

**“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](http://www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles) contains a list of the Green Mountain Chronicles radio broadcasts and audio files of those broadcasts.

Robert Gonyeau  
July 19, 1987

Interviewer  
Mary Kasamatsu

MK I just want to say that I am with Mr. Robert Gonyeau and did I pronounce your name right?

RG Yea.

MK Gonyeau, because if I say it on the radio, I want to be sure and say it right. This is the 9th of July, okay. Let's start first of all just a little background about you. Where did you come from?

RG Burlington.

MK Burlington. When were you born?

RG March 15, 1917

MK How old were you when you got into this CCC's.

RG I think it was '34 when I went in, so I would have been about 17 or 16.

MK How did you hear about it? How did you decide to do that?

RG Well, like I said he went to Fort Ethan Allen. I was always involved with stuff at Fort Ethan Allen and different things.

MK Like what? What kinds of things were you involved in?

RG I was up there for the reserve officers in the summer training which they don't have anymore and they used to have the CMTC's, Citizens Military Training Course and then they used to have beautiful polo games in the summertime, so I never missed a polo game. Then in the wintertime they used to have horseshoes because they had calvary and artillery. So I used to go to that and then that's when at the base they started them up there. Then they had baking and cooking school for the CCC guys. Of course it was well-known in the paper and that what they were starting see and so and then it got around.

MK Was it pretty selective? Did you...

RG Well it had to be when they first when in, they had to basically off from welfare or some kids that didn't have nothing, no home or stuff like that. But there wasn't many of them like that like there is today I mean. And, so then after say in I think it would have been probably '44, early '44 or '45, yea it would be

about '44. In July they started taking them in from schools. Kids in school wanted to go for the three months. They had three month enlistment. But after that, so I got into that and I liked it. And when we were talking about places, they had a place in Peru, Vermont and that was the furthest I could get from home and that's where I wanted to go. That's why I went. It's true.

MK That's your chance to get away, I bet.

RG Yea, to get a hell away from home. But that was the good point of it. It got the kids away from home and you lived amongst the guys yourself and it was very good. Like I was talking to one of you awhile back, I was asking the guys if they could ever remember having anything stolen on them. And not one of the guys could. And it was very good that way. Of course, we were all Vermonters in that camp. Though I had a few guys strangers you know from Massachusetts. But mostly it was a Vermont camp. See all Vermonters and then after I got out in, oh, I forgot, I got the discharge somewhere, they swapped the crews over. They put Vermont guys some place else and brought some guys in from Western and a couple other places to finish up the projects we started see. So we built half good pond down there. But they have changed it a lot since we originally, the original job was done. And in fact a few years ago, they put in a new spill way and some contractors from Maine they were bringing in and I couldn't resist picking on them. All though do is sitting down and drinking beer. So they had a load of cement come in and partly poured in the thing and as fast as the cement hit the ground it froze solid. So I happened to go there at the time that happened and one of the guys, a ranger around the camp vehicle so I had to go and pick on him. I said what to hell you sitting around here for. Go get a jack hammer, get going, get that out of there. I couldn't, they had a spill way here, it could fit the Mississippi River. It was about four times wider than the brook it was serving see and I couldn't help but laugh at them. Jesus. Because the one we had there, we had only about 12 foot spill way. But they had a big cloud burst up in the mountain and it tore all the silk down through from the mountain all down through and everything and filled the thing up. So they had to drain the whole thing out and clean it up and build a new spill way and that. It is a beautiful spot. Peru is a very good spot. Well just tenting in the summertime, people very crowded in the summertime. We

were down there like I say in '82 when Snelling and all that bunch went down there. They had celebrating, it was the 50th anniversary of the National Forests in Vermont. And it was the 49th anniversary of the CCC's. So they kind of combined it see. So we went down there and they had different things and fishing derby. Some nice trouts like little kids were getting out of there. Oh gees they enjoyed themselves. So that was, that's what this picture, where to hell is it. This picture, this is all the guys left. This is the ones that were there in '82. See there is Perry Merrill. I'm in the back there. But these are all the guys that showed up for that meeting and they are all. All the guys in this picture are from Peru. Some of the guys wanted to get in, but the woman taking the camera didn't want them in, because they just wanted the guys from Peru see. So, but it was a, some of them I recognize. But this guy here can still remember every name of every man in the company. And when we first reading the names off from this one, because I took this picture down. See that's the guys in, what's that '35 or '34? '35 and he named everyone off and everyone of them right. I was surprised. But that was, we had a good crew. I worked...

MK Tell me what your average day was like? What were the typical, how would a typical day start?

RG Well you get up, you get reveille. You fall out for just roll call that's all. You didn't have no inspections or nothing. They had inspections every day, but they went through that when you were gone. *They very seldom used to do* inspection. So then you went to breakfast and after breakfast the whistle blew you were turned over to forestry. We worked for the forestry department. The army fed us, clothed us and medical care. And then we worked for the forestry department. So the whistle blows for the work trucks you go to that. If you missed the work truck, you've had it.

MK Did you ever miss the work truck?

RG Only one time when I had been at home. I wasn't too good at thumbing. I missed it. I saw it. I waved but it went by. But I got by with it. When I went to get a pair of shoes, and they were a little bit too big for me. I went into the lieutenant and *him and I were on the outs* at the time, he wouldn't replace them. So I went home, I came back and I had blisters

on my feet. So I went into the, our infirmary. We had little Doc Joseph. He was a little scrunt. His wife was a little bit shorter than him but he was one hell of a good doctor. I said well doc, you ain't got no more trouble to worry about me. I said I won't be around any more. He said why. I said well. I told him what happened. This lieutenant had turned all my stuff in. I only got there five minutes after ?. I could see the work truck. It wouldn't make any difference, if I could get in one of them. I could get out on the road anyway. See I worked in the quarry. So he, so old doc went over there and he raised hell so he made them bring back my bed and all my stuff. But he was a good little doctor. We missed him boy. The other guy came was a good doctor too, but he didn't have the same way and the guys didn't have the feeling towards him they had, because that's the new doctor there. But, so then, we worked in the summertime. We worked from 6:00 to 12:00 and then another shift came out at 12:00. But in the quarry we worked longer because we didn't have a split shift in the quarry. On the road crews and all that, they had the split shifts so they get 12 hours work a day see. And a lot of the guys in the wintertime would be the guys I say like the fish crew and a few other crews they in the wintertime they go in girdling crews, pruning crews and stuff like that. They'd work with snow shoes and all of that. One of the guys the first time they went out when they girdled the trees you know you girdle waist high. The next spring they come and look at the bottom of the tree and can't find the girdling marks. The warden said did you ever think of looking up. About 10 or 12 feet there's the mark around the tree where they girdled around the tree. But they, but I worked in the quarry. I ran jack hammer. Then when I'd get sick of being on the hammer, I'd have another guy come over and take over and I'd go down, you didn't sit around doing nothing. I'd take a 16 pound sledge hammer and break rock. It is good exercise. I like it, the quarry. You were there every day.

MK What kind of stone was it?

RG Just rock, ledges and stuff like that. We got big rocks out of the way and then, we worked for two things. We had a crusher right down below us and some of the stuff would go to the crusher. At the divide up the road was two guys were taking the crusher and probably three or four guys taking the crush stone from, big rock up to the road projects see. The other

ones would bring them down of course. Then later on they put in one of these little cable cars that take the stuff down in the crusher and that worked a lot better. Except sometimes when the cable car get going down and the brakes wouldn't hold, but we used to have the quarry was a beautiful spot. It was in a good spot. We had, there was a big rock there, a huge ledge and there was a pipe coming out of it with spring water coming through the pipe and we blasted away that ledge and we even got below where the pipe was coming out of the ground and we never tasted the powder from the dynamite and the water never got any dirt in it or nothing. We could never figure that out. Even the rangers couldn't understand it you see. We had a beautiful spot. And I liked it. It was better than working the road in the springtime in that muck and get all those black flies and that. Oh God, two days on that road crew was enough for me. But they wanted somebody to break rock. So we went to that. We took down some, first time we took down a bunch of old stone walls. People didn't want them on their property. Foolishness. But when you start the top of the pile you didn't mind, but when you start down the bottom of the pile you had to start looking out for snakes. Oh, that not much poisonous or anything, but it was just the idea of the surprise you know. But the rock quarry was good clean work. You were dusty that was all. In the wintertime we went back to the cold air coming out of the hammer and the grease would get all over clothes. You had a new set of work clothes every week because of the stuff blowing all over you. Your shoes, we had those steel pointed shoes and we started using them and once in a while the hammer would jump and come down on your toes see. It wouldn't hurt you, but it would bend the dam metal down on the inside of your foot see, so after a while they weren't very usable. You had to get rid of them. What did we, like I say there was a road crew. Then there was the forest fighting crew. That was one thing about the quarry. We didn't have to worry about forest fires. If we went it was a bad one. I mean that we only went to two that we had to pull off the quarry. But we were the last ones to go and that was one thing I liked. They had a fire there one day. This guy had an old tractor, something that Columbus brought over you know. And the rangers told him he couldn't use that no more because it was a fire hazard. Well he argued and argued, no can't use it. So they went and bought a new one. The second time they started the new one up it back fired and started the forest a fire. If you don't know what that man

told the rangers. I'm telling you. It's those little things you know. The reason we got kicked off the pond. We had this big suction pump. In fact the hole was this big around. Sucking the muck and water out see. Well we will be short on the hose, so we decided to push the thing a little further. We will get the rest of it out. It got away from us and it went down out of sight. Boy did we get hell. They had to bring a bulldozer up and tow it out. But we had some beautiful winters down in the snow. We, our barracks, top barracks, the mess hall and the recreation hall were higher than us and the snow came in so much, there was about five or six foot of snow <sup>in</sup> one night. Number one barracks couldn't get out. We could get out because the ground went down and our back end of our barracks was about six feet above the ground see. We hated that because we had to get up and shovel all the other guys out you know. But it was a good place in the wintertime. I liked it in the winter.

MK What did you do in the winter?

RG Well I still worked in the quarries. The quarries still worked. Then some of the guys would go out, like I say on girdling crews and pruning crews and different things like that and cutting wood and stuff like that see in the wintertime and don't waste your summer on stuff like that. See you'd take most of the road crew and put them on that. Once in a while if they got snowed in on the highway, they went down. They had a big old clad-trac tractor there one time. They kept it up in the garage. I never saw it too much. A kid could crawl faster than that thing could move. But they would, when the roads got bad, they'd take that thing out and they'd just go right along and open both wings up on it and go right along and push it aside. We have a few good heavy snow storms. Then in the winter of '33 and '34, I can't remember exactly what month. I got the thing of part of it and I lost part of it it went down to 57 below zero in Peru and our pipe, our water supply comes down that brook. See it was up further where they got it from and it come down through and everything. It froze solid. We were melting snow to get water to cook <sup>with</sup> to drink with. The next summer we had to put a crew back there putting it all back in again. But that was something. That camp it was good. The <sup>place</sup> people good. You never had to worry about walking up the mountain or walking down when you always got a ride. But most of the people were summer people. Peru in the wintertime probably you'd have

one out of eight houses out of nine houses, ten houses, local people and the rest. And we went down there few years back and the road I used to go up toward Stiles Mountain was just a narrow dirt road and we went out there for quite a ways and boy you should see the beautiful houses they built. Oh there are just a lot of houses in there. A lot of the side roads, they were nothing but side roads you know and they've all built up. Beautiful big homes and the main part of town is still the same. And as you come right into the village, but what they've done is they bypassed the village section see on the road when you come over from Londonderry over and go down to Manchester. You go by it just a little ways. But the thing is still the same. The houses here and the cow horse barn over there and nothing is basically have changed. The old store is still there the same as it was when I went back there in the '40's. I like, we like it down there. We go camping there a lot. The first time we didn't go camping so much until after I retired because she used to raise flowers, glads and stuff like that and so the gladioli season wasn't over until after September. Down there the campground closes after Labor Day. See that's the kick in the head. So we used to always go down to Calvin Coolidges most of the time down there. I like it down there. That's where we are going to go for our meeting in September is Calvin Coolidge. But we got along good. We had a good work crew, good bosses, except my one that I had on the road there in Nielson(?) my former forester. He never froze to death in the winter.

MK You never did.

RG He never did. He had a pint of alcohol. He used to get. One day I was suppose to send in for some oil for the compressors see, because the pump we were using pretty near half a gallon a day and I kept telling him about it, but he wouldn't do nothing. So I told him to send the truck in and get me some oil that morning and I checked it and run it. So he wouldn't send the truck in to get me some oil back to camp. It was about five to six miles back and then after dinner was when I was going to start it up and he says he caught me <sup>9:30</sup> me and my two helpers were breaking rock to get the compressor started. I said it ain't got no oil, he's got it too low. Started up a guy started hollering at me and pointing to the compressor shack. You should see the smoke coming out of it. We went over and shut it off. So that night I



told the master mechanic, head mechanic about it. He was an older man and he says take it apart and bring me in the parts. I said okay. I never worked on a motor in my life or a pump either. I took the compressor apart, brought the parts in. So a week or so later one of the truck drivers comes out and brings out the parts to me. So I put them on the shelf. So I waited a couple of days so that finally nobody showed up so I says to, I forgot what his name was. I said well when are you going to fix my compressor. He says who took it apart. I said I did. Well then fix it. Well let me tell you, I didn't watch how I took the parts. I put the damn thing together and I didn't know it. So I went out and stringing a hose for the thing, so that's when I sent one of my helpers in, I started the motor on the big compressor. They had to throw a clutch to get that pump to work. So I sent him in. If it was going to blow up, I didn't want to be there. (Laughing) It worked. Oh gees I never forgot that one. Anyway but I was chicken on that deal. I didn't want to trust my own work. So, Elfie he was, he was a funny guy. Then one time he couldn't understand why his orchard, right next to where the quarry was was his maple orchard see. So we used to have this powdered cocoa, which is better than the powdered cocoa you get today. It was good stuff. And uh, we used to make a fire and open fire, a camping fire. And we heat up, make our cocoa and toast our sandwiches and that. So I used to, instead of taking the water from the spring, they had nice spring water, I used to go up and steal off his trees, his maple trees steal the sap when it was syrup time you know, tapping time, I used to steal that off from his trees. A little bit out of each can. But we liked it. The only thing that we didn't like in that deal in the sandwiches, was the green sandwiches. Nobody ate them things.

MK Green sandwiches?

RG Green yea. Mint jelly type thing. Jelly sandwich. It was good, but you just didn't like it. You know, working out, for some reason, nobody would like them. They would leave them there. They were never there the next morning. You come back, they are gone. The animals came in and eat it.

MK The animals like them.

RG Yea. We used to have, one time, I was telling a fellow about this the other day now that I think of

to doing what, you know, basically what you are told without asking and this and that. You were told to do something, you knew you had to do it and see this is like it was different today. Most of the kids, you tell them to do something, either they want to know why or they don't want to or anything else you know. And, so, if my father told me to do something, I didn't stand there and question him why. I just did it. See when I was a kid I was helping my father one day and he had me put go put the waste in the clothes press. I said okay. A little closet. I put in one and the second one I goofed up a little bit so I told him. He says that's alright. He said a man's entitled to one mistake in his life and he said you just made yours. That means don't do it again. About two or three all Vermont camps, but most of them that come in were out of staters from Massachusetts, New York and that see. Some from Connecticut. But out west, I mean, you could spit from one company, one camp to another. Some of them companies were very big. See we only had four barracks. It meant 200 men see. But some companies were a lot bigger than that. But the average was 200 men plus your officers and that. Well we had good officers and we had one officer nobody talked back to him. He was a champion wrestler of the state. We had two guys from town here. I had always lived in Burlington, I come up here in 1948 and George LaDue and Cleveland. Now Cleveland was a nice quiet guy see. But for some reason or another him and LaDue were always into fights. And of course you had to put the gloves on. You couldn't arguments. Those two guys are. Then we had Bummy Guyette from Burlington who was a boxer see. We had some pretty good. And Bummy would get out there, a lot of guys would pick a fight just to you know. Bummy got fed up with it and bam! that ended it. He was good. He was a good little boxer. He got kind of old and but of course I knew him. I went to school with his brother and sister and that. But, you didn't have any fights on the road or nothing like that. You may have an argument, but you never got in a fight. If you got in a fight, you'd have to go back *and if it was bad enough, you had to* go in and put the gloves on. That takes all the fun out of it you know. The more you hurt your hands, the quicker you are going to stop fighting. see. Anyway, we had, ~~we didn't have~~ *we didn't have* so much to go in sports. We put a play on one time down in Bennington. They went down there, the crew did *and they had to* pretty good play .

Robert Gonyeau

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MK Now some of the camps did have some organized educational activities?

RG Oh we had an educational thing and all that. In fact, Barney Morse from Burlington was one of the instructors. And he is into teaching developing film and all that kind of stuff. Photography and all that kind of stuff. Things like that. See in the wintertime your hours were different see. You started later and you worked until late afternoon. By the time you got back in, just like me you have to go and take a shower every night. You had to change your whole complete clothes. Half the time you'd have to pull on the barracks on the ceiling to pull yourself up out so much grease and stuff on them, dust. You don't only get that grease from the hammer, you got the dust and all you know. It coats right over everything. But the wind never went through your clothes. Oh no, you never felt the wind because there was so much of that stuff on there, it protected it. You didn't feel the wind. You could wear over shoes because when you are trying to hold the drill to start it between your feet and it just tore the overshoes right to nothing. So we used to wear just regular shoes. But you vibrated so much it didn't bother.

MK You kept warm?

RG Oh yea, you kept warm. But most of the guys that lived around the camp, you know a few miles. It wasn't too many. Some of them would go home on the weekend, every weekend and asked if somebody want to go with me. It's like when it come Christmas and Thanksgiving see, so there had to be some stay because you had to keep a certain amount in the camp as a fire guard. So naturally everybody wanted to go home for the holiday so being a french/scotch, I would take and figure out. So I wouldn't go home on a holiday because there was going to be so many men less in a camp so few men that you couldn't go on a work detail. So you just hang around see. When the other guys come back there was enough of them that they'd have to go to work see. I did the same thing at Christmas time. I'd do the same thing. I'd go home for New Years instead of Christmas. Somebody asked why do you do that? I said figure it out. I says all the time you are home having a good Christmas, I just laid around here listening to the radio and this and that you know. I said and when I was gone you had to go to work. So they come home all tuckered out. But, we use to have, we used to generate our own power. We had our

own generators. We had radios. I've never seen a radio take as much abuse as them little radios did. I mean not for physical but for the power shortages. Sometimes the power would get low and stuff like that. Montgomery Wards air, what they call, air line radios. That was the name of them yea. And when I got to buy myself a radio, that was the first one I bought. That Montgomery Wards air line type because the power would fluctuate on the generator and stuff like that you know. And after midnight the generators were turned off and of course we had a night watchman. He went around so if anything happened he would have to go and first thing and start the generators up and get them going. But in the wintertime we had these big long stoves they could put about a 3 foot log in the damn things and they were warm. We had three in each barracks. They were damn warm. But the, as far as the working, the guy would say we were over worked. If you didn't do what you were supposed to do you heard about it see. The only thing is -I can't think what the heck's his- Mulinary, that's his name. He used to come up around Barre. He was one of the wrestlers. He was the mess officer too. He was a good mess officer. One thing we never got and didn't get in the summer, cucumbers, watermelons and stuff like that see. So we used to have I think once or twice a month we had a meeting and a doctor would be there. So somebody brought up, the other officers were there too, about having cucumbers and that see. So he turned to the doctor, and he <sup>inquired there was</sup> no food value into them. So I said doc, I don't agree with you. I said my grandmother don't agree with you. He said what do you mean? My grandmother said anything that grows in the soil is good for you because it's got minerals, and it's got the stuff from the sun, minerals from the ground and so forth and so on. So we that said that out of it. I said if you want to go with me, I'll call my grandmother and she will tell you. So we started getting our watermelon and that. So one time, you probably won't want this on the thing, somebody came when went out to pick up the groceries came back with 200 pounds of onions. The guy called down, said it was a mistake, <sup>thing</sup> said, no, we give them to him. We are over loaded with onions. We had boiled onions for a while. Everybody had to go in the woods because my God almighty. Of course I love onions. We both are big onion eaters. So they took around, but our food was good. We never had any bad food. When I first went in, our mess sergeant, was a guy named Barber from Burlington and we had good cooks. A good crew all around. But they got where they, there is one thing in the CCC's every Sunday night, one thing

you never had to worry about they were going to give you, was potato salad and bologna. Of course I love a good potato salad. So you always knew ahead a time what you were going to have to eat see. If you want to get yelled at, if you went and took a bunch of stuff and you went out and they happened to spot you going out the door to throw it in the garbage you caught hell. There was no wasting, no way. But cooking goals and things like that, we had a real good crew. We had one guy there from Vergennes to look at him you would think him a lazy stinking slob you know. But that guy was a good pastry cook. He was, oh my God he was good. And he used to make rolls and bread. By God he was really good. They bought most their bread from the bakery in town you know. But you could always tell when he got an ambition stretch. The minute you go in that mess hall, you could smell the homemade break being made. But he liked to do it. But he had a spell he wouldn't cook a damn thing. They never said nothing because what to hell. When he'd get going, he'd make enough stuff to last you a month you know. The meat cooks were good guys. I never had a meal I disliked anyway. Of course there is very little stuff I won't eat. Like my mother used to see, if it don't eat me first, I'll eat it. But, of course when you were growing up you didn't, you ate what was put in front of you and that was it. If there was enough for seconds fine, if there wasn't you would go without. But people waste so much today. It still gripes me especially when I see somebody where you go to MacDonaldis or Bonanza and them places and you see somebody going throwing half of a thing away. One day when we went down there a last time a few months ago, this guy slices pieces of cheese about that thick. He threw most of it in the garbage. He sat right next to me. When he got, hell that cheese was still on there and half the baked potato. But we didn't, we had good meals. But when we got back, I know I'm jumping around because that's keep my mind thinking. You know, that's 40 years back you know. But they took (Pause) this is the one of the room, scotch tape                     ?, they took, oh this is the one of the stories, this is all a story part. I took out of one of the books which told mostly about the CCC's, then finally I met the guy out in Wisconsin and I bought the book. I couldn't get the book around here. *The re's* a lot of that stuff *I try to trace* This is the picture that we took up at the dorm in Stowe. This is Perry Merrill and the other two guys, I forgot what their names are now. Lord and something.

gets out  
pictures  
here )

MK Charlie Lord, sure Charlie Lord.

RG Yea, the other one I forgot exactly. Well you know the skiing trails and stuff. Do you know where the first ones were done?

MK Mansfield.

RG Yea. But the CCC's, built by the CCC's. That started the first ski business in the United States. Perry Merrill and Lord and I can't think of this other guy's name and, so they were at one of our ~~meetings~~ we had up (meetings) there. So this is our emblem of the 66th Company and this is the second corp area. See they don't use that anymore. I mean that 2nd corp and 1st corp like they used to. And these are all the things we had to learn. That was for the company and this is the thing here. This is truck driver and that's first class. That's three enlistments and my star. ~~A~~ newsletter, and stuff from during the war. That's that thing about the college play we had see, Union Opera House. That is one of the CCC's buttons we had. Now this is my big picture there. When they made it up, they were supposed to make it the same size as that. It cost me a fortune. But they made it smaller, but if they had of cut good see, so I put it into here so I have one and the other one when I take it somewhere the guys can see it see. That's the older one here the one that got in the picture here. See this is inside of the barracks and see there is those big long stoves. Those stoves give good heat. They are very good. See at night there was one man that went around taking care of all the fires in the wintertime. This is the picture of a camp and this even the forestry didn't have this one. If they knew I had that they'd, a lot of stuff I made pictures of this they made and even in the historical society up in Montpelier have got them. But they actually come from my pictures see.

MK Now this area is all grown up now?

RG Yup, there is nothing but brush. You would believe it. To go and see anything, this big camp area was there. I am dumb founded myself. I knew it would be some grown over, but not like it was there by God. And, so...

MK When did you get all this organized? Your scrap books and...

RG Oh, two years back, yea. I always kept the stuff. I had it put away in boxes. Like I'm working now with my stamp collection. I couldn't get an album I liked see and I got this one. This is from, here it is ~~labeled~~ right there, it's that flood control. Three squares a day and work. You had to work alright. But we very seldom had any guy over the hill you know. Once in a while there was a Perry Merrill. Once in a while you'd get a guy that would didn't like it for a while. We had a couple start down the road, but they came around and came back. I got stuff about Perry in here. But then, other little items I'd find or run across I'd kept putting them in here different ones. I got some more I got to put in I got lately on this article. Now here's the picture of. One day my father came down, I imagine my Uncle Earl drove him down and they surprised the hell out of me see. I couldn't figure out what the hell he's down there. I didn't realize until maybe a couple years later. Now this is the Bromley house in Peru. My father came down from Burlington. He was working for the old Boehne at that time and laid the carpet in that house, through that hotel. He was telling me about it. So I got these one year not too far back. They had them in a store over there. This is something you don't see much now the old rollers for rolling the snow down you see. Of course that's burnt down. I was telling the guy there that my father had laid the carpet in there. Next time I went back up to the Post Office to get something, called the guy, the Postmaster called this old guy and he came over and we got talking with him. His parents own that hotel. But that surprised me when my dad told me that's where he went and he knew about the place because he wanted to go back down and see it you know. But it is just things every once in a while that you don't expect that comes up. But I've always like it. I've got pictures. One thing I learned is keep pictures of things. When I was in the army. You should see the albums I got from the army and that, over in Iran. I got the pictures of over there and all that. I got, they finally made an album of Persian Gulf Command album. That's a nice looking album so I bought them. I got four of them in there. So I got a lot of stuff there. A lot of it military. A lot of it is civilian and stuff like that. I always liked to take pictures and stuff like that. It's like one time when my sister died in 1934, I think it was '34 or '35. I was the only one who had pictures of her. So you see it pays once in awhile.

The CCC's were like the army. A little better than the army. We didn't have so many drunks. At one time, there was this Mofit, Ven Mofit and Percy Mofit. So then one time we had a guy by the name of Button in Colchester and he had a little Chevrolet. We used to ride home with him you see. But according to the regulations you weren't supposed to own a car. So but

MK Why was that? Did they figure you had too much money.

RG If you had money for a car you didn't need to work see. You didn't need to be in the CCC's. But after a while they overlooked it because it was a little more work getting the guys in. But, so he used to park it in places see and every once in awhile somebody would come in and like somebody at summer camp, park it, so they asked you not to park it right there, put it some place else you know. So the guys would. So they used to come up, well Sheriff knew they all belonged to the guys you know. He used to come up and see the guys or he'd go to the captain, well find out if it is, if it happens to be. So the captain said if it belongs to anybody move it you know. But he'd never looked to see if anybody went to move it or not. So anyway one time Button put, had a place for his out on the road towards the work road and so we had to go out there that night and get it. So we were out there talking and talking to the fellow that ~~was there~~ the father of the kids and so forth. There was a young boy there about the age of us and thought he wanted to get in and his old man wanted to know about it you know before the kid got in so he told him. So that was alright. So the house was there and I was here and they you know further away you see. So this girl goes in the house, comes out with this little baby in her arms and walks right by the guys and walks over to me and hands me the baby. Jesus Christ, not thinking, of course I had four or five, two young sisters at home and a young, three young cousins, so the kid — what the hell <sup>And</sup> Oh, did I take an awful ribbing. Jesus. Denying my own kid, not letting anybody know it was mine you know. I never saw the girl before in my life. So gees oh what a beautiful baby. So I, finally one day Ben Mofit told the guys to quit riding me. And new kids just came in, a new group came in and one of them was her brother. He said Jesus lay off. Come to see, she don't know how she got that way but anyway.

MK So she didn't know who the father was.



RG Yea, so I think she was looking. Like I said I wouldn't mind it was a beautiful baby. I would have had a hell of a time to explain it to my grandmother but (laughing). But, no that was one of the better times of life. Yes, when we got down, getting back again, as I say jumping around a lot, so this place in Wisconsin where we stayed at this campground and every night the young couple that bought that place were about 35 or so and they never heard of it. It is kind of all new to them. So their asking about it. So every night after — they'd have a thing there, she would have sandwiches and stuff, coffee, donuts and cakes. They were nice. So everybody had a story about getting drunk see. I just let them go by me so the foreman said why don't you have something to say. I says no, I can't qualify with those guys. My grandmother told me there was nothing to be proud about by being a drunk. Oh, that made a few enemies, but I didn't care. I says no, I says. So the next night when there wasn't so many around I told them about that. They all thought that was pretty, then when the whole group of them, tell us about that story that you told us about the baby. What me hell. But it was, my grandfather Kirby died, my mother's father and he used to drink pretty good. He never let it interfere with his work, never. He would never drink during the week or anything. He never let it interfere with his work. I promised my grandmother I wouldn't drink and I never did. Oh once in a while I had a drink a couple of times in the army and that was enough.