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-	Interruptions	=	Rapid response	{“Ah”}	Interjections inserted
		< >	Editor’s Note/Clarification	Ex:	<Reed Rd>

ABE /Ayub Nicholas
MH/Marilyn Hendricks

EDNA/Nicholas
LH/Larry Hendricks

- MH: This is Marilyn Hendricks speaking. Today is December 9th, 2014. I am at the home of Edna and Abe Nicholas at 137 Kent Road in Warren. My husband Larry is recording, and Edna is at the table with us. So, I’m going to start with Abe by asking him for his full name.
- ABE: Ayoub Charles Nicholas. A Y O-
- MH: -Was that loud enough Larry?
- LH: I think so.
- MH: Where and when were you born?
- ABE: I was born in Park Ridge, New Jersey on June the 11th, 1923. (1:40)
- MH: Where was your family originally from?
- ABE: Let’s see my dad.... they were both from Lebanon. Though my father was Lebanese, my mother was French.
- MH: What brought you to Warren?
- ABE: I've written it down here.
- MH: Okay you can tell us from your notes. (1:12)
- ABE: Al Seitz and I were working at the largest newspaper in New Jersey. And after quite a few years we figured we'd better get out of here and maybe hit out on our own. So, we looked around to a package store or some kind a food store down there, but we saw nothing. Well a couple days later Al's mother told Al, *“Hey listen, I just heard on the radio from Pegeen Fitzgerald that the Warren Store is for sale up in Warren Connecticut.”* (1:44)
- So, once she told us that we decided we’d go up and look at it. Which we did. And after five or six trips and talking to some local people like Les Kilmer and Willis Tanner and Irving Tanner who told us it was a ‘good store and good people’ and we decided to buy it. So, we bought it from **unclear**.¹
- MH: What year was that? (2:16)
- ABE: 68. Ah well we bought it in 1968 or 69. Actually 68 we bought it and opened the store in 69.
- MH: I’m just curious, what newspaper did you work for in New Jersey?
- ABE: The Bergen Record. It was the largest paper in Jersey at the time. The name of it would have been the Bergen Evening Record. Now it goes under the name of The Record. (2:39)
- MH: So, you came here in 1969. Also, we're interested to know your father's name.
- ABE: My father was reversed a mine; instead of Ayoub Charles it's Charles Ayoub Nicholas.
- MH: And your mother’s maiden name.
- ABE: Mary Hamati. H A M A T I. (3:09)
- LH: So, the Abe came not from Abraham, but Ayoub?
- ABE: It's a nickname. When I was a little guy everybody, I guess they couldn't say Ayoub. I don’t know. (laughter). In school, they didn't call me that; in school they called me, and all my written stuff was Abbie – A B B I E. So, I’m only known 3 ways.
- MH: When you came here, where did you live? (3:38)
- ABE: The first place we lived in the Chappius’ house.
- MH: Tell us where that is because not everybody knows where that is.
- ABE: It's on a...
- EDNA: Now its Cornwall Road?
- MH: Do you know the number?

¹ Purchased from Louis ‘Sonny’ & Carolyne ‘Mary’ Col

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EDNA: No.

MH: And who lives there now? (3:57)

ABE: Warren Chappius² used to live there.

EDNA: He owned it. Warren Chappius owned the house, and we bought it.

MH: Yeah okay. It helps if we can have an address; but it's the house on Cornwall Road.

EDNA: Yeh.

ABE: We could look up the address.

EDNA: I'll look up Dorothy Maier. (4:15)

ABE: Dorothy, where Dorothy lives.

MH: Where Dorothy lives. Okay. Yeah, well, we can research that.

LH: You know I remember when there was a pilot that lived there.

EDNA: Yeh, they bought it from us.

LH: Oh. Okay. He had a daughter.

EDNA: Yes, he certainly did. Yep. She was the kid's age. Yep

MH: Okay. Well. We're going to get the address of where they lived on Cornwall Road, but we'll just move on. Some of these questions are about Warren people who were farmers, and that's were not going to really apply to you. But tell us you came here to start to run the store. Is that right? (5:03)

EDNA: Yeh. Operate the whole complex.

MH: The whole complex. And what was in the complex?

ABE: Ah, there was a package store, the General Store, and a gas station. (5:21)

MH: Was there gas here?

EDNA: Oh. Sure.

ABE: At the beginning, I'd be at the butcher counter cutting and somebody'd yell 'round, and I'd run out to get gas for them, then eventually, for a short time, we rented it to a fella from New Jersey who had some mechanical experience. And he ran it for a ...temporarily. (5:41)

MH: Did you have the post office in the store then?

EDNA: Oh, yeh. Definitely.

MH: The Post Office? Well, a substation. (5:50)

EDNA: 23 Cornwall Road.

MH: Okay. So, the first place you lived in Warren was 23 Cornwall Road. Okay.

LH: So, you'd just walked across the street.

EDNA: Right; pretty much. And Al just had to go up the hill.

MH: Okay well. Let's see then. One of the questions were do you have siblings - brothers and sisters?(6:20)

ABE: No longer. My oldest brother just died at 93 years old in April. And my younger brother died the age of 56.

MH: Did they live in New Jersey?

ABE: My elder brother lived in Jersey

EDNA: Jersey City.

ABE: And my younger brother moved from Jersey to Massachusetts. And my sister moved from Jersey to New York State, but she died also.

MH: Another question here is, what was in the center of town. You'd describe pretty much The Warren Store, the liquor store, and an auto repair shop. (7:07)

² 23 Cornwall Road

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ABE: The only other thing of any petty providence other than the store was John Massey’s place he had across the street. He’d a repair shop. Autos and lawn mowers. And also, those people were self-sufficient. They raised pigs and cows and chickens. They had everything there.

MH: The Masseys is where the restaurant is now, The Rooster Tail.

ABE: Yeh. And that’s on Cornwall Road. (7:39)

MH: We can check the number on that one.

ABE: But there was nothing else beside the Warren - our complex. Oh, no... there was a rest home.

MH: Tranquil House. (7:49)

ABE: Tranquil House. I’m starting to remember now. That was a long time ago.

EDNA: We remember. I remember Tranquil House.

ABE: I’m 91 years old so I might not have a good memory.

MH: Did you serve in the military? (8:08)

ABE: Yes. I was in the US Air Force.

MH: Where did you go and what did you do?

ABE: I never got out of the country. I was an aerial Gunner and they made me, I guess... I became so good they made me an instructor. In this country.

MH: What did you instruct? What did you teach?

ABE: How to be a tail-gunner?

MH: Oh, a tail-gunner, okay. Interesting. During World War II?

LH: What plane?

ABE: B17s (8:40)

LH: 17s. Did you talk with Herb Abrams about that?

ABE: Never. No. I wasn’t close to Herb. I’d say hi to him and...

LH: He was a flyer. He taught how to fly.... I think it was B24s.

ABE: The Liberator.

LH: Yeah. This was his....

ABE: That’s a really great plane.

MH: Okay. What do you remember about Eric Sloane? (9:15)

ABE: (Subdued laughter) Interesting. I wrote hear that he was a very kind and caring man. Not only to us - to everybody.

MH: How did you meet him?

ABE: Well, I met him in the store. He used to come in the store and when we got pretty friendly, he started to call me Uncle Abe. And he’d come in maybe... I’d say twice a week when he was in Connecticut. And other times he was in New York. But when he’d come-in he’d yell from the front a-the store, “*What’s on for eating, this morning Uncle Abe?*”. I’d make him a ham and egg, or a - I got it right here, a bacon and egg samitch³ on a hard roll. He always wanted to pay but I never let him because he would do favors for us... I don’t even want to tell you. If you/we need help, he’d get it for us. He was a great guy. In fact, one day there was a young man come in, and he come up to me, he’s in the front and out the back a-the store, and he says, “*Sir, I, I’d like a samitch⁴, but first you have to tell me how much it is.*” and I said to myself ‘*ha-ha, this poor guy’s got nothing*’. So, I said to him, “*Look fella, order what you want, and I’ll take care of it for you. No questions or anything.*” So, I gave him a samitch⁵; Eric heard about it. And on the way out gave the kid 20 bucks. He said, “*That’s not for booze, it’s to eat*”. (laughter) (10:41)

³ Sandwich

⁴ Sandwich

⁵ Sandwich

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ABE: Eric, he was great guy.

EDNA: He was generous.

ABE: I go over there to paint with him. He showed me how to paint. Or I'd be doing some painting...

MH: Now what were you painting?

EDNA: Trim. (11:00)

ABE: Pictures.

EDNA: No. Trim. You were painting the trim on his windows.

ABE: His trim. I was painting his windows at the time.

MH: You weren't helping him with his murals?

EDNA: No. no.

MH: Well, could be. (11:16)

ABE: I've got some paintings you can see on the wall over there. But, ah, they're pretty good. Two people. In fact, I showed one to this guy from Green River Associate who sell basically and specialize in Sloane prints, and he thought it was by Eric Sloane. And it was by me. Because I copied a Sloane. (laughter)

MH: Now you just showed me, and we could describe it more, but Eric Sloane would make advertisements for the store for you to put in the window. (11:53)

ABE: Yes, he would. He made them for chickens, for pork ...

EDNA: But those were the special ones.

MH: Those are the special ones and you have some of them.

ABE: I don't know where the rest of them are, but I had some. I have at least a dozen books autograph personally to me by Eric. (12:12)

MH: Yeh, and what I've been told is that when Eric Sloane when he gave you a book, he would inscribe it to you and then make a drawing that had something to do about you.

ABE: Yeh, he'd make a caricature of me. (12:24)

MH: How did you learn to be a butcher? Were you a butcher?

ABE: Well, nah, but my uncle was. And I'm a young man, in fact, when I was going with Edna, long before we got married, I was working for him and every chance I had I'd try to deliver an order I'd stop at her house too. And one day I heard my aunt said the him *“Where does this guy work? Does he work here anymore?”* So, he said to her *“Leave them alone; they're young, they're in love”*. Or something like that. He was very patient with me. But I did learn I could cut sirloin steaks; I could chop pork chops and lamb chops. And I couldn't make roast; I didn't know how to bind it. I only knew how to cut steaks and different chops, and stuff.

MH: Well yeah, I asked that because you said your background was working for a newspaper. But you also had learned how to

ABE: I started working in a print shop when I was about 14 years old. (13:30)

MH: The print shop. Okay.

ABE: Everything was handset in those days. And I learned how da, and I also learned how the operate a Lino-copy machine. So, when I got better at it, I went to the big newspaper. And I worked my way up to a one-shift foreman, to eventually the three-shift foreman. (13:51)

MH: I've just been given a book... an Eric Sloane book - [A Diary of an Early American Boy](#). And he has inscribed it to *“Abe, my chief assistant”* with a picture of Abe with a paint brush and signed by Eric Sloane in 1972. Nice. Wow. That's great.

ABE: And he's got me chasing a steak. I can't tell you enough good things about Eric Sloane. He was one the best men...

MH: But he used to come to the store and hang out? (14:28)

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ABE: Occasionally he would. There’s a piece that I wrote. You know the ladies would come up here from New York, and other places; and they want to see Eric Sloane. And they come in the store. Now, he’d be in the back with me, in the meat department, and there’s all cubby holes in the back. Little... like this big; it was covered so; you couldn’t see him. And he’d be in there, and he’d be going like this to me (laughter) saying {“Don’t you dare”} and the ladies would say to me, “Have you seen Mr. Sloane”. And I’d say, “To tell you the honest truth, I haven’t seen him in a couple of days. He must be in New York”. “Oh! Oh! How terrible. We’re sorry that we missed him.”

MH: Well, you have some stories here you’d like to tell us. (15:18)

Oh, okay, here’s another book. Our Vanishing Landscape. “To Honest Abe, Clean-cut” (are you sure? - laughter) There’s a meat cleaver and an article.....

ABE: I have to go get that one downstairs. I got about at least 10 books, maybe 12.

MH: Well, what we hope we’d be able to do is make photocopies of this page.

ABE: Let me see the book you had. No, that’s not the one. (MULTI-TALKING OVER)

MH: Okay why don’t you tell us.... read off your notes (16:00)

ABE: Nah, I think a lot of this stuff ah.....I say here my wife Edna became the permittee of the package store and Julie, who was Al’s wife, and Edna ran the package store. The two ladies did a great job in the package store; which was no easy job what with keeping the liquor shelves full, and the beer cooler stocked, the store clean, etc. They were very popular, and their customers loved dealing with them. They were a very big part of our success. (16:25)

The General Store was like a meeting place and customers came into shop and visit and chat. We had a large coffee pot going all day and coffees and donuts were free for all. There were many decisions talked about and made, always friendly and jocular We kept busy and the store supported our two families. The hours we worked were brutal and tiring, and that was the biggest reason for selling when we did. After we sold the store, Allen and I opened a print shop in the Yankee Peddler in Torrington. We ran that thing for 17 years. And then sold and retired.

And I have a lot written here about how we heard from his mother about the store and we came up.

MH: Well, you want to read the whole thing? (17:30)

ABE: Al and I took over the store on 69. And my wife Edna and Julie, his wife, ran the package store. In the General Store we sold meat, protein, vegetables, can goods, breads, cat and dog food, etc. We also mix the whole thing with a dry-cleaning service, post office, newspapers and magazines. We also had a gas station we leased to a man with mechanical ability. At first, we were open 6 1/2 days, Monday through Saturday, and a half day Sunday, because we sold the Sunday newspapers. We were open at 6:45 in the morning to 7 p.m. at night. We employed Jimmy Rosa part-time and he was a tremendous help with the store knowledge, and he was a great worker. He was a very important part the store. We also hired Gary Johnson on weekends, and later on his brother Brad was here. Our son Steve, also a very good worker, and helped in the store.

It was a hard and tiring experience for Al & I in the beginning, as we were not experienced enough to know how to run a store. We were well treated by, and accepted by, the people of Warren, which made us feel comfortable.

I had a small amount of meat cutting experience, so I became the butcher, and Al took over the produce. And we were both Post Masters and did all the necessary chores. We had a lot of trying times, which is normal when you take over a new venture. In a short time, we started to feel more comfortable. (19:23) With our inexperience, we had some hilarious times when a customer might come in and it was not often they were trying to look for a certain product in the store, and neither Al nor I would know anything about it. For instance, people ask us about tomato aspic. Al and I didn’t even know what it was! Never heard of it. (laughter)

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EDNA: And it was on the shelf. (19:49)

ABE: Our store was visited by many celebrities including, of course, Eric Sloane; who was one of our best customers, and a very good friend of mine. (20:00)
We also had Jimmy Cagney, Pat O’Brien, Governor Abe Ribicoff, and that other actor that I can’t remember his....

MH: Richard Whitmark? (20:12)

ABE: Yeah, Whitmark. Yeah. I couldn’t think.

EDNA: It was a small town.

MH: Yep. ‘Cause, I knew he lived here, and we know where he used to live.

EDNA: There were a lot of city people.... then.... that really came to Warren Store. (20:31)

MH: And was that because of the Fitzgeralds?

EDNA: No, no, I don’t think so. I think it was because it was the only thing that was convenient. They’d have the same thing in Bantam, the same thing in Northville, the same thing in Cornwall Bridge. So, what’s the difference where you bought it. You didn’t have the competition now. There’s a lot of competition.

MH: Now the Fitzgeralds had a radio program. WOR was it? Yeah. Okay. And they used to talk they had a place here.... in Kent? (21:03)

LH: They were in Kent.

MH: Yeah, I know but that they would advertise the....

EDNA: Warren Store.

MH: Warren Fall Festival. And isn’t Eric the person who started the Fall Festival? (21:15)

ABE: He sure was.

EDNA: And the bell ringing.

ABE: He donated.... he donated some of his originals. And that’s how the fire department got started for his money raising. It was a great thing.

MH: Do you remember what year they started the Fall Festival?

EDNA: No. Before us.

ABE: It started before we got here. I think they said something about 1980.

EDNA: No-no, we were here in 69. They started the ...

ABE: 1960, yeah 60. (21:43)

LH: We bought our land in 65, and I think the festival was already.... going.

MLH: It was already happening, yeah.

EDNA: And they had a tremendous auction.

ABE: I read somewhere 1960.

EDNA: They had a very big auction (22:00)

MH: I remember. Yeah.

EDNA: ‘Cause Eric used to run the auctioneer’s picture...

MH: He used to donate a painting.

EDNA: Yes.

MH: And a lot of the New Yorkers come....

EDNA: Right

LH: To get a bargain.

ABE: I remember one year there was \$6000 ...which in those days

MH: That’s a lot of money. Yeah. Yeah.

EDNA: The auction was a big thing then. I mean the people.... the things were nice. You know they had nice things they were auctioning off.

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LH: Unfortunately, it began the same stuff every year, would be put back in the truck, and bring it out next year.

EDNA: The good stuff they'd buy. What was left...

MH: I know but you can only donate what you have, and at some point, you don't have anymore.

MULTI-voice: That's right.... Yeah....

LH: All the good stuff was gone.

EDNA: That's right. That's Right.

MH: Your sons? Two sons, right?

EDNA: Right.

MH: Your sons? Their name? (22:53)

ABE: There's Stephen James Nicholas.

MH: And where are they now?

ABE: Steven lives now in New Preston. But he had lived back here behind us. He still owns that now. And the other one is Jeffrey Charles Nicholas. He's an attorney; he has a business in Torrington, and he also has one at the former Governor's Mansion in Waterbury, also. And he also had hours at his home. And then we have a daughter named Judy Eileen Burns. She died. (23:30)

MH: And where is she?

ABE: She lived in Collinsville. And Jeff lives in Bethlehem. He's the former 1st Selectmen over there.

EDNA: Yeah, they've all done well. And they're all nice and close.

MH: Were you involved in the fire department at all? (23:51)

ABE: Not here but I was in Jersey.

MH: But you march in the Memorial Day Parade.

EDNA: For the veterans.

ABE: Every year.

MH: Do you still fit into your uniform? (laughter)

EDNA: He does! It's perfect.

ABE: I'm the same weight.

EDNA: It fits him perfect.

ABE: In fact, I'm probably a couple pounds under. I even get into my fireman's uniform, my Air Force uniform. Anything I had I can still get into.

MH: Were you drafted into the army? Air Force?

ABE: Yes

MH: Well this is great. Abe brought all this down. You saved this. (24:33)

EDNA: Oh yeah. They were all saved. In the course of maybe, not this week because we have a few things going on, yeah ...I'll get some pictures. I think you'll enjoy some of the pictures we have from when we came, from buying it.

MH: Pictures of the /store? (24:48)

EDNA: /The gas station when it was all functioning. And the annex, where Herman had his real estate office. And the apartment where the lady lived upstairs. And then the store.

MH: Who had the real estate business?

EDNA: Herman Bolte

MH: Oh, Herman Bolte (25:03)

EDNA: He rented the annex. And then they had feed. And they had a lot. They did a lot of stuff. I mean they had the cards, every season. The Valentine's would come. And then the Easter cards. And someone came. And all the magazines. They had everything.

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- ABE: Had a black guy come in. He's sold the cards. And he was the man that supplied it. And he came in, and he says to me, very timidly, *“You think you could make a sandwich for me?”*. And I said, *“Why not?”* And he says, *“Well, you guys look like you're down-to-earth people”*. And I figured 'cause he was black. So, I said, *“Of course”*, and I made him a roast beef samitch⁶ all men'll die for. (laughter)
- EDNA: He didn't know you were from Jersey!
- ABE: After that every time he gave me a couple magazines. Which I didn't want, but he gave me extras. See how one hand replaces the other.
- LH: Inevitably, yeah. (26:08)
- EDNA: But it was nice because Boltes sold sunglasses, and they sold gloves, and hats, I mean they'd ... a lot of stuff.
- LH: You know I remember the Northville store had a sign over the door, *“If we don't have it, you don't need it”*. (laughter) (26:24)
- EDNA: That's the word. It was that way. 50 years ago, we'll say. That's the way it was because they.... number, one the women were home, and they didn't have a car to go shopping every day. And also, they delivered. So, people could call on like Tuesday with their order, and they'd deliver, say, Friday.
- ABE: I'd always deliver for Mrs. Reed. And. right down here... Mrs. Hoffman. The older Mrs. Hoffman. Yeah, she was something.
- LH: Who was the woman that rented upstairs?
- EDNA: I can't think of her name.
- LH: Was she a local?
- EDNA: Yes. What was the name of the woman that rented upstairs? (27:01)
- ABE: Oh yeah....
- EDNA: She has kids in town. She had kids in town. But anyway
- ABE She was nice people.
- EDNA: She was a very nice lady. Very, very nice! And she kept it nice everything was fine. But the idea was that, now everyone's going out of town. So, on their way home they're going to stop in Big Y or Stop & Shop.
- MH: Yeah, well, you have both family members working. (27:37)
- Enda: That's right. It's a whole different story. Then it wasn't like that. Fifty or sixty years ago, it was entirely different. When Mary Col had it, in the end of August, all the kids came in; she measured their feet, she measured their pants, and she ordered their clothes.
- MH: Did she run the store?
- EDNA: Mary Col had owned the store. (28:03)
- MH: Had owned it.
- EDNA: She owned it. She and her husband. And she was really the one that ran it.
- MH: What was his name?
- EDNA: Oh. Abe might think of it. Anyway, she was very capable.
- MH: Do you know who owned the store before the Cols? (28:19)
- EDNA: Was it Putins⁷, or something. I'll have to ask Abe. We might have it in some papers we have. But she was just so...such an entrepreneur. She had everything! And the kids didn't go out of town. Their parents didn't go out of town. They were farmers, and she just measured their feet, and she ordered their clothes when they started school. She had catalogs. That she could get the stuff for them. She had catalogs, yup, they'd buy it, and she'd measure it, and get the right stuff. She'd order it for them. It was really, very, very rural.
- MH: Do you remember anything about the Inn on Lake Waramaug? The Comb's Inn? (29:05)

⁶ sandwich⁷ Perkins

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EDNA: Yes. ‘Cause Abe used did work for them too. And do you know the other thing he had that I don't think he mentioned - the camps. Years ago, there were two camps. That the kids came to in the summer.

MH: 4-H camps?

EDNA: I don't think they were 4-H, but they were camps. They were partly owned, I think. And that was a big thing! They'd call in their order, and the following they'd deliver the food to the camps. (29:29)

MH: I see, the camps ordered the food.

LH: Were they in Warren or in Kent? (29:34)

EDNA: I don't know.

LH: I know that there's one still down the road in Kent.

EDNA: There was two big camps.

MH: Well, there is Mountain Lake Camp. (29:42)

EDNA: I don't know. But I do know that they'd call in an order, and Abe would bring the food down to them. At the camps. It was. You wouldn't believe in 50 years, how times have changed.

MH: Really.

EDNA: It's a whole different kind of world. They didn't have the technology now. You know what I mean?

LH: Oh yeah.

EDNA: And the people were a, they're dead they're all dead, but they were born more like farmers a lot of them. You know what I mean.

MH: Well, we had a lot of farms in Warren. (30:20)

EDNA: Yes. We did. But now. And if they weren't farmers, they were just people home. Now I think a good part of Warren is city people that just come up on weekends. And commute and stuff like that.

LH: I don't know what the percentage is, certainly around the lake most of those people are not residents. Both in Washington and in Warren. (30:42)

EDNA: Our very wonderful neighbor, who bought Mitchell's house. Or maybe it was somebody else after Mitchell. But she bought it from the other people. Contractors bought it and refurbished it. And then they sold it to them. And they're from Brooklyn. (30:58)

MH: Halprin. The Halprins.

EDNA: Yeah. The Halprins.

LH: Yeah, we know them.

EDNA: Oh yeah, they're wonderful people. (31:03)

ABE: <returns> ... (t)he Eric Sloane that I had. Where'd you put it?

EDNA: Oh, you know what, it's over here. Because I put this stuff out.

ABE: This is the one I took up to Green River, and he said *“Is that for sale? Is that a Sloane?”* and I said *“No, I did this one.”* And it's the copy of one of his covers. (31:28)

EDNA: Well, she probably doesn't want all of this on tape.
I was telling her how you went to the camps. Remember how you delivered to the camps?

ABE: Yeh. Oh yeah.

MH: Oh. Isn't that lovely.

EDNA: And then...

MH: A barn, and a background/

ABE: /It's exact. /

MH: /stonewall. Lovely.

EDNA: It's a copy. But any other things that you can think of that went on? (31:56)
Well, I remember the snowstorm when they delivered with a snowmobile. (laughter)

MH: Was that the '68 storm?

EDNA: Whatever storm was....

Legend:

/	Overlapping speech	...	Pauses: longer pauses (5 sec), etc.	[CT]	Cross talk
-	Interruptions	=	Rapid response	{"Ah"}	Interjections inserted
		< >	Editor's Note/Clarification	EX:	<Reed Rd>

LH: 71

EDNA: 71 probably.

LH: 72, somewhere in there.

EDNA: Yeh.

(32:07)

LH: We were just talking to Susie Bates about it the other day. That's the year that her father, George, had a heart attack. And they had Percy Allmand up on Tanner Hill with his bulldozer.... making enough passage/roadway to get a snowmobile to bring George far enough out so they could get him in a four-wheel drive to the hospital.

EDNA: Well, they did the bulldozers on this road that year that it was so bad. But that's the year that Steve delivered w the snow....

ABE: With the snowmobile he went to Eric Sloan's house.

MH: Steve your son?

EDNA: Yeah, he delivered with the snowmobile because people couldn't get out and they needed food. (32:52)

LH: Willis Tanner told me that he had been - this is years after that year, that he had been 1st Selectmen for 35 years, and that was the worst storm that he remembered. And he said that every road in Warren was stopped up. They needed that big front-end loader up there at where Tanner Hill comes in to Rabbit Hill - there was eight feet of snow across the road. That's as high as that. (33:30)

EDNA: Yeah, that because it had drifted. That was this road here. This road they could hardly keep it open 'cause of the drifting. Had bulldozer - kept trying to clear it out. Because you'd clear it and it would drift right up again.

LH: Yeh. Yeh. I was working at Kimberly-Clark at that year, and I think that was the storm. I was working the evening shift. I got home at 11 o'clock or 11:30 with my car, my - I had a Scout, with a plow, and it took me 45 minutes to plow up my driveway. And when I got to the top of the driveway, looked back and it was as if I had never been there. I thought Oh God. So, I left it. I'll get it in the morning.

(Much subdued laughter throughout)

MH: Well, we have a lot of information now. And if you think of more stories, we can come back and do this again. (34:33)

ABE: You certainly may. I can't think of anything else.

MH: Oh... you will though. You will.

EDNA: But I think the main thing is that we get some pictures. I think sometimes it's nice.

ABE: What I used to remember is some of the old timers, did you know Tude Tanguay? (34:48)

LH: Oh yeah. Not well but I knew him.

ABE: He would come in; the old man I'm talking about, and he'd take newspaper and throw it in the wagon and pick up a gallon a milk on a certain day. Then he'd start <whistle> whistling. And he'd walk all around and then he stopped - in front of the store. In front of the meat counter. And I got another new name Abus, A B U S. And he'd say, "Abus, you better slip me a piece a cheese before Helen gets here." That's his wife. But he was having a heart problem. Bologna!

EDNA: Slice a bologna. Always a slice a bologna. (35:25)

ABE: And I say to him, "Tude, I'll give you all you want, b-it's not good for you." "That's alright, I got to have some".

EDNA: So, slice a bologna.

ABE: I'd give him a slice a cheese. He was funny.

MH: Now he worked at Mount Tom, didn't he?

EDNA: I have no idea.

Legend:

/	Overlapping speech	...	Pauses: longer pauses (5 sec), etc.	[CT]	Cross talk
-	Interruptions	=	Rapid response	{“Ah”}	Interjections inserted
		<>	Editor’s Note/Clarification	Ex:	<Reed Rd>

MH: Where did Tude work? Do you know?
 ABE: I don't remember. The old man. I know Tude had his own carpentry shop.
 LH: He'd built furniture.
 MH: But he played fiddle. (garbled agreement)
 EDNA: He played the fiddle. (35:57)
 MH: They named Fiddler's Pond after him. (36:00)
 EDNA: Yeh. Yeh.
 MH: Over at the Warren Woods.
 EDNA: He played the fiddle, yeh.
 ABE: Do you still do some of that? Do you still do woodwork?
 LH: No, I sold all my machinery.
 EDNA: But anyway, there was some interesting people. What about the one that's... Andy Strong. (36:21)
 ABE: Oh. Andy.
 EDNA: Do you know remember Andy Strong?
 MH: No.
 EDNA: He was a wonderful ... (36:27)
 ABE: Three brothers; there was Andy, and Nate, and Harley. The three of them. Andy was the greatest jokester. I don't know if you know Beth Keith.
 MH: Yes, we know Beth.
 ABE: She pulled in front of the store one day, it was a snowy day. I saw her, she came in the store. She ordered something. I gave it to her. And I said, "*maybe I better walk you out and help you get in your car.*" Cause it's slippery out. And Andy was there and says "*Nah, I'll take care of it.*" So, he walked out with her. Open the door for her Started talk to her, she turned her back, and he said, "*I'll give you a hand.*" And as he gave her a hand, he threw a handful of snow on the seat. And she got in and sat on it.
 EDNA: She got a wet seat!
 ABE: She called back 10 minutes later from her home and says, "*If he's still in the house, cut him up for me.*" (Laughter)
 EDNA: Oh, he was, he was such a clown. (37:25)
 ABE: Like the day we went on vacation. And so, I said to Andy - I had a nice spot, "*Help yourself to anything you want.*" I knew he didn't have anything. So, we come back, my god there were chairs strewn all over the place, on the deck outside.
 EDNA: Clown (37:50)
 ABE: I said to him, "*Thanks a lot for fixing up everything.*" "*Oh, it wasn't me*" he said. I said "*How about the garden. Did you enjoy yourself.*" "*Abe*", he says, "*I never touched your garden.*" I say, "*No? How come I found your pipe in the garden?*" That ended it.
 EDNA: He must a bent down and the pipe fell out. And Harley! Harley and the other guy. Whose...?
 ABE: Max.
 EDNA: Max
 MH: Who was Max.
 EDNA: Chappius. Remember Max Chappius and Harley? (38:10)
 MH: No, I don't.
 LH: Harley is a name that I remember but are they related to Cal? (38:22)
 EDNA: Yeh, Strong. Cal Strong. Yeh.
 LH: How are the related, are the brothers or cousins?
 EDNA: Uncles. Oh my god they were hysterical.
 LH: Was he the one who had the House Doctor on is truck? (38:36)

Legend:

/	Overlapping speech	...	Pauses: longer pauses (5 sec), etc.	[CT]	Cross talk
-	Interruptions	=	Rapid response	{“Ah”}	Interjections inserted
		< >	Editor’s Note/Clarification	Ex:	<Reed Rd>

EDNA: Yes. Harley would come into the package store every morning and buy a half pint. Every single day. And one day it was slippery, and he slipped. And he’d always put it in his back pocket. And landed on his ass pint. (laughter) That was not good news. It was fun. It was fun.

LH: He was old when I, well, I don't know even remember that I ever met him, but when I heard of him.

ABE: Did you know Jimmy Rosa? James Rosa? He was something else to our store.... (39:13)

MH: I’ve heard the name.

EDNA: Wonderful person.

ABE: When we came up, if Jimmy wasn't there to help us, we’d a never made out. (39:20)

MH: At the store you mean?

EDNA: Yeh.

ABE: Such a tremendous help. He had great knowledge and you walked....

Enda: He was a very little man.

LH: Was he local?

EDNA: He lived on ah.... one of the side roads off of Cornwall.

LH: White Oak Lane?

EDNA: Yeah, one of those side roads that.... (over speaking).

LH: Where Percy lived?

EDNA: Yeah, one of those side ones, there were three of them. Well, we don't want to get too much on this list

ABE: A lot of good citizens. Eddie Keith was a great guy. And I always liked Percy Allmand. Another really great guy. (40:00)

EDNA: Of course, it was 700 people when we moved up here. I mean the people.... this was the town. This was where they came. They had to get their paper. They had to get their cleaning. They wanted magazines. They wanted to get their mail. You know what I mean. So, they came into town for a lot of stuff. They wanted paint, small garden tools, you know what I mean. They needed sandpaper; you know how you’re doing a little project and you need something. It was different. (40:31)

ABE: You might like a glass of soda or something?

LH: Oh, no thank you.

MH: Well, I think we've got a lot of good information.