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Transcript of DARE Interview (1967): Brattleboro, Vermont; Primary Informant VT001 (Tape 1730-S1)

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INTRODUCTION: The following was recorded from Dictionary of American Regional English tape one seven three zero, side one.

5 FIELDWORKER: This is a recording made on April fourteenth, nineteen sixty-seven, in Brattleboro, Vermont in Thompson House, a rest home associated with the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. My guest is Miss Ethel [beep], who was born January sixteenth, eighteen eighty-seven, in Stratton, Vermont. Up to the northwest of Brattleboro. Miss [beep], during her busy and wonderful working years, was superintendent of schools of Windham County. I'll let her tell you how she and her Morgan horse Betty, handled this business. She's also given me a copy of the story of the Vermont panther, which was part of the legend of her area. Miss [beep] parents are
10 old time residents. Her mother whose maiden name was [beep], was born on the place just across from Miss [beep] own home in Stratton. Her father came originally from Ethel, Massachusetts but his parents had the good sense to bring him to Vermont when he was but a boy. I'll let Miss [beep] speak for herself. As far as the DARE copy goes, this will be side one. I recorded it on a long playing tape for my own archives. The fieldworker, I ought to add, is [beep].

15 INFORMANT: There was a phoebe, had a nest there, and, uh, I, uh, the first time had a nest there, I didn't see it I was away, until after it got these eggs, her eggs all laid.

FIELDWORKER: Would you mind if I close this?

INFORMANT: Eh, I was, yes, I thought, well, we must close that door. [laugh] I remember what happened before.

20 FIELDWORKER: The right side I'm perfectly all right.

INFORMANT: Top of the desk, is the, uh, panther story, there're two copies, you can have one if you want.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, thank you. Thank you very much.

25 INFORMANT: Well, I dictated it to Mrs. [beep], who helps me with my work, and it just wasn't really written, it was just as I thought of it, so...

FIELDWORKER: That's, that's the best to have it, you know.

INFORMANT: Yes, indeed. She typed it right in as I dictated it, that, and, uh,

FIELDWORKER: Oh, good. Oh, I'm very pleased to have that [beep].

INFORMANT: Well, I, um,

30 FIELDWORKER: I, I won't, I won't waste the time that we have together by reading it, but I'll, I'll enjoy extending our visit when I get home.

INFORMANT: Well, it'll be nice to have you have it, it's, uh, was way back, in the early beg-, one of the first settlers. uh, in town, and they lived in log cabins. [laugh]

35 FIELDWORKER: It's, the Vermont panther is an interesting beast because he seems to be so, uh, so lively, I mean, the people still talk about him after all these years.

INFORMANT: Yes, and, uh, of course there's been quite a lot of joking about the Vermont panther. Uh, and, uh, there was a while, the papers, some that didn't believe there was a panther, but there was one killed probably eighty years ago, uh, not too far from the farm. They made a, they had a posse that time, went out and they killed him. and I heard Mr. [beep] one, uh, where
40 was a little boy at the time, telling about it, tell, uh, tell, he told me about it, and then, uh, he told the story at the Windham County Historical Society Meeting one time, course he's been dead quite a while.

FIELDWORKER: Th-, they believed him, then.

INFORMANT: Oh, yes. And, uh, well, that one was killed and stuffed. And I understand it's down
45 in the Museum of Natural History in Boston now, but I wouldn't, not sure, I, but I can remember that when I was a little girl he was stuffed in, in the, um, building where we used to get grain. Uh, huh, he was, and I have a picture of him somewhere, if I know where that is. And he was certainly an ugly-looking customer.

FIELDWORKER: It must have been scary to a child to go into a place and see a panther there.

50 INFORMANT: [laugh] Yes. Uh, then, um, my niece saw one several years ago, she was very sure. Jumped over the fence and then across the road, and over the other side, said it was this sort of a tawny animal with a long tail cat-like slinky motion, you know, and she's pretty level headed, she and there've been others reported seeing them, I'm sure. Wouldn't have known a panther, they're not very frequent.

55 FIELDWORKER: But there is a lot of wild country in this area, so they could find plenty of place to hide.

INFORMANT: Yes, and, uh, course plenty of deer, and what they attract them.

FIELDWORKER: Do panthers kill deer?

60 INFORMANT: Oh, I imagine so, they're predatory animal, aren't they. And they must live on something. I, uh, Yes. I, I've heard that expression, that a lot of deer fallen to cats. And, course bobcats, um, are very, uh, eh, wuh, bad enemies of deer.

65 FIELDWORKER: Oh, I wanted to ask you something before I forget it, I made a note of it. Uh, I was talking the other day to a man, uh, a farmer down in Gill, just across the border in Massachusetts, and he was talking about some of this border territory between, uh, Vernon and Gill, south, and he spoke of it as the kingdom, but he didn't know why it was called the kingdom. Do you?

INFORMANT: No, I, um, I've never heard that called the kingdom. We have what they call the northeast kingdom, up in the norther-, northern part of Vermont. That section of Vermont up through Essex County.

70 FIELDWORKER: Near Burlington?

INFORMANT: ...wild, yeh, no it's on, opposite side of the state from Burlington. up around, well, beyond Saint Johnsbury, and up in that area. And it's very wild, and has a number of lakes. I think it's nearly as wild as it is down here between, well, Stratton, Somerset, Glastonbury, and Glastonbury, and all those. Uh, a pretty wild area.

75 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. But, but you haven't heard that called the kingdom.

INFORMANT: I never heard that called the kingdom. I'll, um, I, I have a, no I don't know if's could either, they're in Leighton, uh, one of my teacher's sons, uh, married, and they live over the border in Leighton.

FIELDWORKER: Oh. I like Leighton.

80 INFORMANT: She might be able to find out about it for me. 'Cause she's not far from Gill, as I remember where Gill is,

FIELDWORKER: No, uh...

INFORMANT: Been down there, I'm not sure they're adjacent enough, very nearly must be.

85 FIELDWORKER: Well, they share the same regional school, uh, muh, Mount Herman and the Northfield School are in Gill. And...

INFORMANT: Oh, is Mount Herman in Gill?

FIELDWORKER: Yeah.

INFORMANT: I didn't realize it was over the border there. I know Mount Herman because I had Vernon in my territory.

90 FIELDWORKER: Oh, I see.

INFORMANT: And Northfield School, I always suppose they were in Vermont.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. No, they're, uh,...

INFORMANT: Massa, uh, oh yes, they are in Massachusetts, too, excuse me, I did know that.

FIELDWORKER: They're, they're just over the line...

95 INFORMANT: Just over the line, yeah. And they used to, um, Yes, I, I remember now, Northfield School is over the line.

FIELDWORKER: Uh, it...

INFORMANT: Pretty campuses and...

100 FIELDWORKER: Very. Mm-hmm. You said you, you've been around Vernon in your territory, do you know the, uh, as you go up a hundred and forty-two, headed north, towards Brattleboro,

INFORMANT: Yes.

FIELDWORKER: Uh, there is an old fort there. Fort, uh, ...

INFORMANT: Uh, Fort, um, ...

FIELDWORKER: Fort Sheldon? Is that it?

105 INFORMANT: No. Um, it'll come to me. I think those old names [clears throat]

FIELDWORKER: There's a...

INFORMANT: It, uh, it's right there by the cemetery.

FIELDWORKER: Yeah. Thih...

INFORMANT: Right off from the cemetery.

110 FIELDWORKER: And, th, the cemetery is the one in which Jemima Toot is buried.\

INFORMANT: Yes, yeah.

FIELDWORKER: Do you know anything about her, her stone fascinates me.

INFORMANT: No. But, um, not without peril. Have you ever read that?

FIELDWORKER: No.

115 INFORMANT: I think that, uh, is the story of Jemima Toot if I remember correctly. I read it long time ago.

FIELDWORKER: Do you remember who wrote it?

INFORMANT: Um, was it Arliss? Seems...

FIELDWORKER: The title is familiar sounding.

120 INFORMANT: Yes, seems it was Arliss. Uh, I don't, uh, remember the first name.

FIELDWORKER: Well, the old girl outlived three husbands.

INFORMANT: Yes. I think, um, I think she was the heroine in that, I remember uh, reading the book, *Not Without Peril*. And, uh, then learning about Jemima Toot about the same time, so I think was the heroine heroine in it, muh, must have read it thirty years ago. I oh,

125 FIELDWORKER: A few months ago, I was in a used bookstore down in Bedford, and I picked up a copy of Helen Hunt Jackson's *Bits of Travel at Home*. Have you ever seen that?

INFORMANT: No, I've heard of Helen Hunt Jackson, but I never...

FIELDWORKER: She, she's the *Ramona* girl, of course.

INFORMANT: Yes.

130 FIELDWORKER: But, in there was a small essay entitled "Morning in a Vermont Graveyard." And, by golly, it is that graveyard she is talking about.

INFORMANT: Oh, that one this side of Vernon? Uh, in Vernon, it's just in North Vernon.

135 FIELDWORKER: 'Cause there were a number of, uh, I think, probably some of her kinfolk were there, 'cause there were a number of stones with the name Hunt on them. But, uh, she says something that just, uh, ih, she was so amusing now, uh, she talks about the kind of stones that are there, and she said, "Isn't it a pity, that they used slate which goes so quickly instead of using marble that will last forever." And you go to that very graveyard now, and the marble inscriptions are very hard to read, because they have weathered away so. And you can see the slate just as if it had put there, put there yesterday.

140 INFORMANT: Yes, um, I wah, her name was Hunt. Now, she may have been related to Governor Hunt, who, um, had a mansion down in North Vernon on the uh, the dam road. [laughter]

FIELDWORKER: Such language.

145 INFORMANT: (Going search out) [laughter], you would turn left and go uh, swing around by some houses, you come out at Vernon Dam. And onto the other road. That's the old Hunt place. Um, was Governor Hunt, he, uh, lived there, and I don't know how long it was in the family. It was an old, old house. I think, um, Mrs., uh, Miss [beep] owns the place now. But, I think she is in some nursing home, not very well.

FIELDWORKER: I'll have to see if I can find that then, next time I'm in that area.

150 INFORMANT: I, I don't know how much she remodeled it, because I, um, haven't been down through there much since I retired. But I do remember that, when I was first superintendent, one of my teachers lived in the old house. One time I in, went called on her, and she took me around

the old-fashioned chimney, the Dutch ovens, and so forth there, real old place. But that's the only time I was ever inside.

155 FIELDWORKER: Speaking of old chimneys, at the modern language meetings, this December, uh, Wayland Hand, who is a folklorist was reading a paper to the American Dialect Society, about how folklore people and word collectors, such as ourselves, can contribute to each other. And, he mentioned one term, uh, that he said, uh, people use this to describe a certain feature of these old central chimneys, the chimney would go straight up, like this, and then, uh, anywhere from twelve to twenty feet up the chimney, there would be a jog. A sort of a ledge up there, 160 which he said was called a witch's seat.

INFORMANT: Yeah, I heard that.

FIELDWORKER: You have! You're the first person who has.

INFORMANT: Yes, I have, somewhere along, I read about the witch's seat, I couldn't have described it as well as you. But I do remember reading something about it.

165 FIELDWORKER: Do you know any chimneys that have it?

INFORMANT: Oh, [laugh], no, there're not too many of those old-fashioned chimneys with Dutch ovens left around. They, people want more modern and tore them out, and put in, in chimneys where they'd stoh [check] I think that Fort Sotwell, am I right?

FIELDWORKER: That's it, 'cause that was her, that was her first name, I think.

170 INFORMANT: I knew it would come to me. I'm quite sure it was.

FIELDWORKER: Uh, another chimney word, uh, and I don't even know what this was, uh, uh, a thing called a flip hole. Does that make any...

INFORMANT: No, I never heard of flip hole.

175 FIELDWORKER: No, i-, it doesn't register with me. And the other thing that he mentioned, also an architectural feature, and th-, this one I thought I had heard, is a special door in older houses called a, he called it either a Like door or a lich door, he'd heard this out in New York State, but I've heard the same thing called a funeral door. in the side of the house, so they, uh, can take the coffin out, this...

INFORMANT: No, I never heard of that. No.

180 FIELDWORKER: But, uh, wuh, it really is interesting how many of these old terms, you know, still stay around.

INFORMANT: Yes. It certainly is. And, uh, this, I'm glad people like you are trying to revive them.

185 FIELDWORKER: It's, it's remarkable how many have, uh, have gone away. Uh, I wanted to ask you. Uh, I'm not going to ask you this whole pack of things, I've, but there are a few in it that I was particularly eager to check up on. Would you mind, uh,...

INFORMANT: Oh, no, certainly not. Anything you want, I'll do my best to reply.

190 FIELDWORKER: Oh, you're wonderful Miss [beep]. A lot of these are things that, you know, pee, people are, uh, no longer familiar with. Wait a minute, oh, there's one more thing on my list. Uh, this is a thing uh, it's a kind of window, and since I see more of them in Vermont than anyplace else, I've taken to calling them Vermont windows, but I think they must have a name. You see them usually up under the eaves of the house,

INFORMANT: Slanting.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh, and they're set in that way.

195 INFORMANT: I don't know what they were called. Back in the olden days, I always thought must be awfully hard to put drapes up [laugh] those windows.

FIELDWORKER: As a matter of fact, I don't remember ever seeing one with curtains.

INFORMANT: I don't think I've ever been into a room that had one of those, but I know there are a number of houses around Vermont where the window slants like that in the ga-, in the gable end, you might say.

200 FIELDWORKER: And, I've often wondered if perhaps they weren't to light a stairway, or a dark closet or something of that sort. But, uh, It is interesting that they turn up, there are a few in Massachusetts, I've gotten so that I sort of collect them, you know [laugh] But, uh, I don't, I don't recall, uh, seeing them, uh, outside of New England ever.

205 INFORMANT: No, I never have. It was much easier putting them in that way in probably there were two rooms in that gable end, might have been otherwise, I would have thought they would put a little window on each side, rather than that, or that one in the center.

FIELDWORKER: Well, you know, once in a while you do see a little window, only about like so or like so right under the eaves.

INFORMANT: Yes.

210 FIELDWORKER: And in one of the houses right across the street from here, you've perhaps noticed, there's a, a window, uh, seh, it's, it's actually a square, but it's set in like a diamond right up in the gable. It's a white house with green trimming.

INFORMANT: I don't know, as I have noticed that yet.

FIELDWORKER: It's, it's right across the, uh, street from the front of the building.

215 INFORMANT: Yes, well, I haven't been out since I came here, so I wouldn't've seen it. Home, I, um, in making improvements on the house, that's what came to me. I had little ga-, little casement, I mean, uh, yes, casement windows put in under the eaves. Opened up, you know, so, to get the air, to get circulation. All of my, um, end rooms under the eaves had a big window right in the center. There were two I said all of them. Yes, the, counting the shared chamber, all would
220 be all right, but I never had used that, but, uh, on the, the end, this way, there are two large windows, regular sized windows, and that was all the light there was in the bedroom, but it was quite amply lighted. But, uh, I wanted the cross circulation of air, so I had these little windows put under the eaves. Little doors that opened in.

225 FIELDWORKER: I'm interested in hearing you use the word chamber. Uh, this is, this is an old time word that, that is going, what was the shed chamber?

INFORMANT: Well, the shed chamber [laugh], was over the, uh, woodshed, and the, uh, well, it, we called it garage in the later days, wagon house was the olden, [laugh] olden name for it. We could put in the, couple of wagons in there, and, a number of other things. An-, but only one car ever went in 'cause, well it wouldn't've been wide enough I guess, but the door wasn't wide
230 enough But, and then we had the woodshed, between there and the kitchen. [clears throat] And the chamber, shed chamber, ran over both of those rooms. It was a very large room 'cause it, um, and it was a nice place to stow things. [laugh] Awful place to pick up. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: You didn't use it as a sleeping room.

INFORMANT: No, except one summer. One summer I, when father was living, and I wanted to
235 have help I thought he'd be interested in having a few friends come, and I really had sort of an ambition to uh, start a dude farm with horses, I had my own horse, and, uh, my cousin was there, and she rented a horse, and I could rent some horses for some people who wanted to come, so we, um, uh, we girls slept up in the sled chamber. They gave the, uh, rooms to the guests. [laugh] That was the only time I ever slept up there. We, ah, only time as far as I know it was used as a
240 sleeping room.

FIELDWORKER: You referred to the other sleeping rooms as bedrooms, though, and...

INFORMANT: Yeah, bedrooms, yes.

FIELDWORKER: ...used the word chamber then.

INFORMANT: Hmm, not very often. Uh, I can remember my, uh, fah, when I was a girl, that
245 that word was quite often used. Up in the chamber, up a chamber up 't head of the stairs, or something like that.

FIELDWORKER: Is this, this is something that I'm quite interested in is getting the, uh, uh, th-, the recollection of how long this word was used, and, and when you know, when it, when it, more or less, went out I have had people tell me too about a barn chamber, which was actually in the
250 barn. a sleeping room made there, and this was traditionally where the hired man slept.

INFORMANT: Well, I imagine, uh, that they could have had, we always had one room upstairs that was reserved, what...[clear throat] Well, there were five good rooms upstairs in the and, uh,

FIELDWORKER: It was a big house.

255 INFORMANT: Yes, yes, it was. And the one over the kitchen was the man's sleeping room, was very comfortable room for him. Whoever it happened to be.

FIELDWORKER: Did your house, uh, ih, you can't tell on the picture. Yes, I guess it did. Have, uh, that sort of continuation going on where you could go from the kitchen into the woodshed, uh, without, uh, ...?

INFORMANT: Oh, yes.

260 FIELDWORKER: Without going outside.

INFORMANT: That was uh, uh, we sometimes used to refer them as planks, the runway, between the, uh, that went past the woodshed to the wagon house, or the g-, the garage. Yes, we didn't have to go outside at all.

FIELDWORKER: And could you get to the barn from there too?

265 INFORMANT: No. No, the barn was, um, over the other side. Wasn't very far away. It was, oh, probably fifty, seventy-five feet, more from the house. Quite a good, very large barn. I sold it uh, a man wanted the timber in it, so, I, uh, well, it, agreement was that he'd take it down and clean it up. 'cause I had no use for it then. And, uh, so he did, graded it off, made a very nice part of the lawn on that side. I w-want you to see my, did I show you my horse? When you were...

270 FIELDWORKER: You told me about your horse, Betty, but, uh, I didn't see her.

INFORMANT: This one tha-, on the end there. And I also had the card with the Morgan Stallion, and I

FIELDWORKER: This, this one?

INFORMANT: Yeah.

275 FIELDWORKER: And is that you on her? Uh-huh. Oh, she's handsome, isn't she?

INFORMANT: Isn't there a, uh, uh, her, uh, position, she's standing in, just like that stallion in the card underneath.

FIELDWORKER: Well, yes.

INFORMANT: Exactly, almost.

280 FIELDWORKER: And she's standing better than any of the other horses there.

INFORMANT: Oh, yeah, she...

FIELDWORKER: 'Course, th-, th-, that could be, uh, your horsemanship, as well as...

INFORMANT: No, not entirely. I ne-, I never trained her to stand..., 'course when you show horses they get them to stand then sort of the legs stretched back and front and so forth. But I never
285 did. I trained her. [clears throat] But I didn't train her for any show.

FIELDWORKER: Isn't there, uh, though, a, a certain feeling that develops between the horse and the rider, and isn't, isn't it sort of a fifty-fifty proposition if everything goes well?

INFORMANT: Oh, yes, there's a comradeship, a friendship. I really thought, think she thought's
290 much of me as I did of her. [laugh] She'd do anything for me. I coaxed her by, this is one of my favorite stories, I drove her in the sleigh, and visited schools in the wintertime before I could use my car all winter. And, uh, this gasoline engine was right beside of the road, and, um, she's awfully afraid of those. And she, I heard it before she got there, and crouched as though she was gonna spring one side or the other, and I kept telling her it was all right. She'd go a few feet and crouch, and look see where she could spring [laugh]. That's all right, go on. Finally, we went by, and that
295 s-, that sleigh, really, I, I, had the sensation that we sailed through there. [laugh] I heard one of the men say, "Well, look at that horse." [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: She was not going to linger there. [laugh]

INFORMANT: She couldn't turn around without, she knew she shouldn't tip the sleigh over probably. Turn around, that was the only way to get by, I think she leaped by. [laugh]

300 FIELDWORKER: That was another, uh, thing I wanted to ask you about, some of these terms that are connected with, uh, horses. Of course, now, uh, riding has come back to be popular again, but I think some of the older terms are disappearing. What did you call the, um, the, things that you held in your hand and steered by?

INFORMANT: Reins.

305 FIELDWORKER: You called them the reins?

INFORMANT: Yes.

FIELDWORKER: Would you use the same term if you were riding, uh, in a saddle and, and, uh, driving a sleigh?

310 INFORMANT: Yes. Yes, I'd use the same. They may have, uh, had a different term in former years, but I always heard them referred to as reins, and then the tugs, the holdba-, and then the holdback that held the sleigh, if you had them hitched in the sleigh, the tugs pulled the sleigh or the wagon, and then these straps that came from the back of the harness to, on the shafts, uh, were the holdbacks, to keep the—

FIELDWORKER: The holdbacks.

315 INFORMANT: Yeah, that's what we always called them.

FIELDWORKER: This is a new word to me.

INFORMANT: Well, um, it's what we always called them. Holdbacks, it held the sleigh or the wagon from running onto the horses' heels.

320 FIELDWORKER: Uh, someone was telling me about, uh, a very difficult thing when the roads would get bad, uh, a deep depression in the road like this, where if you were driving with a sleigh, and the horse, and the sleigh got down in it, it could snap the, uh, the shafts. Did, did you ever, uh, run across a thing like that?

INFORMANT: Oh, yes, uh, it was when the snow was deep, for the sleigh, we, uh, what did we call those? Not, uh, that's a word I hadn't thought of for a long time, 'cause course I haven't driven
325 a horse in the winter for a long time. Um, well maybe that will come back.

FIELDWORKER: Well, one, one word that I have heard for this is cradle knoll. or cradle hole, does that sound...?

INFORMANT: Yes, that wasn't what we called it, uh, but, uh, wasn't pothole, or 'cause we... No, um,

330 FIELDWORKER: Well, the other one came back, we'll have faith that [laugh]

INFORMANT: Back, it's strange, how some of those words you used to use have gone from you, 'cause it's been a long time s' since, uh, I drove a horse. Where, they used, used to get them in, uh, when they plowed the roads with regular plows. And then afterward, they had a period of time they rolled the roads with a big roller. And then, of course, now they are just put the snows
335 all plowed out.

FIELDWORKER: Well, when they rolled them with a roller, then-

INFORMANT: Dip holes.

FIELDWORKER: Dip holes. [laugh]

INFORMANT: I knew it'd come to me. [laugh]

340 FIELDWORKER: Only believe.

INFORMANT: [laugh] That's funny, is, you'll think back sometimes, can't get the word, and pretty soon will come out. [laugh] Dip holes. What we used to call them anyway.

FIELDWORKER: Weh, when they rolled the roads, were these rollers, uh, metal or wooden, or-

INFORMANT: They were wooden. Large winter, uh, large wooden rollers. And, [clear throat] up
345 home, they used to roll the roads. Putting them to a pair of horses. (xx) 'cause they were quite heavy, I guess. They were large, I had a card with some pictures of them, but I guess that weh, probably went to Maine. Uh, my niece took a lot of the pictures that we used to have.

FIELDWORKER: And, and, what did they do, uh, I've been asking about this, with the covered bridges, uh, when there was snow and the people were using sleighs and sleds...

350 INFORMANT: Uh, they used to, uh, uh, some, uh, if they, was, a long covered bridge, they'd, uh, haul the snow in. and spread a little in, onto the, uh, flooring, so that the sleighs wouldn't draw quite so hard. Usually, they did it, sometimes they, was naked. the sleigh through, have to, the horse would have to snake through, sleigh through, but especially with a load, they'd have to have some snow.

355 FIELDWORKER: It's asking a lot of the horse, I think.

INFORMANT: Yes.

FIELDWORKER: And hard on the bridge too, isn't it?

INFORMANT: Uh, well, I don't know the bridge too much. Most of those old bridges used to have horses at a walk.

360 FIELDWORKER: That's right. Walk your horses or pay a ten dollar fine. [laugh]

INFORMANT: Yeah, but, uh, I, I, it'd be hard on the horses to draw a load through. and rather hard to draw a sleigh through on the bridge.

FIELDWORKER: You must remember some pretty good, uh, hard winters in the old days.

365 INFORMANT: Well, I, uh, don't as they're much harder than this one has been, I haven't been out.

FIELDWORKER: This has been dreadful.

370 INFORMANT: It's been dreadful. But, I know, um, two or three winters when the superintendent of schools driving around over the county, um, over to my district and involved the whole county, and the snow would be so high, piled up, you know, they plowed the roads. They, um, well, first part of my superintendency, I had to use a horse. And sleigh, sometimes I rode, instead of, of, uh, using a sleigh, a wagon. And, uh, a wagon in the mud time. [laugh] I had a car, and I used it only in the summer. Sometimes in mud time a wagon was a, with a horse. You couldn't get a car through.

FIELDWORKER: Car's no good in mud time.

375 INFORMANT: And, um, then, um, [clears throat] what was, I was saying about...

FIELDWORKER: About, about the winters, and how they were—

380 INFORMANT: Oh, yes, winters, and the road would be so, plowed so high on the side of the road, you couldn't see another car. And when you came to an intersection, the only thing you could do, this is when I'm driving the automobile, in winter after they begun to plow them and they didn't plow them like they do now, but, uh, they pile the snow right up on the side. You'd come

to an intersection, and say a prayer that no one was coming [laugh] the other direction. [laugh] 'Cause only, that was the only way, 'cause you never knew whether there was a car coming from on one side or the other, you know. That was early in the plowing roads.

FIELDWORKER: How did you keep warm when you were in the sleigh?

385 INFORMANT: Oh, I had buffalo robe. I had a real genuine buffalo robe. And, I had a, one, I guess was wolves' hair with black. And, um, then, well, you didn't keep too warm, you wore a fur coat. My hands were often cold, I had, uh, fur mittens. And, which I didn't like when I drove my own horse because she was pretty spirited, and I couldn't get a good grip with them. But, um, we had fur lined or fleece lined mitt, mittens, gloves. And, it, uh, it was, you were cold. I used to drive
390 twenty-five miles sometimes, uh, in the sleigh. That is one way. And then I had to drive back again at night.

FIELDWORKER: That would be, uh, what, what county was your, uh, —

INFORMANT: That was in, uh, I lived in Brattleboro. And I had Guilford, Halifax, Vernon, Dummerston, and Putney in my territory.

395 FIELDWORKER: And, uh, is this, uh, what, what is the name of the county?

INFORMANT: Uh, Windham, Windham County, yes. Twenty-two towns were... They, uh, See, I only had a small, the, uh, territory was rather small, but it was spread out considerably, back in in the, when I first was a superintendent, they were mostly one room schools. And gradually we got them, uh, enlarged, and, and centralized, you know.

400 FIELDWORKER: What was the furthest that you had to drive, twenty-five miles from Brattleboro would take—

INFORMANT: Twenty-five miles to Halifax.

FIELDWORKER: Uh, that far to Halifax. Hmm. And the roads probably weren't too good either.

INFORMANT: Well, um, no, not too good.

405 FIELDWORKER: Another thing I wanted to ask...