

“Green Mountain Chronicles”
Oral History Transcriptions, 1981-1989 (bulk: 1987-1988)
MSA 199 & 200

Introduction

This transcription is one of approximately 42 transcriptions of interviews with individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 in preparation for a radio program sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.”

Scope and Content

The transcriptions in this collection represent interviews of approximately 42 individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 by Mark Greenberg, Mary Kasamatsu, Eleanor Ott, and Tom Davis in preparation for a radio series entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.” The series of 52 five-minute programs was broadcast by commercial and public radio stations throughout the state in late 1988 and early 1989. The earliest interview in the collection was conducted in 1981; the latest was in 1989.

The interviewers spoke with well known Vermonters such as Governors Philip Hoff, Deane Davis, and Madeleine Kunin; lesser known personalities such as Catherine Robbins Clifford, one of the first women to hike the entire length of the Long Trail; and historians such as Weston Cate. The following inventory of the collection highlights the major theme(s) of each interview. The following list of program tapes gives the title of each radio program.

The goal of the radio series was to tell the history of Vermont in the twentieth century using archival sound recordings and recent interviews. The project was undertaken by the VHS in celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1988 and was funded by a \$14,000 grant from the Vermont Council on the Humanities and Public Issues with additional support from New England Telephone Company.

MSA 199, Folder 0 contains background information on the project. The VHS website at www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles contains a list of the Green Mountain Chronicles radio broadcasts and audio files of those broadcasts.

Gov. Deane C. Davis
June 9, 1988

Mary Kasamatsu
Interviewer

DD ^{My grand}father lived over on Pike Hill, that's in the Town of Corinth. You know where Waits River on the way to, I don't know what that route is, but on the way to Bradford. And he operated a farm up near the Pike Hill Mines about two miles and a half up the hill from Waits River and there was illness in my family at that time. I had a brother who was desperately ill. And we had a large family of children, so in order to save some pressure on my mother, they farmed me out over to live with my grandfather when I was five years old and some of my clearest memories are, began right then. I can't remember anything that happened before that, ~~but~~ I remember very well being there at my grandfather's and being with him, going to church with him and working on the farm. I guess I didn't do much work, only tagged along you know. But it's rather interesting as I was looking back because I have, I have been writing for my grandchildren sort of a biography of my life and I've been at it for like, I keep putting it down you know and then I don't have self-discipline enough to pick it up. (LAUGHING) Move on, so that it's been a process of I guess three years anyway I've been at it. But as I've gradually worked along with that, it suddenly became apparent to me that there are few people in the State who grew up with a century. I mean, I'm 87 years old now and, not too many of those left around here. There's some, there's some hundreds and so on, and of course I remember Jessica Swift who was a very close friend of mine for the last quarter of a century of her life, lived over in Middlebury, who died at the age of 110. And Margie and I went to her 110th birthday party over in, in Middlebury. And she was a remarkable woman. She had a tremendous memory of the past too. Well I'm getting off the subject. I was just interested in what you were doing. On the value of it, the interest, the reason I did this was because after my father died, I found in his attic a handwritten book. It was kind of a more hard cover book with a, old days of about that thick and it would be the type of book that they would use for financial, recording financial affairs you know, income and...

MK Ledger?

DD Yea ledger book and he'd made it into a book just to record memories of his and it's not a diary. There's a lot of genealogy in it. But it's not a genealogy book and I don't know what to call it, except it would have stuff in it where he would write once in five years. But then he'd sit down and write page after page you know in his own hand writing and so, when I found that book, I'm about the only one that can read his writing. His writing was

so poor and I recall that when I was a young kid about ten years old, I used to hang around his law office a lot of the time and he would use me to translate, interpret and translate what he had written if it was over two weeks old. If it was less than two weeks old, he, helped by his memory he could read his own writing, otherwise he couldn't. But I could read it by some strange quirk. So I had it all typed up and mimeographed and made 35 copies of it and sent it out to members of the family and a few others. Everybody that got it was so pleased with it that remembering that I thought well I'm going to do something like that. That's why I got started doing it. Well, I bored you enough for that.

MK No, I find all of those things very interesting. I really do, which is why I have such a good time with this project.

DD Yea, right.

MK One thing I just should say here at the beginning is that I'm with Governor Deane Davis at his home in Montpelier. This is the 9th of June and this is going to be an interview for the Green Mountain Chronicles. One thing I'm going to do is I think adjust this up a little bit. I'm going to jump around a lot and I do want to come back to your background more later, but one of the programs that we are specifically doing is Act 250. *(adjusting mic)*

DD Uh huh.

MK And I know that was one of the, is it fair to say a priority of your administration _____?

DD It became a priority yes indeed and it's the thing that is, that I guess as time has gone on, I have decided that, that was the best thing that was done during my administration. Although I did not have any such thing in mind when I was, when I ran for Governor. The reason I got interested in, in some sort of management of the construction in Vermont was, of course, you couldn't help but be aware of the influx of people during that time that were moving into Vermont from along the eastern seaboard which is a pretty heavily populated area as you know. And during my campaigning, particularly in the southern part of the State, Windham County particularly and Bennington County, just some to a lesser extent, but primarily in Windsor, wait a minute, Windham County...

(SOMEONE AT DOOR)

MK We were talking about the situation in Windham County.

DD Oh yes. Well as the increase in population continued, there were a great many second homes being built. At that time, the majority of them were built because of and in the near proximity of ski, of ski resorts of various kinds. And I was called down there by the Windsor, Windham County Development Association, I think it is. A man by the name of, of Smith who was heading it up at that time who became concerned about what was happening in that county, primarily in the area of Dorset and Wilmington. Wait a minute, is it Wilmington or is it Westminster down there? You'll have to look that up. It's a town right next to Dorset. I can't remember. I was in both of them as a matter of fact. I spent quite a lot of time down there in following that visit. But on that visit, I was introduced to a lot of people in the area including real estate men who were the last you would, area, last kind of people that you would think would be concerned about what was happening down there. They took me up into the Mt. Snow area to see what was happening, what kind of roads were being built, where they were being build, what kind of houses were being built and I saw at that time for instance, the building of second homes in which a lot of money was being spent for quite sizeable thing, quite sizeable houses. And the roads were being built on grades that were entirely unacceptable for future use and also with curves that would be nonnegotiable by school buses or anything like that. And of course the history of development in other states has made it clear that a lot of these so-called second homes eventually become first homes for somebody which means children are going to be there. The town has to supply the necessary services to the area which before was probably nothing but trees and if that rate of growth is too fast, it can cause tremendous disorganization in not only town finances, but in the organization and speed with which they have to add people, not only to the schools, but to build schools, build roads and that sort of thing. Well they showed me so many of those places. For instance, there was in the Town of Dorset, there were developments where you just went through a road that was hardly to be called a road, but there would be these wooden signs, Lot number 463, Lot 464, Lot 465 and found that there were more of those lots already laid out and approved as far as the town is concerned, because that was the only approval required back at that time, that if they all were built on, there would be more people in that little small Town of Dorset, than there were in the Town of Brattleboro which was adjacent. So that began to open my eyes. But then I noticed that there were open sewers running into the,

right into the ditches in several places down there and there was a tremendous lot of erosion. Another place I was taken to by Senator Janeway where there was a development going on, a small development going on, I believe in that one, there were only a total of about 100 acres and there had been only 10 acres that were scheduled for, for development at the present time and three houses had been built as sort of model houses to show to customers. The road or the roads which were, had already been put in, were just gravel dumped on top of greensward you know, just piled it up enough so it looked like a road and if it stayed dry all the time it probably might have served for a short time, but there had been a big thunder storm and rain storm had come down that, gave a graphic example of what can happen by nonplanning at that time. The gravel was all washed across the main road. Not all of it I mean, but much of it was gone and deposited on another farmer's land across the way that was lower elevation and it was a sorry sight indeed. You couldn't drive a car over it. All three of the houses were not completed in their construction. One of them I remember, in particular, the foundation was all washed out around it so much that the house tipped over partway at an angle with various damage done to the other two. I remember those three houses very well. And then there was the, the development or starting of a development down there by the International Paper Company which owns an awful lot of land in Vermont and a lot down in Strafford in that area and they had decided that they had to develop some part of their land in Vermont and they had begun a very poor development there in Strafford and the citizens were all up in arms about it. The nature of it and the fact of it and all of that. And all of this began to coalesce you know until it became clear to me that, that unless we did something about this early, that the, Vermont was going to be a sorry looking place after, say 20 years or 25 years or whatever. Well that was the beginning of, of my introduction to the idea that we had to do something which resulted in Act 250. At that time, there were a lot of people in the state who didn't want any growth and there still are as far as that's concerned. That was not my attitude. I felt that, in the first place I don't know how you can stop growth. You can't pass a law and say nobody can come into the state anymore and it was not to stop growth that was the genesis of the idea of Act 250, it was more importantly, it was the idea to introduce some sensible planning into growth because the growth was going to be in addition to growth, there was going to be a company to buy an awful lot of buildings that you couldn't reverse once you got it built. The only way you could reverse is to tear it down which would be an uneconomic

thing to expect to ever happen. So we'd have to live with whatever was, was put up there. Well after I became governor, the man who was my predecessor as governor was Phil Hoff, and Phil Hoff had used during two or three years of his incumbency a technique of what he called the Conference on Natural Resources and so that was had a little bit of traditional acceptance already in the state so I knew we never could do anything in the way of restricting and controlling and regulating building and use of land in Vermont unless we did a tremendous sales job to the people of the state so, the beginning of the sales job was to adopt that technique that Phil Hoff had established and call a conference in Montpelier. And we sent out invitations to over 600 people and over 500 showed up. Then we had this at the State House there in Montpelier and we had planned for it very well. We had several truly experts in the field of, of planning, municipal planning and statewide planning and we had several philosophers in that area too such as Barry Commoner. He was our chief speaker at the, at the meeting at the State House there in 1969. And the excitement that began to generate as a result of that thing is probably what made it possible eventually to win the battle which was a real battle to get Act 250 passed. Am I going to far on this?

MK No, this is exactly what I'm looking for.

DD I see. So while the conference was going on, after the speakers in the morning, in the afternoon, it had been planned to divide up into small groups. Some of the groups were 50 or so and we used different rooms here and there to discuss various aspects of the problem which had been well planned in advance so that they were all invited to go to this one or to go to that one. And sometimes we had too many in one, so we begged them to go to this one and but they really worked at it. And fortunately, there were enough people in this, these people who were attending, so that they had some capacity for imagination, capacity for thinking and all that sort of thing and they identified very well what the real problem was in Vermont and what the obstacles to any correction from the State of, from the point of view of legislation. Fortunately, at that time, we had in Vermont, in Arlington, Vermont, one of the top experts in the country on municipal planning. A fellow by the name of Walter Blucher I think his name was. I don't know, he was living there, I guess he planned to live there permanently, but for one reason or another, he, he, after he retired and went there, thought this was going to be his retirement home, he was so able and so interested in these things that he's been

moving all around the country and I don't know where he lives now, but somewhere out in the West, but an extremely able man and we immediately latched onto him and in the early beginnings what we, what he did, he did all on a voluntary basis. We later hired him, well, I'm getting ahead of my story. At the end of the conference, these people all came back to the, to the (TELEPHONE RINGING), to the main meeting. I don't know. Well the result of this, this long day of, of consideration at that meeting and giving them a lot of stimulation in the morning and real hard work in the afternoon, they came up with a request to the Governor which they signed and all voted for unanimously and which was that the Governor should immediately appoint a commission made up of knowledgeable people in the subject and begin the process of the preparation of some sort of management legislation with respect to the development of the state and the use of land and the construction of building on those lands. And then they adjourned. That was the last of that conference but it served its very useful purpose because they went back home and talked to the neighbors about the problem and in no time flat, the knowledge of the existence of such a problem began to be shared with a large segment of the state. Of course, it also built opposition to it as is common in cases like that. And I promptly picked out Arthur Gibb over in Weybridge, Vermont who was a retired financial man from I don't know where he came from, I can't remember, but he lives over there in retirement and has lived for quite awhile and been in the legislature for and long after. In fact he just retired this year as chairman of that committee and we put a truly representative group together. It wasn't just to pick somebody that was already brainwashed and ready to go and they had some, they had many meetings and they worked hard at it and they had some real fiery meetings too. There was lots of difference of opinion developed which was good which we used later on in the actual construction and writing of the act. They made two reports. I don't know whether it would help you any to look at those reports or not, but there are, they are filed in the governor's papers up at the Secretary of State's office there with Sanford, yep. It's pretty long and pretty detailed so, I'm not sure for your purposes it, but if you want to go deeply into the development of it, there is two sources of material. And it was became obvious that if we were going to do this job at all, we had to do it well. Therefore, we must not try to get it established for the first year of my governorship, but that we should have the machinery in place to really develop something that would have, that was sound and would have a lasting effect in at least improving the situation that would develop without some

sort of control in the State and resulting from the specific, more specific recommendations that were made and see they were starting out with generalities and each movement we were getting a little closer all the time to specifics. And then I hired Walter Blucher for \$100,000 I think it was to supervise this thing and he did a fantastic job because he was so knowledgeable and fortunately we had a state planning unit in place at that time. They worked together well and we used other, other people from other departments in the state so that for a whole year there, they were, people were working toward the end of producing one, no two actual laws. Act 250 and Act 252. And it should be understood right here that although people only know about Act 250 generally and they call everything that has to do with environment Act 250, Act 252 is just as important as Act 250 because that was the water act. That was the, the act in which we had a normal provision that and a kind of scary one too, in which the legislation provided that after the passage of the act, no person in the State of Vermont could deposit into the waters of the State any substance of any kind, pure water or un-pure water without a permit. And then that gave the chance for the, and we had a Water Resources Department then, already that had been here in place for some years. And that act also included the problem of municipal sewers that dumped into streams and after they were collected in pipes and started the real activity of treatment, sewage treatment of waters, sewage material before it was allowed to be deposited in the waters of the State. Those two acts worked together is my point and that I think has been as helpful as Act 250 has been. Well, then we brought the Attorney General's office into the picture. Well, they'd already been brought into the picture on the Gibb commission and John Hanson, see the Attorney General was Jim Jeffords of Rutland and John Hanson was an assistant to the Attorney General and he was given the top assignment to follow this and be the one to turn to as far as the commission was concerned. He became a true expert just by constant devotion to the problems and listening from all the different sources and John has now I think gone into business for himself as a specialist in this field, legal specialist in this field. But as I say, the purpose of it was to bring some orderly planning into the development of the State of Vermont, not to prevent growth or not to try to accelerate growth, either one. Those were two functions which we thought would not, should not be a part of the Act 250, although a lot of people think it is. A lot of people think that's why we did it, but we didn't.

MK In terms of the opposition to Act 250...

DD Yes.

MK ...where, I would assume that some of it would come from real estate.

DD Yes, yes, there was truly a substantial amount of opposition that had its beginnings with the interest of real estate men who saw restrictions upon the use of land as slowing down if not preventing the sales of lots of land and, but it was not limited to that by any means. It, there were a lot of people that looked at it, I think from a political philosophy point of view which were the people who felt strongest about and had inherited the old Vermont idea you know, that land is sacred to the owner. The owner can do whatever he wants to. And that's one of the main things about Act 250 is that it clearly brought into the picture the idea that the State itself, the people in the State, have an interest that has to be protected in the use of land. Of course, back when I was growing up, that would have, people would have looked at that with horror. Land, we were an independent people and one of the ways we expressed it was, was in the use and beliefs about the use of land. Where did it come from? I think the biggest opposition came from, were not self-interest people; they were people that were philosophically opposed to the idea of, of government telling somebody how they could build a house and things they had to do, in order to build a house. There's been one book written about, in opposition too, did you know that?

MK I didn't know that.

DD I can't give you the name of it, but it was written by somebody, I believe he lived in Dorset. I've read the book, back oh, ten years ago I guess or more. I didn't know it at the time, that the, that this was going on and that the legislation was going on, but I ran on into it. Oh, it's a bitter indictment of all of us stoops who had to do with that. You might want to look at that. I don't know whether anybody ever would ever accept it in the libraries or not, but certainly people in Brattleboro area would know about it. This, and I think this man had no private interest to, to protect. I think he was just writing it from, from the point of view of philosophical point of view. Of course, we had strong opposition from the builders themselves, the contractors and all of the people who sold things for, for, when you build a house and that involved a lot of people as you can well know. But we had in the State at that time, some strong

organizations that grew up naturally, weren't connected with the State of Vermont government in any way, like the Council on State, Council on Natural Resources was, that was in existence back at that time and there were a number of other, shall we say, environmentally related organizations like the wildlife people and the Fish and Game, oh I don't know how many there were at that time, but by the time the act had been in existence some seven years I think it was, I took occasion to finally ask the, this was the then Department of Environmental Agency to find out how many there were of those. I believe there were 19 or 20. And so we had those as allies and they were a tremendous force in support of this thing, but people generally had caught the idea that there was something to this and of course Green Up Day helped also to and became sort of the environmental ethic you know. All the young people, they were growing a little older at that time some of them, but when we had Green Up Day, first Green Up Day, we had 87,000 people out on the roadsides. There were a lot of them young people, but there were a lot of middle-aged people that already ^{were} established and that got into the schools and it got into the hearts and minds of lots of people.

MK Green Up Day began exactly when. It began in May of 19?

DD The what?

MK The first Green Up Day?

DD The first Green Up Day was 1970.

MK '70, okay.

DD Same year that the bill was passed.

MK Okay.

DD And one of the arguments that was used against it was it was a tremendous burden upon new industry being brought into the State and would result in, in fewer jobs. It would set back the growth of the State and the needed industrial activity to provide jobs for people and that was of course sensitive and we overcame it. But later of course, I've been interested in the thing so long, that I've kept watch of everything that's been going on, most everything ^{in a} major way in the field as to how it's worked out. Has it been worthwhile and all. And so I decided to do some research work on, on what has it done to growth in the state. Has it set it back as the critiques, so many critiques were saying and I found these

interesting bits of information. I did this in 1977 which would be seven years after the passage of the act. And this is the reason that I compared what had happened in those seven years with what had been happening in seven years before because it's the only time frame that I could think of that would be meaningful. So before, during the seven years before, 1970, there were only 91 new companies that came into the State, industrial companies. In that same period after the passage of Act 250, there were 121, 30% more and then there were. New plant expansions began to grow at that time and they kept a record of those and had kept a record for the seven years prior to 1970, longer than that as a matter of fact, but I just took the seven years. The new plant expansions in the seven years prior to 1970 were 563 and the new plant expansions after, seven years after, were 2,147. That is four times as many. And here's the real big one. The new jobs created. The seven years prior were 1,577 new jobs created and this comparable period after the act, 10,183, that's six times as many during that period. And, they even kept records of the in the Development Department of new capital invested by people in plant and machinery and during the seven years before Act 250, there were 104 million plus invested and in the seven years afterwards, 477 million, four times as much. So the next question was, later on and I guess it was '83, yea, 1983, I wanted to take another just quick look to see whether this tremendous increase in activities relating to job creation was continuing or not as a result of the influx of people that were coming in. And it showed that in 1983, new plant investment was thirteen times as much as seven years before 1970. So, the, as far as I could see, that put an end to this argument^{was} going to be a burden on growth and a burden on job, new jobs. At the same time, I might stick these on your record. I don't know whether it would be of any use to you or not, but then I went to the Environmental Agency at the same time to see if we could get any figures or accurate figures about what had happened in that period of time and among the things we found what is happening in the matter of cleaning up the water which was one of the major jobs and one of the major objects. By that time, 92% of our streams, by 1977, this is a result of Act 252, but as I say, they are both closely related. 92% of our streams by number were clean and passed Federal inspection and we'd had Federal inspection. Thirty-six secondary sewage disposal plants had been built and seven major municipal plans had been rebuilt to upgrade from primary to secondary status and certain parts of the Winooski river now you could fish in for a change. There are some parts you can't still, but it's coming. In the area of air pollution, in 1960, we

had sixty major sources of air pollution in Vermont which were depositing over 100 tons of particulates or sulphur into the air. By 1977, fifty of them were found to be in full compliance and eight more were on schedule for completion by renovations which were very expensive by the companies and there were only two who remained which were serious problems. So whatever air pollution we are getting in Vermont, isn't coming from Vermont now, it's coming from Massachusetts and New York, Connecticut and New Hampshire, maybe Canada, only the wind doesn't blow that way. Dumps, in 1970, we had 156 open dumps. By 1977, we had only 35 and by 1977, we had a bottle bill. We had an annual Green Up Day. We had a scenic road program that was well advanced. Our oil spills were under control and most of the discharges into Lake Champlain of which there were many before Act 252, were cleaned up in 1970 and we had not a single town development plan back before Act 250. Each, the towns were entitled by State law way back there to have a development plan you know for their town. Not a single one. (TELEPHONE RINGING) Today we have 200, today was in 1977, (TELEPHONE RINGING) 222 town plans in place. So the list goes on and on you know that way and I don't know whether you are interested in, in what Act 250 really, what it is composed of or not. Would you want me to take a minute?

MK If you could summarize it sure.

DD I'll try to summarize it best I can. It's a very, had to be, since it was a pioneering venture into a field that we had no guides from any other state you see. Incidentally, Oregon has copied us now, not 100%, but 80 or 90% and I've read their new law and how in the world we ever got ahead of Oregon, I don't know, because they are as you know, one of the outstanding environmental states. One of the reasons of course that we were able to do this and that made it logical to do it is that Vermont wasn't developed. Now Massachusetts, ~~wasn't~~ ^{wasn't much that} they could do with an Act 250 down there because it's all developed. And of course, we are getting to places, to the point now where some, some of the cities are so far developed that Act 250 now only has to do with changes that they make in there. For instance, Brattleboro is one of those. Brattleboro has developed so much, that all the land is just used up. Well in Oregon and Vermont, that wasn't true and that's why these two states I think were able to, to go ahead and introduce some control, state control into the situation. Now the real key or the real shall I say gist of Act 250 is that it set up ten areas, ten specifications that any construction had to meet if a person was going to do anything to the land and in some of those cases, the

burden was put on the individual seeking permission or the burden of proof and some others. (Are you looking for me? No.) There were ten, as I say, there were, if I can find it. First was the applicant had to prove what the impact, what growth impact was going to have on the, the town and city in which it was, in which the construction was. Was it going to adversely affect, was it going to be done in a way that the cost for instance, cost of building schools, building new roads, carrying for the traffic requirements and furnishing water facilities, such as sewage and clean water also, that had to be proved that it was not going to adversely effect the interest of the State. There was a provision that against the use of farm land, primary agricultural soils. That is, they are defined in a technical way to mean the land, the primary, the soil that has such a deep under structure of good soil, usable, permeable soil and has been proved to be you know, ability to raise crops rapidly when, if there was other land nearby that could do that, could provide a place for the proposed construction then it was denied. One provision was called for proof that the forest lands were not going to be adversely affected if there was any possible way to avoid it. And there are provisions concerning the extraction of material from the, from the earth, such as minerals and mining and quarrying of granite and marble and other substances of that. They had to meet a standard of not endangering the land adjoining. And under the heading of energy conservation, the planning design of the subdivision or development had to reflect the principals of energy conservation, incorporate the best available technology for efficient use of energy. And there was a provision in here for private utility services. A permit will be granted for development of or subdivision which relies on privately owned utility services on facilities or facilities including central sewage or water facilities and roads. Whenever it is demonstrated by the applicant, that in addition to all other applicable criteria, the privately owned utility services or facilities are in conformity with the capital program or plan of the municipality involved or adequate surety to provide into the municipality and conditioned to protect the municipality in the event that the municipality is required to assume later the responsibility for that service. And there was one section that purpose of which was to provide development not in a scattered way, so far as possible to have the development move gradually from an already built up area in order to make it possible to have the very best of sewage facilities and water supply and cut down the cost of roads and that sort of thing. That's been an important one in enforcement of it. Well I've touched on the, on the main, on the main ones. There was

a protection of the wildlife also as you know. But I think as, it has now been, let's see it's been, 1950, '60, 1970, today is 88. That's eighteen years ago, I can't believe it, eighteen years ago. And we have, we have very successfully introduced planning into the State. Now it's costing people money to live with this and a lot of people get annoyed you know because it holds them up and goes slow. But really, it hasn't denied people very much in the way. I think there is only two percent of the permits have ever been denied completely. What happens is that in the process of determining whether they will, whether a permit will be granted, expert help from the Agency of Conservation, or Environmental Agency it is called now, get into the picture and they cause by suggestion and so on, the revision of these plans that come in. Many, many, hardly a plan goes through that isn't revised to satisfy a requirement that is suggested by one of the State Agencies. And that's why it takes so much time on the, to get these permits. But from that point of view, it's been very successful because it hasn't been a denial of growth, it's been as I said, what really was the plan to introduce orderly planning for the future of Vermont. Now I guess I've talked enough.

MK (LAUGHING) I wondered whether you recalled a film that I believe was produced by John Carroll around ____? My understanding was that it was part of the campaign to win public approval, public support?

DD I don't recall that. I know we had several films that were produced and I guess that might, I know there was one that was very successful and that's probably the one.

MK There's one called, I think it was called "So Goes Vermont," I believe was the title of that?

DD Yea, I think that's right, I think that's right.

MK Okay.

DD You could find that out...

MK I saw it several years later, actually just a couple years ago and I was very impressed.

DD Yes. Well we had an awful lot of State people that were working on this project. We, I remember attending and speaking at a, at a conference on a Act 250. You know for awhile there, there were every year, there was an act, there was a conference was all, not by the State, it was by volunteer groups and I remember this, this particular

one. It was held up at Burlington at University of Vermont at the school there for independent living or what do they call it. I think it's independent living there on the left hand side. And I got there just before the noon meal. I was to speak after the meal. So I saw all these people. They had adjourned for and were just in groups around. Some joker had, had got the name tags printed so that they all said, "I wrote Act 250." See, and you know it was a really a stroke of genius because, it truthfully, there were so many people involved in the, in the whole genesis, from the genesis of it, right up through to its culmination. That that's what really helped us politically in the end. Now we had a real battle in the legislature, but we just had the people behind us and as these legislators would go home over the weekend, they found that there was a lot of majority sentiment was in favor of doing something. They didn't know what to do, but doing something.

MK I had occasion to interview Lillian Baker Carlisle.

DD Who's that?

MK Lillian Baker Carlisle?

DD Oh yes, yes.

MK A few...

DD What a gal she is, yea, I think she's wonderful.

MK She is, yea, and she was very interesting to talk with. I went to see her actually about the Order of Women Legislators and as we were talking of course she began talking about Act 250 on the Natural Resources Committee.

DD Sure, yea.

MK And she told a story about someone taking you down to the southern part of the state to see some of what had been going on and there was a fellow out in the road dressed up in a clown costume, gesturing up to the mountain, saying "Come Buy a Piece of Vermont".

DD Yea, that's right, yea. Well of course you know, at that time, people in Connecticut and Massachusetts, we know specifically that it had become down there the thing to do to brag at cocktail parties that you owned a piece of land in Vermont. I'm going to excuse myself for just a minute. I'll be right back.

MK Sure, ^{will} turn this off.
[Returns]

DD About the matter of opposition. One interesting feature to me was how the opposition, a lot of it centered in the Northeast Kingdom because there wasn't any development up there you see and they were in opposition to it many of them, most of them, because of the feeling that it was an intrusion on the right of an individual to do anything they wanted to do with land, which it was.

MK They hadn't seen the problem?

DD They hadn't seen the problem, that's right, yea.

MK Interesting. As Lillian spoke about that, she said that. She said, "Here we were, we were hurting everybody."

DD Yea.

MK There's not one single little landowner that wasn't in some way affected.

DD That's right.

MK Or couldn't see themselves potentially affected.

DD Of course, I think the real estate people now have come to realize what a boom Act 250 was for them because they, there's more development, more demand for development and in the state of Vermont and more demand to live here with the result that real estate prices have gone out, right through the ceiling it seems to me. And that's presented another problem in how are people going to pay for their new homes. There are ways for the State to help and it will be solved.

MK I was wondering whether you see any parallels with the growth legislation that just came out of this legislature?

DD Well the growth legislation as it finally turned out I think, the only part of it that interested me a great deal was the, was the fact that they did move the, the, they did improve or at least it furnished the legislative basis for the improvement of planning in the State, long-term planning. We had the, the long-term planning was considered very important and as you know, we had originally planned to have a statewide plan, land use plan. We got licked on that. That's the one part of it that we did get licked and it's very an unhappy situation that we did. Fortunately, the, in reaching that objective, the Act provided that the governor should make

the first capability, land use capability plan which had no, really had no, you could say, legal compelling force, because it was merely to point out what areas geographically and things like soil composition and that sort of thing, that we should look at for, that the nine agency, regional agencies should look at in passing on an application. Then it was provided that the second one was to be done by the legislature. That still was not to be a, have binding effect as a requirement, though shall not and so on. It was, but to enlarge upon what would be, have to be done in haste by the governor which it was done in haste, but it is pretty well done. Not because I did it, because I got the right people to do it. And for the third one was going to be the real important one where by that time we would have identified certain definite spots in the State and certain definite conditions that would make it wrong to develop there and that would be the law. Well we never got beyond the first page. We had the three bases. The governor's plan was, went in and was approved by the legislature and but by that time you know, the opposition was getting stronger and so that those two plans, now why was that important? Why would have it been important? Well Walter Blucher is the guy who came up with the idea that there must be a part, as part of the whole process of Act 250 implementation, a plan for people to turn to so that we can have a greater uniformity of action, whatever the county was in which it was being done. And, I didn't take that too seriously at the time. I've taken it very seriously since. I can see how right he was and it is, for that reason, it is made the implementation of Act 250 much harder job than it would have been otherwise, because the regional commissions would have been spared in many cases. These long hearings that they have to have to do much of which would have been done in the, in the final land use plan.

MK There would have been a standard they could have turned to.

DD Yea. Furthermore, but here's the most important part of it. You recall the fight they had with the Killington group down there. Now Killington wanted to deposit into, those were pristine streams down there. That was one of things that was my baby, that I said we should first decide that nobody was going to be allowed to develop the pristine streams because if we can't clean up, if we are ever going to clean up the streams down below, we can't go on dumping things into the higher sources, higher levels. And a land use plan if it had been adopted, would have provided, because it was in those early plans this particular feature about pristine streams, higher

elevation pristine streams and for that reason, there would never have been any, the people would have known that they couldn't do that sort of thing and the idea of building such a thing by Killington would never have become an issue you see. And countless other incidences in which the same thing would have happened, had we had the plan. But we didn't and so the result is that, that unification necessity has had to be the responsibility of the State Environmental Board. And they have done a perfectly fantastic job in doing it. Now incidently to help you in your, you probably have one of these. But if you haven't, you must get it and read it because it's the best job I think that I've done, I've seen done by a knowledgeable person who as himself written on the subject. Have you, by any chance, have that document.

MK I have not read it. I have it.

DD Oh you got it. Let me commend^{to you} it. Wilson did it. Leonard Wilson and Leonard was Chairman of the, of the Board and he was also very, very active in the, in the writing of Act 250 itself. I mean he knew, he knew the field. He's a student in that field as well as many others and I was literally amazed after I read it, how well he had put it down. And I think when you get all your stuff together, read this and I think it will help you to you know come out with what, I don't know how much space you're going to have to.

MK Well we have a couple of different, along with this project, we have... [turns off tape]

DD Yea.

MK This has been really helpful and I want to thank you for going into all the details.

DD Well, I hope you get a, if you should be able to work it into your schedule, talk with Art Gibb too. Because Art has, not only was he so important in its early days and in the implementation of the actual writing of the act and what had to be done, the study and so on that went with the discussion and all of that, but he's been in the legislature all the time since you see until this last, I don't think, I know he's not in there now, I think it was last year that he quit. And he's a very intelligent man and very knowledgeable and not, not pig-headed about things you know. That's one trouble in this thing, we got people that are all environmental and we got people that are all against everything that environmental people are doing. He's not that at all. He's a student and a

scholar and his memory will be even better than mine because, well because he's had his memory jogged so much since you see.

MK Sure.

DD And he can give you an appraisal of what he thinks as to what its value has been. I have never asked him that, but I know he thinks its been, but I'm sure he'll say there's spots where there have been failures too and I guess that's true of any legislation. But if you can help pass the idea along that Act 250 is just as important as Act, Act 252 is just as important as Act 250, I think that's a piece of education that's worth getting into the general body of information about it.

MK Sure. Because it's true, because everyone says Act 250 and they are talking about water quality.

DD That's right, that's right, yea.

MK Yea, that's interesting. Do you have a few more minutes?

DD Oh yes sure.

MK Okay, I wanted to leap backwards a bit.

DD Oh okay.

MK Jump onto another topic. I wanted to do this a couple times actually and also would you mind if I came back sometime again just to talk with you about your background more fully than we'll have time to do today?

DD Yea.

MK Great, okay, good. One thing I'm, we are doing another program also on Consuelo Northrup Bailey.

DD On what?

MK Consuelo Northrup Bailey.

DD Oh Consuelo?

MK Yes.

DD Consuelo and I were in law school together down in Boston.

MK Were you really?

DD Yea, we weren't in the same class. She was, she was in the class next to me. I think she was graduating in '21. Either she graduated in '21 or '23 and I graduated in '22, so we could figure that out but I knew Consuelo very, very well. Yea.

MK I interviewed her sister and I talked with Lillian Baker Carlisle had a few reminiscences about her, but didn't know her as well of course. I want to get a good picture of what she was like, not only politically, but personally. I have stories about her growing up from her sister and so on. How would you describe her?

DD Well, Connie was a person of great energy. She had a very sharp mind and she had a tremendous inner drive to accomplish things and was very successful in everything she undertook that I knew anything about. She was a good student in law school and she was a good lawyer in practice in the days when it was, when there weren't many women lawyers. There might have been two or three or four other women lawyers in Vermont at that time, but they were not in general practice and most of them were doing something like title work or something of that kind. Connie went right into the, into the, jumped right in the middle of a stream of law practice when she came back to Burlington. And she was elected States Attorney so that gave her an opportunity to develop her trial skills and I can tell you, you wanted to be on your toes if she was on the other side. I tried a few cases against her myself and I, she was a worthy opponent at all times. And right from the start, she had an outgoing personality. She was tremendously interested in government which drew her eventually into politics and she was a power in this state even back at those times when most women didn't want to be involved in, in or if they wanted to, they didn't say so or they didn't do it anyway. And she was, of course she served in the legislature I don't know how many years, the record will show. She was Speaker of the House. She was Lieutenant Governor and presiding officer in the Senate and in everyone of those activities she was not just on the sidelines, she was in the middle of the stream. She should have been Governor of the State of Vermont.

MK Do you know, did you ever talk with her about that?

DD Yea.

MK Did she have aspirations to be governor?

DD Yea she did. I guess I got to give you a secret now. I don't know, because I'm kind of ashamed of it on my part. But because, I might have guessed wrong, I'm not sure. No I had a long talk with her in the old National Life building down here. And she came, called me on phone, wanted to talk with me. When she came, I found that she had been seriously considering running for governor and was taking soundings around you know from people as to what, what did they think the chances for a woman. And I told her that she should not run. I said the, the subtle political feeling on the part of both men and women, but more women than men is not, the ground is not just right for a woman to be the top political officer of the State at this time and you've had such a fantastic career, I would just hate awfully to see it be. Now it's hard for me now, after all that's happened, to propel myself back into those times.

MK When would this have been? This is in 1950?

DD This would have been in the '40's I guess.

MK In the '40's?

DD Yea.

MK This was before she became a Lieutenant Governor?

DD No, no, this was after she became Lieutenant Governor. She did not run for Governor. She was Lieutenant Governor at the time and ~~The~~ natural succession of a lot of politicians has been from Lieutenant Governor to Governor, a very natural thing too. But the problem was that the, the feminist movement had not advanced to anything like it is today. Now she, I don't think she was even conscious of it. This is what surprised me so. I'm sure that most women that get, try to get into occupations now where women have not been involved in the past, feel a sort of sense of extra obstacles to overcome in order to succeed in that. I don't think she felt that way at all. I think she felt so confident in her personality and demonstrated that she had that ability. But she was still a woman and politically a lot of these people back on the farms and everywhere else were going to say, well you know, there would be just enough of them, so that they, I felt she couldn't be elected. I knew she'd get a big vote even if she, even if she were defeated. She'd make a ^{show} Now was that good advice or bad?

MK As you say, they were different times. It was a different time.

DD They were different times. But that's the way I honestly felt. In any event, she called me up and finally said she wasn't going to try for it. It's bothered me to think back at that time because, partly because as I say I know I felt that way, but I can't feel that way now. I can't feel how I felt back at that time. But that's how I felt anyway.

MK It would have been some interesting campaign though, wouldn't it?

DD Oh, wouldn't it though.

MK She such a campaigner.

DD Yea, right. Oh she's a, well right at that time you know, she was in demand in many states. She became known as the gal to get to come from outside to support the candidacy of some republican person. She was an ardent *Republican*, oh, just the most ardent.

MK Now she wouldn't be called into just to support women candidates? It would be the Republican ticket?

DD Yes. Oh that's right, yea, yea. Yea, well she'd have to be running at the primary against... I felt that she couldn't win the primary and I had doubts about whether she could win the general election.

MK Who would have been her opponent in the primary?

DD I can't remember, I can't remember. I can't remember the day, it would be right after her last term as Lieutenant Governor that this conversation happened. If you have that date, why...

MK Some place I do here, let's see. 1955.

DD '55?

MK She retired in '57.

DD Oh '57, yea.

MK '55 she became, that's when she became Lieutenant Governor.

DD That was later than I thought then.

MK Yea.

DD Yea. But '55 is a long time ago.

MK It is.

DD Not to me, but to you.

MK Well I'll tell you. So she was making her decision when in '57. I was a...

DD Well my thinking at that time was that, that the people were not accustomed to having women in the governorship and that, that was going to be a real obstacle to overcome. One that the people were not quite ready for it. Now whether this was all came out of my head or all by spirit I don't know, but I was, I never have been an opponent of women in political life or other life. My record shows that because at National Life I appointed the first women officers up there and then later when I was in the governorship, when there were deaths of any kind of legislators, where there was a chance for me to make an appointment, I usually appointed women because I thought they, we ought to move a little faster in that area and we got a long ways to go of course, but Connie as I say, she had an attractive personality, she had a, she was an attractive person, she was full of inner drive for accomplishment, good student, hard worker and very ambitious. All of those qualities. Are you putting them all down on there?

MK I am. (LAUGHING) Sure, yea. It's interesting because in, of all the people that I've talked with connected with her and there haven't been that many it's true, but it amazes me that she never seemed, she didn't seem to feel that being a woman was an obstacle,

DD That's right.

MK You know, that there was, she should make any special effort to overcome that. [the issue of sex]

DD No, she just took it for granted. And I think it grew out of an inner confidence that was fully justified because she really, she was even that way in law school, although I don't remember her, well seeing her on a great many occasions. She was there, but see she'd be there during the same time I was but not for the full, it was only a three year course back at that time. But oh, she was a good lawyer and but she was good as I say, anything she undertook she did well. There were occasionally there were people that were unaccustomed to seeing a woman with

as much drive as she is, used to criticize her as being a little abrasive. She wasn't abrasive, but they were confusing push with abrasiveness if you see what I mean. And they are not the same things at all because she was thoughtful and she had, she had unquestioned courage, intellectual courage. What she stood for, she stood for if she was the last person in the world that believed it. So she was a great Vermont citizen.

MK Are you aware of her ever encountering prejudice, I mean that made an impression on her?

DD Encountering what?

MK Encountering prejudice against her as a woman trying to do some of the things that she did?

DD I don't, except I can't remember a specific instances, I can remember occasionally running into, not that it wasn't prejudice against her, it was prejudice that, well just like me that this wasn't, the time wasn't right. And once in awhile, very rarely, you'd get a person that would say, well she's a little abrasive. She wasn't abrasive. She was, she had more drive than most men and certainly more drive than people had ever encountered in public life in women. But she was the first, she was the first Lieutenant Governor I think in the country wasn't she?

MK The first woman elected, yes she was.

DD Yea, in the world I guess. You can say that if you want to. And she took it all in stride.

MK It didn't impress her particularly that she was the first women to be elected Speaker of the House or the Lieutenant Governor?

DD No, no. She was an excellent speaker you know. She had, she had an ability to communicate and that grew out of first her general knowledge that she had and her confidence and all that so that she was positive about things and yet that positiveness I've never known it to get to the point where I would call it abrasive. I've heard her speak many, many times in Vermont. Only in Vermont, but every campaign for several years there, the Republican National Committee used to pry her to go to Nebraska or to well you name it, wherever they wanted a woman to speak or a person to speak. Sometimes it wasn't, just because she was a woman, it was because she was

known. She could captivate an audience and that's a secret to success in some secret, it's part of a secret of success in public life I think. She sure could do that.

MK It's great. It's wonderful. Her sister, Fredricka told a story about her, they had a horse I guess that was lame and the horse had been a favorite of Consuelo's and I guess she got a hold of some kind of lineament and was pretty young. I mean she was still, by all accounts, a child when she did this.

DD Yea.

MK She got hold of this lineament and she was determined she was going to cure this horse and she rubbed way too much of it on the horse and the horse had apparently a terrible burn as a result, but her sister said you know, after the burn healed, the horse never limped again.

DD That or didn't dare too, huh. (LAUGHING) Yea, that's right.

MK Well thank you again. I really enjoyed talking with you and I would like to come back because your career touches on so many things that happened in Vermont, there are a lot of other things I would like to ask you about. We can pick up ^{where we} left off.

DD Pardon?

MK I say we can pick up where we left off before.

DD Sure, I'll be glad to talk with you again.

MK Okay great.

DD ^[begins reminiscing] Yea, the first automobile that I ever saw, I saw when I was five years old and that was about, that was the first automobile in Barre, Vermont.

MK Now who had that? What do you remember about it?

DD It was owned by a man who sold paint, had a little store, he sold paint and stuff like that and he just took an agency for the, and he had to have one so he bought the car I suppose at a wholesale price probably and that was his model and it was over on, his shop and place where he sold the cars. He didn't have any repair shop or anything like that at all. It was just a paint shop and this automobile standing out, didn't have a place to house the automobile. But it was a beautiful car and great

curiosity to everybody and was on Prospect Street in Barre right, well it was part of what is now, whoever owns the R. L. Clark Feed Store. That would be confusing to you because the R. L. Clark Store now is on the left hand side of the road just before you start to go up a hill or before you get to the river and the R. L. Clark buildings were, that I knew, where I worked were on the right. That's how I know about the location. I can remember that because I worked there later, but as a child, I lived up on Allen Street, the extension of Prospect Street and I had to go by this place every, well twice a day to go to school and things like that. His name was Wilkinson. I can even remember his name.

MK Now what kind of car was that?

DD Buick.

MK Buick uh huh. Buick is still around.

DD Yea.

MK So many of the cars that you hear interesting names of these days, that I'm hearing for the first time as a result of people telling me about their early recollections of cars. One woman told me about someone who had something called a Brush.

DD Brush?

MK Well she said she thought it was a Brush.

DD Oh, Brush.

MK I think so.

DD Yea.

MK And the Wasp I've heard of, just within the past year.

DD Yea.

MK And lots of interesting things.

DD I don't remember those. I've seen them, many of them. My first cars were that kind. (LAUGHING) They'd run part of the time, not all of the time.

MK Now do you recall how people learned to drive. Did this fellow Mr. Wilkinson?

DD Well all I know is in, I don't recall much about that until I was about twelve years old or so. But at that time, they just used to go up the old trotting park, up on end of South Main Street. There used to be a half mile trotting park there. And one of the men, the salesman would come up there and teach them how to drive. Well they couldn't do any harm, because there wasn't any other, wasn't any other cars on the road then, until they were pretty confident, they were not allowed to get out on the highway. I had a thought there, I was going to, oh I remember my Dad, our first car was in 1917. It was a 1917 Ford Touring car. And my father bought the car and I learned to drive it. He didn't feel quite confident to drive it, so wherever we used the car, I and I don't recall that I had to get a license back at that time. Maybe that we did, I'll have to look that up sometime, but the way I was taught to drive was just when I went to work for R. L. Clark in 1917 for a short time in the summer there, they had a truck and I used to go, be the assistant on the truck to help run the errands and all that sort of thing and of course it wasn't long before I was under the wheel and you just learned it that way. I remember my father when he finally decided that he had to learn to drive. He went up with the man at the Ford Motor Company to the trotting park and took lessons there. I remember the first time I think it was he came home. I remember my mother saying to him, "Well, how did it go? How did you get along?" "Well, he said, "He took me out on the road", he said after, he said, "It would have been alright if the other people would have stayed off the road." They got a little more, as time went on, they got a little more shall I say bold in the teaching of it, but there wasn't any system for it. There was just whatever circumstances. Usually somebody that had already learned how went with you. You would _____ him because he was part of your family or maybe a neighbor or in most cases probably the salesman himself who had sold the car. Back in those days, as time went on, there were a lot of men who were automobile salesmen who made a pretty good living as salesmen. They were the kind that went out and knocked on doors and rang doorbells and all that sort of thing to try to interest you in their car and now they are very, the salesmen stay in the office. There's hardly any of that going out to sell them. Now you come to the, to the automobile dealer's place of business and tell him you want to buy a car and they'll have somebody there to act as a salesman, but that's a change that I've noticed very dramatically.

MK That's interesting. I didn't realize they went door to door.

Gov. Deane C. Davis

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DD Yea.

MK That's really interesting.

DD Well they used to pester us. There were so many salesmen, they'd call. Back in those days, if you'd have an accident, it would have been known all over in no time flat among the automobile men and you'd have four or five men knocking on your door trying to sell you a car.

MK Ah, you're right, that is an interesting change. Well, perhaps we could check your schedule and see when a good time would be.

DD Yea.