

Transcript

00:03

Okay, it is Friday, May 10th, 2024, and we're sitting together with Roland Burroughs and his wife, Rachel, and Jerry Russin is here, and we're going to talk about their lives. So thank you very much for being here.

00:23

And Roland, let's start off and hear about where you were born and when and how did life get started for you?

00:34

Well, I'm the oldest of 11 children, and I was born in Woodsville, New Hampshire, July 7, 1935. A lot of them have passed away, but I am the oldest, and my brother Richard passed away last year. He was a year younger than I was, and let's see.

01:01

And did you live in New Hampshire?

01:03

No, no, we lived in Newbury, Vermont. I tell people that Mom and Dad lug me back across the river, the Connecticut River, six or eight days later. And I lived in Newbury until I left to go to college, actually.

01:21

So, you were a brand new baby when you came to Vermont. Yes, I was, yes, I was.

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just about six or seven days old. And who were your parents? Pardon me? Who were your parents? My parents are Rex Percival Burroughs and Alice Ricker Burroughs. Dad was born in Newbury and lived his life there.

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Mom was born in Groton and she lived in Groton. So, yeah, that was how we started life. I went to Newbury High School. Of the children, there were about nine of us that survived to graduate from Newbury High School.

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We're the largest family to graduate from Newbury High School in Newbury.

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Did you have a house big enough for nine?

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Oh, yes, we had the boys' room and the girls' room, and there was a spare room, and Mom and Dad's room, and then there was the living room, the kitchen, and the back kitchen, so that was it. That was it.

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as the eldest brother with it in there with all your little brothers well

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Actually, the girls came along. I had two brothers and Richard was a year younger than I was. Dale was four years younger than I was. Dale was killed in 1984 in a parachuting accident. He was coming home to run against Jim Jeffords for the US House.

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He was within five, within a week of retiring from the military. He's a lieutenant colonel, but he went up. He had been jumping for 22 years. That was his job. He was in Vietnam three times. But he was buying a civilian parachute to jump out of the planes at different fairs to do the thing where he was going to run for the House representatives.

03:24

We still have, well, they still have bumper stickers, Burroughs for Congress. So he was.

03:31

Is the next brother down or the two brothers down? He was Richard.

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is next and then Barbara and then Dale. Dale was the one that died April 24th 1984.

03:44

Well then, back to growing up in Newbury, you had a room full of sisters.

03:51

Oh yes, yeah, but the thing that happened was they were younger. My sister Barbara, of course, as I said, was the third child. And then the next one was born during the Second World War, Cynthia. She died last year too, but then the rest of them were all girls.

04:14

So they were, in fact, they even qualified when they went to college for Social Security because of Dad being so old. And anyway, that's the family. They always graduated from Newbury High School and they all graduated from college.

04:33

Country school, one room, two room, small school.

04:36

Oh, the elementary school was one room, one room, and there was every grade except the second. No, Kenneth was second, third, fourth, the fourth grade had nobody in it. What's that?

04:58

at all, as

04:59

Now, what happened is Everett and I were in the first grade, and then the next one was Kenneth Burroughs, and then there was his brother, and Earl Carlos and Hab, but nobody in the next class, and then they had a boy, and then a couple of girls.

05:21

So I'm picturing two of you in the class together, you mentioned someone else in the class with you. Oh, Everett Corliss. He died last year. So you and Everett went through the whole school together as you were the class.

05:37

We went through 12 years together.

05:40

of how it worked in that one-room schoolhouse, how did it work every day for work.

05:45

Oh, what happened is they had—they'd have reading classes, and then there was—I remember the third grade was doing arithmetic. And also one of the odd things was they had blackboards there, and they had blackboards on that side too.

06:09

And the three that were in the third grade were up there, but this was after the third grade. But I remember, you know, conjugating, bring—what is it—bring, brang, brung. That's what one of them said.

06:28

It was bring, brought, brought, but they had three guys up there.

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So you waited your turn for your reading class. Oh yes. Did you sit only with effort or were you with the next grade up?

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No, we had our own class.

06:47

your own reading class. Yeah. So you're one teacher. One teacher. She did everybody. Yeah. Yeah.

06:54

Yep, she taught all Mrs. Mayo, and she taught. This bothered me because I never got invited, but she taught for 47 years, and they did a big thing down at Lake Morey for her, and Governor Snelling was there, and I was in the legislature at the time, and I didn't get an invitation.

07:14

That really bothered me, because she was one of my favorite teachers. It should have just gone anywhere. Well, I didn't know about it until it was all over. I read about it in the paper.

07:25

That's too bad. So were there different district school houses in Newbury?

07:29

Yeah, at one time how many Rachel was something like 13. I don't I think there were 13 schoolhouses

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And what district number was your schoolhouse?

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It's called a town farm district, a town farm district.

07:42

and oh sorry so how did you get to school

07:47

Oh, I walked because we were only about as far as from here what down the end of the road Rachel it was not very far

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a quarter of a mile under a quarter of a mile.

07:59

our family was and what happened is there was no running water and the bathroom was down steps and but it was all under cover and the boys room here and the girls was here and but oh and we had to carry the water out and we carry the water out and put it in a jug and then they had paper cups that you could you what was the source of the water our spring our spring oh we cared from your house oh yeah yeah carried it up every day uh mom served as a janitor so sometimes she carry it sometimes we carry it

08:39

How was the building heated?

08:41

It was heated by a furnace downstairs, but the odd part was that here these guys must have, the two or the three school directors must have been taught this in school, that heat rises. They put the chimney, they put the furnace downstairs, and then they had a round register.

09:08

So the heat just came up from the furnace like that. So guess what? We could be sitting there in our chairs and freezing our ears off because finally, before I left the school, they finally brought, oh no, what they did is they put, I'm wrong, they had the register up there, right under the ceiling.

09:35

They finally did put it in the floor, ground level, because heat rises and here we are sitting there freezing and the heat's all up there.

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to go through the majority of your schooling like that, geez. It's pretty rough.

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That was the way it was there.

09:58

were you in Newbury too? Yeah sure. Okay she's yeah we'll get to how you got together. So then elementary eighth grade you then went to high school. Then we went to high school. And the high school was there in Newbury?

10:13

The high school was in Newbury, it's one of the oldest schools. A little sidetrack here was that about 1911 and 1913, the village of Newbury burned. It burned practically all the buildings, there was pictures taken, and all you saw was these chimneys.

10:34

There's a common there, a beautiful common, but all around. And the school building was right next to this Methodist church. Now the Methodist church was stick built, it was wooden, the school was brick, guess which burned, the school burned, the Methodist church is still standing, and that's where Boston University started.

11:00

They started as a minister school, and that minister school started in Newbury, Vermont. If you go over there now, you'll still see that church on the common, and it is wood. But everything else went with it.

11:16

Everything else burned. I could never understand how from a brick building burned, but right beside it is this church. I mean, it wasn't very far, probably, it was probably from the head of that tree.

11:32

Did they know what started the fire?

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I don't remember what it was but...

11:37

In those days, the fires were bad. Oh, they were. They burned.

11:41

So what was your father doing for living in Newbury?

11:44

was a farmer part -time farmer because he had to work out and earn enough money. He was actually in late well later on he was a finish carpenter he was a he was a very good carpenter but he also worked for the person that and they would jack up barns and everything dad had 22 jacks screw jacks to raise up a big old building.

12:13

Was he involved with moving buildings too?

12:16

I don't think he ever moved them, but he was really a finished captain. He was quite, they had to be just about right when he did something. For instance, my brother and I got frustrated because we, when we were a junior, when I was a junior and senior, we worked for my Uncle Bill and Uncle John in the woods.

12:38

And we would follow the tree where we could follow it, but my father wanted us to follow the trees windrow. I mean, exactly, exactly. But we, we did.

12:51

I didn't learn it that way. So you grew up doing some vlogging for youth.

12:55

Junior and senior year any vacation Richard Richard was with uncle John uncle John had the horses I say use teams had had the horses and uncle Bill and I Were cutting the trees down and I still can't remember or I can't Understand today.

13:14

How come we kept ahead of them, but we this is a crosscut saw Oh my goodness cross cut saw when I first started with and they finally got a mall chainsaw at at the end of when I was working for him, but he and I were just two men saw I remember one day there was this Pine that was like this.

13:35

I mean like this and it was 40 below zero and we were trying to cut this tree down and But it was it was just sitting and just sitting it wouldn't go one way or the other and Uncle Bill had cut the notch to have it go down But we couldn't and then we drive a wedge in and it popped right back out It was so cold that So he finally started a fire at the base of the tree and put the wedges in the fire And then we finally got that tree down.

14:10

I've always wondered though how they ever got that tree I mean talking about like this and that tree got down the butt log How did they get the butt log out of the woods because we didn't have any tractors.

14:22

There was a horse. He is tall One horse one horse one horse Yeah, one with the chain. Oh my goodness. Yeah, and I I just I've always wondered what happened to that butt log

14:38

Cut it up.

14:40

It was it was something anyway, that's anyway that was

14:45

that was in high school was there anything special you like to study or were you turned off by school or did you love school

14:55

No, I like school. They had two periods of agriculture, too. And we had a pretty good basketball team, but I played left guard and Bob Wheeler played right guard. And we got a guy that was six foot four that came in, and he had been on an all - tournament team as a freshman.

15:17

And he came in. The principal was his dad. So he came in there, and I was looking forward to that year. But the conflict, the right guard, Bob Wheeler, he liked agriculture. In fact, he married a girl that her father had to farm.

15:40

But anyway, he liked agriculture, but he had a conflict with English. Now, in high school, you had to have four years of English. And so he would go to the Ag class rather than going to the English class.

15:57

Ag was two periods. English was one, but he had a conflict there, and so he quit school. So you lost him from the basketball team? We lost him from the basketball team, and we didn't do as well as we could have.

16:13

But anyway. Okay.

16:15

What about academically? What was your favorite subject in school?

16:20

Ah, favorites don't you?

16:22

What do you remember? I like history pretty well.

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Actually, Everett and I, we could go as fast as we wanted to, and then our senior year, we read two history books. That was...

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could get ahead of yourself and ready to graduate early.

16:39

didn't take algebra and yet in that school it was study hall and down in the corner of the study hall they had the algebra class didn't have enough room so they had an algebra class down in the it was quite a big study hall how many people would you say were in there A new look at your forecast this morning...

16:59

A new look at your A new look at your

17:00

50.

17:00

Yeah, there was fifty in the high school, and that was—and they all got together in that one place. Total of fifty. Yeah, total of fifty. And so I would hear their algebra class, and I'd know the answers to the algebra class, but I always thought—I was way behind everybody else, but we didn't finish our arithmetic book when I was in eighth grade.

17:25

But the eighth grade must have had algebra in it, because I knew halfway through the year, I knew what they were talking about.

17:32

That's how you got your algebra over here. So upon graduation, what did you do?

17:42

And Rachel was already at UVM in nursing.

17:49

you were in the high school at the same time Roland was yeah oh yes and already thinking about nursing yeah we were a year or two ahead of him well

17:59

one year. Because I took two years together. Okay. Great.

18:04

Cool. Okay. So you were both at UVM together at the same time.

18:10

Yeah, but the problem was, is Rachel, Rachel was always traveling. She was in Rhode Island. She was in Philadelphia as a nurse. I think, where else were you, Rachel?

18:22

You mean, but not during training, later? I started training. Oh, some of the training was... Because, for example, we...

18:30

We had psychiatric training in Providence, Rhode Island. We had pediatrics in Philadelphia.

18:41

because it wasn't offered in Burlington.

18:44

Yeah, because they didn't have enough place for a class. I see. So we go five or six at a time. We go to wherever for us.

18:58

That's kind of what's kind of interesting though, to go these different places, yeah.

19:04

Yeah, tell her about the night night walkers

19:09

the patient. Yeah, right. Well, this was in the psych ward, not her night, or her life. During the day, there was this little old lady that had a person on either side to drag her into the bathroom or wherever.

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At night, she'd come charging up the firm room on them.

19:39

A dead run. A dead run.

19:42

Yeah.

19:44

So in reality, she really didn't need the help. No, no. OK, that's funny. So were you courting each other before you went to UVM or? Nope, nope.

19:56

Okay, I'll tell you though that Rachel didn't remember me but I remember her from the second grade. I'll tell a little story here Rachel's heard it enough but what happened is I wanted to play the violin but my and my dad played the violin he played the accordion he won a contest an amateur contest he got 25 silver dollars for winning the whole contest one night and what happened is he well anyway so I had they said you got to play the piano before you play the violin so there was a Grace Whitman was an elementary school teacher and she taught the school and they had four students elementary in this in this school so anyway she says it comes Christmas time and she says I keep calling Randall Roland he was one of her students and and I call you Randall mix them up I want to I want to get you both in the same room so she invited me to the Christmas pageant that year so I went and saw the best looking girl in the room there who happened to be yeah that's right but she didn't know who I was I wasn't stalking but I knew through the years pretty much where she was second grade this started yes but but we never went out until the night before we went back for the final year of college did we Rachel we went to carousel at the Woodsville Drive -In and that was the beginning of the story senior

21:38

year at UVM last year last year at UVM.

21:42

Yeah, and I asked her she What happened is my brother Richard had been going with her sister Who was a year older than you are and he's younger than I am but he'd been going with her in high school and then he went into the service and when he came back from the service, he went with her again and So he was going with her and he said I think Rachel would like to see you.

22:08

So I called her up Asked her about going to the movies and so we went to the movies and and then from then on it was my marks improved in college and and we were hitting the high spots

22:23

that's great. Movies was often the first date, going to the movies, yeah. Do you have some stories from UVM or some memories about being there?

22:33

Ahh, UVM.

22:35

year was it four years total yeah oh yeah major in history

22:40

No major in agriculture agriculture. I was going to be an agriculture teacher

22:45

Oh.

22:45

I thought my ag teacher was a great guy, and I thought I would teach, but I hate to admit it, but I'm the oldest of 11 children, and we didn't have money. And so I got the thinking, as in my first year, I think, almost through the year, and I thought, back then, you didn't dress like this in a class.

23:08

You had to have either a suit, or you had to have a sport coat and a tie. That was, even if you were an ag teacher, that's the way it was. Well, I have- All the students.

23:20

What's that? Students also. Or just the teacher. The teacher. The teacher had to be that. Okay.

23:27

had to be that and so I'm thinking about how am I going to, how am I, I have one suit that I bought to go to the junior prom when I was in high school and that's my suit and I didn't have, I don't think I had a sport coat and I thought what am I going to do for clothes and so I said I guess I better change my major this is not going to, this is not going to cut it.

23:58

I can, I can get through school without being dressed up. In fact my college picture, the picture that I had taken for graduating from high school is the same one. I'm wearing the same coat as a senior in college.

24:15

I'm still, still got the same, it isn't the pants, the pants I was like this but anyway that was, that was it.

24:24

Well, before we skip too far ahead, do you want to give a little background on yourself when you're born and your parents, maybe?

24:34

Born in Newbury, Vermont, my mother grew up in Enosburg. Her family had a large farm there, which is still there, and my dad grew up in the area.

25:02

And who were your parents?

25:05

Ethel Hyde and Russell Thompson.

25:09

yet. And siblings, sisters, brothers. I had

25:14

two sisters and two brothers. My oldest sister is celebrating her 90th birthday tomorrow. We're going down to Woodstock. So you went to the same

25:32

No, the same schools as Roland did. Not the same grade school was a different one. Oh, because you lived in a different section of Newbury.

25:41

And do you remember the district that you were in? The number?

25:45

Well

25:47

Lime Kiln, but I don't know if we had a district or not. Gotcha. No, I don't think so. It's just a name. They were just...

25:57

the name, because graduation was together, and Lime Kiln, which Rachel was in, and Boltonville, and Layton Hill and Town Farm all had graduation together. That's when I saw Rachel again. She gave the talk.

26:20

So one through eight, you weren't in the same schools. Nope. Yeah. OK.

26:26

with him.

26:32

And then you became a nurse after or during your college years and nursing has been your career in your lifetime. Yeah. Go ahead.

26:47

and what happened is, how many years did you teach nursing?

26:52

It was about ten years.

26:56

UVM and then But you were with UVM for about 20 weren't you Oh perinatal program

27:06

I must have been with UVM for at least 30 years, doing different things. The Vermont -New Hampshire Regional Perinatal Program.

27:20

Perinatal, where we traveled around.

27:23

both states and Plattsburgh doing these educational programs.

27:31

With new babies, new mothers? Is that what perinatal is?

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The perinatal involves a child from the time of conception, and while there's still a small infant, that would be a perinatal.

27:56

Which really means around the time of the birth. Yeah. Yeah. Wonderful. Important times. Yeah. That's great.

28:04

I did go with her up to—well, over to—where in New York? Berlin, New Hampshire. I went up to Berlin, New Hampshire one time with her.

28:17

That was one job I had, was making home visits after baby's last intensive care. I traveled as far as—not Potsdam, but—Malone, New York. Malone. I went to Malone when I watched it.

28:47

And things have really changed over the years in how newborn babies are taken care of if they have to be in special care and yeah, must have been quite a job, an important job taking care of a brand new baby that was much underweight.

29:10

One interesting thing I've realized, making home visits. The mothers had spent all their time and energy helping take care of their child in the hospital. And when I visited with them at home, they almost always talked about the labor of the birth, because they never had a chance to do it as most women would be concentrated on babies.

29:49

So it was an interesting job.

29:52

Dr. Lucy headed it up, headed this program up, I believe.

29:59

Well, back to your time after UVM. Then what? Tell us about life from then on. Roland?

30:09

Third time in UVM was in the 50s.

30:11

57, we graduated in 57, and Rachel was in for four and a half years. I was in for four years, but back then the nursing program used to be five years, and then I went to four and a half for a year or two, and now it's four.

30:29

And so you changed your major again, and what was it that you changed your major to?

30:33

agriculture economics. That covers a broad field, I'll tell you. But what happened is I got hired, there were about 60 of us, all these guys were dressing up that day, and I, well where are you going?

30:49

They said we're going down to be interviewed by Eastern States Farms Exchange. So I got into some of the clothes and went down and got interviewed and they took out of the 60 they took three of us and one of them had his master's degree bill and he went into banking and only and then Ronnie Albright and I and I knew the Eastern States people back in Woodsville but rather than put me in Woodsville they put me down a white river junction and they put my friend Ronnie Albright in in Woodsville.

31:28

I could have stayed at home.

31:30

You could have stayed at home, huh? Right, but I don't like it.

31:33

We went down there, and we got—that's when we got married, is when I was working in— So that was your first job? Yeah, that was the first job out of college. And then I had to go in the service. We were going to get married in October, but I had to go in the service October 1st.

31:53

So we got married August 8th, 1957. And then Rachel—let's see, I was stationed in Fort Dix, New Jersey, and then I ended up in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and when I was in Fort Jackson, Rachel came down and stayed—she had an apartment off base.

32:15

Were you in the Air Force or Army? Army, Army. Actually, I've been in Air Force ROTC in college, and then I went into—I was in the National Guard, so I was on active duty in 1957, I was on active duty.

32:39

And then I came back, and we were in Newport, and then we had our first child in Middlebury. I was transferred to Middlebury with Eastern States Farm Exchange. And then, so I was with the Sky Sweepers down there, there in the aircraft outfit, and then in the National Guard.

33:01

And then we moved up to Essex Junction. I got promoted to a system manager in Essex Junction. We came up there, and I had to be still in the National Guard. So I was in the engineers, the 131st engineers, who used to do the work on the range, like Dick was in the 131st engineers after I was.

33:27

Okay, so you didn't go to Vietnam

33:28

No, I didn't go to Vietnam, but I was in during the Vietnam War because there was the thing I don't there were two times that they furnished The East Germans, you know, they flew stuff in the East Germany.

33:40

Well, what happened is we were called back in 1961 we were called back and onto active duty. In fact, I heard I had a bulldozer out with my name on it in Bremerhaven in Germany

33:57

How did that happen?

33:58

Well, we were headed for Germany. The 20th engineers were the post engineers down at Fort Devens were already over there. And we had become the post engineers at Fort Deven. And so, anyway, they told us at Thanksgiving, say goodbye to your families.

34:17

You won't be going home again. But we got back after Thanksgiving and everything in Germany had cooled off. So we didn't go. But then we ended up as post engineers at Fort Drum, New York.

34:39

Yeah, and so how long did you stay in with the 131st? When did you?

34:44

Well, you see, I started in Bradford, and then went to Newport, then Middlebury, then there. So it was a total of six years. Total of six years in the National Guard, but I spent two terms in the regular circuits.

35:02

I got you up to Essex Junction, did you come to Underhill from Essex Junction?

35:07

I went in the service that second time and while in there I said we're not going to rent anymore we're going to buy a house and so actually we stayed apart for one more month while we looked for houses and we bought Giles Willie who is we rented a place from Giles Willie and Giles Willie it was always I was working for Eastern states and he'd always say Roland why don't you go out on your own why don't you go to in the business for yourself he every time I'd see him he'd say that and it's something when somebody else so anyway uh then um I had been back for about six months and John Hancock the man who grew up in Hardwick he grew up in Hardwick his dad was the house at one point anyway what happened is is he came by and asked me to it took me six months to do it but I finally came the insurance business uh July 1st 1963 and I was in it for 55 years actually I'm still in it but I'm your own insurance business yeah yeah last 15 years of that 55 years I own John Hancock and Associates and we started out with five people we ended up with three I guess but anyway uh see you

36:35

So where did you end up purchasing a home at that point? Right here. Right.

36:42

Right where the the store the store the the store that's now got all those apartments in it. Sure No, next door next door

36:53

Well, the Lamphere's place.

36:56

uh no oh this side of it yeah this side

36:59

Oh, that was your first time.

37:00

That was our first home. Oh, okay. That was our first home and we were there about ten years. We're Rachel and then it got kind of busy around there I came home one day and Rachel said we've got the move So I went up and talked to Henry Cook cuz Henry Cook hadn't stayed in his place for years his wife died and he didn't stay there.

37:23

Where was his place?

37:23

Where we live now

37:25

Okay, which is where?

37:28

On Beartown Road. 46 Beartown Road. 46 Beartown Road. And Henry said, you'll be first on the list. Well, it took him, I don't know, two or three years. And finally he came to me and said, Roland, I'm going to sell my home.

37:47

You still want to buy it? So we bought it and sold the other place.

37:55

So when you say it was a little busy, was it because of the general store being next door or? No, the kids, the kids. Rachel's the nurse. Oh, gotcha. Okay.

38:04

all the kids used to play in our house when I wanted our children to have

38:19

You were right next to traffic, too, I mean. Yeah.

38:24

Yeah, right there it's I think there were something like 14 or 15 kids that day in the yard So this is under your relatives are in that story Because some of them still ask when they see Rachel. They ask her questions and everything.

38:46

So the Russins, which one is it, Rachel, that used to ask you about?

38:54

I can't remember which one.

38:57

There's a lot of them

38:59

Just names, some last names, family names of people at that time. Russin and who else? Machia? Yeah.

39:11

Here's some of our friends. I just wrote them down this morning.

39:17

From Underhill. From Underhill.

39:19

Well, our first visitor was Sue Kusserow with her two boys at that point, and I knew June Hitchcock from nursing and the

Woodards, we

39:37

Square danced with

39:43

Jen and Tom.

39:43

Zilda and Bob

39:47

She was really nice neighbor to have. I bet she was.

39:56

And then she became Metcalf later. Yup. Yup. She married Wendell.

40:02

That's a few of the people, Lou, Ed, Lou Farmer, Lou Farmer, yes, I knew her well, the Andrews, well, I knew most of these people, but that sort of problem, yeah.

40:20

June and Tom Hitchcock. Let's see, Wendell Metcalf. Wendell. He was always there. He was selectman. And I was on the Civil Board for how many years? Anyway, quite a few, something like fourteen or eighteen years.

40:41

But one time they had to have who was going to be chairman and old Wendell over there. I nominate Roland Burroughs.

40:55

just looking at you like it's a he's got you yeah gotcha

41:02

You remember him, how he smiled and everything. Actually Lorraine Dwyer and Mert Sage and I were the committee to make the town hall accessible, and we worked at it, couldn't get it done, but one time I had a church meeting and I was at the church meeting for something, and they had a town meeting at the same time or a sort of a town, not a regular town meeting but an impromptu and it was at Browns River.

41:35

And so after I got through the church meeting I went down there and somebody saw me walk in the door, we got it, Roland, we got it!

41:49

So what does that mean, that there was no access before that?

41:54

The problem was, is for people that couldn't walk, they couldn't get in, there was a front door, but how do you get in other than, and so they've got an elevator now. Elevator, and so people that have handicapped can get into the place, they couldn't before.

42:12

Just like if you couldn't get into our church either. That bothered me for years. They didn't want to put a ramp on, or they didn't want to do this, and they finally, some of the people finally put the ramp on, and then the last time I was a trustee, I made sure before I got off from there that they have an elevator in the church now.

42:33

It's important. They have an elevator in that church.

42:37

down to the down where they'd be

42:39

Yeah, I always thought when they jacked the church up they could just as well I'll put a ramp in right from the parking lot I mean they could have just made it just even enough to go right into the cellar But they didn't do it.

42:53

They jacked it up. I was in there when after they jacked it up and it it was way up like that and But they didn't do it

43:04

Did you feel, when you moved into Underhill, did you feel right away a community sense and wanting to do things in town where you were a selectman, you were involved in everything?

43:18

I wasn't a selectman. You weren't a select man?

43:22

You know, it never was a selectman. I'm thinking of the legislature, I guess you did, Phil.

43:26

in for three turns in the legislature. Tell us about that. Well, actually what happened is I had asked Don Fay to run for the legislature. He had been a select man for 40 years or something like that.

43:42

So I thought he was an ideal. And I asked him one time, no, I'm all happy with this. So I went back after two years and asked him again, no, I guess not. Well, I went to a banquet and I sat next to Nancy Tracy and I said, we got a good candidate up in our area, but I can't get him to.

44:07

Well, the next day, next night I get a phone call. Don Fay, oh, Don Fay. He said, Roland, I'm going to run for the legislature. I said, how come you changed your mind? He said, I got a call from Dick Snelling.

44:25

Nancy Tracy had talked to Dick Snelling and got him.

44:30

That was before you were... Oh yeah, that was before, so...

44:33

He served for eight years, and Peter Allendorf—I was born on Peter's birthday, by the way. He was a year older than I was. We were in college at the same time. We graduated the same year, fifty -seven.

44:46

But anyway, he said that he was not going to run, too. So he had two open slots. And— Alendorf and Faye left. Yeah, Alendorf and Faye left. And so— So it was open slots. And this was in what year? That would have been in 1986.

45:08

So we would serve eighty -seven to ninety -three. Linda [Almy] went beyond. So Linda was the Democrat, and I was the Republican. And we did have four slots filled. I mean four. There were four people running, but she won and I won.

45:24

And so we served—actually, she and I, I think, got along very well or not. If there was something in Underhill had to be done, or Jericho, or Bolton, it was going to be done.

45:39

Were there ever any major accomplishments that you guys had together, you know, for the town or?

45:46

I don't know the big thing, the first two things that somebody asked me, Harold Sargent asked to get a record of, I think it was turning off water or something like that, and it hadn't been changed. It's by statute that you have to do that.

46:07

I can't remember that wording, but he wanted that done. The wording is still there. We got it done. But then the other one was that a fireman, now any fireman can direct traffic at the scene of an accident, or they couldn't do that.

46:26

It had to be the fire chief. The fire chief had to tell somebody to do it, that was the law. So Essex and also Underhill came to me and asked me if I would get that changed. So I went to the legislature with the idea of changing it.

46:43

It's just a paragraph.

46:45

Do you remember who from the fire department asked you to... Oh, Randy. Randy Clark.

46:51

Clark asked me to do it. Because I guess what had happened is somebody up in Cambridge had been directing traffic and some guy that didn't know any better ran right over the hoses. He said you have no authority to direct traffic and he ran over the hoses and took off.

47:15

Aggressively. So anyway what happened is this would be just an amendment but man it went to the proper committee and everything and I explained it but they didn't have time to do it that year. So the next year they had a fire training bill and I wanted a fire training bill and everything but there was a lady I think she was from down in Middlebury and she was an attorney and she did not want that paragraph put in there and she was going to.

47:51

For fire training. Into the fire training bill it suited. Oh the paragraph about directing traffic. Yeah no no she was not going to vote for the fire training bill if it had my paragraph in there. So all I could think was she's looking for business I think because if somebody wants to sue somebody guess what they go looking for an attorney and she's an attorney.

48:16

But anyway I pulled it out so the final year that I was in by that time it wasn't my bill anymore. I think Jane down in Essex I think she's the one that was primary sponsor. I think I may have signed on but anyway she was busy.

48:38

She was busy so she came to me and said Roland would you report that bill before the committee. And I said okay I will and then they said would you report it down in the Senate too. And I went down to the Senate and reported it down there and I did it.

48:57

They said we haven't got much time. It took me five minutes to do it. And I did it. And Bill who was the representative who was a senator from up in Johnson. Bill. He was in there forever. Anyway he said Roland that was the best report I've seen since I met him after I got over it.

49:19

Good for you. And it passed. It passed. So I finally got that thing.

49:24

So now, when you see that any firemen can direct traffic, you had something to do with it.

49:32

That's it. I was you know, there's a guy that his house burned down down and Underhill I can't think of what his name was but he used to be the guy that would be out there

49:41

Oh, Bill Metcalf? Yeah, Bill Metcalf. Sure.

49:43

Bill Metcalf and he was the guy that was directing traffic a lot of the time and I thought, man, take his home away from him

and just because he made a little mistake of where you should go, just didn't fit.

49:58

Yeah, and when there's a fire, it must be really important that any fireman can automatically... That's it? Because when he gets there...

50:05

there. He's got to do something. You can't wait for the chief to give that order.

50:11

yeah we jumped up we did a big we did a big leap up to the 80s do you have some things that I would really like

50:21

to ask you about when you got your post office box in the center and Lawrence Casey if you remember anything or any time in the post office.

50:31

do you remember about that? I don't, we just did. That's box that we got, 84. Oh my goodness, so you've had that ever since. Box 84. We've had it, what, since 1962.

50:47

Wanted rural delivery you still pick up your mail. Yeah, we

50:50

pick up a mail. That's handy. And it was especially handy last year because Robin and Al had stuff that was what a month old? Christmas? Because they couldn't get in and get the packages and stuff and here we are.

51:07

Just going in and talking to Jerry and getting mail.

51:12

The benefits of having a P.O. box.

51:15

It's worth the gas.

51:18

Underhill. What about Underhill? What does it mean to you? What do you remember from being here? I mean, would you have ever wanted to be anywhere else?

51:31

I don't think so. I don't think so. We had a lot of good times living in Underhill. When our kids were in school here, I felt as though I knew just about everyone.

51:47

It's small enough that you knew everybody, yeah.

51:50

And of course that's changed now, I hardly know anyone.

51:57

Yeah, they asked to have the, of course, other schools had the PTA, they had the PT, something else, so they wouldn't have to pay the dues. I was, I was president of that once at Underhill Central School, so that was a long time ago.

52:13

town roads seem a lot different now.

52:16

the town roads.

52:17

Does Beartown Road, where you live? Oh, yeah.

52:19

That's blacktop now, and we weren't in favor of it. We sure like it now, don't we? We like it.

52:25

not having the dust. I bet. I get a lot of dust and dirt here. On the front porch. On the front porch. What I don't like when we move there, our lawn was higher than the road. Now it's way below by about this far.

52:45

They've been raising up. Yeah, they've been raising up.

52:48

up, raising up. And children, you've had five. Five children.

52:53

Yeah

52:54

That should we should get the record of names and when

52:58

Oh, okay, yeah.

53:00

Oh, here's, uh, I've got, the children are, oh, here we are. Robin, Robin, Tom, and Wendy and Rand and Becky. Robin is now Samara, Robin, Samara.

53:19

and that's next to us. Nice, thanks.

53:27

And do they have children? They have two boys. So your grandparents.

53:32

Jonathan and Christopher.

53:33

Okay.

53:34

We have ten grandchildren, nine of whom are boys, and the elderly girl is the one in Colorado.

53:45

Michael. Our children are, I'll read it, Robin Samard, Tom Burroughs, Wendy Burroughs, she was married but they got divorced, and Rand Burroughs and Rebecca Curry. And the grandchildren are Jonathan, is the oldest, he's 34, I don't know how old Christopher is.

54:15

He's 43. He's 43, yeah. And Robert and Jackson Burroughs and Alexander and William Burroughs and Parker

54:34

I dare.

54:34

Audette. It's Alexander, Audette and Parker. Those are two brothers. They're Wendy's. And then Jackson Curry. We have two Jacksons. Jackson Curry and Jackson Burroughs. And Brooke Curry, Nicholas Burroughs.

54:52

And then we have great -grandchildren are Annalise, Raiden, and they are.

55:01

Thank you.

55:02

in Tennessee, and Conant, and Conant's with his folks up in St. Albans. His name is, well, Robert Burroughs, so that's his dad.

55:14

Ugh.

55:15

The odd part is, I had two uncles, one was William Burroughs, he was the youngest, and then Robert was the oldest, and we have two grandsons named William and Robert, they didn't

55:27

remember it but sounds like a lot of boys there are yeah and most of them sound like they're close enough by summer summer or out -of -state but most of your children don't know

55:41

Jonathan is in Tennessee and Becky is in Colorado. Becky and John are in Colorado. So he gives us an excuse to go there.

55:51

Did any of them do any public service in government or anything of your children?

55:57

Oh, Wendy is an assistant attorney general, has been for what, 25 or 30 years?

56:04

30.

56:05

30 years. Where? She lives in Lemoille, or, Hyde Park. She's been all over the state actually as an assistant attorney general.

56:23

Yeah, either of you think of anything else you'd like to add, because we're about to wind down. It's good you had that sheet with all those names. I'm hard to remember. Anything else?

56:36

and

56:38

It's a lot of good information.

56:40

a good information and I just thank you so much for giving us all of this. It's wonderful.

56:50

This I was a member of the lawn house and for three terms and I was just as a piece for 14 years Former chair chairman of the Underhill Civil Board former member of the Underhill Planning Commission By the way, I was on the first Planning Commission for the for the town.

57:07

Oh and on that Commission was Dr. Kusserow and Paul Cook. Mm -hmm. And I think Lorraine Dwyer there's a lady on there with us And that would have been what year this was back in the 1960s 60s 60s that was the first Planning Commission and then the what happened is a select board named us to the to that position and I don't and you had

57:35

zoning started around then too. A little later, yeah. A little bit. Early 70s maybe. Yeah, I think so.

57:43

Let's see, former member of the Mount Mansfield Union Advisory Board in the legislature, I was the Vermont Chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council, and the member of the Governor's Snowmobile Council, member of the UVM Extension Advisory Council.

58:01

Thank you.

58:02

member of the, after I got out of the legislature, the governor appointed me a member of the licensing hearing panel for the U.S. Department of Ed, for the Vermont Department of Ed. If a teacher was not doing the job, then they appeared before us.

58:18

You've been involved in a lot of things, and your church.

58:22

the church I was at this time I was moderator actually I was moderated and we kept going to Florida so I asked Dan Mantz to do it

58:38

in the winter. Oh, moderator of the town meeting.

58:44

He did such a good job that year that I don't know how it all worked out, but I called somebody at the town clerk's office and suggested that he be the new moderator because I knew the other one had been 25 years.

58:59

He told me that he was not going to run.

59:05

He suggested he be the moderator for the town, and that's why we got him.

59:09

And then, guess what, on the tell meeting day, he showed up and one of the select men said, Roland, would you nominate him? I said, he's my candidate.

59:23

So are you both members of the Congregational Church of Underhill or? Of the UCC?

59:29

of the UCC. United Church of Underhill.

59:34

So I guess one thing that comes to mind, were you members when the Harvest Market started?

59:39

Yeah, I was, well, Peter Mitchell was the first announcer, but he had a bullhorn. He went around like this, but once they got the thing on the air, I was the first announcer. I've been doing it for what, 40 -some odd years.

59:57

doing it every year yeah yeah I remember hearing you when I was down there why you know it's funny cuz

01:00:04

I've grown up going to the harvest market and then Roland comes into the post office and part of me is sinking into my head like I heard the voice but I couldn't quite put it together and then finally I go to the harvest market and there he's sitting behind the announcer table and I'm like, no wonder.

01:00:20

I never said who I was, I never said who I was, even when I was in the legislature.

01:00:24

Does it mean sitting there all day, each day?

01:00:27

Mostly that was the last two years. It's been that way once in a while. We get like Pat Richmond helped out

01:00:39

So the start of the harvest market, I mean, how did that kind of, how did that whole thing start for the church?

01:00:46

What started, I think, was Dave Kelly and the minister, who was Richard Crocker. Richard Crocker. Richard Crocker. And there may have been one other person who thought, hey, we got to get some way of making some more money.

01:01:00

So that was it. And we had different things. Like one year, Tom Woodard was there. He was always a joker. And the priest flew airplanes. I can't remember what his name was, but he flew airplanes. And it was a cloudy day.

01:01:25

And the priest went and saw the airplane going down through the valley. And Tom said, yep, it's going to be a clear day. And it did.

01:01:37

I did clear this up.

01:01:38

Well, we had two skydivers, and I hate to say it, but one of those skydivers saved one of the people that was diving with him, but he died. But those two skydivers would come over and land in that back field.

01:01:56

Oh, that's cool. Yeah, that was part of the deal, too, when it first started.

01:02:02

Still going strong.

01:02:04

It's a great community event and I'm happy that that's the branches under Helen Jericho together.

01:02:10

Yeah, that's it.

01:02:13

Anything else? All right, I think we'll wind down and thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.