

Jim McLane Oral History

Full timestamped transcript

INTERVIEWEE	Jim McLane
RECORDED	August 19, 2026
PLACE / SUBJECT	Underhill, Vermont
DURATION	45 minutes, 21 seconds

ABOUT THIS TRANSCRIPT

This is a complete, lightly edited transcription. Punctuation and capitalization have been normalized, and obvious speech-recognition errors have been corrected while preserving the sequence and substance of the conversation. Bracketed notes identify unresolved audio. Because the source is a mono recording with multiple interviewer voices, the interviewers are not individually labeled.

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Topic guide

Transcript

Timestamps mark the beginning of each listening block. Interviewer prompts and Jim McLane's responses are retained in their original sequence.

[00:00:02] I'm here today talking to Jim McLane. It is August 19th, 2026, and he very graciously has agreed to be interviewed about his memories of Underhill. So, Jim, start with when you were born and from then on. Just tell us all about your early life.

[00:00:32] All right. We were living on River Road next to the cemetery, which was the Drinkwater place. They called it the Drinkwater place at the time, and that's where the Guays live now. The house is a big white house; there is a for-sale sign out front. The red barn is across the street. That was in, I'm guessing, '39, '40, maybe.

[00:01:00] Maybe '41, '42, '43. My father farmed it there as well as working - this was during wartime. He worked down at Fort Ethan Allen, building temporary barracks. He had two jobs: farming and carpenter work. And where were the barracks? At Fort Ethan Allen. Oh, he was working there as a carpenter.

[00:01:30] Yes. Okay. What was your father's name? Vincent. And your mother's name? Edith. Okay. Go ahead. Okay. And now, while we were living there, they paved River Road. And my mother lost me that morning. She couldn't find me. The day they paved it. The day they were paving.

[00:02:00] It was dirt, and they were paving the blacktop. She lost me that morning, and she was talking to one of the road crew who were paving. He said, 'There's a little boy over in the cemetery, sitting on a tombstone winding his watch.' Well, that was me. How old were you? Well, I wasn't very old. I'm guessing maybe six - five or six. I don't know for sure. Yeah.

[00:02:27] And so then my mother came over and found me, and everything was fine after that.

[00:02:40] Then we lived there, and then my folks bought a house in Underhill Flats. It's the house closest to the fire station, north of the fire station, between the fire station and the garage. It used to be Fred Seymour's garage. Mm-hmm. And we lived there. I went to school, probably first and second grade,

[00:03:08] at the Incorporated District School in the village. Mm-hmm. And then from there, my folks bought the farm on River Road from the Breens. Bessie Breen. It used to be... That's all right. It'll come to you. Bessie Breen. So was that the house that Nate lives in at present?

[00:03:37] That's the house that Nate lives in, yes. So your folks bought that from the Breens. Yes. And at that time, it was you and Ruthie. Yes. Is she older? Was she older or younger? She was a year older. A year older. Okay. And it was just the two of you. Yes. Well, no, there's four in all. I had a brother, Charlie, and a sister, Nancy. Uh-huh, younger than you. Yes, both are younger.

[00:04:03] So when you and your parents moved into the Breen house, there were six of you, your parents, and four kids? No, there were only three children. My sister Nancy hadn't been born. Born later. Okay. She was born there. Okay. Yeah. So go ahead, from there.

[00:04:25] Once I moved there, we went to school up at the Number Five schoolhouse. Oh, I see, because you moved out of the ID district. Yes. So that was about third grade. Yeah, I'd say about third grade. Yeah. We came up to Number Five.

[00:04:48] Alfred Jimmo ran the school bus, and the school bus was a pickup truck with a box on the back. It wasn't a regular bus. It ran down River Road, picking up people. Yes. It was a closed box. Yes, there was a box built on the back, with seats on each side. We called it the Jitney. It brought us to school.

[00:05:19] And so how many of you would have been sitting in that? I'd say probably six. That's all? From the road? Yeah, up from, say, for instance, the cemetery, up through to the center. And that was before the Lehouillers came. Yes. That's why. When they came, it was a regular school bus. And I was on the bus that day, and I can remember the driver.

[00:05:47] I wondered when the line was going to end. There were lots of them. There were 13 in the family. There were probably 10 came on the bus. I don't know. Yeah, the older children stayed home to help their dad with the farming. And the two younger ones who now live locally here in Underhill were not yet born. So, yes, it was quite an influx. And they all spoke French and not English. Yes.

[00:06:15] So you had a teacher who spoke French hired when the Lehouillers came, I understand. Do you remember her? No, I don't. No. But you had, who was your teacher? Mrs. Flynn, Emily Flynn, I had her. Because it was one through eight. There's another one, Rose Lindner. Actually, at Number Five, I had Rose Lindner. In the third grade.

[00:06:45] Yeah, third, fourth. Third, fourth. And then, was there upstairs then, and you went upstairs for five through eight? No. It was all downstairs. It burned before I got to go upstairs. . Okay. So basically you had two years at the ID school and two years at Number Five. Yes.

[00:07:11] Then you were temporarily somewhere else until they built the central school. Yes. And then you went there. Okay. We went to the academy. They split the academy in two. One through six had one end of it, and seven eight, five, six, seven, eight had the other end. So what grade were you when you finally,

[00:07:41] ended up in Underhill Center School. Central School, the new one, I don't know for sure. You never know because you were, you kind of went from here to there. I gave my report cards to you people and I think Emily Flynn's name was on it and that would tell when I started there. She continued to teach after the fire, yeah. Yes, yes. She taught at the new school. She taught, yeah, that's right. She taught all of them, yeah, yeah.

[00:08:12] Oh, okay. Well, I'm going to back up just a little bit. When we lived in the village north of the fire station, my sister and I had a paper route, and they had a picture of the sister. We rode on her bike. On her bike, yes. And on the cold mornings, there were people down on the raceway. I can't think of their name there.

[00:08:41] Well, anyway, they used to let us in to get warm on cold mornings in the wintertime. You would need it. Yes. Would you ride your bike at all through the winter? No, we had to walk in the morning. You'd do it walking. Just in the flats. Yeah. Well, let's see. As I wrote it up here, it was about '48 or '49.

[00:09:09] Well, that's when we moved - it might have been '47 - to River Road, where Nate Sullivan now lives. On the farm there, I'd get up at five o'clock in the morning in the summertime and walk up on the hill behind the house to the pasture where the cows were. I'd get the cows and bring them down to the barn for milking. That was my project: to get the cows.

[00:09:37] There weren't that many trees up there then. It was all open - an open pasture - so the cows were really on the hillside all the way up. Now, when you look at it, it's all grown up. Nate's Belted Galloways, those black-and-white cows, have been up there, but I can't picture the whole hillside full. How many were in your herd?

[00:10:07] Oh, we had 28 stanchions for 28 cows, and then my father put another four on. That's quite a few for the time. Yes. Yeah. So, five o'clock in the morning, you're up there calling them down? Yes. 'Come on down. Come, boss. Come, boss.' Yeah, yeah. At a young age, probably? Yes. Probably ten. Those cows knew you.

[00:10:37] And, okay, once I got the cows down, my father started milking, and I would get in the car, we had a milk can, strainers, and a pail, and I'd go out to my grandmother's where Captain Phillips lives. Was that Julia? No. Well, Julia was my aunt. She was the aunt. But your grandmother was. Ann, Anna. Anna. Anna, oh.

[00:11:06] Anna Dixon McLane. And Anna, her husband was John. John, John and Anna, right? No, John and Julia were brother and sister. John, Katie, Julia, [John or Jim], Vincent, and Charles. Live there. Live there. Yeah. So your grandmother was. Anna.

[00:11:34] Okay, so you would go up there after the milking. We had four cows up there in the summertime. Oh, okay. And I had to milk those four cows and then bring the milk home. Yourself? Myself, yes. By hand? And what? By hand? Yes, always by hand. All by hand, yeah. All by hand, yes. And I can remember the name of the four cows. Go ahead.

[00:12:05] Olive, Mary, Daisy. I don't remember the other one. Olive, Mary, Daisy. Olive Mary and Daisy. It'll come to you. It'll come to you. That's amazing. You remember that. So, I'm trying to picture this young boy. You walked up to that farm. No, I drove up. I was 16 at that time. Oh, and was it a tractor? No. No, no, a car. A car.

[00:12:33] You drove the car up, you milked them by hand, and then the milk was in cans. Yeah, put it in a can. And you brought them back to the house. The main barn. The main barn. And did you have a milk house? Or you kept them waiting for the pickup. Yes.. You had a place, you put the cans in, and the water kept them cold, like, for overnight. So what was happening to those cows?

[00:13:03] before you were old enough to do that. We didn't do it. My father didn't do it. We always hayed up there. Okay. But then after I was old enough to drive up and milk and come back. Yeah. So basically the two farms were connected because it was all family. Yes. Yeah. And the, and the, we call it the Captain Phillips house now. That was all McLane. Yes. your side of the family yes

[00:13:33] okay we used to hay up there in the summertime yeah and my uncle John would help us hay some hay we would bring back by horse and wagon and if we had too much at home we put hay in the barn there and Nate still puts hay in the barn there today for somebody's horse I don't know who is it Oh, he does. Yeah.

[00:14:03] Yeah. Oh, then at that time, a little before that time, we used to take our own milk to the creamery by horse and wagon. Mm-hmm. And you remember where the creamery was, down by the library. Right. We used to take it from our... It wasn't very far to go. No, it wasn't very far to go.

[00:14:33] Oh, let's see here.

[00:14:44] Oh, my grandmother's farm, we're back up there again. Keep going, I'm just checking this. Yep. We used to plow a garden for my uncle John and Aunt Julia, and it's awful stony there, and we always had to pick stones after we plowed and harrowed before the garden was planted, many, many stones.

[00:15:15] I remember Nate saying that they moved over to the River Road from the flats, because over in the flats it was very stony. They were trying to get to a better farm at one point. Your grandfather? Nate's, my sister and her husband lived at my grandmother's place after Julia passed away for, I don't know, six months or more.

[00:15:44] When I talked to the Lehouiller brother and sister, Mike remembered thirteen farms, and he started naming them. I couldn't remember them all, and that's another thing I want to touch on - the farms. We started at Whitcomb's, which is where the Guays live now.

[00:16:15] Why don't you go through them? Whitcomb farm - that's where the Guays live. Then it was ours, the McLane farm, where Nate lives; Marion Mead's; Ed Day's, where Mike Boudreau is; then the Lampheres; and then the Lehouillers.

[00:16:45] That's the white barn that's still standing. Yeah. And then Ed Day's was across the way from Marion Mead's. Where the brown house is now. Yeah. And the road that goes up to the river. Yes, okay. But that used to be one big farm and was Carl Mead's farm. He split it up and gave his daughter, Marion,

[00:17:13] the side of the road where her barn is. And he kept the other side for Ed Day. So that was really quite a big hunk of River Road. Those fields are still pretty big. Yes. Yeah. And then the Lehouiller farm, which used to be the Harold Pollard, Wayne's brother, before the Lehouillers bought it. And then there was a Lamphere farm.

[00:17:39] My grandmother's farm was there. That's the one where the big red barn is gone now. Then Glenn Towle's was off Krug Road, or whatever. What did you say that road was? Krug Road. That's the road, right.

[00:18:09] And then that brings you up to where Lange lives. Lange, yes. That was Tom Barrett's farm. The acreage of all these farms varied. The Lehouillers had quite a bit.

[00:18:32] They had quite a lot. Between that and the Mead farm and Day's, they probably had the biggest acreage. Yeah. But the others were small, and they were all dairy farms. They all sold milk. All dairy, yep. And so they must have had just a small number of cans of milk in the morning. Oh, yeah. I mean, not very much. We were lucky if we had three cans of milk to go to the creamery.

[00:19:01] But you could make a living on that. That's the cool thing. Okay. Think of it today. Yeah, I interrupted you there. No, that's all right. In the summertime, during the haying season, we had one horse, and that horse did all the work.

[00:19:31] We had a one-horse mowing machine with a four-foot cutter bar to mow all our hay. How old was he? How old was it - the horse? Did he get on in years? Oh yeah, it got on in years. That horse worked hard. It did all the work on the farm. Wow. And, well, first you had to mow.

[00:19:58] Then after, and drying it, you know, today they have tedders. They just go around and ted everything. I've seen them, yeah. We used to have to turn it by hand with a fork.

[00:20:12] Get out there with the fork. And family would do it, not just one person. Just my father and I. Did Ruthie do any haying? Not much. No. Was it just you and your dad? Okay. And then, you know, you rake it with a one-horse rake, and you tumble it all, pitch it on to the wagon by hand, each tumble goes on the wagon by hand, take it to the barn, each tumble comes off and goes into the barn.

[00:20:42] What a lot of work. Yeah. And after we got hay in - after we got done haying at home, which was usually about the Fourth of July, when we were done with the first cut - I would go up to my relative Will McLane's place on Poker Hill Road. You know where the North Underhill Cemetery is, up there?

[00:21:05] Yes, I do. Yeah, way up. The first farm beyond there used to be a farm, and it's all gone now. There's only the house and one barn there now. I would work up there in the summer, mowing around fence lines and stone walls with the scythe by hand. That was my summer job.

[00:21:31] \$20 a week. Kept you in good shape. We mowed the North Underhill Cemetery. He mowed it with a mowing machine, and I mowed around the stones with the scythe. So it would be a full day's work. Yes. Yeah. At the North Underhill Cemetery.

[00:21:55] When I was working up there - you don't remember this - there used to be an old hotel on Route 15 at North Underhill Station. You know where North Underhill Station is? Yes. Well, out on the main road, there was a hotel. The old hotel. While I was working up there, the day that burned, I could see the fire trucks going up Route 15 to the fire. Wow. There were a lot of fires in those days.

[00:22:20] You didn't have the protection that is there now. Yeah. Oh, and then back at home, sometimes we'd have a little too much hay, so my father would sell a load. In order to sell it, you had to weigh it to know how much you had. We'd go down to the village, to Parker Rice's store where Jacob's is; they had a scale there.

[00:22:46] You drive on the scales, they weigh up, and you can know how much. And there'd be a going rate, whatever it was selling for at that time. Did that happen often, or just sometimes? What often? Two, three times in the summer, if we had too much hay, our father would sell some. Did you finish talking about the farms, you got to Bacchus. Was there anything after that? Tom Barrett. Oh, Barrett. Which is where Lange lives.

[00:23:16] But then Villeneuve's was - well, that was up beyond the corner. That was beyond. That was the McGuire farm. So what was after the Lange farm? Tom Barrett had another farm. You know that gray building they just built, with dirt all around? That used to be Tom Barrett's farm. Oh, he had two farms. And that house they took down.

[00:23:45] Yeah. That was his first farm, and then he sold that and moved down to Langes. Because that's right in that spot where, on the left, it goes up, up to where the Sand Hill Cemetery is. Yeah, the Range Road. No, not the Range Road Cemetery, the Sand Hill. No, it's towards the church more. Right. So that's the last of the farms to Underhill Center. Yeah, okay.

[00:24:13] Other than once you got up Krug Road, there wasn't that much. Right. It's amazing. I mean, people don't realize that. That was another big farm. The McGuire farm was one of the bigger ones. But that part of it became the range? They sold to the range. The military took part of it, yeah. Webster lives up there at the top of Krug Road, so that's right on the edge of the range up there. Yeah, okay.

[00:24:44] Keep going. Okay, we got done haying, and I went up to Will's and worked, and I said I did all the hand mowing. And then I guess the next thing that happened was it was in the 50s. I don't know exactly what years, but the hurricane came through. Do you remember? There was a big one in 38. It was after that. It was after that.

[00:25:13] It was a lighter one, but it was a hurricane. He lost power at the farm there, and up where Judy lives, her dad used to live up there, and the roof blew off the barn. And so a lot of the townspeople, my father was one of them, Wayne Pollard, and some of the men went up and helped him put the roof back on so he could continue farming and milking.

[00:25:41] I know you've got everybody on the road that I've talked to, Like the Lehouillers said, there was a lot of helping each other out. Yes. When things happened. And the same thing happened up at Will McLane's farm up in North where the North Underhill Cemetery is up above there. Top blew off his barn or partially blew off. Everybody got together and went up. They put a new roof on. Wonderful. That's great. Yeah.

[00:26:12] That's great. Oh, boy. Oh, in the wintertime, it was cutting wood time to build a fire to keep warm in the winter. And we used to go up on the hill behind Nate's house, and there was our maple orchard up there, maple trees.

[00:26:41] We'd cut a maple with a crosscut saw and cut it into four-foot lengths. This was all by hand, of course, with a crosscut saw. Then we'd have to split it into pieces we could handle. We'd split it with an axe, wedges, and a splitting hammer. Yep, that's a lot of work. Then we'd put it on our sled, and one horse would bring it down.

[00:27:09] We'd put it on the pile down by the house. Were you heating completely with wood? Yeah, yeah, completely with wood. Is the wood-stove situation in that house still the same as it was in the old days? The same wood stove in that house that Nate's using was in the house when we were there. The same one. The same stove. I bet. I'm not surprised. It needs attention.

[00:27:39] But it still works. He should be careful with it. The furnace has been changed. There is a furnace; they put a new furnace in. Yeah, that's good. But the original wood stove that's in the kitchen is one that my folks had - a big black wood stove.

[00:28:02] Then, after winter was over, spring was around, and it was sugaring time. We'd have to go up and tap, and sometimes the snow was pretty deep when you were tapping. As time went on, when the sap started running, my father would send me up on the hill to check the buckets.

[00:28:30] If a bucket was half full, I could get the day off from school and gather sap, and my father would boil it. There again, we'd do it with one horse, the sled, and the gathering tank on the sled.

[00:28:47] Everything was done by hand, of course; we carried the buckets. One day Father got a little behind while I was gathering. We would pull up to a spot where gravity carried the sap down into the sugar house, and I overflowed the tank. I was too fast for him. Oh no. A big holler came out the back door: 'Shut it off!'

[00:29:17] Oh, so much for sugaring. Another time I'll never forget, we were working on the house and I needed some window glass, panes of glass. He sent me down to Dave Gallup's hardware store in the village to get some glass. I saw David, and I said, 'David, I need a piece -'

[00:29:45] 'I need a pane of glass, eight by twelve.' David said, 'We don't sell panes of glass; we sell lights of glass.' So I got the eight-by-twelve light of glass, took it home, and everything went well after that.

[00:30:11] During sugaring time, up on the hill behind Nate's house, there were three sugar bushes: Whitcomb's, Royce's, and ours. In springtime, before the leaves came out, we could get up on the hill and see Royce's sugar house from our land. We couldn't see Whitcomb's, but all three were up there. That's interesting. It's no more now.

[00:30:40] I mean, there are houses up there now. Way up. Yeah. So the access - what's that road just this side of the cemetery on the left coming this way? Maple Hill, is it? Maple Ridge. Maple Ridge. So that's where it was, up on Maple Ridge. Our sugar house was up on Maple Ridge. When we lived where the Guays live now, we had a sugar house there. Wow.

[00:31:09] And then the next one over was - so the boundaries of those farms, the land, were way up those hills. Oh, yes, yeah. So it didn't matter that it was hilly. In fact, it was probably kind of a good thing to have the hillsides. Yeah. Huh. Okay, now as far as social life - yeah, I was going to ask about that. Every Saturday night, we had dancing down at the G.A.R. Hall.

[00:31:39] In Underhill Center? No, in the village. Oh, the G.A.R. Hall, yes. Underhill Flats. G.A.R. Yeah. I know. It's gone now. Yeah. It's been rebuilt. Stanley Hoag used to live there. I used to rake leaves for him in the summer, too. Jim Carter lives there now. So every Saturday night, the Wards provided the music, and it was round and square dancing.

[00:32:10] Everything was free, and it was upstairs in the G.A.R. Hall. That was on Saturday nights; everybody went. That's when I was real young. When I grew older, I went to the Hen House down here. Okay. I'd be sixteen by then, and every Saturday night I spent at the Hen House. How was the Hen House different from the one at the G.A.R. Hall? Well, the Hen House, you had to pay to get in. Ah, that's a big difference.

[00:32:39] It was a business. Yeah, it was a business, yeah.

[00:32:47] And you had, did some, did you do some sliding or stuff for fun in the snow? A hill back of the house, yeah. Oh, that's a great hill for sliding, I imagine. Go right up the top and come all the way down the road, practically. Yeah.

[00:33:08] Well, getting back to the school - I'm sorry this is mixed up like this - Number Five school, Charlie Kavanaugh was the janitor at the time of the fire. Yep. When we were there, we used to have to bring wood in. When the teacher built up the fire, we'd each go get a block or stick of wood so she could put it in the fire,

[00:33:37] to keep things warm while she was teaching. Yeah. In the morning, we used to have to go up to the next house on the hill. That was Harkins'. Yep. We had to get a pail of water every day for school and put it in one of those water jugs for the day. Yep. And at Christmas time,

[00:34:06] Us boys, probably four or five of us, would get together and go out and cut the Christmas tree - just go out somewhere near the school, cut the Christmas tree, and drag it back so you'd have one. You haven't interviewed Craig Walker? Yes, I know Craig. He used to go with us. He was one of the ones cutting the tree or dragging it out, or whatever. Yeah.

[00:34:36] And you had an outhouse. Oh yeah, the outhouse out back. A boys' outhouse and a girls' outhouse, or was it all -? No, I think it was two different ones, yeah. Two different ones. Yeah. And the fire, they think, started from over-stoking the wood stove. Mm-hmm. Too much. That's the story. Yeah. [Unclear fragment.]

[00:35:04] Gail Pryor remembers seeing the fire from her porch. She was a little girl, and she told her parents, 'The school's on fire,' and they didn't believe her. They thought she just didn't want to go to school. Back down in the village, when we were farming there, I used to have to go down to the gristmill to get grain. Where was that? That's right by

[00:35:34] Jacob's store. Oh, yeah, okay. We picked up our grain there for the cows. Oh, the other thing was - this is getting down into Jericho - but I went with my father the day he took the water wheels out of the old mill in Jericho.

[00:36:02] Oh, interesting. Yeah. I was pretty young. You remember seeing it when they took it. Yeah, yeah. In the summertime, after haying, my sister and I used to have to go blackberrying. And blackberrying, we had to go. A little closer. We went

[00:36:31] Mills River Park was up behind Nate's land. We used to cross the river and go through our land, up on Mills River, into what is now Mills River Park. It used to be Ernest Royce's pasture. It was all open - no trees, no brush - and the blackberry patch was up there. We'd walk up toward Ed Day's sugar house, and there were a lot of blackberry bushes there.

[00:36:59] We used to pick at least a gallon of blackberries each to bring home. Did you go blueberrying also? No. Those are cultivated bushes, actually, in places. Yeah. All blackberries. Yeah, and that was - sorry to get this all mixed up - but there was one spring, or summer, or late spring, early summer,

[00:37:29] We had a lot of water all at once. And Ernest Royce's cows were over in the pasture where Mills River Park goes up on the hill. And he couldn't get them back across the river. The river was so high. He had to drive them all the way down to the bridge, you know, where David Villeneuve's house is. Yes. There's a bridge here. All the way down there and then back up the road. Oh, my goodness. To get them back to his farm.

[00:38:00] Oh, I can picture it. I can picture it. Oh, I guess the last thing I want to talk about is the stone house down here. John Smith. I don't know who lives there now. No, John Smith was the first person to live there. He was Irish. He was an immigrant. What do you remember about it?

[00:38:27] Well, Jim Breen was a carpenter, and he was a finish carpenter, And he took me there various times when he was doing finish work on the inside of that house. I would pass him the boards or pass him the lumber or pass him some nails. I wasn't very, very old, but I helped him on the inside of that house.

[00:38:55] I think it was a renovation job - the rooms, the kitchen, and various rooms. But the exterior stayed the same. Yes. There's an addition now, I think. An addition more on the north side of it. Right. That's one of the oldest houses in Underhill. He was an Irish immigrant, and my understanding was that his name was John Smith and he had ten children.

[00:39:26] That's what I, that's what I have heard. You know, I'm not saying that as an absolute sure fact. But, yeah, that house is very historic. Interesting, I rang a bell when I came by today. . Do you remember up the Pleasant Valley being just kind of open and there were some farms? Potvin's farm, there was... Potvin's, yeah.

[00:39:56] But it's very stony, rocky up here, really. River Road is much better, much better soil and ways to grow things down there. So that's great, Jim. Thank you for all that remembrance. Before we finish, what I'd like to know is what happened to you? What did you do when you were totally grown up?

[00:40:21] After school in the center - well, you weren't in the center - but after you went to school, where'd you go to high school? Jericho Center? Oh, that's another thing I missed. After grade school, I went to Burlington High School. Oh, you did. To get there, sometimes I hitchhiked to Burlington. Other times I would ride with Jim Wolcott.

[00:40:51] Do you remember Jim Wolcott? No. He was one third owner of Lake Champlain Transportation Company. Oh. Living on the Mountain Road. Oh, okay. And he'd give you a ride. He'd give me a ride down. And you remember Martha Romprey? Yes, I know who she was. Her husband would give me a ride home. He worked at GE. Why weren't you going to the local high school? I

[00:41:19] There wasn't a local high school; Jericho was the closest. You couldn't go to Jericho Center because it was closed. My sister went there one year, and then it was closed. But then it reopened later. No, not as a high school. Well, let me see - '58. It's okay. So there was no school for you to go to unless you went to Burlington. No high school.

[00:41:49] Well, you could go to Essex, but you could choose your own whatever school you wanted like it is today. Okay. And you, what did you like about high school? What were your classes you liked best? I took automotive mechanics, the trade school. I went to, well, I had to take regular subjects, but I opted to take trade school.

[00:42:17] It was an automotive trade course. Upon graduation, Don Havens at the trade school got me a job at Shearer Chevrolet in the parts department. I worked at Shearer Chevrolet in the parts department. From there, I went to C.P. Smith, a Ford dealer, in the parts department. Then I went to Val Preda Olds-Cadillac down on Shelburne Road.

[00:42:47] That was as a shop foreman. From there, I met a man who came around selling automotive parts. His name was Jack Gibbons, and he offered me a job with his company, Bowman Distribution. It was Bowman Products Company at the time, privately owned. I worked for them for 39 years. And were you married during all that time?

[00:43:17] We got married while I was at Shearer Chevrolet, yes. August 22, 1959, by the way. Our anniversary is coming up soon. There - yes, you better pay attention. Oh, that's Friday? No, Saturday. It's Saturday. Yeah, pay attention. And you have children?

[00:43:47] Yes, I have four boys. Four boys. Four boys, yeah. Tell me their names and what they're doing. Okay, there's Robert. He's retired. He worked for the same company I did. He took over some of my accounts when I retired. Okay. And son Mark, he's still working. He works for Howard Mental Health. Oh, yeah? With mixed-up kids. Yeah, good for him. And I have a son, James, or Jamie.

[00:44:17] He works for Varian Corporation, and he lives in Beverly, Massachusetts. And then my youngest son is Jeffrey, and he works for Bank of America. Travels all over the country. You must be proud of your family. Good for you, with four boys. That's wonderful. That is wonderful. Well, I think we've really covered a lot. Don't you? I think so, too.

[00:44:47] And I probably forgot something. No, that's okay. And I think that in terms of the older, long-ago history of your family, Nate had a whole lot of that on his interview,

[00:45:16] So thank you very much, Jim.