the list of the people involved. It's only the yellow list if it means anything. And the guy who's head of it for 1999 is George Geer. He lives out across the hill in Wallingford. That's this guy. In 2000, a New Hampshire guy will head it.

Q: This is a New England Association?

A: Yes, New England. See most of them have died. Like Russ Hibbard, there's no going over this.

Q: Yeah, I knew Russ.

A: Yeah. There's Stan Pappanos, head...head of the list right here. I belong to a number of organizations like this. Most of them are veterans organizations. I am a member of

the 78th Division and we go to meetings every two years. Our meeting is next year in Texas.

(Tape interruption.)

I don't know if you ever heard of that. The Battle of the Bulge was the encirclement that covered all of Germany. There were...there were probably twenty divisions involved in this battle. Now they...they're meeting down in Newport, Vir...Virginia in September. I joined them because I was...they conned me into belonging and so I joined to see what it would be like. So, we're going down for six days or five days in September just to try this out. But my main thing that I have an allegiance to is the 78th Division. I was an MP. I was...I was Provost Marshall of the Division before it ended and that's just about retirement age. The reason I got to be Provost Marshall is because both my superiors left on points. I was next in line so they made me Provost Marshall of the 78<sup>th</sup> Division in the American section of occupied Berlin. But...so we're going to continue with that one all the time but this one is just a shot in the arm to see what it's like. **Kathleen** is not really enthused about it although she will go just because she's a loyal person. Which is nice.

Q: Are there any particular friends that you made while you were working with the farmers or any that you recall..(Very much so)..doing certain things with or working with them on projects?

A: Well my main...  
(End of side one.)

...from the County Ag...he got me away from SCS to join the County Agents. So you can see the influence he had on me. (His name: Vic Galgowski)

Q: And what did he do? What would...

A: He was a dairy...  
(Tape Interruption.)

Q: ...was he?

A: Most of them were family owned by this family or that family. Most farms could be identified with a...an owner that owned the land.

Q: And they made their entire living off of that piece of property?

A: Yes.

Q: About how large would these have been? How large were these farms?

A: Well, you see most of them now have gone out of business.

- Q: Yeah, but how big were they then? Do you remember?
- A: Two to three hundred acres. I'm thinking of Hussey. Now he has a son and his son is interested in land speculation more than anything else. I'm not sure. I...I'm...I --- about that, really.
- Q: What were some of the decisions you had to make when you were County Administrator?
- A: Well, most of my decisions had to do with open space. At that time, I was gung-ho for open space. I...I went into each town, tried to...tried to sell it in Middletown. Was snubbed in Middletown terribly. I convinced ten town to cooperate in UConn's Farm Program Went to Middlefield. I possibly was successful in Middlefield and other towns,. That was a key thing with me, gleaning favor and for pushing open space.
- Q: When you were Administrator of the County Office in Middlesex County, what were some of the kinds of decisions you had to work with your staff?
- A: Nothing special. Really. Just made sure that they did a good job and they were paid properly.
- Q: Now there was County government back then?
- A: Oh, yes.
- Q: But, didn't you get any money from the County?
- A: No.
- Q: For your budget?
- A: No, no. Where did we get money from? From UConn. I...I don't remember. I just don't know.
- Q: Did you do any work with the Farm Bureau or the Grange?
- A: Oh, yes. All the time. They didn't...they didn't help. The Grange never helped with anything. The Farm Bureau helped legislatively to do this or that but never to help farmers moneywise, with program, as far as I knew.
- Q: Tell me about the 4-H Camp.
- A: Yeah, what about it?

Q: You were working for Extension at the time the Camp property was purchased in Moosup?

A: I arranged for the purchase of that property. Yes, I did. Arranged for, I mean, I was...I was in there tooth-and-nail all the way. I forget where we got the money. Well we got...we got grants from the farm community. They all...4-H families and supporters all kicked in to build a fund for the purchase. And, Julian Thayer made a grant to me personally to build up a fund. So, we had support. We didn't need much money, you know. It didn't...didn't cost much to buy that...

Q: Well, how had the decision been made to buy a camp, to buy land to build a c...?

A: The Extension Council. Our Council, headed by Julian Thayer, decided to...to buy it and we looked around for people who could donate something. Most...a lot of the money was raised locally. I don't remember the ins and outs of that, that's been a long time ago. But, I do remember like Julian **Thayer** gave some money.

Q: T-H-A-Y-E-R-?

A: Yeah, he's the one that had the figures on a committee to build a new school. He was a big farmer over in Middlefield. He's dead now, his wife is dead. His kids are also dead. But he was a real mover...actually, the Thayer Auditorium in Durham's high school is named after him. He was very instrumental in everything that had to do with the school system in both towns. When they talk about a regional school system, this is a regional school system.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about your career, your life related to...?

A: Well, I...I actually, if I lived over...lived it over again I'd do exactly the same thing. The only thing is, I would get more...more involved than ever. I really would. I liked everything about it. I have no regrets about any of it so that I have nothing but good things to say about it.

Q: I do want to thank you very, very much for taking the time.