

Pierette, Maurice, and Lise Lehouiller

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Underhill, dairy farm, Vermont, Canada move, school memories, chores, hay baling, sugar woods, family history, naturalization, River Road farms, church, community, dual citizenship, retirement.

SPEAKERS

Speaker 1, Speaker 3, Speaker 4, Speaker 2, Speaker 6, Speaker 5

00:01

Okay. It is Wednesday, May 14, 2025 and I am fortunate to be sitting in my living room with three Lehouillers, Maurice, Pierette and Elise, and we're just going to talk about the early days in Underhill. Maurice and Pierette have come down from Greensboro, where they live, and Lise lives up the road in Pleasant Valley Underhill. So let's start with you, Maurice, What was the date that your family came down from Canada to Underhill?

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They came down in May of 1949

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all of you and why did you make the move? Why did your parents move?

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Well, Dad had a farm in Ham-Nord, Quebec, and the farm wasn't big enough to handle the size of the family, so my father's brother,

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his name was Joe Lehouiller. He had a farm in Johnson,

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and he told my father that he should move To Vermont ,that he could make a better living in Vermont than he could in Canada. At that time,

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if you had a dairy farm,

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milk was selling here between six and seven dollars a hundred

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Wow. And in Canada, it was between three and four. So I think Dad milked about 20 cows in Ham-Nord somewhere around there. When he bought the farm here in Underhill, we were milking between 50 and 55 cows, so it was twice the size. So

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Do you remember the move? No. How old were you

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Four

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So that's a hard time

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to remember. Yeah, I don't, I don't really remember.

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And where are you in the line of 14 Lehouillers? I'm a

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true 10.

02:37

and Pierette, you were I'm a true seven, so you're older than Maurice, yes, but not by a lot. So my understanding is that immediately the little school in Underhill Center had a lot more students. Yes. That year, yes. So what grade did you go into? We

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started in first because we did not speak English at

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all. Do you have memories of that? Yes, yeah, tell us a little bit about that. It was,

03:15

well, there was a teacher

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that was teaching in Underhill flats, and I asked my other sister what her name was, and we can't remember what her name was, but she spoke French. So they switched teachers. She came and taught us Underhill, and the other teacher went to the flats, so they put all of you in the first grade. Yeah, we had to start. Y'all started together,

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and when you were going to school, did you walk from the farm? Yes,

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both ways, yes, they went home for lunch because they didn't believe in bag lunch. So we had to go home for our hot lunch and come home.

04:02

So you had, you had a lot of walking every day. We made it. That was a good exercise, yeah. So did you have, did you make friends, despite not having the language right away, it

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was hard, yeah, but we had

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Sally and Jane Towle that lived across from us, and that dirt road there, we made friends. Settlement,

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oh yes, farm, the Towle farm,

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oh yes, they were there and you were friends of theirs. Yeah, same age, yeah. Wonder if there's some pictures of you guys then. So that was

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Yeah, and the schoolhouse burned in '53 Yeah. So you had, you never got upstairs.

05:01 No. You were in the downstairs classroom, right? And am I correct in that your oldest brother and sister did not go to school because they were needed at the farm, right? Yeah.

05:17

Do you remember that school? Jerry, Johnny,

05:21

Armande, and Lorette.

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Those are the first three, four oldest. Say it again, Jerry,

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Johnny Armande and Lorette,

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And did those four stay home?

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They stayed home for a while, and then the first one to get married was Jerry.

05:49

I'm talking about like at first school, though they never went to school. None of those four went to school, no, because they were really needed 50 cows and all that, right, yeah,

06:01

but they did go. They were in school in Ham-Nord yeah. When they were in Ham-Nord, they were in school there.

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So they were teenagers, or really, when you moved, they were pretty well. I was

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nine, yeah. So they were there was 18, yeah,

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yeah. So,

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so, I think I, I would say they went through at least the eighth grade, but then one of them go to some academy or something. Mike went to

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seminary, Seminary in New Hampshire, but only for one year. Okay,

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just so that we have the record really clear we've let's get the names down of everybody. We started with Jerry.

06:57

Johnny, Armande, Laurette,

07:02

Marcel, Mike

07:05

Pierrette,

07:09

Lynn, Ghislaine . (Lynn)

07:14

Fran

07:17

Lise Maurice, oh yeah. Maurice,

07:19

George, George, me,Lise. Diane. Diane. Susan, okay, that's good.We want to get them all straight.

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My mom and dad were Jeanne and Antonio.

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I understood from the record that she was Jeanette. Is that wrong? She was, that's wrong. It was

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Jeanne It was j, e, a, n, n, e,

07:46

and they

07:52

did call her Jean. They did yeah.

07:56

Yeah. And your father was Antonio, Antonio, that sounds like an Italian name. Yes, that's what everyone says. And I go, that was his name. Somebody named him that. Do you do you two? Know? Are you three? Do you know anything about your grandparents?

08:15

What do you know?

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I know? Well, my mother's father lived close to the school in Canada, and he owned a grocery store, clothing store combined. And my dad's father had a restaurant.

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And

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we would go there during, you know, we were all, it was a close town. I mean, it was, we could

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walk everywhere, small town,

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and it's like Underhill center,

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approximately the same size,

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yeah, so from a small town to another small town, yeah. Does it seem like it was hard for the children to move if you had friends and a life up there? But I don't, you know, remember that? I do

09:14

remember, but I never,

09:18

never was lonely or

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Well, in that big a family, you can't get lonely, plus we had chores to do. We

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we had to do them or else. So

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how old were you when you were given a chore?

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Oh, my gosh.

09:38

Probably since we started walking, probably,

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What was your chore?

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I'd do housework. On Fridays, I had to get on my hands and knees and wash the floor because we had to hit all the corners, the kitchen floor, kitchen floor. My sister and I, Ghislaine and I used to do that. That was your chore, and we had to wax it. Wow. My mother was very clean.

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Being on a farm, had to be

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so that stayed your chore for quite a while. You expected it every Friday, yeah,

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plus we had milkers with

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tit cups, yeah, that's what you call it, yeah.

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And we had to put them together.

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Tit cups,

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yeah, yeah. Lynn and I had to do that

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because you'd take them off the cow, and they'd get washed, and then put it back together. You

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used to put some kind of

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you'd milk every day with them, and then you would bring all the milk bales and so on into the milk room, right? And then you'd have buckets of water, and then you just run hot water through them and that, that just took care of it. But once a week you had to take the tit cup, You had to take the machine apart, to clean it, to clean it, yeah, and you did that once a week, and the girls would do that.

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You washed them too, or you took care of them. Yeah? Was that on Friday also?

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No, that was usually on Saturday, yeah, it

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sounds like it was pretty routine, regulation. I mean, oh yeah, you know what your chore was and what day it was. Yeah,

11:51

you

11:55

what was yours? Maurice, what was your chore ? Well,

12:00

I remember my first chore was to go to the barn and scrape the manure into the gutter. Yep, okay

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with what was the tool? There was a hoe. Yeah.

12:16

And I

12:23

then I graduated into

12:27

My job was to feed the calves.

12:29

Well, that might have been an interesting, nice job. Yeah, that was a

12:35

Yeah. That was better than the first job. And then what we used at that time, when we did hay, we started putting hay in a barn, loose. But I don't remember too much of that. I was still down the line too far. right, right, so I remember Jerry and Johnny and Marcel and Mike. They out

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on the we had a wagon, yeah,

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we had a hay loader and that would load into. We had a truck with a stake body, and also a wagon.

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And would that be hoisted up high in the barn? Was it an attic? I mean, a second floor? Well, what

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We did is we had a hay fork. It was a huge hay fork, and you would plant a hay fork into the hay that was either on the truck or the wagon, and that went up to the top of the barn. It was a rope, probably about an inch, inch and a half rope, and that went across the barn, and then that was hooked to the tractor on the back side of the barn, so you drive the tractor ahead, the fork would come up, and then it would grab or there'd be a release there, and that would go to the end, to wherever you wanted to drop that bundle.

14:16

And that was all loose hay. That was all loose hay,

14:19

yeah, and Dad's job was to place the hay in the barn, and wherever he wanted it to drop, he'd pull on a release, and the hay would drop, and then he'd place it in the

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barn. Where did he stand when he was doing his job

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well, on the side, you know, you okay. You didn't stand underneath it. But no, stand on his side, no. But he was up

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there. He was up there, and one of your brothers was probably on the tractor. Yeah, right,

14:53

right. And then the other one was on the wagon. So they did, they'd holler at each other. Okay? Right, send it back

15:02

or pull it, and you were standing around watching, yeah, I was too young to be

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it was dangerous because, yes, because of the forks, you know, you couldn't,

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so you just want to get out of the way, right? Because it was

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dangerous, I remember, I mean, I didn't work with him, but I remember watching, and I remember the hay lift. You know that machine that picked up the hay from the field? Yeah, if you went too close, yeah, you could get killed. You could get maimed, you know. So they were very careful.

15:44

I bet they were, yeah, so you started helping with the hay probably around 12 or so, when you're big enough to do so, oh,

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I was younger than that. Oh, yeah, when they were, when that was happening. And then Dad, Dad hired Arson Potvin for a couple of years to bale hay. Oh, Arson was the only one with a baler,

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so he'd come to the farm

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and bail whatever hay we had.

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Did you hay twice a summer? Twice every summer? No,

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I don't think so, because we chopped. Excuse me, we had silos to fill, so we chopped. We had to chop grass, and we chopped the corn. Then Dad bought a baler, and then we did our own so we would bail the hay, and the bale would be in the field. It was on the

16:56

ground, hopefully getting dry. Well, you'd

17:00

bail it, and then you'd, we'd go I remember Marcel, George and I and dad would go and pick up the bales, put them in the wagon by hand, and just, oh, yeah, everything was by hand. Yeah. There was a lot of heavy work. There was no gutter cleaners. It was all by hand. The insulage in the silo was all forked out by hand.

17:32

Amazing. So are the fields that are down there now your original fields? Yeah, just still open. It's still open down there. Well,

17:44

They built some houses on it. Now, that's true, but across the river, on the back side of the river, the Browns River, which flows behind that, yeah, the barn, there's one big field up there and plus another small field. And

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they're not, not don't have trees on them, though. They're still open.

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They're still open. Yeah, they still hay that. I think somebody still hays that.

18:16

You can't see it from the road. You can't at all. No, you have to go across the river, and then there's a road. It goes up there, and then you gotta climb a hill, and the field is on top of a hill. Oh, no kidding, yeah. Do you

18:34

remember how how many acres the farm your dad bought was,

18:41

yeah, it was,

18:45

I'm going to say about 380 acres, plus we had the sugar woods. And where are they? That was, you know, you remember where Woodard used to live? Yes. Okay, to the west of Woodards was our sugar house. Wow, that was sugar woods. We

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walked up there. How many miles

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you'd walk from your house up to Woodards? No, no.

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We had our own sugar Road, Woods road to go to the sugar house and go across all the fields, and then just beyond the fields is what we called the heifer pasture. We used to pasture, heifers there, and you walk across that, then you get into the woods

19:46

from your house, yeah,

19:49

so it was probably a mile and a half, yeah, yeah. It was up above, um.

20:00

Uh, Niles

20:03

is, oh, up that road, up, up there, up and then you would cross over through the woods, yeah, crossing lower English Settlement road, the dirt road there above the Towle farm.. We

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wouldn't, we wouldn't go on Irish, I mean, on English settlement we would, we would just cut through, through the woods, but it was up above, further than where Niles lives, right? It was up there because Dad, when we sugared, Dad did it by Horse, horse and wagon.

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So he would take, you know,

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from the barn, and take them up. Yeah, yeah. Would you ride in one of the wagons? You had to walk? We walked. You walked? Yeah. It

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depends what the situation was.

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It must have been a pretty, pretty nice, exciting time, because it's sort of Winter is about to be over. It was, and it's something special. I

21:03

think it was exciting because

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we'd go up there and we'd cook eggs in the sap, the hot sap, you know, we'd throw eggs. And I

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never heard about that, tell about that

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you bring fresh eggs, fresh eggs. We go up there and the sap is boiling in the back to go into the syrup. And, yeah, drop eggs in there and

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the whole egg, yeah, you know, so you and then once it boiled, you ate

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it, yeah, yeah. And we put cans of beans in there, and warm up the beans in there and

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and have a party, eggs and beans, yeah. And then

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usually that time of year, my father's brothers would come, yeah, my uncle ? from Massachusetts, and

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It was a celebration. Winter's coming to be over, we're getting syrup. It was extra income. It was like the income that was on over and above the dairy.

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We needed it. Yeah, yeah. Needed to

22:16 Dad used the sugar, the syrup, the sale of syrup to pay for his taxes,

22:26

That's what that money was for.

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Sounds like he was very organized about life.

22:31

Well, he raised 14 kids, and we were not without. I mean,

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Christmas time,

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if you got one toy you were as a kid, we we were lucky, but their their clothes is what we got for Christmas,

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and an orange, maybe, or or banana, a banana, or

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we would share a gift like I remember one year myself, Diane and Susie got a toboggan. Oh, one toboggan for the three of us. And that was our Christmas gift. Take it up to Casey's Hill. Yeah, yeah, you know. And we loved it, yeah, yeah. And it was, it was interesting too, because Mom was a good seamstress. She sewed, she knitted, she crocheted, she did needlepoint. I mean, you name it.

23:37

How did she have time to do that? I don't know. Evening, busy. Busy woman quilted. Oh yes, really, yes.

23:46

She had a big quilting frame, and she and her sister that moved down when they got married, Contois that that Maripaw was her sister, they would get together, and they sit in front of the frame, and they would quilt

24:07

together, yeah, they learned all those skills when they were in Canada growing up, yeah, yeah, yeah.

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And, you know, when we were sugaring, the fun thing about sugaring was that oftentimes, at the end of Dad boiling the sap, he would build a little fire and with a little paw, and he'd boil to make sugar and snow. So we loved it. So at the end of the day, he would, he would treat us with sugar and snow for us, that was, that was fun. That's

24:42

a good Vermont tradition, yes, yeah, yeah. So other than that, what you remember? Anything you did for fun? Were you working so much at school and at home that you didn't have anything else to do? Or

24:59

no? Well, we wouldn't

25:02

The Lampheres would come over, and the Bolios, at times, would come over, and we'd use the field across the road from the house and play baseball.

25:19

We just the field. Yeah, big field. Yeah. You play baseball there. We play baseball. But didn't you grow corn there or something? We

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you go to that field there. We never really planted corn there. Okay, not while we were there. You hayed it We hayed it, yeah, so as soon as the first cut was off, you could play baseball. We played baseball until hay got high enough, and then we'd lose our field.

26:04

Did you have teams?

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Yeah, I don't know if you would call it just yeah, you

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pick, you pick your player and try

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to win, but you had enough people with your family and neighbors, yeah? That must have been really nice.

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In the winter time,

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there would be water in the fields, it would ice up. We had skates. We skated,

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did you really, yeah? Yeah,

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you skated on the pond. And then there was a one pond across the river that's still there, and we used to shovel the snow out from that

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and then make a nice rink. And

26:51

so you all had your own skates? Oh, yes, yeah, that was important. Canada, Everybody skated. That's the Canadian thing is to have skates, yeah, yeah. Did you play hockey? Yep,

27:05

we did. The older Yeah,

27:07

I didn't.

27:08

Marcel, did? I know, yeah, Marcel

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and I played, they played more than I did. Johnny played a lot of hockey. Yeah, I don't think Jerry did. No,

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didn't they play in the league when they were in Canada? I thought they played in the league

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they might have. Course, I don't remember. I don't remember too much of Ham-Nord. This past year,

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we all went to

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visit to Ham-Nord where we were born,

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and we went and visited the old ,the town,

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all of you together. There was my brother George. This

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my brother George and his wife, Barb ,you and I and Valerie, Lise

28:00

and our nephew, Paul and Nancy. Yeah, we all went to Ham-Nord and something.

28:06

I bet that was fun. Did you spot where you had lived?

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that had to not change? Oh, that's great. That had not changed. I can't believe it. Yeah,

28:18

When we got to the village of Ham-Nor we kind of went to what they called, what we would call a town clerk office. Yeah, so they don't speak any English there.

28:36

28:41

The reason why this happened is my nephew Paul and his wife Nancy went up the year before, and they wanted to see where their father was born. My oldest brother, yeah, and because they could not speak French very well. They didn't. They didn't find out a whole heck of a lot. So we got to talking about it, and I said, Well, my French is pretty good. You could do it. They said, Okay, if you promise to take us. If you go, we'll go. So I talked to them about it and said, you know, that'd be a nice trip. You go over there. Yeah. So when we got to the town clerk's office over there,

29:36

there's,

29:38

What were the names, Couture and my brother? My uncle, Armand's wife, was a Couture so I said, I told them, I said I had an aunt that was a Couture. Well. He should be, oh, that was our or my sister. We're always

30:04

connection. There you go. So

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we got to talking, and, well,

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you told him we were Lehouillers Oh yeah. He says, we know the Lehouillers

3 There you go, yeah. Oh, my goodness, you took pictures, I assume, yeah, yeah.

30:21

And this guy that was at the Information Center, he recognized right away the Lehouiller name so he called his dad to come because he said, Well, we can show you around. He said, My father can show you around,

30:44

yeah, and then I still have a cousin that lives there, yeah, he's,

30:49

you better go back up

30:50

again. Well, we thought about it, yeah, but we spent two days there, excellent. We stayed over,

30:57

and the farm that you came from, was just the same way that you remembered it. Yes, the house, the barn, is it still being farmed?

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No, they hay it, yeah, and they grow Christmas trees on it, yeah? Now

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The barn is still the same barn as it was 60,70 years ago. We didn't go inside the house.

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No, well, there

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was somebody living there, yeah, and then

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it's recognizable,

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saying, same church, school right across. Yeah, that's, that's, that's fun. Yeah, back to Underhill. There are a lot of changes now with the Lehouiller farm on the River Road. And how do you feel about that? hard to see?

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It is hard. Yeah, there used to be

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from the corner where the cemetery is and Underhill flats, right

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to

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other side of Underhill going toward Pleasant Valley. Yep, there were 13 working farms back then

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along the River Road. Yeah, 13. There was 13. Wow. And how many? How many? How much milk did you leave for it to be picked up? How many

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cans do you remember, I don't remember the name, the number of cans,

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but they would get picked up daily for the creamery. Yeah, we would bring it to

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we'd load the cans on the truck, and there was a creamery in Jericho, right? And that's where the milk was brought to.

33:03

I'm asking that because Freddie Fletcher did a map and showed all the farms that were there in those days. And he has marked all the different farms He grew up on poker Hill Farm. And I don't remember on his map, 13 farms between that corner and what, all the way up Pleasant Valley. I can name them all. Oh, name them. Go for

33:36

it. The first one was Royce. What? Royce, R, o, y, C, E, okay, then Whitcomb,

33:47

and then McLane,

33:51

Pollard

33:55

Mead,, Carl Mead, , yeah, across the road was Edgar day, okay. There was us,

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Lampheres,

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Thompson,

34:15

Glen Towle.

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Then there was the other, McLane,

34:2

Allaires

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one more,

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La Rose. La Rose was just passed under Underhill Center, and the one on the hill was Villaneuve,

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Good job. Maurice. Wow, you do remember a lot ,you two.

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I don't know how come I remember that, but Well,

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That's just amazing. That's from the flats, just past UnderhillHill Center.

35:00

Yeah, that many farms, that many farms.

35:04

Were you the biggest one? Yes, no. Villeneuve

35:07

was the biggest. Was big. Yeah,

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we were milking 50,55, and he was milking 65,70

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But was he up

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the hill. He was up the hill, up the hill. Yeah, you know where you get to the Church. Yeah, you turn right and head up the hill like it's

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on Krug road. Yeah, is that the name of it? Krug road?

36:02

That's Krug road.

36:36

There's a lot of property up there on the range.

A lot of property

36:40

But not now, nobody lets you in. Now, did you, as a young person, ever go in the range?

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He's not going to say,

37:14

you don't have to Maurice. . I don't want to say, Okay, let's let it go. Let's let it go. I'm innocent, innocent,

37:58

Well, when we were there, we weren't supposed to

38:01

I know nobody was supposed to be there, but there is a history of people, after all that farmland and good land was gone to the government, still wanting to be in there, like it's ours, sort of. And the people had good reason to sell out. They got offers and they went elsewhere.

38:28

The biggest contributor to

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the small farms getting done is when they quit putting milk in cans, in milk cans, and they went to a bulk tank.

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Okay, that costs more money for the farmer.

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Most of the farmers could not afford to go and buy a bulk tank. So

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39:02

Royce. Royce and Whitcomb quit. Glen Towle quit. Thompson's quit. Forest Lamphere got done. The other McLane got done, because back then, that bulk tank was

39:23

seemed like it was 3000\$ to 4,000\$

39:29

big money. Then it was big money. Then, yeah,

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and so that left like Wayne Pollard was still there. Wayne

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Pollard bought the tank. Marion Mead bought the tank. I don't think Edgar Day, Edgar day, he quit milking, but he had a lot of wood on his farm, and he went to logging. He logged the farm off. So I.

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But then once it's logged off, then he didn't have that income. Well,

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He could sell the hay, I guess. But I don't remember, for some reason,

40:14

us and,

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we got close to the Meads, yeah, well,

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so you knew Marion? Oh, yes, yeah,

40:45

I, I used to go over there when Mister and Missus Mead were, like, on Saturdays morning and go over there. And what would you do there? I'd do her housework, and sometimes I'd make her pies and I'd come home with 50 cents , \$1

41:08

very proud of yourself, very proud

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they were nice couple, really, really, since they

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would hire you alone, not your sisters, just I went by myself. You went by yourself. So you had a real sense of the River Road and all that was going on, all the farms and the families.

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But when we first moved to Vermont, I don't know if you want to say that on there,

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yeah, I know what you're going to say. Go ahead and

41:38

say that we were Catholic,

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and there were not too many Catholics around us. Go ahead, go ahead. And their Meads would not talk

41:50

to us

41:52

in the beginning, in the beginning, but then he got sick,

41:56

and then the barn burnt. Oh

41:59

yeah, that's right. And guess who helped him out.....the Lehouillers

42:04

Dad took

42:07

That's all part of history. Yeah, it is.

42:10

It's, yeah. Dad took Johnny and Jerry over there and helped rebuild his barn. Yeah, good neighbors, and after that, you couldn't ask for a better neighbor. I mean, he thought the world of us after that, they both did. So

42:28

So, Saint Thomas was there when you moved and it's been there for quite a long time. I don't know the year it was built, but it is a beautiful, big church, and that was home for all of you in terms of your faith. So you all got dressed up and went on Sunday. Oh yes, no, and dressed up and dressed up, dressed up,

42:56

shirt and tie for the guys. Yeah, their collar had to be real stiff because we had to iron those things. No

43:04

kidding.

43:06

Oh my. Well, yeah, Dad had to make Dad and Mom had to make two trips to get us all to church. We couldn't all fit in the car at

43:15

at the same time. You had one car. Had one car. What car was it? What kind it was, a 49 DeSoto. There you go, yeah, drive you up, leave you there. Go back, get the rest of you, yeah, yeah,

43:27

and you better be good in church. And

43:31

did you have the same pastor, priest every back then all the way through. What was it then Father Maloney,

43:43

for quite a number of years, yeah, okay,

43:46

was right there, and he lived in the house right next door to the church. Yeah. He

43:56

He had a camp. He had a camp just off Pleasant Valley Road. You know where Reggie Popvin lives? Yes, okay, down the road and up. Yeah, there's two houses there, yeah. Well, one of those used to be Father Maloney's camp. Oh, and I think it was Rotunda. I think they bought it and then they built. Have you ever seen that house? I

44:27

I don't think I've ever been up there. No, oh my god, it's really big, huge, but

44:31

The view is unbelievable. So

44:35

It's on the left hand driveway, Pleasant Valley. It's not as you're going north, yes, you're going

44:41

towards the center, yeah.

44:46

Oh so,

44:48

right, yes, okay, going

44:51

towards

44:52

the center, it sounds on the right. It's not, it's on the left, on the on your side of the road, right. Yeah. Okay, correct. Okay. Yeah. So

45:00

I can just picture all of you going to Church on Sunday. That must have been something. Every

45:07

Now and then Father would come to the house and have dinner with us. Have dinner with us,

45:12

right? Were you the only Catholic family in Underhill Center at that time? No, Jacobs.

45:18

Jacobs, well, there were the Matthews in Matthews,

45:21

yeah, and

45: And the Irish settlement road had a lot of Irish people

45:31

who were Catholic. Oh,

45:35

there was another French family, yeah. But I think

45:40

it started with

45:41

a B, and they lived right at the corner,

45:47

or this side of

45:50

Bolios , when Bolios had the store ,that house right at the corner there, Legrand. Yeah, Legrand was French,

46:01

that's right, What

46:04

was their name? It started with A, B, I think

46:08

maybe it'll come to you while we're talking maybe

46:11

Humphreys. It was Humphreys, but they weren't Catholic, no, and

46:16

they weren't French.

46:18

They owned the store.

46:19

There were, there were quite a few French families, because I remember mom and dad, they used to get together and play cards. Uh huh. Remember, in fact, the Matthews lived in the house, which now is falling apart just before bridge that know where the Matthews lived, okay, yeah,

46:48

There had to be, because when I was 18 years old, Father Maloney had, I don't know how many people that wanted to be American citizens, and we were one of them. And he made me teach these people history so they could pass the test. They could pass the test which was not very hard, simple.

47:21

So you did. I did and were these were younger than you, older than you, older, older

47:27

people like Mom and Sad.

47:31

Well,

47:34

when I became a US citizen, yeah, because we were underage, we became naturalized under my mother and father Because

47:47

they did. You were natural already, even if you weren't born here you were 18,

47:52

under 18.

47:54

Under 18, you had to be naturalized with your mother and father. Yeah. Do you

47:59

remember a ceremony when they receive citizenship. What do you do? I was there up around St Albans somewhere. Yeah, that's an office up there. So you and some of your sisters and brothers went with them. And

48:19

older ones. I don't remember the younger ones going there. Yeah,

48:23

We went to Saint Albans. Yeah, I don't remember the ceremony too much.

48:28

It's fairly short. I mean, yeah, it was just a routine with a judge and a flag and that's right, Raise your hand. And, yeah, yeah, we were proud to be Americans, yeah, well, and also proud to be French and Canadian. Also, wow, did that mean? That doesn't mean double citizenship? Yes, it so you're both Canadian and US, correct? There you go.

48:57

Did you know that you got dual citizenship? I didn't

49:01

know. I knew that we could be, but I didn't know that we were, oh,

49:07

there you go. It might I learned be happy about that someday, that you could do something with it

49:14

well. And remember because we had a little green card, plastic green card,

49:19

and that was your parents card. No, that

49:23

was mine. When, when, sorry, we came into the 12,, I mean, I was just a baby, yeah, I remember mom giving me this little plastic green card when I got older, yeah, and the picture was me, the baby. So if I showed it to anybody,

49:45

Do you still have it?

49:47

No, I don't. I don't know what happened to it, and I think of it to this day, and I'm really sad that I don't have it.

49:55

So they became citizens, and all of their children under 18 were automatically citizens, and each one of you got a green card. Must have, they must have, they must have given. They had to. Yeah,

50:11

I don't, I don't remember,

50:13

but Lise you remember. Sure,

50:14

yes, it was, it was probably that big, and it was plastic, yeah, and it was Mia as well. I was only

50:23

five months old. Yeah,

50:27

yeah, that's it. That's really interesting. So just before we wind down, if each of you could tell me something about your own life since growing up, where have you been and what have you been doing since 18? I'm living.

50:48

Well, I got married at 20, okay, and I moved to Hinesburg because my husband had a company there with my in laws and raised my family. Three children, three boys. Now they run the business.

51:11

And what's the business? Iroquois

51:12

manufacturing company, okay, manufactured truck bodies, sell Fisher plows and whatever. So all three of them, that's something to be proud of. Yeah, and we retired and found this fabulous place in Greensboro Bend

51:35

went, there, went there. Love it. That's where you live now. Excellent. All right, Maurice , what's been happening to you since

51:43

I don't dare tell you

51:47

Well, tell us what you feel is important. He's the rascal

51:51

you don't want to hear.

51:57

Up to you. I I

52:03

lived on the farm

52:07

right up until I got married, but I worked off the farm before that as a mechanic. I went to Greer Technical Institute in Chicago and learned the trade, and then I did that for a number of years, and got married, and I went to work for a man named Paul Jones. He started a John Deere dealership, an industrial dealership where we sold bulldozers and graders and loaders and skidders You in Vermont?

52:48

Yes, yeah,

52:50

that was in Williston,

52:53

and he didn't want me to be a mechanic anymore. He wanted me to go on the road and sell for him. So I said, Well, if you think I can do it, I'll go. And so I became a salesman for him for a number of years, and then I got done and bought a restaurant over in Sheldon. Name of the restaurant was the Abbey pub and restaurant, and I had that for five or six years. I sold that and I bought an agricultural equipment dealership in St Albans. And I retired from that. I had that for 36 years.

53:47

Wow. And you retired to Greensboro

53:50

also? Well, the thing that made me go to Greensboro was I went up there one weekend. I said, Boy, this is nice. So then her husband would give me a call on Friday afternoon. He says, You coming to Greensboro.? And I said, I don't know. Do you want me to go up? Well, yes, come on up.

54:14

So it got

54:17

to be habit forming. You were there all the time,

54:21

a lot of the weekends we'd go up there. Of course, he had, I always had something to do, which was great. Was

54:28

an old farmhouse that we bought at an auction.

54:35

And you auctioned, you bought it at an auction, raised your hand and said, Oh, my goodness. Oh, my heart was a pump. I meant I wow,

54:44

yeah, the Lariche had,

54:47

I don't know, 20 pieces of property to sell. Mm, hmm, and we wanted that one

54:54

so, but it needed work, and they didn't.

54:57

There was no heat in that wood stove. Olds. I was fine.

55:05

And you helped, yeah?

55:09

And then they decided the house needed to come down. It needed a new a foundation underneath it, and so on. So it's

55:18

right, it was an old Yeah, yeah. So

55:21

They built start again, yeah. So they built a

55:27

whole new house that was kind

55:31

The barn was attached to the house, okay, in the old way, yeah. And after that, they tore the barn down, and he built a three car garage there with living quarters upstairs. So now the living quarters is there, but then it's not used much anymore, and

56:00

then you, you built or bought a house. I bought

56:05

I was going there so much that I said, Geez, I'm going to buy something here. I didn't want to depend on them all the time too, because I wanted to go, yeah, so where I live is about two, three miles from where she lives.

56:23

You and your wife, yeah, yeah, and your wife's name is Valerie.

56:26

Okay, so I was going up there. Well, I got divorced in between. So I was like, 10 or 11 years being single, and I bought that when I was single, okay, so, and then that needed a lot of work. It was a camp kind of. It belonged to an old guy, and he died, and I ended up buying

56:56

that. So you've made your mark, both of you on Greensboro bend. Yeah, great. Well, I think we've come to almost an hour, and you've done beautifully and really very interesting. So I'm going to push thank you to Maurice and Pierrette and Lise.