

**Matt**

🕒 Fri, 03/15 13:44PM · 54mins

00:02

It is Monday July 10th, [2023] and we're at my home on Harvey Road and I'm being visited by Matt Parisi of Underhill and we're going to chat a little bit for a while about his life and what he's been doing in Underhill all his life and it's going to be casual and informal.

00:28

So Matt you were just saying I've got a funny story from going to France to Holland so tell me the story.

00:36

This story is actually about Holland.

00:38

Okay.

00:39

how they found this story. I'm not positive. I've known quite a few Dutchmen, especially in the service. Anyway, in the country of Holland, there's a city called Scheveningen, and I'm not sure I'm pronouncing it right, but the Dutch used to use that to find out if someone's German or not, and not Dutch.

01:06

I know. I didn't say that word, and they could never, Germans would never say it right. You were pretty...

01:12

You were pretty close.

01:13

Do you know where it is? Scheveningen. Yeah, Scheveningen. I live...

01:18

there. I lived there for a while. Did you really? Yeah. Is it near the coast? It's on the coast, it's on the North Sea. Okay. Yeah. Yeah. And that's your story.

01:29

That's a true story.

01:30

is true I think I have I think I have where that's how they could determine if you were German yeah because Dutch is nothing like German actually it's a different language yeah

01:46

Yeah.

01:47

okay so let's go let's go way back from there and why don't you fill me in on early days I don't know anything about your your early place of birth and where you live before you came to Vermont

02:03

I was born and raised in Philadelphia. I was born in 1931 and went to school in Philadelphia. I had a brother who was in the Air Corps they called it then. I was very proud of him because he put in 50 missions over the Baltic countries in the bomb and he made it back to the States.

02:32

So anyway when the agreement began they were looking for volunteers so I enlisted and I was in Philly and I ended up going south in Texas and Biloxi, Mississippi. I became a radar operator and of course I had to go where the radar is after that.

02:57

They sent us up here to Stewart Field in New York and then the headquarters was actually Rome Air Force Base in Rome, New York. I've forgotten the name of it now. But anyway from there they sent us to Vermont so that's where I got here.

03:18

and you were still in that job in Vermont.

03:21

Yeah, I was sent there to do that job, but the radar wasn't complete. In fact, it was never complete when I left. And everybody was there with doing odd jobs. It could be gardening or carpentry. They had everybody, kept everybody busy some way or another, although about 60 of them were regular operator, radar operators.

03:49

But somehow or another, when my time came to Korea, for some reason they put the name up on a board every day when somebody was called to go overseas. And my name came up with beside it, Camp Kilmer, New Jersey.

04:10

So right away a fellow was standing next to me and said, California. He said, you're going to Europe if you're going to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. You're going to go east. So anyway, that's what happened.

04:31

I ended up in the service in the Air Force and ended up in St. Albans in Vermont. And then from there I went to France for three years.

04:43

How long totally were you in the service? Sounds like you were in the service for quite a few years. Five. Five years? Yeah.

04:52

And then you had two children out one in France. I love we were loved married. I was great. We had a great time in France

05:00

Did you meet Mary in Vermont?

05:01

Yeah, that's how I got here. Oh, okay. She was a nurse at DeGoesbriand. Oh. Yeah. Actually, it was a blind date. There was another GI in St. Albans who was from Fort Lauderdale. I used to work with him and he fixed it up with a blind date one night.

05:19

I'm going to go to a place called Mill Brook. It's up, it's south of St. Albans, runs into the lake. And it was a place where picnics, used to have picnics there. Still there, yeah. On the river. Yeah, I think it is.

05:35

Yeah. Yeah. So, I ended up and got married in 52. So, we were married 70 years, just short of two months.

05:47

Bravo. Good for you. Good for you, Matt.

05:50

that's great died the last uh not last september september before and uh in november 1st would have been 70 years

06:01

That's like, that's like good, long, good, long marriage.

06:04

She was a great person. She was. Yes, she was. She was smart. She was pretty. She had everything going for her.

06:13

So, when you went to France, you were already married with two children.

06:19

no I had to show them to France in fact my tour was supposed to be two years to France and Mary we had one child there the oldest one oh so Mary went

06:31

with your different. Yes. Oh, OK.

06:33

They allowed the servicemen to bring their wife. If you were in Germany, you had to wait in line because all the quarters for non -coms, we're not officers, non -coms, you had to wait in line. And the non -com buildings were built by the Americans on the air bases.

06:56

Mm -hmm.

06:56

And the French wouldn't let us build anything. They made Americans give us money to live on their economy. They wanted us, which was smart for them. So all we had to do was find a place to rent. And you'd wait in line for that also.

07:13

They'd put up names up on the board, somebody leaving, and you'd contact them right away. Can I see the house? Could I rent it? And all seemed to work well.

07:25

What town did you end up in in France?

07:27

in a place called Boulon Marlot, which is on the Seine River. Near Paris? Right at Fontainebleau. Oh, Fontainebleau? Yeah, it's about 50 miles south of Paris. Okay. It's a big forest surrounded by the Seine River, and every four, six or eight, ten miles is a little village.

07:50

There's about eight or ten villages in that area that go around the river. It goes in a circle right around Fontainebleau. Yeah, it's beautiful.

08:00

Did you need French or could you get along without it? No, I did.

08:03

good. You could get along. I learned French to speak, but not grammar -wise. I just knew GI French. Get along. They would laugh. Get along. Yeah, I knew the words for stuff. And you could get by with it.

08:19

Yeah.

08:21

Actually, when I left, I got there in 53 and we left in the fall of 55. It came to Underhill and looking for a place, and right after that, they made it mandatory for all Americans to take French. It had to take so many hours every week.

08:46

All soldiers. All the Air Force guys at that base. It was a French base named after, his name was Ginnemir. And he was a French hero in World War I. They named the base after him.

09:03

Hmm

09:03

so it was a new base. They've closed it down now and actually the French let us go. We went to that whole unit, it's NATO. The headquarters now is in Belgium. Have you been back there? Yeah, twice we went back to the house where we live.

09:20

Oh, just to see it. You brought the kids back. Yeah.

09:24

All their kids have seen it, your children have all seen it too, where you were. Yeah. Yeah, that's cool

09:30

Cathy and Mindy the first two, then the other two were born here in Burlington.

09:39

Matt and...

09:41

Matthew and Roberta, Roberta is the youngest.

09:44

Right. Okay.

09:46

She said, Mindy's retired now, retired nurse. She's 70, going to be 70. Amazing, isn't it?

09:53

Amazing, think about it. So, did you speak Italian? Because you have an Italian background family? Or not?

10:03

Well, I'm sorry, what was that?

10:04

Did you have Italian in your background?

10:07

Italian. Yeah. Oh, yeah. My folks were your folks are Italian. They were both born in Italy So they were born as children. So I mean born They came to America as children

10:19

Okay.

10:20

so it was really I don't know if you realize it but most kids can pick up a language like nothing yeah so they spoke both thai and english they were bilingual without an accent you know what so that was that

10:37

Philadelphia. Yeah. They went to Philadelphia and then they grew up.

10:41

it for a while when he came. His father settled in Connecticut. So my father ended up with the whole family. Every one of them went to college. My grandfather was really stuck on education. He was a tailor, but he said you're all going to go to school.

10:58

So my father went to Colgate. He and his brother went after Colgate for some reason. I was telling somebody the other day my father told us years ago. He said, you know what the tuition is at Colgate when I went?

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\$126 .50. So my brother lived there. For a semester? Yeah. 126.

11:19

of the year first semester of course that was a fair amount of money then I mean well but nothing like today's a tour now

11:28

much like it was, 50, 60 ,000 go to college, especially a place like old days is a pretty fancy place. Yeah. It's out in Hamilton,

New York. But he and his brother became a doctor, an osteopath. And my father went to Philly to become a musician.

11:48

Wow.

11:49

And his father knew my mother's father. So he told him to go see, his name was Luigi. He said, I think he had three or four girls in the family. So my father met when Mary and I was eight.

12:05

And that's where all the Italian comes from.

12:07

Well...

12:09

Yeah.

12:09

There's a lot of Italians in Philly, but all the big cities had Italians in them, especially on the East Coast.

12:17

So where were you from originally? I was from not very far away from that from the New York City area Okay, Westchester County. Oh, yeah So then after France and Back to Vermont. Yeah, did you go right to the place where you live now?

12:39

Did is that your first home?

12:41

My first job was at Stevensville.

12:44

Oh.

12:45

Right beside Moore's. Beside Moore's. A lot was for sale. I had a big sign that I had \$700 for 22 acres. So I... In the 50's. And I'll tell you who owned it. Adams. Remember the Tony Adams, the sports student from WCAX?

13:03

You bought from Adams? His family.

13:04

Was it just land or a house? It's just 22 acres.

13:07

So you built a house? It's where, I don't know who's in, somebody rented it and they bought it now. And they were next to Nassau's. Nassau bought part of that man from them.

13:21

between NASA and more.

13:23

uh right on steven's after more than nasa if you're going down right down right it would be the next place the next place yeah there's a little garage out by the road yep and the house is down below right i built that down there

13:39

And is that also a stone house?

13:43

No, I wasn't a mason then.

13:45

Ah, so how long did you live there on Stephenville?

13:50

About a year and a half, I think, two years. I bought the land in Underhill for \$7 an acre from Merde Sage. But at one time, believe it or not, I became a select man in the 60s. And Richard Fuller was a select man with me.

14:09

Marion Fay and Bill Meade. And Richard Fuller had land for sale, \$1 .50 an acre. I bought 50 acres. And then, if I'd done paying them \$5 a month, I don't know what it was. So it was ridiculous amount of money.

14:30

I'll sell you the whole thing up there, 200 acres. It's called Tupper Basin. You can have the whole thing. Same price, \$1 .50 an acre. That's it. I can't afford it.

14:43

And you really thought that was true at the time, but when you think about it, it's amazing.

14:49

My father's story about the \$150 or \$125 for tuition, my daughter looked it up. It only took her about a half hour to find it. It was right on the money. She looked it up on the Internet. Tuition for Colgate back in 1912 or sometime in there.

15:09

Wow. So how did how did Stevensville Road seem different than than it is now? What's the difference now? It's almost the same thing. It's pretty much the same.

15:22

I think, yeah, Tommy Moore built a house for John up there. And then he moved from there, I think. He's in the new place. So you were on Stevensville in a house you bought on 22 acres and then did you go to Corbett Croner from there?

15:52

Yeah, yeah.

15:54

because and tell me about the masonry.

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I started masonry then. I was doing masonry.

16:01

You had been in a soldier, so you were looking for a career job.

16:08

Yeah, so I went to the VA and they sent me to the, I wanted to be a carpenter. I went to a carpenter's union and they weren't hiring anybody, but there was a lot of work. A lot of schools were built then.

16:23

Yeah, there was work, yeah. A whole bunch of schools were built right in the row.

16:31

Anyway, yeah.

16:34

They sent me to the masons' union and said we're not hiring, but the masons are hiring. We can get an apprenticeship, you know, through the union.

16:45

Mm -hmm.

16:45

and that's what I did. I think I, if I remember rightly, the union, the government paid 75 cents and the contractor paid 75 cents. So my pay was 150 bucks for an hour, than it was back then in 50s.

17:06

\$1 .50 an hour, yeah, yeah

17:09

Did you like it?

17:11

Wait, did you like masonry by the way?

17:14

Oh, yeah. Started at the Howard Bank in a church in St. Paul, I think. There's still a bank there, but I don't know what bank it is. It was a course from the Hotel Vermont.

17:29

Mm -hmm.

17:32

That's your first job. So I was like three and a half years of apprenticeship and then I got my journeyman So you get full scale started at about three bucks an hour

17:46

Mm -hmm

17:47

But it was a lot of work. St. Mike's was building every year. St. Mike's was building a dormitory. So, yeah.

17:53

No trouble getting jobs.

17:55

Yeah. No trouble. Vermont's always been real good about that. Never been a real high unemployment.

18:08

We need more people.

18:09

I think I think now it's probably what two and a half percent or something like that. Pretty low. I don't know. It's very low. Yeah, it's working. Yeah, it's been that way.

18:23

place to be. Pardon? It's a good state to be in. Yeah. It's a good place to be.

18:29

The wages aren't high. You know, you go to cities and their wages are more of it. You got a lot of other stuff to put up that you don't have here.

18:39

So, so tell me about the building of your house on Corbett Road.

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That took me about two years you built every

18:49

of it. Pardon? You built every bit of that house yourself. Yeah.

18:54

Yeah, well, I had a helper once, so I had a good friend. I worked with him elsewhere, too. I worked for a company called

Reed& Stone. We were out of Essex. And I do remember the Page family.

19:10

Yes.

19:11

Foster Page used to work with me. He was strong, strong.

19:15

Father of ...

19:19

You know Dick, he lives in Poker Hill now.

19:21

Oh, yeah.

19:22

and Tommy Pager's about. Dickey Page. Yeah there were and a couple girls in the family I think of five or so kids you know this big hit very very beautiful personality for Dickey Page.

19:37

Mmhmm.

19:38

He had a brother that worked for McGovern, and I forgot his first name. He worked for McGovern. They had sort of a farm equipment in Cambridge. In the back of all of the stores, it was in the back. It was a long building.

19:56

It was sort of like a hardware. His brother was there for years. I forgot his first name. And his sister was one of those—Mrs. Pryor, was she a Page too? I think?

20:11

Uh, yes, they, well, that would have been Gert prior.

20:15

Yeah, there's some connection here.

20:19

Right. I know Gail. I interviewed her last week. Gail is a daughter. Yeah. Gert's daughter. Yeah. Yeah.

20:28

And, uh, Louise McCollan was connected.

20:33

So McClellan and Page and Pryor, they're all related, all related, and they were friends of yours and contemporaries of yours.

20:45

or two is involved in it.

20:46

Crick Walker.

20:47

Yeah, yeah Walker family the grandfather was Married to somebody somehow related not to Carl, but to Louise Okay, Louise McCollan was related to the pages somehow. Okay Someone was

21:05

tell us. Yeah. Yeah.



21:07

Yeah.

21:08

Hahaha

21:09

They're all nice people.

21:11

That was the 50s and 60s.

21:13

Yeah.

21:14

That's a lot going on. Yeah. But do you remember that Church Street was open and we used to we used to go in there to a hardware store on Church Street.

21:30

Strong.

21:30

Yeah, I think so

21:32

Was that it? Was that it? It's fine.

21:33

But you, for sure it was just- Oh no, there was two of them.

21:37

I didn't want to interrupt, but there was a hardware when you ran it on Main Street. Strong hardware, I think. I think so. They were very big. They were old. They were there for years. Yeah.

21:51

And then there was another hardware on Church Street you're talking about. Yeah. My wife Mary's uncle worked there. His name was Roberts, Lloyd Roberts. Lloyd Roberts, yeah. You worked there. I forgot one story.

22:08

Well, I brought that up because that's where a lot of difference has been. I mean, Burlington has changed tremendously since then. And those of us who lived out this way, we were there in the late 50s and 60s in Jericho, but.

22:25

Those of us who lived out this way always went to Burlington for stuff. Oh, yeah, we had to because there was nothing in between a little bit in Essex. Yeah, but as a as a mason, you must have had the same situation where if you needed something or you got jobs or.

22:44

and we also used to go to one in Johnson oh okay the hardware right on the Main Street main drag

22:50

Yeah.

22:52

Yeah. The biggest one was the 1 -0 Main Street in Burlington.

22:58

Yeah.

22:58

I don't know what means that we're strong. Could be strong hardware.

23:02

That sounds familiar. Sounds familiar, yeah.

23:06

That building, my neighbor who had passed away since Dr. McGuire, you know, Steve Burke? Yes. His wife, yes. Her office was in that building where that hardware was. I had her as an eye doctor for a while.

23:32

She was like on the second floor, third floor.

23:37

Did you did did you have more than one car in your family to get to work?

23:43

Well, I started when we first started. Stevensville, there was no school bus. So when our mayor used to try to take them to school. Otherwise, they'd have to walk. Yeah. And I bought an old Jeep pickup from Elwood.

24:02

Elwood was Elwood's last in Clark.

24:05

Clark. Yeah.

24:06

Rogers in the village remember that

24:09

Yep.

24:09

He had the, the brothers were so tall, Bogues. The Bogues. You had a couple of the Bogues working.

24:19

seven foot Bogues.

24:21

One of them used to speak with that guy on one side of the car and his head was the other side.

24:28

So who drives a school bus?

24:32

Oh, back then. I don't remember.

24:34

that's okay

24:35

No, if I thought about it, I think Mark Casey might have driven for a while. But your children were...

24:43

in.

24:43

In the Underhill Central School, which was built by that time, it was after the fire. It was well after. Central School? Yeah.

24:51

built just when I got here in 55, I think.

24:54

Right, because 53 was the fire.

24:57

in the schoolhouse. That's right, and there was no one.

25:00

and they built that, and they opened in 55, just when you got here, yeah. So all your children went there, and then Mount Mansfield, and yeah, right.

25:13

They, uh, Mindy went to nurse's training, Kathy went to UVM, Roberta went to UVM, and Matt Dingo, he's like apprenticeship with me. Is Matt a Mason also? Yeah, he took over my business.

25:31

Oh, he did, and which he has.

25:33

better than I did, a lot bigger. He had eight or nine people working for him sometime.

25:38

Is he still doing it? He does what he does now.

25:42

It's rigged, but you're still doing it.

25:43

Yeah, so what's the name of the company, Matt Parisi? Parisi company.

25:50

Yeah, he's busy all the time so he's got work well good

25:56

that must be quite satisfying to you to have your son have done that. Yeah, sometimes people still don't go off in other directions.

26:07

A lot of times they don't get along with each other because we didn't have that problem. They all get along well.

26:13

Yeah, that's cool

26:15

Yeah.

26:17

So tell me about tell me about Underhill Underhill was Was different than it is now or

26:25

There were a lot more kids in Underhill back then. Yeah, yeah. There were, the Wells talk about it pretty often. There were four families with eight children right in the village. La Jollaire. Well, we didn't count that.

26:46

We didn't even count, they weren't right at, oh, you mean right in Underhill Center. Yeah, the Wells, the Ruussins. Yeah. Uh, Machia. Machia. Then there's another one. Who else would it be?

27:04

and they all had eight children, so that was quite a bunch.

27:08

So every night you knew it, and it was great as hell. The pumpkins, Dolphie was always accused of everything. And he's about one of the only ones left out of that gang.

27:22

Cedric, yeah.

27:25

But the welders are still here.

27:28

Did you have any adventures with Dolphie ever?

27:31

I do what?

27:31

Any adventures with Dolphie? No, he was younger than I was.

27:35

He's a he's match age, right? So who is your somebody else? I'm missing a family.

27:43

a fourth family.

27:45

It was a Russin, a Wells, a Machia.

27:51

Lamphere? No, they didn't.

27:54

Lamphere, Luella Lamphere

27:56

No, they had kids, but not that many.

27:58

eight, but their homes were right in the center.

28:02

Yeah, they're all living there.

28:05

Well, that's.

28:06

the Russians are where they lived up on the range road. Right.

28:10

And where did the Wellses live?

28:14

down the bottom at the bottom.

28:16

down.

28:16

Yeah, and then the Wellses were right by the bridge.

28:21

The Welleses were in what was called the hen house.

28:24

Yeah. No, they weren't. They were in the house before. What's your name?

28:28

good yeah that the Red House yeah that's where they were

28:33

That's where the walls is lit.

28:36

Okay, so now we got to figure what the fourth family was yeah, that's all right. It's a it's a piece of research

28:44

They had ten kids, somebody said, the Machias did. The father was a road commissioner for a while, and he ended up with Mrs. Northrup.

29:01

uh -huh

29:02

Remember that? Yep. It was a little...

29:05

Yeah and then and then yeah and

29:09

Jewish stone over there, Jewish. Yes, I haven't.

29:14

Interview with Julia, she's a friend of mine. Yeah.

29:16

She's a nice lady. She's doing well. She's doing well. Torrey said hello.

29:20

Yeah, I would.

29:20

I will, I will, I will. So can you think of anything funny that happened in Underhill?

29:28

Oh no.

29:29

And you got a knee.

29:31

Do you remember Dr. Bland?

29:34

He was a good friend. Was he? Really? I loved him. Yeah, he was a sweetie.

29:39

What's his son's first name?

29:41

Perry.

29:42

Harry. Yeah, he was at my son Matt belongs to a group that sings before guys play in it and they sing called the Buck Hollers. Yep. One of them is from Buck Hollow and Fairfax. They're all from Fairfax.

29:57

Okay. We all sang it to Catholic Church 40 years ago. So now they they sing here. They're going to be singing here next week. Is it the same? They were here Friday night.

30:07

is it the same four people four yeah same ones yeah good for them so what did John Bland have to do with it pardon you were going to say something about John Bland Dr. Bland

30:22

Oh, Matt has one two or three times a year at a golf course. Arrowhead. The Milton Golf Course. Beautiful golf course. And the last one, Perry was there. And I didn't recognize him at first. You know, we all get older.

30:43

That's for sure.

30:44

there and you were talking to everybody you know and there's a funny story was that I remember about him Bob Northrup and Joey had a party one night you might have probably been there probably at their house yep and that's the day of the streaker the what?

31:07

Streakers. Yeah streakers. streakers. Yeah okay. And who it was was Perry, Perry Bland. He'd come running through nude to party with everybody there. He's a funny kid. Yeah. I told him this story he never heard because it was just one of those it was a doctor story when Mary was a nurse she had a an aunt who lived in Route 2 in Williston and they ended up selling all their property to Flanders and they built all those houses.

31:49

But the wife her name was aunt Ruth who's my mother's my Mary's aunt her mother's sister mm -hmm and aunt Ruth developed some kind of an illness where it thought it was rickets or something but anyway she became bedridden and Mary was at that time was a nurse and she detected something that she thought wasn't some medication that he were using for her.

32:43

She had been treated for something wasn't proper at that time.

32:48

He was a good, good doctor. He, he, especially good with older people. Yeah. Arthritis.

32:55

dead.

32:57

Well, tell me about Doc Towne. I didn't know him.

33:00

He was funny. He was a comedian, actually. Yeah, he was a great diagnitician, is that the word? Diagnostician, yeah.

33:11

so so he had an office in the flats yeah and everybody went to him around here he was kind of the local doctor yeah but how was he funny still jokes oh yeah

33:25

Oh yeah, funny, funny attitude about it. Nothing was like business unless it had to be. If you didn't have the money nobody paid, they wouldn't pay. He was just a super person. Just really. One time I went in there and he had a new, he was very musical.

33:44

He played piano a little bit and he also played a couple, he played a clarinet and this time that I went in for a head appointment and he opens up the clarinet, starts playing the clarinet in the office.

34:00

There's people outside waiting. So he opens the door and looks out into the crowd. There's two rows on each side and that was it. It wasn't a big room, just like a hallway. You know where the house is?

34:15

So uh, oh he howled, Matt, Matt, come here you gotta see this. This is a riot. He got us, and there was a kid in there, maybe 10, 12 years old, holding a line and hook was in his brother's neck. The little kid was only about eight years old and the kid with the hook in his neck, he was, you could see he was pale, he was so afraid.

34:41

The dog sounds in there later. You gotta see.

34:46

He just thought it was funny.

34:52

He used to play piano down here at Jack's parties, and I would play trumpet. Jack, what was his first name, his last name was Jackson, Lucius.

35:05

Lucius Jackson. He lived on what's now Jackson Hill Road. No, he lived below that. Big house.

35:14

He died when he was living there.

35:17

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. He he

35:21

Yeah, and he held parties.

35:25

Yeah, did you go to his parties ever?

35:27

Oh yeah, all the time.

35:29

Tell me about that. We don't know much about him.

35:31

Well, certain people, he would invite the party, and maybe it would be sort of a limited amount, and maybe five, six couples every Saturday.

35:47

dinner parties or drinking party you had a drink and dinner

35:52

He would usually supply meat and you do it on the fireplace. Okay, and then steaks

35:58

and then other people would bring food.

36:00

You bring something else. Everybody would be asked to borrow a salad or dessert or whatever. But it was fun. But he used to generate problems too, sometimes politically. Like what? Oh, there was a black minister, black priest came to St.

36:21

Mike's. And I can't remember. There was a man named Williams, was one of them, Reverend Williams, I think. And he disagreed with something that was going on in Burlington. So,

36:35

He, meaning, loses.

36:37

them was Bill Snyder was one of the disagreed and I think who else I don't quite remember them all involved but it that was the object to get a conversation between those two get something wild up and they didn't end up okay yeah just

36:59

He liked to bring up political issues. Yeah. What was going on? Were there political discussions at the dinner parties? Oh, yeah. Did they get it? Not good. Did they get.

37:10

Fierce sometimes no no that was that was one of the worst ones

37:14

okay generally people got along i mean yeah oh yeah even if they were different parties oh yeah yeah that's what i like about vermont i don't know

37:24

did it intentionally because he knew they were intelligent enough to not to really start something in the stranger's house. They got into it somewhat, but one of his steady customers, people invited, one of his good friends was Roland Ellis.

37:52

Remember Roland Ellis? He used to make soap. Oh no, he makes soap, and the guy after him is there now. He makes soap.

38:02

Right. Roland and Mabel? No.

38:06

They sold magazines or something.

38:08

they they were collectors they had a lot of postcards and memorabilia yeah right they were that was up by the maple research maple leaf farm yeah right on that corner right is that steven that's steven show yeah yeah

38:28

They're originally from Vineland, New Jersey.

38:33

Oh.

38:34

They knew a lot about the farming in Jersey. Uh -huh, which is always pretty even now. It's spectacular Yeah, so they grow peaches and no kinds of vegetables to garden state

38:47

So that's where they were from, and then they didn't stay in Underhill, they left Underhill at a certain point.

38:54

Well, I think he died here. Oh, he did, okay. And then I think she went back to Jersey. Okay. And passed away there.

39:02

So we're Roland and his wife at at Lucius Jackson's dinners. Did they go to his house for the parties?

39:13



Where was that?

39:14

to remember I'm trying to see who else was at Jackson's home for

39:20

dinner. Well it was let me think there's all kinds of Wes Grady was Wes Grady.

39:24

Yeah.

39:25

with Wes Grady and Barb because they were not only good friends, they were very comically. Barb was really a funny person. She didn't really get a good joke going. Uh let's see, Alice's were there quite often.

39:43

Illness is

39:47

The gentleman I'm thinking of is a UVM teacher, and his wife played the [organ]. In fact, I think his wife passed away while she was playing the [organ]. Vogelmann. Vogelmann. They were good friends.

40:01

they would be there.

40:02

Yeah, they were like steady once every too much or so. They were

40:07

from Jericho. But Lucius Jackson, it wasn't his only home, he also lived in Burlington, this was a summer home kind of a rut.

40:21

upstairs from where he held his business. Oh, okay. He had a business of running, publishing a stamp collector's magazine. I think it was something that had already existed. Yeah. And he kind of improved it.

40:36

Okay. And

40:39

We'll be right back.

40:40

Financially, I don't know he must have done well, but she was doing it all the time. He was here

40:44

So we had an apartment above the business. Yeah, an apartment above the business. And then the house out here. Yeah, and then the house out here. Yeah.

40:50

I remember when he bought that, Paul Cook was a good friend. He was always there, supporting us. Paul said, \$10 ,000, you're out of your mind. It was like 200 acres of land.

41:06

Yeah. No, Jack.

41:08

I'm going to live out here, so he bought that.

41:12

but did he actually had it after that i think yeah they did they bought from him did they did he live here year round or he

had both places so he would come in both places spring summer fall or something like that he'd come

41:24

on like a Thursday, stay the whole weekend.

41:27

Have a party. Yeah. Yeah.

41:30

He had a big party for the 4th of July, and he would march up and down the street with a... Pleasant Valley Road? With a flute, you know, the... Who was that group?

41:45

Hannaford's, Hannaford's fife and drum. The Hannaford's fife and drum.

41:52

But that was later after him. Must have been somebody else playing the five. Because that's what the, you know, Yankee Doodle.

41:59

Yeah, one of them was Bob Tourville.

42:08

Okay

42:09

He played softball with us. He was one of the first guys, I think.

42:13

Okay, but the parades were up and down Pleasant Valley.

42:17

this was his own parade sort of thing and his yard

42:20

or in the road.

42:22

I don't remember them marching, though, I think. Maybe they just...

42:26

at the house yeah yeah yeah for the fourth of july yeah right so softball softball was

42:36

It was pretty big for a while.

42:37

Lot of it was men's softball. Yeah. Yeah, what position did you play me? Yeah

42:44

I pitched. You couldn't play very well, but I did already pitch him. Overhand or underhand? Underhand. Soft pitch. Yeah, soft pitch. You know Joe O'Brien? I do. He was one of the first guys that played.

43:00

He was a very good ballplayer. I bet, I bet. He's a great guy.

43:06

He is a great guy.

43:07

Louise, right? Yep.

43:09

Yeah.

43:10

They're still there, same house, I think.

43:12

He was principal at the I .D. school.

43:15

somewhere else before moving there.

43:18

Well, he comes from up the Hardwick area. Yeah.

43:21

And then the two brothers, Leo, and one of them goes to the Catholic Church. I don't know his brothers. Two brothers that came from the hardware.

43:32

He was a very popular principal of schools, of the I .D. school, and then the school he went to in Burlington after that. He's retired now, yeah.

43:41

Leo Lecours and his brother one of them one of them was but Leo Lecours way

43:46

and his brother, Joe?

43:48

No, no, but they're from Hardwick.

43:51

Oh, they were?

43:52

Yeah. Then there was another guy. Lawrence.

43:55

Leo and Lawrence were they twins?

43:59

Leo and I don't know the first.

44:07

OK. There's another brother. I I don't know why I look for Larry. Yeah. And when one of them Larry was principal of Mount Mansfield. Yes. For a while.

44:18

Yeah.

44:19

But didn't those two guys, they were either twins or they married twins.

44:24

Well, they probably married twins.

44:26

Married twins, that's what it was.

44:27

They're still here.

44:29

Of course Raceway down that way. Yeah, they were

44:36

Yeah.

44:37

But I knew they were from Hardwick area and Joe O'Brien was from there.

44:43

Yeah.

44:44

Louise too.

44:46

Yep.

44:46

One time I had a job to do, a fire place to build up in the, what's the lake right there? The big one. Craftsburg. Hardwick. It's outside of Hardwick. Elmore? No. No, it's bigger than Elmore. Big. It's in, it's in Greensboro.

45:10

Caspian.

45:11

Caspian. I had a job to do a Caspian and Joe got me a house to rent for the workers. We stayed for 10 days up there. His name is Picard so that must be Louise's maiden name. It's a French name.

45:25

Because it was her family. And you worked on that house. We were on the way to the builder.

45:30

Yeah. Yeah. Joe, I think his name was Joe or Bob Picard. Okay. There was also one on Star Trek, Captain Picard on TV.

45:43

You're very, really good at names, Matt. You're amazing, you remember. So when you were up there at that house, like, would you have been building a fireplace or a... It was a new home. Oh, okay.

45:56

in the side of the hill.

45:58

so a lot of what you built was for new dwellings when people wanted a chimney or a fireplace or a

46:06

We do veneer work, too.

46:09

Was it mostly stone or brick both both?

46:12

Okay one place we built it was why I mentioned it was it's still there it's a flower shop on Williston Road oh it's all stone oh I'm sure you know you've seen it if I mentioned the name I know I've forgotten the name but that particular flower shop was stone and we were hired by Paul Cook's uncle he had Paul Cook had an uncle and Barry his name was also John Cook and he was a contractor on that job we did the measuring

46:50

How long were your how long were your work days eight hours? Yeah.

46:54

and did it get to you physically after a certain time never did no i never even when you were up in your 60s and 70s you were still building yeah and you were fine yeah good for you yeah well have a physical job sometimes keeps you fit yeah yeah yeah

47:19

I go to V .A. now, but they they're they're funny. You've got to go all the way down.

47:26

White River for that.

47:27

No, no, they have a nice place in Burlington.

47:29

Oh, I didn't know that.

47:30

They took over one of GE's buildings and remodeled the, it's on this whole second floor, I think.

47:40

So they take good care of them.

47:41

but it goes back to where they made the big cook oven. Who was that? Baldwin?

47:53

Don't know.

47:54

But it's back it's before you get to that building in the back here. Okay. Yeah, it was a big company

48:00

But as a veteran, you get free care there. Pardon? You, as a veteran, you get free care. Or good care. No, I don't.

48:08

I wasn't injured in service, but they took people and gave you medicine and gave you care.

48:16

Yeah.

48:17

uh to anybody joined up now it's a little different you know do it to everybody

48:22

So, do you have a personal doctor there or you just go?

48:26

After all, I've had one for like 25 years. Yeah, that's good. So that, somebody who knows you. They had new people come in. They were at the fort, which was, I liked it better, but it's a lot closer.

48:37

The fort's nice now.

48:38

They were there and they remodeled one of the buildings there and from there, they went to Thayer School. Thayer School, was it? North Avenue

48:50

That's not quite the name, I know the one you mean, but I can think of the name.

48:56

And after that, they went to this building. It used to be GE.

49:02

Mm -hmm.

49:04

They have that all fixed up nice. I meet people in here, I know. I meet Dick Page in here a lot. Remember, did you know Dick?

49:17

I want to interview John. I want to interview Dick because he has a lot of history here, too He went to this did he went to the schoolhouse?

49:27

Over here, did he.

49:28

He and Gail Pryor and Pat Lamphere were in the same class together at the schoolhouse. So that's a piece of Underhill history.

49:39

Kid Dick Page, there's a couple other brothers, Tom, a couple older brothers. They were all very good athletes.

49:48

Do you think Underhill is sort of split in a way geographically because we have all this side of town and then there's also Poker Hill, Route 15, all the way up really, you know, going up.

50:05

the whole ground show that they're off on their own sort of a little bit.

50:09

their own little dwelling streets they know each other and yeah yeah my

50:13

My daughter's boyfriend is one of the Linde boys.

50:16

Yeah, Bob.

50:17

Yeah, and he lives up in Poker Hill for a long time. Mm -hmm. So they he still gets invited a lot of parties up there Cool. She was grown more Poker

50:29

Poker Hill has a big identity, yeah.

50:31

a lot more houses than it used to be.

50:33

Yep.

50:34

years ago yep but the whole town i don't think has changed much i think is better in a lot of ways you know how do you

50:42

How do you think it's better?

50:45

I'm more into what's really happening in the world and the zoning has always been pretty good. I thought, I was going to say I was instrumental in some of that because when I was selected, when I was in the 60s, there wasn't no zoning.

51:02

that's

51:02

when it started. The workers didn't even get social security. The town workers. It's different now.

51:11

Yeah.

51:11

Well, yeah.

51:12

Who were your other select people that you worked with?

51:18

with me was, there were two Republicans and two Democrats. I was with Richard Fuller. Then there was Bill Meade and Marion Faye. And they were all great people.

51:31

Meade and Faye were husband and wife, right? No, they're related.

51:36

I think bill me was a nephew of Mary. Okay. Okay because that's

51:42

That's called the Mead Farm down there, where she lived.

51:45

He died fairly young, Bill Meade.

51:48

And so Marion lived there, was she alone or did she have a husband? She had a husband, she farmed it. Farmed it. Was she related to the Fays and Jericho? Yeah. That family, the Fays farm. I think so.

52:01

They were done and they had ponies.

52:04

They had ponies there. They had little horses, ponies. Did they? It's what I remember, driving by there and seeing all those ponies.

52:12

15 there.

52:13

No, on River Road. I mean River Road. River Road, yeah. And the big barn there has a sign, I think it's still there, it says Meade Farm. And I always wondered whether Marion was a mead or...

52:45

Yeah, did you know Wayne Pollard? Yes. Did you ever work with him at anything?

52:51

I think so a lot of chance though

52:53

Yeah, he was a good farmer. There was a lot of people around.

52:58

that, it was like one time around the 70s, a lot of people died. They must have all been close in age.