

Oral History Transcription for 2015 interview with  
Luke Tanner

MH: Today is September 18th [year?]. This is Marylyn Hendricks speaking. I am at 88 Tanner Hill Road in Warren. I am interviewing Luke Tanner. Jon Garvey is recording.  
Now, Luke, I want you to tell me your full name.

Luke: Lewis Arthur Tanner.

MH: Lewis Arthur-Lewis.

Luke: Yes. L-E-W-I-S

MH: Ah... very interesting.

Luke: Yeh, most people don't know that's my name.

MH: When and where were you born?

Luke: I born January 19th, 1936. Torrington Hospital.

MH: Okay. where was your family originally from?

Luke: Warren.

MH: No, before that? [laugh]

Luke: Oh. Oh, they're, they're Welsh.

MH: Do you know when they came to this country?

Luke: I don't. No. I know they've been in Warren for 200 years.

MH: 200 years. Do you have a date when they came to Warren?

Luke: I think around 1750.

MH: Oh-- that is a long time ago. [laugh] Okay.  
What brought your family to Warren?

Luke: I don't know, they originally came to Rhode Island with Rodger Williams, I think. And then they went to Cornwall, then they moved to Warren.

MH: Okay. They wanted to farm?

Luke: Yes.

MH: Where was that farm, when the original people came?

Luke: Right, where the one, down on 341, there. That's the Homestead<sup>1</sup>, there.

MH: Yeah, by the Homestead. Um, do you know the address of the homestead? The number?

Luke: I don't. No.

MH: We should find that out because if we say at 341, somebody who listens to this later isn't going to know where that is. I mean, you know. Well, we can find that out.

Luke: Yeah.

MH: Well, across from College Farms-- too that would be, that would be a way to of asking, describing it.

Now we're going to move to your father's name.

Luke: Arthur Lewis Tanner. [laughter] Just the reverse of mine. [laughter]

MH: Well, that's good. Very nice. Okay. Your mother's maiden name?

Luke: Harriet [unclear] I-S-H-A-M

MH: Say her name again.

Luke: Isham; I-S-H-A-M.

MH: Oh, Isham. Okay. Oh, that's an interesting name.

What did your parents do for a living?

Luke: My mother was a schoolteacher, and my father was a farmer.

MH: Okay, and your mom taught in Warren, is that correct?

Luke: Where she started teaching in Warren, I think in 1928. When she was 18 years old. She taught at the Center School. She had eight grades. Some of the kids were as old as she was. She went to, she went to normal school <sup>2</sup>.

MH: She would have gone for probably just a year, right?

Luke: Two years. Then she taught. She also was the-, one of the first teachers at the school where the library is now, too. She was one of the first two teachers in there.

MH: One of the first two?

Luke: Yes. She and Maria Windhorst were the first two teachers.

MH: Windhorst --I haven't heard that name before.

Luke: Well, there was the Windhorst Hotel<sup>3</sup>, probably or something. Up on Brick School Road.

JG: Hm, I didn't know that. /

MH: /I didn't hear about that. Windhorst Hotel on Brick School?

Luke: Yes. Right by, in between O'Toole's and Block's, there.

JG: The building still there?

Luke: No, was torn down when I was young.

MH: A hotel. Okay! Very Good.

Luke: She, in-between there, she taught at the College Farm school for just a few months because when they opened the new school, it wasn't ready when school started, so. So, she had all the kids at the College Farm school before they moved into the new school; until Thanksgiving time.

MH: Oh, okay. Now the new school, which is now the library, was that 1934 that was built?

Luke: 1930, I think.

MH: 1930.

Luke: You look on the front of my mother's house down there, she has a sign for the years the College Farms School was open. It closed in 1930, so.

MH: What did your parents do for a living; well, we already talked about your mom, and your dad?

Luke: Was a farmer. Yeah.

MH: What did he farm?

Luke: Well, he started out, he was on the farm on College Farms with his grandfather and his two brothers. To start with, and then-

MH: -But what did they Farm?

Luke: Well, they had a dairy farm.

MH: Dairy Farm? Okay. Oh, so you've had a dairy farm for a long, long, long time.

Luke: Right.

MH: Okay. People have- The question came up, as to the farm, and I can ask about your farm. You sell milk?

Luke: Right.

MH: Who do you sell it to?

Luke: It goes to the co-op. Agri-mark Co-op. Who also owns--Agri-mark owns Cabot Creamery, too.

MH: I've seen a Cabot truck. Yeh. So, most of your milk goes to-- become cheese?

Luke: No, actually our milk goes ta, goes to Guida. Agri-Mark sells it to Guida and New Britain, so most of our milk goes there.

MH: Okay, so if we buy Guida milk it-- it may have come from here?

Luke: Right.

MH: Well, I, that's good to know. [laughter]  
Do you have siblings?

Luke: Yeah, I have a sister, Shirley, that's 3 years younger than me. I have twin brothers that are 12 years- Arden and Austin, that are 12 years younger than me.

MH: Oh okay. We already interviewed Shirley. But she said we need to talk to you because you could tell us more about the farm.  
Where, where are your siblings? Where do they live?

Luke: My sister lives in Washington. Arden lives in Tolland. Austin lives in Brooklyn, Connecticut.

MH: Where? [laugh]

Luke: Brooklyn Connecticut. [laugh] Yeah, I did say that. He used to be a dairy farmer but now he raises buffalo.

MH: Ah, I'll be darned.

Luke: He has a hundred and fifty head of Buffalo.

MH: Four-footed animal and no... [laughter]  
What school did you go to?

Luke: I went to the school which is the library now. I went there for seven years. That's the only- then I went to high school in New Milford.

MH: You went to high school in New Milford. So, you-- did you stay in New Milford in the winter?

Luke: No, no.

MH: I know some people did...

Luke: No, they had buses by then

MH: Oh, they had buses. Yeah. Okay

Luke: The Swansons down here in New Preston, they use to run the buses. The buses went--

MH: The house that you grew up in, could you describe it? What kind of a house was it? Is that the homestead now?

Luke: No, I grew up in the College Farm's School<sup>4</sup>. Okay, that's where I grew up. So that's it. My mother and father rebuilt that into a house in 1934 when they got married. So. They moved it; it used to set this way-- along the road, and they turned it the other way when they moved it. I lived there until I was 13, so.

MH: Okay, and it ah-- two stories? Bedrooms upstairs?

Luke: Yeah, two stories. Three bedrooms upstairs, and a living room, dining room, and kitchen downstairs. Two bathrooms.

MH: Oh! You had two bathrooms? That's good.

Luke: Yes two.

MH: What activities did you and your family do together when you were growing up?

Luke: Well, I guess-- It was my sister always asks me, "*Do you remember going on these trips and all?*" I have to tell her I don't remember because she went, and my brothers went, but I stayed home and milked so they could all go. So, [laugh] I didn't do a lot of the traveling with them.

MH: Yeah, we've talked to a couple people who were from farm families and they said, "*We didn't do a lot, we had to be at the farm.*" You know.

Luke: We did things. I mean, I showed cattle. I was in 4-H and I went to all of the show cattle with all the fairs around the area. Things like that.

MH: When you take the cattle what are the attributes they look for?

Luke: Well, it's a long list. [laugh] It's-- well, they look for the total confirmation of the animal as compared to the ideal animal, so. They have an 'ideal animal', and they try at the ones that compare closest to it.

MH: Do they ask about the color of the cow?

Luke: No, not really-

MH: -Whether they have spots or there black and white it doesn't matter okay.  
When you were growing up, what was in the center of town?

Luke: What was in the center of town. Well, there was always the store. Not a lot else.

MH: Who ran the store then? Do you remember?

Luke: Well-- when I was-- the Col's came and brought the store<sup>5</sup> when I was in second grade. Their son was just my age, and he and I went all through school together, and high school. He was in my wedding. So. [assents] No, they ran it for quite a few years there.

MH: Was the gas station there?

Luke: Yeah, they use to pump gas there. They built the gas station.

MH: -The Col's built the gas station?

Luke: They use to have a gas pump in front of the store; the one with the model where you pumped it up and drained it in, you know.

JG: Yeah there's a picture of that floating around somewhere.

Luke: Yes. Yeh. Yeah used to be just the gas pump there--

MH: Well, I guess we already talk all about the store. I know some of the farm families had their groceries delivered from the store, did your mom do that?

Luke: Oh yeah. I did when I got married too, still the Cols delivered my groceries. Yeah, they used to call up every, I think it was Tuesday morning, get a list of what you wanted, then they'd deliver it.

MH: Yeah--that was good. That allowed-- made it a lot easier for families. I know some of the moms, some of the families didn't have-- they had a truck-- and they didn't have an extra car. What did you do for fun?

Luke: What'd we do for fun-- We always-- we used to do a lot of-- I used to play baseball. We would go to the-- went swimming. Things like that-

MH: -Where did you go swimming?

Luke: A lot of times, in Sucker Brook.

MH: Oh really? Are there swimming holes there?

Luke: They-yeah, there used to be a couple, yeah. Or else down to the lake-- I used to go down to the Hopkins, I use to go to their beach down there, so.

MH: Now did you bicycle down?

Luke: Sometimes.

MH: Did you fish?

Luke: Nah, I never had the patience [laugh] to fish - wait for the fish.

MH: Smart man! [laugh]

Luke: My father used to like to try, once in a while. But he never did that much, but he did try it.

MH: I should have asked this question when we were talking about your family. You are married.

Luke: Yes.

MH: You are married to whom?

Luke: Trudy Wilbur. Truda. Wilbur. Yeah, I-



MH: -It is Truda?

Luke: Truda, yeah.

MH: Okay, I tend to say Trudy but--

Luke: Yeah, she gets called Trudy, but her real name is Truda.

MH: Truda Wilbur. Wilbur is a local family --?

Luke: From Colebrook.

MH: Colebrook. How did you meet her?

Luke: Showing cows.

MH:

Oh. [laughter] Her family-- Farm family?

Luke: Yes.

MH: Okay. Do you have children?

Luke: Yeah, I have a son Calvin<sup>6</sup>. A daughter Lucinda<sup>7</sup>.

MH: Okay, and, where are they?

Luke: Well, Calvin, Calvin lives in the house that Trudy and I built when we got married on Jack Corner Road. Cindy lives in Litchfield.

MH: Do you happen to know the number at--where Cal lives? The number of his house?

Luke: I can't 'member whether it's 85 or 58. It's one of them. [laughter] I think it's 85.

MH: Okay. Well, it'd be good if we could, you know-- So, you built that house?

Luke: Yes. I, so, I tell people Herb Curtiss and Rob Feller built that house for me. They charged \$2 an hour. They raised their rates to \$2.25 but

since I'd made the arrangement with them the year before they did it for the original rate. I paid them \$1,800 apiece to build that house.

MH: Wow.

JG: Good deal

Luke: In 1956.

MH: That was Feller and Curtiss?

JG: Curtiss from Curtiss Road?

Luke: Yes.

JG: Okay.

MH: What-- which Curtis would that be?

Luke: Herbert. Herb Curtiss. Herb Curtiss Sr.

MH: Senior, okay.

JG: We interviewed...?

MH: Rutt. Rutt Curtiss.

Luke: Rutt, yeah, that's his youngest son.

MH: Describe your neighborhood when you were a kid.

Luke: It was very--kind of a very close neighborhood. We had all the-- fam-- we had the-- My grandfather lived up the road<sup>8</sup>. My uncle lived in the next house<sup>9</sup>.

MH: Alright now your grandfather, did he live in the Homestead?

Luke: Yes. My uncle Eldred built the house just above there, the little red house<sup>10</sup>. That's there, on the left just above the homestead. I don't know if it's red anymore, but it used to be.

MH: Ah, is that on--What road is it on?

Luke: On 341.

MH: 341. The red house. Okay.

Luke: It's about across the road from Bernard's; this way a little bit. Uncle/

MH: /Oh, okay.

Luke: /and a-course, my uncle Herb owned the farm right below our house, there. He and Aunt Eva lived there.

MH: So, there was.... So, your uncle had a farm, and your father had a farm? They were next to each other, is that right?

Luke: Yeah, well my grandfather, my grandfather and my uncle were next to each other; but my father, my father was there until he moved up here, so. On the hill here, so. Uncle Herb and my grandfather we're half-brothers, so. He was Willis's father, so.

MH: Okay. The homestead.... I'm assuming has been added onto over the years. So, that... does it have an apartment, or separate living spaces now?

Luke: It does now. The woodshed is two apartments now. Use to be the woodshed- That was, the woodshed, it's rebuilt.

MH: When you were growing, up where did you shop?

Luke: Mostly in Torrington probably. Yeh.

MH: Okay.  
What is the largest town or city you remember visiting when you were young?

Luke: What do you consider young? [laughter] TO ME YOUNG IS A LONG TIME AGO! [laugh]

MH: Well, under 15?

Luke: Well...I 'member, I 'member going to New York. Going to Yankee Stadium. Going on trips with people, and--

MH: Okay, so you went to New York City. Well, you know, there are a couple of these people who said... we'd [laugh] -- we had the farm, we didn't, .... you know, ....., they'd visit their grandmother once a year, or something. [laugh]

Luke: Well like.... the Cols that owned the store, I mean, I 'member, he, Louie n' Andy Strong took Sonny and I and Yankee Stadium- the games you know, so. The one day we went down, and it's rained out, so we went to the Museum of Natural History. Well, instead of-- 'cause there was no game.

MH: Oh. Ah. Well, that's a good place to be.

Luke: Yes.

MH: What jobs did you have?

Luke: Jobs that I had--

MH: You would have done a lot of different things but as a teenager?

Luke: I just worked on the farm.

MH: Worked on the farm?

Luke: Yes.

MH: But you milked the cows-- what are the other responsibilities you had?

Luke: Anything that needed to be done, I mean, I wasn't very old when I started doing all the mowing for the farm. Mowing all the hay/

MH: Mowing the hay.

Luke: /was something. Whatever needed to be done was--my father made sure when you got there. [laugh]

MH: Well, they certainly improved the equipment for baling the hay. 'Cause when you were doing it, a lot of that had to be done by hand, right?

Luke: Yeah, my father bought a new hay loader when we first rented the farm up there; that was a step up from pitching the hay. Had a hay loader that picked it up, and ran it up into the truck, you know.

MH: Yeah, but before you bailed, they just threw it into a truck, and then/

Luke: /Then they had a /

MH: /they had to do [laugh] something with it; they put it in their barn?

Luke: /Yeah, yeah, they had a-- they had forks; I still got some of them,--they just stuck in the load of hay, and you could pick it up, and it went up in the apartment, and up in the mows, in the sides.

MH: Oh, Wow. Now you've been doing hay for a long time, in a summer how many hay bales can you do? I know, it'd depends on the rain and that kind of thing.

Luke: Well, things have changed, too. We used to make 14 or 15,000 bales-a square bales of hay. Now my grandson makes the round bales, and one of them's (sic) worth about 35 square bales. So that's a--

MH: So, you did 15,000 squares, and your grandson does what?

Luke: He makes round bales, a lot of it now, so. So, I can't tell you how many he makes. He could tell you. He's got it all written down.

MH: No, it's interesting to me, you know, 15000 that's a lot of hay! [laugh]

JG: Pitch it by hand?

Luke: Back in those days, we always had a lot of help. I mean, labor was cheaper, and we'd have three or four people working for us, you know. Nowadays you can't find many people who want to work on a farm.

JG: What do round bales weigh? Must be many hundreds of pounds.

Luke: The dry ones weigh 'tween 7 to 800 pounds. Then we make wet ones, so, the ones he wraps up in the plastic, some of them weigh about 1,200, 'cause they don't dry them out.

JG: They're green when you wrap them up, right?

Luke: Yeh. Yeh.

MH: So wet means green. Yeah, I wondered the difference about that.

JG: So spontaneous combustion doesn't-- I mean when they--

Luke: No, no it ferments in there just like, just like putting it in the silo. It ferments in the bag.

MH: Well, I recently heard about a family that stopped, I don't know if it was here, where it was but with the little girl in the car, and they stopped to look at cows somewhere, and she saw the white bales, she said "*Marshmallows!*" [laughter] Well, they do look like marshmallows.

JG: My niece, when she was small, would see a brown cow, she said "*Chocolate milk*".

Luke: Yeah.

MH: She said what?

JG: She said, "*chocolate milk*". [laughter]

MH: Are you employed now, and where? [laugh]

Luke: I'm self-employed. I milk five afternoons a week. So.

MH: What does that mean, you don't do it by hand?

Luke: No. We have a milking parlor, we have five cows on each side which we alternate. We attach the machines-

MH: then-- does the machine stop when something is full, or--

Luke: No, you have to take it off-

MH: -You have to be there and watch it.

Luke: They do have-- things that automatically take them off, but we don't have those.

MH: Okay, so it's the kind of thing, it's got to be monitored/

Luke: /Yeh, um hm.

MH: /You can't just put them on and leave it there. Wow.  
Did any members of your family serve in the military?

Luke: Not my immediate family, no.

MH: What do you remember about Eric Sloane? Did you know him at all?

Luke: Nah, I knew him a little bit. I don't remember too much about him.

MH: Don't remember too much about him. Okay.

What do you remember about the Tanner Farms? [laugh] How many cows--? They had--, or--?

Luke: Well, my grandfather's barn used to hold 37 cows. Yeah, in his barn there. When we moved up on- moved up to Rabbit Hill we had about 25 or so would fit in the barn. So.....

MH: So that's kind of like between 25 and 35, or 37 is sort of normal amount?

Luke: At that time. Now you're talking about people with hundreds and thousands--

JG: Well, you have to do that to make any money don't you?

Luke: So, they tell me. [laugh]

MH: Now, if you have that, say 25 cows, how many gallons of milk would that-- would you get during a day for that? Or how many gallons you get from one cow?

Luke: Well, 'tween 7 and 10 probably.

MH: Wow. Do you have any recollections, remember anything about The Inn on Lake Waramaug? The Coombs Inn?

Luke: Yeah, yeah, I 'member going there many times.

MH: For what reason?

Luke: We had a lot of meeting there, and so forth. Use to have meetings. I used to go- they'd hold meetings there.

MH: Now meetings from whom?

Luke: Well, farm groups use to have meetings. Then when I use to go there, of course the firemen used to have their dinners there. A lot of people had different dinners 'ere. Dick always knew when I was coming 'cause when I came, he had the roast beef; he always turned it around and cut the end piece off for me. [laughter] He knew what I wanted. [laughter]

MH: Did you take part in any of the events they had down at the lake--they used to have a lot of things going on?

Luke: Not really no.

MH: You mostly went for the roast beef. Okay. Any recollections about the Hopkins Inn? ... Or the Hopkins Farm?

Luke: Well, I know a lot about the Hopkins Farm. I know--Bill's father was like a second father to me. He used to take me to fairs and stuff.

MH: Bill's father? Ah, very nice.

Luke: Bill's always been a very close friend, too. He's a year younger than me, so there. We just-- we've grown up together, and still are good friends. I just went to his 80th birthday party. [laugh]

MH: Oh wow. Yeah, well, I'd heard that a-- with the Inns at least-- how much people cooperated. I'm sure the farmers did. But if an Inn, on a Sunday afternoon, ran out of eggs they'd call the other inn and they'd send over eggs. Or I'm sure the farmers helped in that regard too.

Luke: Yeh.

MH: Any recollection about the Boulders Inn? Did you know the Lowes at all?

Luke: Yeah, I know the Loews, the Franklin's, so, I know them all, oh, yes.

MH: Franklin were the family?



Luke: That was Jane's father and mother-

MH: -She became Jane Lowe.

Luke: Yeh, Jane Lowe

MH: Her family, are they the ones who owned Pinnacle Valley<sup>11</sup> originally?

Luke: Yes.

MH: The Franklins?

Luke: Well, I think maybe the Meads<sup>12</sup> owned it originally. They were-- I'm trying to think--Mrs. Franklin<sup>13</sup> was a Mead, I think, they owed it before the ...Lowes.

MH: Yeah, I've heard the name - Mead. Did you come across it?

JG: I remember it. It's a local name. Was it New Preston did they come from?

Luke: I don't know. I'm not sure. I know they owned it down there.

MH: Did you have any recollections about the LaGrotta Inn?

Luke: Yeah, my wife worked there. [laugh] She worked as a waitress, there, some. Well, we were always friendly with the LaGrottas; 'specially Lillian, Guy's wife, was always was *my aunt*, not really. Basically, I'd call her aunt 'cause the schoolteachers use to board with us, and she was one of the teachers that board with us before she got married, there.

MH: So, your mom and Lillian LaGrotta were-- had been friends?

Luke: Yes.

MH: Because, being teachers-- /was a connection.

Luke: /Yes. Lillian Scott, she was. Fran Hunter, the two of them were teachers. They boarded with us for probably five or six years. The year I went to school, they left; I don't know if there was any reason for that or not. [laugh] They didn't want to put up with me anymore, I guess. [laugh]

MH: Yeah, I guess that was pretty common for teachers to board with families--

Luke: My mother boarded with Rob- with the Perkins, in the center a town. Rob Perkins, that's another one who used to own store.

MH: Well, that's interesting.  
What do you remember about the Warren Store? Did you use to go up there? Is there anything in particular, as a kid, you went up for?

Luke: I remember I used to go in and get us a soda out of the ice for a dime. [laugh] When I could find one. [laughter]  
It was a lot different back then, so.

MH: Yeah, we talked to Ed Berrill, whose family had a house up on City Road. They were summer people, but he said that the big part of his day was to get in his bike and bike down to the store and get a soda. [laughter]

MH: Well, it's the only thing--

Luke: Well, I think the cooler's up in the old town hall there, came from there. That's- had an old one, said Coca Cola on the side, had two lids, I think they used it for suppers up there. But they always had that setting inside the door with ice and soda-.

MH: -Yeah, where is that now? The cooler?

Luke: There's one, I think it looks like it's the same one, it's up, used to be at the Old Town Hall, there. They used to use it for suppers and all for things, I don't know if that's the same one or not. It's just like what it was.

MH: Don't know. Did it say Coca-Cola on it?

Luke: I think so, yeah.

MH: We ought to see if we can find it. Okay.  
Any stories of interest about the Warren Church? Were you a churchgoer there?

Luke: Yes. I went to Sunday school. I was on the committee to hire a minister there, one time. the woman that's chairman says, "*The*

*church didn't do this and didn't do that". I say, kept correcting her, finally we got at the end she said, "They never have summer Bible School", I said, "Yes they did 'cause I went". You know. [laugh]. She said. They got to the end, she would say, "Did we ever do that, Luke?" She got toward the end of the interview. [laughter]*

MH: Were you married there?

Luke: No. I was married in Colebrook. My daughter was married there.

MH: Oh. Oh, yeah, I didn't ask, we know that - no she's in Torrington=

Luke: -No, Litchfield.

MH: Litchfield, I'm sorry.  
Well, my mind is going this way, what kind of work does Cal do?

Luke: He's an equipment operator for the town of Watertown.

MH: Oh, okay. Cindy

Luke: She's a vice president of the Connecticut Mutual Holding Company, which is the umbrella bank over Litchfield Bancorp, Northwest Bank, and Collinsville Savings Bank.

MH: Well, good for her. Yeah.

Luke: She milks cows every morning a 'for she goes.

MH: She what?

Luke: She milks the cows every morning before she goes.

MH: What time does [laugh] she have to get up? -- four?

Luke: Oh, she gets home around five, she gets over here.

MH: Oh my-good for her. Wow! [laugh]  
Any stories of interest about the fire department?

[30:34]

Luke: Yeah, there's a lot of-- it's interesting-- I 'member going with my father when they bought the, well the Dodge truck that's' up there, that they restored, finally. I 'member going with my father down the, I think it was Oxford, to see a demonstration of that afore they bought the truck. I 'member going down with him and a bunch of firemen when I was just-, well that was in '46, so I'd been about 10 years old. The original truck, they came, Louie Col bought that from Canaan with him when he, when he bought the store, he got it from the Canaan Fire Department-, the original one they had. then they bought Dodge in 1946.

MH: They've been in the fire department, the existing building, for a long time.

Luke: Yes, it's quite a-, it's quite a few years, 'course it was a Grange Hall before they took that ove-

MH: -What, was the whole building the Grange?

Luke: Yeh.

MH: Oh, I thought mayb--

Luke: -But they built on the bays on the end/

MH: /Yeah. I, I thought maybe they had shared it. So was-, where was the fire department when, before they

Luke: Well, in sometimes they use to, I think they use to keep the engine in the horse-shed up behind the church, there.

MH: Was that like the town garage or something? No, horse-shed behind the church.

Luke: Ney, they, I wouldn't let them tear it down when they built the Academy. After I left being Selectmen, they tore it down. They took a picture of it for me and gave it to me before they tore it down. I told them it was part of history; that-- there was a building there, with a big overhead door in it. It's where the horse-shed used to be; where the use to, over behind there where they used to tie the horses when they- during church, you know.

MH: Um. Well.

Luke: I would never let them tear it down, but they-- after I left, they let them tear him down. [laugh]

MH: Now when they called it fire department then, they would just- they had a single siren, is that right?

Luke: Yeah, and they had a Call List. They also-- when they had--

MH: Yeh, but you know, I'm thinking about those days people- if they're working out in the field, they're in the barn, there might not be a phone. You know. Well, I guess th-

Luke: -No, I think they had three sirens. They had one in the center, they had one on Willis's garage, and they had one on Herb Curtiss's garage.  
They had three sirens, and then they had a Call List, somewhere they--call. See everybody had a list, so when the siren went off, they called people to tell them-

JG: -Phone Tree, yeah.

Luke: Yeh. Yeh.

MH: Do you remember any stories about the Lookout Tower?

Luke: [laugh] Yeah/[laughter]

MH: /Wahoo! [laugh] Yes. Tell us.

Luke: They had-- well the original was up in the air, you know. In the end, they had one just on the ground.

MH: Okay.

Luke: There is probably- there's (sic) pictures in the town hall, you probably seen them, with the one that was up in n' air.

MH: Yeah, yeah. Did anybody in your family go up and do that?

Luke: Yeah, I did that. My parents did.

MH: Did you get a little card that said officially you were a lookout person?

Luke: Probably did at one time. I do-

MH: -Yeah, Curtiss. He had one.

Luke: Speaking of the Fire Department and that, though, I remember-- Bernhard and I were up there one night doing that, and the fire siren went off, we just left and went down and got in the fire truck. Went back, I guess nobody bombed us while we were gone. [laughter] We ran down through the woods, took the fire truck and went to the fire.

MH: Did you ever see any planes?

Luke: Yeah, we would see planes fly over; I don't think any about it.

MH: Nothing important?

Luke: No. No. No.

MH: Any stories of interest about Lake Waramaug?  
Did you ice fish? Did you iceboat?

Luke: I remember going down there to watch the iceboats when they were. Used to have the, use to drive right out on the ice, park your car and watch them.

JG: Wouldn't do that now.

MH: Na-yeah.

Luke: Our doctor there, use to have an iceboat. Doc Stevens. He was in New Preston and then he went to New Milford. He was good friends with my grandfather. He had an iceboat he used to go down there

MH: Did they race? That must be a pretty good place to do that. Wind.

Luke: Yeh

MH: Now you were First Selectman. We asked about your jobs, and you said you ran the farm, but you did something else. So what years were you First Selectman? About?

Luke: 1985 to 2002, I think.

MH: Okay. Tell us about that.

Luke: Well, something I never, was never going to do. They couldn't find anybody wanted to do it. 'Tween Dave Scofield and Bernard talked me into it finally. I said, "*Well, I'd try it for a term or so*"; ended up getting elected nine times, so. [laughter]

MH: Wow.

Luke: I spent --I was on the Board of Finance. I got on that in 198-6. I, and then I went on the, I was a Selectman from '83 to '85. Then I was First Selectman for 17 years. Then I spent nine years on the School Board, three years as Chairman. then back onto the Board of Finance - which I'm trying to get off now. All told-- I was in elected office for 42 years<sup>14</sup>, I have been, so.

MH: That's a lotta ... service

Luke: -Figure I done about enough.

MH: Thank you.

Luke: They wanted me to run for-- Why, I think my name's on the ballot, and I don't want it there, and they said they were going to put there until they found somebody but--[laughter] but I understand. They haven't told me they'd taken it off yet. So.

MH: Was there anything of note-- during that time, that happened, or... that you influenced, that you want to tell us about? Anything happened in town or—

Luke: Well the most exciting thing was the tornado, I guess. That was kind of a wild day. [laugh] I always had-- It's there--we did a lot up at the Warren Woods, I thought. We built, got the Pavilion Building built, the dining room, and everything while I was Selectman, and put in the bathrooms. All those things, I was head of. We did that, built that dining room on the Town Hall without any taxpayer funds either. We got that from the sale of the-- a grant with some- sold the logs off some of the town property, and all paid for that without using any tax dollars for it. It was.

MH: Yeah, I remember going early, I don't even think we lived here. We just owned the land and went to a town meeting when they, when they

were talking about buying that in the seven-- '60s I guess, and /there were people.../

Luke: /I was the only one that voted against it.

MH: Yeah, some people said, "No, I got 40 acres in my backyard, what do I need that place for".

Luke: Well, I voted against it for a different reason, no. 'Cause I didn't want the 4-H to sell it.

The 4-H owned it and I didn't want them to sell it. So, that's-- I didn't have no problem with the town owning it, but I preferred that the 4-H kept it. 'Cause when high up-- in 4-H, we went out when the 4-H bought it there; went out and solicited funds as 4-H members. We went out raising money to help buy it from the 4-H bought it<sup>15</sup>. They ran it for a camp<sup>16</sup> for many years there.

JG: [inaudible] camp

Luke: No, that was the Meriden Boys Clubs that ran it. then the 4-H-bought it from them, so. The 4-H had it for 29- twenty-some years there they ran camps. We had our 4-H Fair there. We had our first 4-H Fair there in 1949. I was a.... and some kid from Warren won the Grand Champion at the cattle show

MH: Oh, Wow.

Luke: So. I was happy with that.

MH: Yeah

Luke: [laugh]

MH: Well, it's certainly it has become an asset for the town a very good one.

Are they any recollections about living in Warren and growing up here that you'd like to share with us?

So, I don't have any more questions, but just open it up to you.... to talk about things--

Luke: Well, everybody knows I think Warren's very deep in my heart. I think a lot of the town and what's going on. one woman got mad at me one day when I was Selectman, they asked me what I thought about all the



people in town .... and there-- growing --and everything? I say, "*why I liked it better when we had 800 cows and 400 people*". [laughter] They/ she didn't like me saying that. [laughter] But we did. But there only about, little over 400 people here when I was young.

MH: Wow.

Luke: So. That's a thousand less then we got. But back in the years ago, they said they had 2,000 people/

JG: /Yeah, I remember when all the schools were operating.

Luke: Yeh. Yes.

JG: Do you have any memories of the Radar Site? Which the Historical Society had a tour of there over the weekend-

MH: Yeah, I went on it.

Luke: That was quite a thing up there. They had the Air Force people lived in it. That's they built that cement-block house on the corner, that's where they lived the people that operated it, you know.

JG: Right. But wasn't it automated once--

Luke: Yeh, pretty much automated. But they alw- they had people here all the time. Wh- monitoring it.

MH: Yeah, there was a, they told us about that. There wasn't somebody there all the time, but they'd go in and check the equipment and so far-- and ah. Yeh, during the Cold War and- but they talked about that site that you could see everywhere.

Luke: Yeh. Yeh.

MH: You go up there now and you see trees.

Luke: Yeh.

JG: /Well, the trees grow? /

Luke: /But of course /that was up in the air, too.

JG: /Yeah.

MH: Yeah, that's true. Yes. Yes.

Luke: You could still see that from a distance when it was still up there.

MH: But it's a 26-acre State Park.

JG: I'm surprised at how little attention it seems to have gotten. Most people he-, I guess once it was up and running; a lot of people just had no idea it was here.

Luke: I never heard, I don't remember, or recall having any controversy about putting it there, either.

JG: Well, having GI's in town and GI's going out on a Saturday night, you know where you going to go in Warren? [laughter] No place to raise hell.

Luke: No, it was interesting, I mean, 'cause we had all the dairy farms. I mean there were-- I made a list there one time, I think--they were making one in Washington. I think I made mine count 15 or 16 dairy farms that shipped milk that I remembered growing up in this area. In the town.

MH: 15 dairy farms?

Luke: Course we, my father, as I say, started on my grandfather<sup>17</sup>'s farm, when his uncle<sup>18</sup> died- in September, '43 He rented the farm from his aunt and cousin--from the farm up on Rabbit Hill. So, we moved up there-- and he, his cousin was a in the Air Force at the time, and he decided he'd rather be a schoolteacher than a farmer, so. My father bought it from them in 1949. So.

MH: He bought it from who, what family?

Luke: From the Howlands<sup>19</sup>. When Art Howland died, who'd owned the farm, he'd died in September. His wife Winnie was my grandmother's sister, so. So, we bought. We moved a up there--the last day of grammar school was the first day I slept on Rabbit Hill. I got out a grammar school that afternoon, spent the first night at Rabbit Hill. [laugh]

MH: You use to have chickens up there, didn't you?

Luke: Yeh, yeh we use to' had about 600 laying hens. 'Specially-, during the war, when we were first started there, they were eggs were good prices, and they, we didn't have as many cows, they kept us kind of alive, yeh.

MH: Yeah, the chicken house is still there. [laugh]

Luke: There barely. [laugh]

MH: But then, you had, did you have apple trees up --up there your up there?

Luke: We have now. Father started those basically back the fifties he started. We still have some. Calvin takes care of most of them now. So. But then we-- cause then they had, I mean, I sighed when the neighborhood there, we'd had a little-- we'd get the LaGrottas, and the Angevines, Brattlunds all were in that group of farmers, too.

MH: Oh, the Brattlunds were farmers? Right here on the corner of Tanner and Rabbit? That family?

Luke: Yeah. The house where I lived. Yeh. My great grandfather owned that house. Well, he died in that house. The Brattlunds bought it from his estate in 1904<sup>20</sup>. I bought it back from the Bratt-, my brother and I bought it back from the Brattlunds estate in 1967<sup>21</sup>. Sixty-three (63) years after [laugh] it came back in the Tanner Family.

MH: Yeah so, the Brattlunds been here a long time.

Luke: Yeah. That's a... it was interesting to see him, they were Swedish. The father was fun. He talked with quite a Swedish accent. He was a toolmaker, I think, in New York and moved up here to farm. It was a big family. But I don't think there's (sic) any survivors of them.

MH: Well, I'm just so thankful the Brattlunds chose to give the town the Town Beach/

Luke: /Yeh. Right. /

MH: /That's one of my favorite places. [laughter]  
Well, if you think of something tonight, call me up. [laughter]

[44:29]

Luke: I was laughing when you were talking 'bout at the school, with the kids building this or that for things. We use to go up there - us farm kids we wanted to play baseball, we'd bring our stuff up there, take our axes, get out and cut some of the locust posts, *set* them, bring the chicken wire and the staples, and build a backstop ourselves!

MH: Where was that?

Luke: Well it's where the new part of the school<sup>22</sup> sets now, used to be the playground<sup>23</sup>.

MH: The playground.

Luke: Yeh/ Probably frown on kids coming to school with axes and something now. [laughter]

JG: /Yeah.

MH: [laugh] Well yeh, sure. [laughter]

Luke: Different world.

JG: Yeah, that's for sure.

MH: Well, the town certainly has changed in your lifetime. From, what 400 people and--  
Have you been up to the Historical Society?

Luke: Not recently, no. I went to their meeting last year 'cause I was upset when they had the Warren thing that they're going to tell about the six school-houses. That was the first time I read it, I said: "*Trudy, what the hell they do with the seventh one?*" By the time I got there, I guess I'd said something to Dennis<sup>24</sup>, so he figured it out there were seven, and they finally got it. I know my math and everything else; thought I'd better straighten them out.

MH: Ah, well, you know they do the best they can, but you know they're not perfect. Well, we're /going to have-

Luke: -I figured they missed the one down Petersville which is probably the one they didn't have.

JG: Petersville, where was that?

Luke: Now, where the reservoir is.

Luke: Where they had the, did the iron ore. You seen (sic) that? A guy named Peter's owned it. I gave Ellen<sup>25</sup> the article that Will Park wrote all about Petersville when I was up there that day, too. She/he had a thing written all; they have their own post office, their own school, and everything, down there.

MH: Peters-burg?

Luke: Petersville.

MH: Peters-ville.

JG: There used to be a road that went, I guess it would be North of there probably. Probably Northeast/

Luke: /Went over into Milton?

JG: Or did it go a little bit to the west of that cross- what they call East Cornwall, or I think it was-- Old Southeast?

Luke: Could be. I had that map somewhere/

JG: /Well, there is a map in the Historical Society. It almost looks like it was a throughway from up in Massachusetts that came down through Great Hollow, just past Mohawk Ski Area. It dead ends near the Castle property. The old road continue so that's probably about two miles of it knocked out, and it comes out-- there's a Revolutionary War Cemetery, and then it comes down to Flat Rocks. Then crosses Flat Rocks goes into the reservoir area. But I'm sure the reservoir flooded a lot of that area out. It looks like it comes out where we see Valley Road now. Then across what is now 202 and goes down on to -- what's the school in Washington? The dirt road?

MH: /Romford. /

Luke: /Romford. /

JG: Yes, exactly. then it looks like that road continues through there, through Washington. I'm sure it's not one road - it's an amalgamation of a lot of smaller roads - all the way down into Woodbury. So, it would be, you know, before they had Route 8, you know a North-South Highway. Very interesting. So.

Luke: We use to have the Warren Turnpike, tween it, there.

JG: Yes. Yeah.

Luke: That use to go right through Sackett's barnyard, there.

JG: Oh, really?

Luke: You see where Sackett Hill comes out o'er the other side, you can still see where the wall was up through there, that use to go right through Sackett's barnyard, there.

JG: Where was Breakneck Hill, that's another word I heard that -

MH: -Oh, that's a-- Taubner. I believe/

Luke: /Yeah, Taubner

MH: You know where Taubner's house is?

JG: Yeah, on-- 45.

MH: Yeah well, to the right if you're facing his house to the right I think /in the back--

Luke: /Where the house<sup>26</sup> they built, the one up the road where they just redid there, that goes right by that, right up the hill.

MH: Yeah. Well, it goes up to Above All, is that right?

Luke: Yeah. Yeah.

JG: So, there was a road up-

Luke: See how you/

MH: Yeah, I did think it was abandoned-

Luke: -it's the other end of Above All-

MH: -I think it's kind of a dirt road, or path, or something, I think-

Luke: I guess he got it so he can drive up it. He told me-

MH: -Well, I think he's been trying to make it's so you can't drive up it.  
[laugh]

Luke: Well, he had a g-

MH: I'm supposed to interview him. I call-- he doesn't call me back.

Luke: I try too, I try to get him to just close it and make it his. But I, 'cause, it's still on the town thing, I think--

JG: Why'd it hap-? How it got the name Breakneck Hill? I imagine someone going do-

Luke: -There's a big steep corner up in there, on the ledge.

JG: -if you were riding like a horse and a wagon coming /along you'd break your neck.

Luke: /Over go o'er the hill. Yeh.

Luke: When what's his, the one that's over, what was the guy used to, was their caretaker<sup>27</sup>, there? He's o'er in Bantam now. He tried to tell me I had to plow his driveway in there 'cause it was part of the town road, 'cause it, 'cause that road went right beside the house, there. I said, "*No, I don't think so.*"

MH: Well.

Luke: No, I had discussions with Val about turning it over to them, but he never. We were going to do it once; it never did put in there. I don't think it's ever going to be a road again. [laugh]

MH: No, I don't think so. I don't know if it goes up into where the Strong Preserve is now. You know that property--?

JG: Well, no; that would be Above All State Park, wouldn't it?

Luke: Yeh, yeh, it goes right up, comes around the bottom, if you go down the end of Above All, and you go 'round Taubner's property goes down there and goes down the hill this way. He has the land he owns it up there, so.

MH: Well, we're good. Nice interview, Luke. Good job, yeah

JG: Thank you, yes!

Luke: Well, it's been a long--

MH: Now, the Historical Society has a curator, Ellen Paul/

Luke: /Yeh, I know her-

MH: -we actually have-

Luke: -I dealt with her before-

MH: -Monday mornings-- from 9 to 12--every Monday, unless she takes the day off, ah-

JG: -unless she's trapped somewhere because I guess the chief, I don't know where she is, but she couldn't get a flight out in time to get here for today. She might have been in Costa Rica. Her husband, he does business down there-

MH: -Well, anyhow, she.... most Mondays from 9 to 12-- the Historical Society in ... the--

Luke: -Old Town Clerk's Office.

MH: No, the.... Yeah, I want to say the Town Hall.... [laugh] in Community Center.

Luke: Yeah.

MH: She's there.



Luke: Yeah.

MH: So, if you ever want to go up and see what pict- ... Now, pictures... you don't have any pictures to share with us?

Luke: No, haven't had time to look for any, so.

MH: Okay. Ah, well, Pauline's supposed to give us pictures that were going to copy/

Luke: Yeh.

MH: So, when you get them together, could you call me and/or you could take them up to Ellen, and she'll, she'll probably have to, want to, borrow them for a while, but she'll put them in the computer. You know. then you can have them back. [pen clicking] But that means also that if, I think this includes photos. You know. /If they /

JG: /Yeah, / It should.

MH: /they want to use one of your pictures in a display that it's okay. Yeah. I don't think that its-

Luke: Yeah, I got to an education though. When I grew up with my grandfather's farm, and down there they had 'lectricity. We moved up on Rabbit Hill there's no electricity, no nothing. We moved up there in '43. So, we had to milk, we milked them by hand, and the kerosene lanterns and we cut ice the first winter we were up there to put in the icehouse to cool the milk.

JG: You cut on the lake and hauled it-

Luke: -No, cut on our ponds up there. That was a long-- They did have a-- milking machine with the gasoline engine on it. But Father finally got somebody to fix that. I got Earl Smith to fix that up, I guess. 'Member he had to go to a Grange meeting there or something, he was a deputy in the State Grange, there, so. Bud Young and I were there one night to milk, and it took us longer to get that damn engine running than did to milk the cows. [laughter]

MH: Yeah, Ed Berrill, on City Road said when his family bought the cottage up there, they didn't have electricity or didn't have water either. Did they have a well?

JG: They had a well, yeah.

MH: They had a well but nothing in the house and they had a wood stove and a-- They spent the whole summers there. The father would go to work in Long Island, the Mom would stay there with the kids. But a--

Luke: That was, we had all wood stoves in the house we moved up there, the water just came gravity by spring.  
It came down there, there was a tank with- it was a two-family house; the tank would be between the two kitchens where the water ran into it, you could dip water out of them, you know. But and there was a pipe in the bottom, and down in-a cellar there was a pump and a gas engine. He used to pump that water up in the barrel up top so you'd have running water/ by a

MH: /Very cold. [laughter] Woo! [laugh]

Luke: Father's hopefully; he was always kind of a jokester, anyway, he had but, there was an old overflow came down right, well, was a staircase here and the pump was here. The staircase you'd always set a barrel there and somebody come visit they'd give them a glass a cider or something, they'd go sit on the barrel and when the water ran down their neck, you knew the barrel was full. [Laughter]

Luke: He was good at doing things like that.

MH: Oh. A challenge, I'll tell ya.  
Okay, well we ha-

Luke: It's funny, we had telephones but no 'lectricity. 'Cause the telephone came up from Route 25 or 202, as we know it now, it came all the way up to the- power came as far as Brague's there.  
So, no power on this side. We got it in a couple of years, I guess, so. Right at the end of the war, so, it was hard getting things done you know.

MH: Do you know what's going on at the Smalley's?

Luke: Not really, no.

MH: That was-- Norman, he passed away, is that right?

Luke: Yeah.

MH: But there was some acreage behind them that /was sold

Luke: /They sold that. /

MH: /Was that their acreage?

Luke: Yes. \$500,000 they got.

MH: Yeah.

JG: Through the leaves you can see there is a little camper trailer, way up, way up in the back.

Luke: Yeh. That's some hunters there that-

JG: --hunters?

Luke: Norman had some hunters that use to hunt there, there.

MH: Yeh when I go for my walk, there's usually a car parked/ a pickup / truck, and al-

JG: I've noticed that

Luke: /Right on /

MH: /I see it's hunters.

Luke: Yeah.

JG: Looking for deer?

Luke: Yeh. They got in trouble once, but I guess they got their license back, right. The State Trooper was hunting on the land up, the -

MH: [laugh] A State Trooper! Oh! [laugh]

Luke: Trac-, Tracy's out there, during bow season, he heard a shot around him, and the deer dropped under him, and these guys are hunting here down about three properties down, shot the deer and--

He went over and ask them "*What are ya-*". "*None of your business.*" He said: "*I think it is.*" He pulled his badge. So, they wanted to walk back, "*No, you'll wait here till they come get you.*"[laugh]

MH: There's a good lesson.

Luke: He always get a permit, or he's a Resident Trooper in Litchfield, now. He always gets a permit from me so he can walk across to the other property.

Luke: So. They bought that land from LaGrottas years ago, that property out there.

MH: Oh-- ho'-- who bought what?

Luke: Smalleys. The girls bought that from the LaGrottas.

MH: Oh, they bought in from, oh, we bought ours from LaGrottas.

Luke: Yeh. Yeh.

MH: I think was one of the last little pieces that he had.

Luke: Yeah.

JG: Now was Smalley related to Weeks, the people, woman who, Caroline, who lives across the street from me?

Luke: Yeah. Yeah. There's-- I got to think hard to figure it out, yeh, 'cause-- Jennie, his mother, was a Brague, and their mother's a Brague. Florence. They were both the Bragues, they're sisters.

JG: Caroline's, I guess the last-well she's the last in Warren. I think she still has a sister-

Luke: -Claire's somewhere else-

JG: -Florida-- comes every year.

Luke: Yes. Yeh.

JG: Caroline has lived in that house her whole life.

Luke: Yeah.

MH: Yeh, you talking about the Smalleys?

JG: No, I'm talking about the Weeks-

Luke: -The Weeks.

JG: I thought I remember Caroline saying that they were related to the Smalleys. I don't remember how.

Luke: Yeah.

JG: How? /

MH: /How?

Luke: Their-- Both their mothers are both Brague.

JG: Well, Wes Brattlund, he'd give me some sixteen-millimeter films-- which, the best I could tell they were shot in very late 20's. There is a picture-- of a man and a chicken coop. in the background, I can see Wes Brattlund's house. From the angle of that, it looks like that chicken coop would be in the driveway of—the Mullen girl<sup>28</sup> that lives next to Weeks? What's her name? I can't get her name--

Luke: I don't know--

JG: It's not Kirby—Oh, I keep meaning to get that to Caroline, 'cause I think it might be her father.

Luke: Whose father?

JG: Caroline's. Her brothers and sisters.  
But it was probably shot before she was born. 'cause on that same reel of film I have a few frames of the airplane crash.... that took place up on Airplane Hill. You know on Hopkins property. that was in '29. So.... Um--those are the films that I had given to the Historical Society years ago.

Luke: Yeh, that little building out behind Weeks there, they use to haul that over to Hopkins Beach every year for the Warren Fireman Carnival. They used to slide it down the road over there use that for the office when the firemen-

JG: -The barn, the tool shed over there.

Luke: Yeh. They used to slide that down the road would go o'er there that was their office for the, when they had the firemen had their carnival. They used to have it on, Hopkin's lot there,

MH: They slid what--down the road?

Luke: A building. A little building there, they slid it down to use for an office.

JG: Behind Caroline Weeks' house, out in the back, there's a, you know, it's a tool shed that's used for chores and such-- it's one of the about the size of my-- Caroline Weeks' is a little tiny white house<sup>29</sup>, on the corner of the Lake Road and Route 45; almost directly across from Kirby, or directly across from Kirby.

MH: Oh. Okay.

JG: Ummm-- She's been here for, she's late eighties, 87, 88. Broke her hip last year so she...

Luke: Did she? Yeah, she's got to be old 'cause Claire is the youngest one. She's three years older than me, so. That'd make her 85.

JG: Yeah. Yeah. I check, if she comes up once a year and maybe was up a little more often, you know, helping her sister 'cause she's there alone but she had, there's other family members that come from-- somewhere.

Luke: Yeah.

JG: Take care of the house--

Luke: That was a big family. The Weeks, too.

JG: Yeah. I like her. She's a-- She needs more attention. You know she needs; she likes having, knowing people. Very shy.

Luke: Yes.

JG: She wouldn't, she won't participate in this. I try to get her to talk, but she, she's just too shy.

Luke: Yes.

JG: Never married. Never moved from that house. But to think of that little house, it can't be than/

Luke: /Nah, it's a little thing. /

JG: /a thousand square feet with seven brothers and sisters.

Luke: Yeh, yeh.

MH: [laugh]

Luke: I'll have to sleep doubled deck.

JG: Yeah. Exactly. I think they were mostly girls, weren't there? I don... She talks of her brother who died several years ago.

Luke: Harry, George, Ed,

JG: Oh, so there were more brothers...

Luke: There were three. Was there a fourth brother? Three brothers anyway, I that I remember.

JG: Tight Quarters.

Luke: Yeh.

MH: Well, I use to think about-- the a-- the family had eleven children here

Luke: Fritches.

MH: Fritches.

Luke: The house wasn't very big either.

MH: Hasn't -- I drove by the house the other day. Eleven [laugh] people! That's thirteen people.

JG: Not a lot of room for disagreements.

Luke: No. That was quite a family of them.

MH: But no-- only one grandchild?

Luke: Oh yeah?

MH: I'd heard that-- I think Gerry the youngest who was in his school with my son, Chris, had children but-- Some of them said, "*Nah, I spent my life taking care of little kids and I don't want to do it.*" You know I've heard that before but-- Ten out of eleven or something. Well, um, Tom Golden<sup>30</sup>, who lives up on Above All, his father, his gran-, his uncle had Golden's in New Milford—a-- He's one of six and there are no grandchildren.

JG: Hm.

Luke: Yeh.

MH: So, I said, "*Wow.*" You kind of wonder. [laugh]

Luke: Yeah.

MH: But-

Luke: -My grandson, he wasn't never (sic) going to have kids. He got two daughters now, I think he's really enjoying them. [laugh]

JG: I'm sure.

Luke: [laugh]

MH: Sometimes they say that if a sibling or brother or sister has a child, then they, I think it makes them so... [laugh] "*Maybe I should do this too.*"

Luke: Yeah. Of all the grandchildren I don't think they're ever going to get married or not. One of them was engaged, and they broke that off.



'So, the youngest one. [laugh] Joshua's got a girl been living with him for 'bout four or five years. So.  
You see our new bull barn he built? Our road? Bull or pole?

MH: Oh, oh you mean Rabbit Hill. Oh, Yeah! OH! Phew!

JG: I haven't been down your side of it, but...you know going across the top.

MH: No, you can do a little speeding feeding up there now! [laugh]

Luke: So, what I worry 'bout now. The people go by there-- they come 'round that corner, up on the barn, got all these people. Women taking their kids to the Montessori School. Guess they don't want to get them up in the morning, and they're afraid they be late. They go by that barn; they go fifty around that corner there. Yeh.

MH: Oh boy.

Luke: Joshua said he was going to get a cop to set up here now. He oversees the need to be slowed down.

JG: Couple of speed bumps would do the trick, too.

Luke: Yeah, yeah, I don't enjoy them.

Luke: One day [laugh] I woman came flying around there, and I/we got a hydrant right by the corner the building, now we get some water, and I had a pail, I threw out in the front of her- She screech to a halt. I say, "*Eh, s'pose that been an animal or one of my grandchildren.*" "*Oh! Oh! Oh!*" You know? [laugh]

JG: Yeah, they don't realize it's.... you know, your front door. You step out the door too fast you're going to get hit.

Luke: Yeh. Get hit-- Only got hit once-- By my sister--She backed over me.

JG: Huh?

MH: Really? [laugh]

Luke: She's not the world's greatest driver. She comes here, tells me she'll stop and visit somebody, then she goes by and gets our paper. So,

I'm just to go walk in the barn, and she started visiting, and she's going by, so I yelled at her, and I kept walking to the barn. So, she backs up, and backs into me; sent me face-first into the driveway! I go in, Cindy said, "*What happened to you?*" Blood running on my face. She didn't go over me, but she flattened me. [laugh]  
Everybody says, she shouldn't have a license. [laughter]  
She had more accidents-- Pete says, his biggest job is keeping her cars-- [laughter]

MH: Okay. I'm ready. Call for photos. If I don't hear from you, awhile--

Luke: I don't know what I got. I'll look and see--

MH: Yeah, it's probably a bother to go through them. But it would be a good way of preserving some of them and you know it's THE history of the town. you're certainly a big part of it. Your family.

- 1) 100 Woodville Rd.
- 2) Normal school, formerly, a school or college for the training of teachers.
- 3) Windhorst Hotel, Brick School Road, Marie Windhorst O'Dell sells 122 ac w/ hotel & schoolhouse to Colby & Jessie Chester, 1943 WLR 23/64-5
- 4) 52 Woodville Road
- 5) Approx. 1943-44. Sale of 'Store lot' from Orland Swift to Louis & Mary Cols is dated 1957 WLR 22/124
- 6) Calvin L. Tanner 85 Jack Corner Rd
- 7) Lucinda "Cindy" Tanner Whitlow
- 8) Tanner Homestead, 38 Woodville Road
- 9) 52 Woodville Road Easterly corner of College Farms Road
- 10) 30 Woodville Road
- 11) 1943 Anna & Kellogg Franklin, Jane Lowe's parents, declared "Pinnacle Valley Club is a Recreational & Health Resort". WLR 23/39
- 12) 1893 Nelson Mead, of Greenwich, paid \$2000 to the Est. of Charles Beeman for the land known as the "June Lot". WLR 15/180
- 13) Anna Mead Franklin
- 14) 2002 NYT A Dying Breed: Plowing & Politics by Elizabeth Maker
- 15) June, 1949 Ltch. Cty 4H paid \$19,500 to the Meriden Boys Club for Camp Cumo, 150+/-
- 16) 1923 Meridan Boys Club received 150+/-ac. from Katherine A. Fosestelle of Bridgeport, CT
- 17) Arden Tanner, Second Century Farm, Woodville Road
- 18) Arthur Howland

- 19) 1949 Winifred & Alain Howland WLR 24/102
- 20) 1905 Est. of Samuel Tanner to Emil Brattlund 112+/ac. (3 pc.);  
WLR 15/414
- 21) 1965 Brattlund Family to Tanner Family 112+/-ac. (3 pc.); WLR 25/570
- 22) Warren Elementary School Library addition.
- 23) Luke is describing a level area behind the Warren Town Library (formerly "New  
Center School") which in the in the 1980's was Town Tennis Court w/  
boundary on the brick wall of the Warren Elem School
- 24) Dennis Tanner, Historical Committee member
- 25) Ellen Paul, Curator, Warren Historical Society
- 26) 242 Lake Road w/ fire pond near road
- 27) Staebler
- 28) Lucy Mullen
- 29) 348 Lake Rd
- 30) 144 Above All Rd

[1:04:45]

Transcription and notation research by Carol Haxo, July 2019