

Clark

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00:02

This is December 8th, 2023. We're up in Milton visiting with Clark Wright. And he's going to tell us a little bit about his life, and especially as it relates to things that went on in Underhill, sponsored by the Underhill Historical Society.

00:23

So Clark, start telling us to begin with about your family, your birth, where you were born, what your early days were like. Okay. I was born on August 5th, 1938 in Burlington, and Dad was the Wright of Wright & Morrissey construction, which still exists, going great guns.

00:49

He was more of a business manager than anything, estimates and all that kind of thing. Well, I think he sensed the war was coming in his wisdom, and also when they formed their partnership, they made an agreement that one could buy the other out.

01:19

No nonsense about it. So he made up his mind, he wanted to get out of that business and go farming, because he was raised here in Colchester. Well, I have a very vague memory down there in Burlington where we lived.

01:42

The phone calls that came on December 7th. Don't know what it was all about, but all of a sudden everybody was sober and solemn. You know, something was in there. Just a little kid, year and a half old or something like that.

02:00

What year were you born? What year were you born? 1938. I'm a pre-war model. So this was 41. 41. December 7th, 1941. That means you were four, yeah. Okay, go ahead. No, I wasn't that old. Three. Three, sorry.

02:15

Yeah, barely. Yeah. No, two and a half. December... August 5th. 38. 38. 39 is one year. 40 is two. 41. Okay, three. But any event. You do have a vague memory of phone calls. A vague memory of those phone calls.

02:44

And all of a sudden, a very somber, sober atmosphere. I didn't have an idea in the world. Well, He'd already bought a farm up in Underhill. And early 42, we moved up there. And they commenced farming.

03:12

We had a large house, which still exists. It's either 13 room or 15 room, depending how you count them. Thousand River Road? Mm -hmm. And, well, when mother could, she went to the congregational church and dragged me along.

03:38

The next door neighbor, Marion Mead, became Marion Fay. In time, she was a Sunday school teacher. And many arrived with her in a pickup truck. On the way back, she would sing. A very spiritual song. Old McDonald had a farm.

04:00

I remember that like yesterday. Top of her lungs. She was having a good time. All right. And very dear folks, the Meads, and later, of course, when Marion married Herb Fay. Yeah. I knew them all anyhow.

04:22

Time to come. I went to the Underhill Center School, which- Did you have brothers and sisters? I had an older brother, Allen, his name was. And we seldom got along. He was just that much older that we butted heads just about on a regular basis.

04:45

Typical brothers. Huh? Typical brothers sometimes. He was willing to kill me a few times. I was willing to kill him. And maybe tried. I can't remember that part. Whatever Started school in under hill Graded under hill center school Number five school

and first teacher was Mrs.

05:12

King Marjorie King her name was and She would drive her car and this was a much older Chevrolet car like maybe 34 Fabric covering on the roof and which leaked and And the smell was moldy musty. I can still remember it the car the car was Pretty tired the engine was a lot of oil fumes and so on to come in Be honest about it, I treasure those odors you As Judy's probably told you, I was interested in antique cars.

05:59

And if you've got ahold of a car, that kind of an odor brought back memories. All right. Second grade was a Mrs. Waite. And she came from Milton with her young son who was a brat. And she was, I don't think she should have been qualified as a teacher.

06:26

But this was war years, try to get qualified people. How many were in the class that time? When I started in the first grade, it was Christian Walker and myself. That's the whole class. And second grade, the same thing.

06:43

Halfway, I think, halfway through the third grade, Gael Bordman came. OK, and he was a close friend of mine right up to the time he died. Antique cars, obviously. And he was a neighbor. His grandparents were a neighbor.

06:58

Well, up the road, maybe three quarters of a mile. Beartown. Huh? Beartown Road. No, right there in the river road. Yeah. They have the steel sculptures all around the place. The boardman house. The boardman.

07:21

Yeah, you're right. I can't think of his grandfather's name, but. Howard and Betsy. Howard and Betsy. They had a Packard car. And my grandmother and I had a couple of rides at least in it. And I was very impressed how smooth and quiet that car was.

07:40

My folks always had a Chevrolet, which are a good car. And Dad always traded about every two years, figuring after 50 ,000 miles, they pretty much wore out and spent. Get rid of it. Good policy. Well, nowadays everything is so improved that you go 150 ,000 miles and don't think anything about it.

08:05

That's good news for my car. Well, if you maintain them. Regular maintenance and all that means everything. All right. So how did you get to school? The first year I told you was Mrs. King in her car.

08:22

Oh, she picked you up? Oh, yeah, there was maybe four or five of us kids crammed into that little Chevrolet. It was quite a zoo. And second grade on, there was an elderly farmer who had retired, Mr. Alfred Gemmel.

08:41

He had an international pickup and what we would call a camper box. He built a box on the back, but the tailgate down. and built a platform on the bottom for a step to get in. The seats ran parallel to the roadway, for an aft, and we were jammed in there.

09:08

There was no heat. It was pretty brutal in the winter. On occasion, he'd go up the Irish Settlement Road, and at the Russin Farm, there was two or three of the kids needed to go to school. So would you go with them up there before you got to school?

09:33

Oh, we had to. So, yeah. One trip. I mean, he didn't drop you off. It was one trip. One trip. One Pouliot swaddled on and around. One trip. And at the Rustin Farm, we would turn around and come back down.

09:49

On the corner of the English Settlement Road, there was a small house. It used to be a school house, I understand. It was where Irene Pouliot and her four kids lived there. She was a widow, I believe.

10:05

Two boys and two girls. Were those Lehoullier there yet? Not till... Much later. Later. All right. Would pick them up. Paul was the oldest. Harold. Then Adrian. And Gloria. I don't think Gloria was old enough to go to school at that point.

10:30

All right. Good for you for remembering names. Good job. Well, those were good kids. I liked them. And Mrs. Poliott worked for my mother. Sometimes, housework and so on. Mother, why, between freezing the vegetables and freezing the fruits and things, canning things, putting on the feed for all the hired people and the family.

11:03

She was one busy woman. She had a girl from Underhill in high school at the time, Dolly Blakey, Dolly Blakey, and my grandmother lived with us, my maternal grandmother. They had their hands full doing all the cooking and whatever.

11:30

Hence, some people coming in to help clean or whatever. During that era, the dairy herd was, the moneymaker, was the most butterfat content. What kind of cows were they? Jerseys. I thought you were going to say that.

12:11

And Mr. Mead, bless his heart, an old timer, he told my father, he says, Mr. Mead, I don't think you're using very good judgment. Those little cows don't give very much milk, which is true compared to Holsteins or Herfords or something like that.

12:31

How many did you have about? I don't remember exactly. 50, maybe 60. No, that's, yeah, a lot. You had a, it was pretty big. Well, maybe it wasn't that much, you know. No, no, no. I wasn't that interested in animals.

12:53

Machinery has always been my ballgame. You didn't work in the barn much. I did on occasion, helped out. I was pretty sick when I was a little kid, and more times than not, I was in the house being very sick.

13:10

As a sideline, when I was maybe four years old, I came down with both kinds of pneumonia simultaneously. Wow. And I was a sick little boy. A dark town who was a doctor living in Underhill practically lived at the farm because he enjoyed the cooking for one thing.

13:33

He'd come and eat and take care of you. Yeah. Well, anyhow, you couldn't buy any medicines on account of the war years, everything that's going for the war. Well, one day he had the brilliant inspiration.

13:50

He says, Larry, my father, he says, Larry. You've got those big old sulfa pills for the cows. They were about a quarter in size and maybe three -quarters thick. Dad says, yeah. Doc says, you cut them in quarters.

14:13

Every time he needs medicine, give him a quarter. You. That's the only thing that saved me. Wow. That's amazing. It isn't, isn't it? And every time we went down to Underhill, to Effie's lunch to buy the Sunday paper, and Effie would give balloons or gum or something of that nature, for me, I barely knew her.

14:44

But by sight only at that point. There was a drug store. the wife, how it's airs would send balloons. And between blowing up balloons and things, strengthened my lungs. I'm long winded. So that was a community caring for you?

15:13

Indeed it was, yeah, yeah. How long were you sick? I don't remember, but over the years, my tendency was if I get my feet wet, get my hands wet, gloves, mittens, I was going to be sick. Coles and sinus and oh God, you need it.

15:38

So you had to miss days from school probably? A lot, mother was a retired school teacher. So guess what, I didn't miss school. She filled in. Oh yeah, she filled in in a royal form and you will study.

15:54

I hated that with a passion. Well, right from the get go, the way of education back in those days was brutal. Tough. You're going to pay attention or I'll slap the hell out of you and they met it or slam you down in a chair to get your attention.

16:16

And yeah, I hated it with a passion. Well. You hated school all along? Right straight through. Too bad, that's the bad. Yeah, we had a girl attending. She was in our class as a matter of fact. Ruthie McClean became solvent.

16:38

Yeah. And oh, she would rise no end. Just, ha ha, you didn't get that answer right. Ha ha ha. And all, why you driving. be insane because between being sick and massive headaches, you know, the sinus thing, it was hard to concentrate.

17:05

That may be partly why you didn't like being there too. Damn, I'll know it. Yeah. Pardon. So anyhow, my father had a college education with a degree. My mother went to college, had a degree obviously for teaching.

17:25

My brother in time went to Middlebury College and got a degree. I did not want any part of it. I get to be 16. I don't have to go to school no more. And I stuck right to it. It kind of disappointed my parents, my father in particular.

17:47

And we butted heads just about on a daily basis. I couldn't seem to do anything right. Now I know he loves me, but you wanted you to go to college. Oh Very much so yeah Nope. Well, I did I did go to St.

18:06

Mike's Can we go back a bit from I get we got to third grade so You went You went to the District 5 school through eighth grade Or Well, all right down there. Yeah, it burned down in 51 was it yeah, and At that point it was a two week vacation, which of course we had to make up but they went over where The Old Town Hall, I believe it was Roy Kennedy later bought it the Academy the Academy correct So did you so did you have Emily Flynn then?

18:48

Uh -huh. Yeah Okay, oh boy talk about brutal As a side issue I took a fellow home whose truck had quit in a garage in North Underhill Took him up. You live in off of Cambridge Pleasant Valley Road lower end of it toward Cambridge we got to talking came in the view of a particular firm Fullers And he says did you know such and such fuller?

19:28

No, but I've heard of them. They're quite a bunch He says I was in school and one of the Fuller boys gave miss Flynn a hard time She says you behave yourself or I'll slap you He says you do and I'll tell my father I had him in school and I did slap him a few times That was Ms.

19:53

Flynn. Oh, I got a big laugh out of that one. And Christian Walker's father went to school under Ms. Flynn, as a matter of fact. She's memorable. Oh, yes. But she was a good teacher. When you got done.

20:11

You knew something. Yeah, and getting back to Ruthie McLean, I remember one time, I did well in the mid -years and the final exams. Retained the knowledge, see. And one time, bless her heart, she called me and said, well, you're number one in the class.

20:35

Ruthie called you. Yep. I thought, that was a good one. That's a memorable too, yeah. Yeah, all right. So then did you go to high school? Went to Essex Junction High School. The folks insisted. Did I take a college prep course?

20:57

I didn't need that anymore than I need two heads. I wanted to take either the general or commercial. One of those two were of the three types of courses that were offered. Nope, college prep. Just in case you change your mind.

21:18

Hot chance in hell. Well, I graduated in 1956 and I was nowhere near the top of the class at all. We marched up onto the stage, shook hands with the superintendent and the principal. We were given our diploma.

21:44

Now we're supposed to turn, face the audience in case he wanted to take some pictures. See, don't open that diploma. I wanted to know whether I passed and made it. Yep. Did they take that picture? I don't know if they did or not.

22:03

Oh, and another thing in high school, I got into some plays. Okay. And one of them was the, I don't know, play or operetta, whatever it was, down in the valley. Now I was a jailer. The Tom Dooley had escaped.

22:26

I was to run across the stage waving a gun and yelling, Stop, Brack, stop or I'll shoot. I had a real gun in my hand. Oh, gee. It was my brother's, Smith and Wesson, 22 K, no, a pistol, revolver. Not loaded, I hope.

22:50

And they all knew about it, the principal and the principal. and so on, and they made sure that there was no shells. Yeah. Obviously. And I didn't pull the trigger or anything, not dry fire or any of that business.

23:03

But I remember, blub blub blub, stop, stop, stop! That was your one line? Yeah. That was my contribution to the whole thing. Were you in any other place? That was the main one. Some, and I don't really remember very much about it, our teacher, English teacher, named Miss Crandall, Pamela Crandall.

23:28

And she always spoke in a low voice, very commanding. And we might be rowdy, she came into the room, didn't say much, if anything, dead silence. Then she was ready to start teaching. She had a command.

23:50

Good teacher. Yeah, she was a good teacher. very strict with the English, compositions to essays to, I don't know what else. I don't remember much about that. Did you like high school any better than you liked elementary school?

24:09

The only thing I liked was driver training. And here's another interesting thing. Our instructor was Mr. Hyman, Edward Hyman. And he had a big chart on the wall and he was pointing out this was a cutaway of a car, the various components.

24:32

He got to the engine. This was a flathead six cylinder car, like a Plymouth. Now those are valves. I raised my hand, Mr. Hyman. Those are valves, those are water chambers. He says, do you want to teach the class?

24:48

I said, well, if you give me a good mark, I'm willing to do that part of it. So he let me do it and I got a good mark. There you go. Good teacher. Yeah. So when did the interest in cars start? All right, back on the firm.

25:10

We had a 1929 Rio truck. I think that was much of a go for it as anything. Underhill garage had a junkyard behind Doc Towne's house, little plot of land there. And in that junkyard, there was a perfectly fine 34 or 35 Buick Coupe with side mounted tires, all complete.

25:43

And I begged my father to let me buy it. You don't want that damn old junk. No. My car was worthy of quite a lot of money right now today So you didn't never bought it couldn't knew no way and Anyhow At the Underhill Academy they put a partition right straight across the building the lower building and Four grades in one and four in the other room Well, here's another sideline You go up the stairs there was a turn and go up the rest of the stairs to get to the attic Where there was a

pump orbit?

26:37

Well every every winter Christmas time It was expected that every great grade would do a Presentation of some sort We were to sing Christmas carols. Right now I think my church might want to pay me not to sing.

27:01

I can't sing worth two cents and don't try. Don't try. I enjoy people that can sing and I enjoy good music. Well up those stairs there was no electricity. Well Ms. Flynn was up there with an oil lamp and Loretta Thompson played the organ.

27:23

From the attic. From the attic. You can barely hear it. And we're ready. We're ready. We're ready. It wouldn't fly today. Boy that was the way it was. Did you have an audience? Oh yeah. All the parents would come.

27:45

And other townspeople that like to be there were welcome to come. No admission. You know just enjoy. I think we had a Christmas tree. I know we did. Decorated up. Part of it. At a point Jean and Antonio Lehoullier moved down to Vermont from Ham-Nord, Quebec.

28:17

They had twelve children. Six boys and six girls. And I'm telling you you never saw a hard -working farmer and his children as those before. Every kid pulled his weight or there was a lot of things said in French probably.

28:39

That added a number to the school when they came into the school. Well Ms. Flynn says, aha now we can have a song done in French. And they did. They did a nice job. I don't I have a clue what the name of the thing was, but they contributed.

28:59

Oh yes, they're smart kids, good kids. Okay, what else? Cars, back to cars. I know you're an expert. You know the definition of an expert? No. X is an unknown quantity, right? Remember that. Spurt is a drip of water under pressure.

29:22

Therefore an expert is an unknown drip under pressure. Do not call me an expert. Enthusiast, yes. All right, enough foolishness. What was your first car you ever owned? Here we get into a kind of a sideways issue.

29:48

In high school I worked part -time in a garage in this extension. McGee's garage and he had a 36 Ford four -door sedan deluxe And I could have bought it for \$15 It and we got it running I got it running Had to borrow a battery pour some gas in the carburetor All this it fired right up and as all the fords of that era did smoke like the Dickens It was it was a nice car relatively nice car It formerly had belonged to pastor Wells in S.

30:29

Extinction as a sideline never met him at all But he was a Methodist preacher and his church Was right across the road from his house on Main Street That church became Calvary Baptist Church, and I've been a member there for 51 years Which has nothing to do with cars course that's interesting that's part of your life.

30:58

It's important. It is to me I Went home we lived in Essex Junction at the time that was asleep on the couch. I mean asleep and I told my mother I said well I bought a car meaning the Ford Dad came right off that couch upright madder than a wet hornet Now hell you did and other things You get rid of that later I found out he'd gone over to Clayton talked to him about the car the long way from being roadworthy and wouldn't be For some time to come you know purpose to keep me off the road and In 1956 my brother Had a car fit 1950 Chevrolet two doors he did Dan, nice little car, kind of rusty, and he sold it to me for a modest sum of money.

32:03

Dad loaned me the money and insured it and registered it in his name so I couldn't do something stupid with it, which I appreciate, and certainly helping me out financially. I looked back at it and that was a good thing.

32:21

Well, Alan had gotten the best years out of that car. When I got it, it was tired. If I'd been gentle with it, it probably would have lasted a long time. I had some body work done to it, repainted it in black, and it was pretty sharp looking.

32:40

I think it was in wheel tracks some time ago. Alright, I was hard on the car and it seemed like just about every week something broke. Well, the final thing... I broke a piston in it and then I was working part -time for Shangraw's garage in Essex.

33:02

We were out of high school by this time. Oh yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. 16, 17, somewhere in that age. And Shangraw's took it down to the point where, okay, you need a piston, you didn't damage the cylinder walls, so got it back running.

33:26

I put it up for sale. That was agreeable to that. And we sold it. The next thing was a 1929 Nash Ford Orchid and Carr. That was quite a piece of machinery. It was rusted, came out of Rutland. Pev Peake engineered that one.

33:51

What are you giggling about? And I enjoyed that car, ran it for a couple of years. And now it started having more problems. I looked back at it and I know one of them. We'd put too small a pipe for the tailpipe and back pressure on a long run that would tend to overheat.

34:19

If I'd used a proper sized pipe and got rid of the exhaust gases much quicker, it probably would not have an overheating problem. So I swapped, maybe bad news, but I swapped with Carl Walbridge. He took the Nash and I got a 1951 Renault car, which is about as...

34:49

I look back at that, that car should never have been manufactured. It was terrible. I got two or three years' use out of it, and I learned a lot about mechanics, working on it. So it was useful that way?

35:02

Yeah, back in— Well, Walbridge lived on Pleasant Valley Road in Underhill. Did, yeah. Yeah. Oh, I had—I was working at Pratt& Whitney Aircraft for a while in Connecticut, and that car took me back and forth on a number of occasions.

35:21

So you jumped from Underhill to Connecticut as a young person with a job? Well, at that time, I think—let me back up a little bit here. From high school, after a year or so, I realized, hey, I'm not as smart as I thought I was.

35:43

So the folks are willing to send me to trade school, St. John'sbury Trade School, where I took up machining. Did you stay over there in St. Jack? Yeah. Two years. Postgraduate course. Although I had to take all the same courses as the rest of the people.

36:03

English, for instance. Is that the same thing as St. John'sbury Academy? It became part of it now. It's part of it now. Yeah. But back then it was a completely separate entity. It was a trade school.

36:15

And I enjoyed the instructor, Mr. Burroughs. He was an Englishman. Oh, chip, chip. I say, oh, hello. He had all that accent. Trust me, he did. And you get him talking about the war years. You didn't have to worry about class for the rest of the day.

36:36

But he was a good instructor and patient. And some of the kids there were, well, anyhow, a challenge. And what else? But you came out of that probably with your knowledge. No, we had, I think it was 37 graduates.

37:02

1959. I was third in class. Good job. Because I'd found something I liked. Yeah. Yeah. So then I found a job down to a Pratt&

Whitney aircraft as a machine apprentice. After that, OK. And I didn't finish the course.

37:26

There was a strike down there. And even though we were supposed to be completely exempt from the strikers, to think again, we almost spit upon. And I said, OK, enough of this. We'll extend this from back home.

37:43

And I worked in a number of jobs. Right up to, I worked on aircraft. I worked on aircraft. boats, marine type of thing, cars, trucks, buses. Wow. I've done pretty much of everything. That's great. A little bit of everything.

38:07

Yeah. And each time I've learned more and more, and of course now at my age it's beginning to slip away. You're remembering a lot, Clark. That's wonderful. Out of, can you think of a machine, either a car, or what's the best one you ever worked on?

38:30

I mean, something that just really thrilled you, that was really fun to do. Gosh, I can't really think of one. So many of them. Yeah. So many of them. Have you traded? Cars over the years like Every few years you get a different one.

38:58

It's kind of kind of Well Number of years ago many years ago There was a 37 Buick In s -extruction somebody's backyard and one of the sons of this family Can't remember what he was doing, but he's a delivery man of some sort snacks or I don't remember that but he'd come into the station where I used to work the genes and Got the talking about it.

39:46

It's for sale and he started off about seventy five dollars Now boy, I've perked right up and Eventually I bought it for twenty dollars Well the clutch was stuck so I couldn't drive it towed it over to a friend's house that had a drive -on lift crawled under it and Took just enough apart Pried around with a screwdriver and got the clutch disc freed if they're on there on I was driving it and It was a good car four -door Buick special the little one Straight eight engine of course and just as smooth as glass good purchase for twenty dollars Well, I had to buy new tires for it in time Which wasn't too bad too bad a deal at that time.

40:47

I was working for a tire dealer so I could buy cyber rolling tires at discount. How much better can it get? All right, my love for Buick's went into something like 7. 37, 38, I didn't have a 39, 38. I had a 39 Buick.

41:10

This was a hearse of all things. I didn't have it long. I got it running and I wasn't too happy with it so stayed right there at Carowal Bridges. Had an opportunity to buy a Chrysler air flow which was Chrysler's, it was a brilliant piece of engineering but the thing was as the name implies, streamlined for air flow and it would have been a hell of a good purchase to keep.

41:51

Well, I got it running. It didn't run worth two cents. Big straight -aid engine in it. And the back seat was ruined where somebody had thrown a battery into it. A spare wheel was missing. And I wouldn't be surprised if it was special to an airflow caroline.

42:10

I don't know. So I passed on that one. I regret it very deeply. That's a lot about it. I mean, you've had cars all your life. All your life. Very, very seldom was I walking. And you enjoyed them. Yeah, for the most part.

42:38

Some of them, I mean, probably shouldn't have messed with them. One of the cars that I had down in Connecticut was a Henry J. Remember the Henry J. car made by Kaiser? No, I don't. Well, it's just so well not remembered.

42:55

And I played with it for a while and eventually sold it. The guy came to me later. He was pretty mad. He said that car overheated like nobody's business. I said, I didn't drive it that long to know. I'm sorry.

43:11

And that's the truth of the matter. Well... So maybe we should jump to adult life in Underhill. Did you stay in Underhill? No. Dad moved. And you got married. Back up a bit. Quite a bit. In 1946, Dad bought what was known as a Quinn Farm.

43:40

And we bought it for the acreage. The barn was pretty poor condition. The house still exists and was good for a 10 -hour-farmer. Alright, and 1947 our barns burned there and the original farm. That just moved everything right over to the other place.

44:05

So where was Quinn Farm? That's where the Lehoulliers used to live. Now there's a lumber mill. The Lehoulliers, you moved there. They bought, they bought, and that was because of the fire at your place. Well several years later they came down as I told you.

44:24

They bought the farm with the exception of the house that we lived in. Okay. And six acres right in front of it. Dad did not want anybody building the house in front. Pretty smart move. And 1954 I think it was, we moved into Essex Junction Onondaga Avenue.

44:51

Partly so dad could continue some business. He was an appraiser at that point FHA VA and bank loans things like that they'd call on dad to Do the fieldwork? So some 54 you didn't live in Underhill. That's good.

45:07

That's correct Up to 1954. Yeah, but you still have ties there. I mean you still have I look at it Right, I know a number of people here knew a number of people in that's extension Not like Underhill.

45:26

Yeah, there was a time when we lived there Virtually walked down the street and if I didn't know people by their name. I knew who they were. Yeah Can't do it now and they'd all help each other out if they needed quite often.

45:42

Yeah, yeah, some of the things that went on were pretty humorous Yeah, one of our School plays this was in the original school house The little kids first graders I think they were Would recite a little Little piece Go sit on a bench.

46:05

I want my mommy And the next one would say the piece and sit beside the original I want my mommy so on well Well, it was two guys town characters Joe Breen and Lionel Jimmel by name and Joe had a such test I stutter Unfortunately, but he made the best of it use a character.

46:34

I'll tell you good worker Well, don't they know they came in late, of course Right through the door where this performance is going on Joe comes in and I want my mommy. I know one woman that her face was just as red as that, right there.

46:58

Oh, the place was in hysterics. Oh, dear. Yeah, and Joe went on to become a volunteer fireman, and he got badly injured in a highway accident going to a fire. Was he the man who had been driving the school bus?

47:17

No, that was Mr. Jimmel. Oh. Alfred Jimmel. The names got, yeah, okay. Yeah. Mr. Jimmel had very badly crossed the lines. You look at him, you didn't know whether he was looking at you or looking to that one.

47:34

And yet, how in the world could he drive a bus, a school bus, you know, the little international? And after he- He didn't wear glasses at all. Nope. Nope. He rolled cigarettes and while he was driving.

47:52

I mean, I'll never forget that. I'll always remember it. And one thing that he always did as he was driving, go down the road,

okay, you wanted to turn into our driveway. Way over in the other lane, make a huge swing like a tractor trailer would have to.

48:13

He didn't do that any more than anything. But I don't know, at first I started taking notice of odd driving techniques. I've seen some pretty zippy things in my lifetime. Well, you probably knew the roads of Underhill pretty well because of your cars and going to school and going there and there.

48:39

Yeah. A lot of mud in the spring. Again, a snow plow consisted of a big old Ford dump truck with a V plow and a wing. Of course, that was two wheel drive. There's just so much you can do with it, no matter how much sand and gravel you put in the back for weight.

49:05

The other piece of road equipment was a crawler tractor with a big V plow and wing. If the Ford wouldn't go through like in Pleasant Valley where it just so bad, the old, I guess it was a caterpillar tractor.

49:29

Shuffle on up the road there. It would go through. Yeah. Those are the days. Those are the days. Let me get a picture here for you guys. You know what? I think we're sort of winding down in a way. I mean, a picture won't show on the audio.

49:51

But at least you get an idea of what the farm looked like. Well, you get the picture and then you can talk about it on the tape. Oh. There we go. Okay. There was our farmhouse. There's the farmhouse.

50:16

Yeah. Where was your bedroom? My bedroom was... Those two rooms right there, hallway, and my grandmother lived over there. My brother lived up there in the other end of the house. For obvious reasons.

50:33

Where were your parents? They were... In the back. In the back. In the back, there was an extension. Probably a hall up there. Yeah. Yeah. Nice picture. Okay. Can you see me in the picture? No. Are you there?

50:50

Yep. That little knot right there is me. And here's a picture showing the barns and such. Oh nice, that's a lovely picture. Who is this? That's my father. And he's standing. You're going to feel the hay at that tall.

51:13

Wow. His name was Larry. Larry. G. L. Wright. G. George Lawrence Wright. That's a beautiful picture. That's nice. Thank you very much. I think we're going to stop recording now, but we can keep talking if you want.