

LARRY: You take grade school, a student today [unintelligible 00:04].

INTERVIEWER: Oh, they know all about it. Testing, testing, testing. Try to talk as loud as you can. I'm going to put it right there. Okay. So, your grandparents came to this property. And how old are you?

LARRY: When I came?

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

LARRY: The first time I was here must have been in the early '30s, because I can remember big Bill Keegan (phonetic) worked the farm for my grandfather, and his wife was a Lunds (phonetic).

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And then in 1937 my grandfather passed away and we came up here in the summertimes and, uh, one of the O'Malleys helped my mother do work around the place, clean up. I went to school here in a little country school part time when I was in, let's see, in the grades, fifth, sixth, and seventh. Then we went back to Troy for the winter.

INTERVIEWER: Where was the country school that you went to?

LARRY: Right down here at the corner of Intervale and...

INTERVIEWER: Right on the corner, the home that still is there, right?

LARRY: Oh, yeah, it's still. It's a house.

INTERVIEWER: That's right.

LARRY: A family house now.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And Mrs. Waters was the teacher when I went there. And...

INTERVIEWER: Was that Mrs. Waters that might have lived on Waters Road?

LARRY: No. She was from Port Everett.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

LARRY: And she stayed with Helen Burts (phonetic). She had a...

INTERVIEWER: She had a room there for the school year?

LARRY: A room with Helen Burts.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And then after—in the eighth grade, they held the regents, so my father was working in Albany and I'd ride from here down to Troy to St. Joseph's School for the eighth grade.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: In order to be able to take the regents. Then I went on to LaSalle Institute in Troy.

INTERVIEWER: Did you, Larry?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: I graduated from there in 1946, went on to Cobleskill Ag and Tech, which is now within the university system.

INTERVIEWER: That's right.

LARRY: And graduated from there in '56. While I was in college there, I joined the Grange in one of the local Granges. And I participated somewhat in the Grange up here 'til it—went to Falk (phonetic), and joined the Easton Volunteer Fire Department in 1958. I'm a life member.

INTERVIEWER: Good.

LARRY: I've held the office of chief and also president.

INTERVIEWER: In 1958 you joined the fire department?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Been a member for a long time, haven't you?

LARRY: Yeah, I got lifetime membership.

INTERVIEWER: Good for you. Good.

LARRY: I retired from active duty when I turned 80. Let the young guys do it.

INTERVIEWER: There you go. That's right, Larry. All right. Good for you.

LARRY: I worked for At Lydell from—and Herbie from 1952 to the spring of 1963. And then I left and came up here. Of course, when I was working for the Lydells I was milking about 15, 16 cows besides that, and the Lydells would help by baling the hay up here. Of course, I had to pay for the baling, which is would be normal.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-huh.

LARRY: In 1964, Dave Vanderzee was leaving packages for the ski area down here in the barn, because there'd be nobody up there at the mountain. In that fall, I started to work for Vanderzee, working on the lift.

INTERVIEWER: You did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: In 1964...

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...you started that? Okay. That's great. So, he was leaving, having the mail or somebody leave packages...

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: ...that would belong to the mountain because nobody was up there?

LARRY: Correct.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Okay.

LARRY: Then, let me see...

INTERVIEWER: So, the mountain started in 1964?

LARRY: No; it started in 19—I think around 1952—or, no, earlier than that.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

LARRY: And when Bob graduated from high school and went in the Air Force, I didn't work up to the ski area there for eight, nine years. But after I sold the cows when I was—about 1970, I went back and worked full time up there.

INTERVIEWER: You did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: So, you milked cows here?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: You had farming here?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: How many cows did you milk?

LARRY: Well, after we added on Santas on the barn, I had 24.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And you did all your own crops and...

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: ...and haying and everything?

LARRY: I had crops on the hack place, which was just west of us up of what they call "Dead End Road." I also cut the hay over on what is now the Allen farm over here.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. All right.

LARRY: And I had a good life. Can't complain.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, of course you did. You raised a nice family and you had a great place to grow, right?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: You had a nice—this is such a nice area. Now, what about this house? Was it built about the same time the brick house down the road?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And was that Welden?

LARRY: Yeah, that was Welden.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Okay. And that would be...

LARRY: And then the Kuzmick (phonetic) house over here is the brick one.

INTERVIEWER: That's right. They were all built about the same time, I'll bet?

LARRY: I've been told that the brick for this house came out of north Troy up by what used to be Maumee Beach (phonetic).

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Yes. Now, did they—they made it there or did it come...

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...from—they made it right in there? Sure.

LARRY: I think so. I'm not positive.

INTERVIEWER: Sure. Okay. Okay. And Father Riley came and built a little cabin?

LARRY: Yeah. Mother and father gave him the land off this place for where his house is—was.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Good. Great. And he came for many years, right?

LARRY: Yeah. He was ordained in 1956.

INTERVIEWER: In 1956?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. And would come back and forth here to the farm?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Right? Isn't that nice. Now, up the road at Willard Mountain there used to be a house there. Do you know who that was—belonged to?

LARRY: Um, there was a man by the name of Jacob Gazowski (phonetic), worked for a mother that lived there. He owned that property up there from the stone wall that goes across in front of the lifts to the road and some property on the east side of the road. And he worked for mother and father.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay.

LARRY: He had—all he ever had anything bad to say about him, but he was sort of superstitious.

INTERVIEWER: Was he?

LARRY: You didn't go sit on a wagon pole or he let you know about it.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. Oh, okay. All right.

LARRY: And you ask him what country he was from, he says, "No longer exists." But since then, I think with a little study, that he came from "White Russia."

INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay. I see. And then moved away or passed away?

LARRY: He went away for a while and worked down in Troy.

INTERVIEWER: He worked down in Troy?

LARRY: Then he passed away.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: Then this fellow, of course, inherited it, and now his granddaughter and

grandson inherited the place.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, they did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Okay. Um, and then Chet Hack owns property...

LARRY: Up in back.

INTERVIEWER: ...up here. Um, and did he buy it from someone or...

LARRY: Somebody down in Connecticut owned it. And I think he bought it from them. But back when I was in school, there was—or, before I—we had them all, I went to grade school here, a family by the name of O'Malley owned it.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. All right. Now, that—would that be Mark O'Malley and...

LARRY: Jimmy.

INTERVIEWER: ...Jim O'Malley.

LARRY: Billy.

INTERVIEWER: And Bill O'Malley.

LARRY: Allen, Jeanette.

INTERVIEWER: That's right. That's right.

LARRY: She married John Sheeran.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

LARRY: And she was my age.

INTERVIEWER: She was?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Now, did they have a home in there?

LARRY: There was a big house—big farmhouse there.

INTERVIEWER: And a barn back in there. So, they did live there?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. And that's where those fellows and Jeanette were brought up?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right.

LARRY: I can remember Jimmy—they had a horse that they cultivated with blind. And Jimmy would lead the horse for his father out cultivating corn.

INTERVIEWER: He did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And that was a blind horse?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, for heaven sakes. Now, was there another farm in this side?

LARRY: Well, it—up here the house—house got on fire and burned. When Chet—when Chet Cliff lived up there.

INTERVIEWER: Chet Cliff?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: Because I remember my brother and I were in the cellar passing out the food products, so—to get them out of the cellar.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: Of course, in them days they didn't have the fire equipment that we have today.

INTERVIEWER: No.

LARRY: And the drive belt on the [unintelligible 11:49] pump broke and they had to go into Lindsey's (phonetic) and get a new—new belt put.

INTERVIEWER: So, the Greenwich Fire Department had come to help fight. Was Easton in operation at that time?

LARRY: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: So, the Greenwich was the only fire department that could come?

LARRY: See, that was back in the '40s. And I can't remember when Greenwich was formed. Well, that was—that was the Greenwich Fire Department at that time.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Okay. And they came. So, you would have to wait until Greenwich got out here?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Wow, wow, wow. Yeah.

LARRY: And their farmhouse at that time was on Salem Street just above the Presbyterian church at that time.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: Which is now a residence.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. All right. I know where that is. Okay. Well, that's been a—that's quite a while ago. And how about other farmers and neighbors around here?

LARRY: Next place down the road was owned by the Conley family. Donald was my age when I was going to the country school. And he had a couple of sisters. I can't remember what the name was, but one of them was a good—good friend of one of the O'Malley girls.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay. Okay. I see. Jeanette?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Yup. Good. Great.

LARRY: And Patricia was my brother's age. And I think she's up BVI now, I think.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah? Oh, okay. All right. Yes, I know where she was and where she lived recently.

LARRY: Then, right now I think Leola is down in Jacksonville, Florida.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. O'Malley?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: I see. That was a large family then, wasn't it?

LARRY: Oh, yeah, big family.

INTERVIEWER: So, and they farmed, too? Of course, everybody—most everybody around here farmed, didn't they?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Did many people go off to Troy to work or...

LARRY: Not back in—back in them days.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Most everybody was farming?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. And how about the railroad?

LARRY: I can remember when you couldn't go to Greenwich the way we do now on the railroad. Then we had to go over and we went over and turned—and I can't think of the name of the road. Bud Brock owns the house on the corner.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: Goes down through and come up by Hugh McCue, and through...

INTERVIEWER: And then...

LARRY: ...and at the Burdick place you took a left instead of [unintelligible 14:44] and you come out over through where Jim Perry used to live.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: Henry Salems had that farm.

INTERVIEWER: And that was the road into Greenwich...

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...from—of course, the railroad ran down what we now use as 74, right?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: That was the railroad all the way in. So, you cut a different way to get into Greenwich? Sure. Okay.

LARRY: My mother was born down on the River Road, but her mother was a Flatley. And I think...

INTERVIEWER: Her mother was a Flatley?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And Fred Flatley and his wife raised her, and she went to country school on the River Road in the grades, and then went to Scaloville (phonetic) for the first three years of high school. And then...

INTERVIEWER: Okay. This was your mother?

LARRY: My mother. Then she came and lived with her father here on the farm as a senior, and graduated from Greenwich.

INTERVIEWER: She did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. As a—as a Flatley?

LARRY: As a Lyons.

INTERVIEWER: As a Lyons?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. All right. So, are you saying that the Flatleys that lived down on the River Road were her...

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: ...family? Okay. Okay.

LARRY: All the Flatleys down there are my cousins.

INTERVIEWER: They're all your cousins?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: All right. Celia Flatley, that was in Greenwich?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Rita, were cousins of yours?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: I see. I see. And that was a large family, the Flatleys?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And I think they had a brother named Jerome. I'm not positive on that.

INTERVIEWER: Jerome Flatley?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: I see. I see. I think some of the Connor family maybe married a Flatley, as I recall. But, so how did you get back and forth to town?

LARRY: Well, I got my driver's license after I got out of Cobleskill.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. But before that?

LARRY: Father drove.

INTERVIEWER: Your father drove you? Okay. All right. So, you had transportation back and forth to Greenwich?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: To school?

LARRY: No.

INTERVIEWER: How...

LARRY: I never went to school in Greenwich.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, you were down in Troy, weren't you?

LARRY: Yeah, in LaSalle.

INTERVIEWER: So, did you live there or was your family living in Troy at that time?

LARRY: They lived in Troy most their life.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And then you'd come back and forth up here...

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...to the farm? I see. And then when you were old enough, you came up here after college?

LARRY: Right after college I—I came here and stayed.

INTERVIEWER: I see. Okay. Okay. Then you started working around, got your own farm?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Something else I wanted to ask you. Tell me about the cemetery right next door to you.

LARRY: No relatives of ours is buried there, but [unintelligible 18:25] Wilkinson had relatives in there.

INTERVIEWER: He did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And where did he live? Did they have—I mean, did they just use it as a cemetery or did somebody live around here?

LARRY: A lot of woods in Greenwich...

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

LARRY: ...right in that—where that big house used to be across from the—on the right side after you come over the bridge and come up...

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

LARRY: ...on the Main Street...

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

LARRY: ...he...

INTERVIEWER: So, he lived there?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And then, what happened to that house? Because then he continued to live there himself...

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...didn't he, when he married Jackie?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: But, did that house burn down?

LARRY: I can't remember whether it burned down or they tore it down and built this one new.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So where did his family live? I remember his mother, Lyle's mother.

LARRY: That's a good question.

INTERVIEWER: You don't know...

LARRY: Don't know.

INTERVIEWER: ...whether they—I forgot whether it was down—I thought it was down, 74 somewhere. I'll have to talk to the kids and see what they say about that—some of their children, and see what they know about—where their...

LARRY: It could have been one of those houses on the road into Hortons.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. I have an idea it was down that way. So, you think it was some of Lyle Wilkinson's...

LARRY: Relatives.

INTERVIEWER: ...relatives that are—does it say on the stones? I've never looked in there?

LARRY: I haven't been up in there much.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: My kids have been.

INTERVIEWER: They have?

LARRY: But the Boy Scouts cleaned it up once, and then Lyle and Nate Harrington worked in there cleaning it up once.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, did they?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: I wonder if Nate Harrington had some sort of a relative in there?

LARRY: Well, he's, I think, down from around Johnsonville.

INTERVIEWER: Was he?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Maybe he had some relatives in there. We'll have to investigate.

LARRY: Then he married June—June Lydell.

INTERVIEWER: That's right. That's right. Sure. Sure. Well, you've seen lots of changes in Easton, haven't you?

LARRY: A few.

INTERVIEWER: A few. Sure. Sure. It's a good community. How about that library, isn't that the best?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: It is good. And Burton Hall?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Burton Hall's had lots of—lots of activity, and it's nice to see them continue.

LARRY: Well, at the parking lot down there, there's 100 percent improvement that they put the stone in there.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Yes. It looks terrific. It really is nice. Not mushy or muddy or anything, is it?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. That really works.

LARRY: I'm waiting to see how it stands up when you have to plow snow.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. That's another thing, isn't it. How about snowstorms? You've seen lots of snow around this house, I'll bet you?

LARRY: Well, I can remember when I was in high school I used to come up to work with Jack Lyons and with Lynn Joyce.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And Lynn would come down and I'd come up on the—on the bus from Troy. Jimmy Curtis drove us that time. And he'd pick me up and he'd come up to the farm and be up there for a week. And we got a big snowstorm once. And they came up through with the road grader with a big plow on the front pushing it, and another truck way in the back.

INTERVIEWER: For heaven sakes. Yeah. I mean, we had lots of snow. I mean, years ago, don't you agree that the snowfall has become less than we've had many years ago when the roads would drift in. And coming up that hill out of Troy, I don't know how you made it. Wow. Then you got into bus driving?

LARRY: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

INTERVIEWER: How many years of bus driving?

LARRY: 1958 'til 1988, almost 30 years. Ray Ackner (phonetic) was head of transportation.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Yes. When—so, you started when Ray was there?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Yup. I remember having to go in to Ray Ackner. That wasn't funny if that bus got taken into Mr. Ackner. He'd get on that bus and tell you what for.

LARRY: He'd read the riot act to you.

INTERVIEWER: He'd read you the riot act. I'm telling you. If that bus driver said you're going into the bus garage, you were shaking in your shoes—or I was, anyway.

LARRY: Then I drove the detention bus for five years.

INTERVIEWER: You did? Okay.

LARRY: And one day Ray said to me, "I'd like to talk to you." He says, "What was going on in the back of the bus?" I say, "Ray, I don't know," but I named off two kids who were real honest. I said, "You bring them in and you'll find out." They told him.

INTERVIEWER: He did?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: He found out what was going on. I know, it's tough. It's hard to be a bus driver. And I—I applaud you for all your years of driving bus and keeping everybody going back and forth. I know I didn't ask you about Phyllis. Where'd you meet Phyllis?

LARRY: Cobleskill Ag and Tech.

INTERVIEWER: She was out there as well?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Where...

LARRY: She was taking child care.

INTERVIEWER: She was?

LARRY: But I didn't go with her when I was in college. I went with Mary Lou—I can't think of the last name. She lived right across from the Catholic church upstairs.

INTERVIEWER: Oh.

LARRY: Mary Lou Richards.

INTERVIEWER: In Greenwich?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

LARRY: And she married one of the Hartwell boys.

INTERVIEWER: I see.

LARRY: And as far as I know right now, I think her husband died four or five years ago.

INTERVIEWER: All right.

LARRY: She was also in child care.

INTERVIEWER: She was also out there...

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...at Cobleskill doing child care with Phyllis?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: I see. Okay. Where was Phyllis from? Troy?

LARRY: Coxsackie.

INTERVIEWER: Coxsackie?

LARRY: Down in Greene County.

INTERVIEWER: I see. All right. And then she's continued child care forever?

LARRY: She—up until about five, six years ago.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Yes. Well, all your children that are nearby have been able to have their—your grandchildren stop here after school and...

LARRY: They pick them up here and leave them off here.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Perfect.

LARRY: Because there isn't a good place to turn around up on the hill there.

INTERVIEWER: That's right. So, they can come down and back right in here and keep

right on going. Do they still?

LARRY: They used to come up the hill up until last year. Now they come over and down, then come back up.

INTERVIEWER: I see.

LARRY: They changed the route.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, okay. Yeah, well, as families change, they...

LARRY: Oh, yeah.

INTERVIEWER: ...have to change the routes, don't they, as there isn't anybody anymore or somebody comes and they need to start a new route, then they have to make adjustments to that. All right. What else? Anything else that you can think of?

LARRY: Well, my youngest son, Jimmy, is a 20-year Navy retired veteran, and he works for Home Depot down in Jacksonville, Florida.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. Okay.

LARRY: They had one son who is 21, and he graduated from one year at Kores (phonetic) College and he works for Walmart, and his mother works for Walmart.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-huh.

LARRY: And Jimmy's wife is from Mills Falls.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. Okay. Good. And they live in Florida?

LARRY: Yup.

INTERVIEWER: Great. Great. How many grandchildren do you have?

LARRY: Well, there's three—three at Bob's, two up here is five, two down there is seven.

INTERVIEWER: Very good. Very good. That's a nice-sized family.

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And then holidays, I notice there's always a big gathering around here?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Everybody gets home as much as they can, I'll bet, don't they?

LARRY: Yeah. About the only one that doesn't get home for Christmas is Jimmy.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. He's too far away?

LARRY: It costs quite a...

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

LARRY: ...lot.

INTERVIEWER: To travel. Airfare is quite a lot to do, sure.

LARRY: Phyllis' brother and his wife and one daughter will be here for Christmas, and Phyllis' brother who died years ago wife will be here for Christmas.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, nice. Very good.

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: That's good that everybody can still get together and—are they still around Coxsackie?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Are they? Very nice.

LARRY: Well, her brother that comes here is down from—down around Kingston.

INTERVIEWER: I see. I see. Good. Very good.

LARRY: We—we try to get to Coxsackie a couple times during the year.

INTERVIEWER: Do you?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Good for you. That's nice. Very good. So, how about heating your house, what have you always heated your house with? Wood?

LARRY: We started out with, I guess you'd call, kerosene.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, did you? Okay.

LARRY: Then we put in—put one in on a big cross, big boilers.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

LARRY: And I have oil backup in the cellar on that.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Okay. Yeah, it's quite a big house to keep heated, isn't it? Yeah. It's tough.

LARRY: Well, back when I was cutting the wood and everything, we had a 24-foot-diameter pool out there. I could heat that with the furnace.

INTERVIEWER: Ha, good idea. Sure. That makes sense.

LARRY: One year they were swimming right up to—into November.

INTERVIEWER: They were? That certainly is...

LARRY: They won't be this year.

INTERVIEWER: No. That certainly extends the life of a swimming pool, doesn't it?

LARRY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Sure. Well, that's very good. Well, what do you think, Larry? Thank you very much.

LARRY: You're welcome.

INTERVIEWER: And this will be added into—if we've got it recorded...

[End of audio.]