

BACK OVER THE YEARS

Reminiscences of Mattituck in the early  
years of the Twentieth Century

VOLUME I



Friends of the Mattituck Free Library

1986

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## INTRODUCTION

We must explain where the material contained in these volumes comes from.

In 1978 the Friends of the Mattituck Free Library undertook to record an oral history of Mattituck. The project was carried on under the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). It was begun by Richard Mack and then developed by John Traversa, and it was intended to bring up to date the 1906 History of Mattituck written by the Reverend Charles Craven, Pastor of the Mattituck Presbyterian Church.

The work began with the recording of interviews with Mattituck citizens who recalled life in the early years of the century. Unexpectedly, work had to stop when the local CETA support was terminated.

The Friends were unable to carry on the project, and it became apparent that our goal of a history could not be achieved in the foreseeable future.

Into our files went the taped interviews, unedited and many incomplete, several hundred slides and a series of audio-visual tapes of groups and individuals. Some years later the Friends decided to make the contents of as many of the taped interviews as possible available as background material on the history of the community.

The tapes contain the voices of Mattituck citizens speaking about a time and a place they knew intimately. The authors of the tapes found it pleasant "... to look back and think back over the years", and the Friends are offering these plain spoken, sometimes humorous or touching accounts of 'how it was in those days'.

The material has been transcribed just as it was given to the interviewers with only repetitious and non-pertinent matter omitted. We have added a few notes, some information from conversations with the authors,

and have included several written pieces. Where pictures were available we have reproduced them together with articles from the Suffolk Times.

We express our gratitude to the authors whose interviews are recorded here as well as to those whose interviews we have not yet been able to transcribe. Our thanks to our volunteer proof readers, Nancy Duryee and Mary Flanagan, and to those who graciously loaned or gave us old photographs.

Many thanks go to our typists, Dorothea Delehanty, Kathleen Reeve and Rose Costello, who were dedicated in their efforts to transcribe the sometimes difficult recordings. And heart-felt thanks to the Mattituck Free Library whose Directors and Staff have been consistently helpful and patient as we carried on our work in their midst.

The Friends of the Mattituck Free Library  
Katherine Lascelle, Project Co-ordinator

July 1986

MATTITUCK ORAL HISTORY

Tape No. 1-RWT-1

Oral Author: Ralph W. Tuthill

Childhood on the Farm

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Early childhood

First school days

Life on the farm

History of the house

People mentioned: Teachers, Miss Hallock, Miss Holcomb,  
Miss Bliss. George Riley, Marguerite Wasson, Ellis(?)  
Reeve, Florence (?) Freeman, brother Raymond.

Lightly Row music

Autobiographical Sketch

HATHILLTOWN HISTORY SOCIETY

Contents of Page 1-200-1 Date of Interview: May 1972  
Oral History: Nelson K. Lewis Interviewed by: John Conway

"Don't forget up the farm"

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20. Tell me about your first day of school. How long did you attend and a neighbor boy about my age, we had gone to school at home. Don't all of them go to school in those days? It wasn't. It was at the end of the road. We had the school and the following year we started school. Somebody came to see if you started school in 1917?	
21. It didn't start until 1917. I think it would be a hardship for the teacher.	

MATTITUCK HISTORY PROJECT

Contents of Tape 1-RWT-1

Date of Interview: May 1978

Oral Author: Ralph W. Tuthill

Interviewed by: John Traversa

"Childhood on the Farm"

I: Tell me about your childhood, you said that you had to walk to school. How long would it take you, about half an hour?

A: I would say about that, yes. We used to walk on the Main Road in the wintertime, if we walked across the fields that would save us some time.

I: Where was the school?

A: Right where the Library is now.

I: I believe it was a two room schoolhouse at the time you started.

A: It was four.

I: Do you remember your first day of going to school?

A: Well we had gone, my mother had taken me and another mother and a neighbor boy about my age, we had gone to school on Arbor Day which used to be quite a day in those days for a visit. It was at the end of May. We met the teacher and the following week we started school, somewhere along in May.

I: You started school in May?

A: It didn't make too much difference in those times, but I think it would be a hardship for the teacher.



\* Herbert Tuthill  
\*\*\*

lane

Route 48

\* Ernest Tuthill

Ralph's map of  
TUTHILLTOWN

About 1900

Showing location of  
Tuthill farms at  
that time.

Houses with stars are  
still there. (1985)

\* Bryden Tuthill, Ralph's father.  
Land purchased in 1840 for  
\$75 an acre. Ralph was born  
here. Now farmed by John  
Tuthill (1985), son of Ralph's  
brother Ernest.

\*\*\* Leslie and Stanley (Sparky)  
Tuthill now live there, grand-  
sons of Herbert. Charlie  
Tuthill was their father.

Elijah's Lane, named for  
Ralph's grandfather, was a  
small lane with a fence at  
the end. To get through, a  
person had to take down a rail  
which served for a gate.



Elijah's  
Lane

Jessie Warren Tuthill  
on Locust Avenue below,  
was the first caulif-  
flower auctioneer.

George Ike  
Tuthill

\* Luther  
Tuthill

\* Terry  
Tuthill

to Mattituck

Clarence \*\*  
Tuthill

Locust  
Ave

\* Philip  
Tuthill

Blossom  
Bend (1985)

Jessie  
Warren  
Tuthill  
had a  
farm  
here.

(His grandfather  
was a sea  
captain.) He  
was presi-  
dent of the  
North Fork  
Bank and  
Trust Co.  
This is the  
present Mattituck  
Historical Museum.

At one time,  
Ralph and his  
brother Clarence  
farmed this land  
together.

\*\*

Long before Clarence took over the house,  
another Tuthill lived there. She was the  
sister of Elijah, Ralph's grandfather,  
and she was married to Abraham Torrey, a  
sea captain. Abraham Torrey died at the  
beginning of the century.



Cauliflower Auction                      about 1905

The caption on this photo reads:

"SNOWFLAKE"      LONG ISLAND CAULIFLOWER  
                            THE DAILY AUCTION  
                            PRODUCE DEALERS BUYING DAILY  
                            SUPPLY FOR THE LARGE MARKET

Could this Auctioneer be Jessie Warren Tuthill?

I: Did you have summer vacation?

A: The middle of June it started, up until the day after Labor Day in September. You know, the first day of school, I was quite athletic and jumping around and so forth. There was a hedge out there where we used to eat our lunch. I thought I would be smart and I jumped over the hedge, and one of the older boys said, "Hey, don't do that." He said, "That's against the rules of the school." But that was the first job I did, the first day of school, trying to jump over this hedge.

I: Do you know why it was against the rules?

A: Well it was a privet hedge, it was trimmed nicely, and of course if you kept jumping over it why you would mess it up. Then we used to go, generally in good weather, and eat under a couple of (cedar?, unclear) trees out there: carried lunch in a paper bag

I: Tell me about your lunch. What did you bring for lunch?

A: Well it was usually sugar and molasses cookies and two or three sandwiches and I guess that was about it.

I: What kind of sandwiches did you eat?

A: Ground up meat I guess, pork or something like that, egg sandwiches, generally peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. But we never took too much. First off, I needed to have a lunch box. I don't think we ever had a drink or anything. Of course we had the water in the school from a pitcher pump, and that's where we washed our hands and got to drink.

I: Do you remember your teacher's name?

A: Miss Hallock.

I: Is she related to the Hallock family?

A: Up in Riverhead now I think.

I: And she taught you in the first grade through fourth?

A: That was the first grade, but you see when I started the next year in September, I had a different teacher. Her name was Miss Holcomb, H-o-l-c-o-m-b. I had her in the first and second grade, I think. She married a Reeve, and she got one daughter, Marguerite, who is now pretty much the head of the women around here in Riverhead, Marguerite Wasson it is now. She married a local man, by the name of Reeve, Miss Holcomb, and she lived here all her life. She also taught my son that lives over there, and that was twenty years later. She used to have singing in the morning and she had a pitch pipe to give you the right tone or something.

I: Do you remember any of the songs that you used to sing?

A: Well, one of the first songs I learned was "Lightly Row" -- "Lightly row, lightly row," and something.\* That was about the first one. It was a nice little song. (see end of transcript)

I: Do you remember the tune of it, could you play it on the harmonica?

A: No, I don't believe I could.

I: Tell me what else you did in school, singing, and what else?

A: Well we had the first grade reader books you know and arithmetic, I'spose and writing and like that, in a small way, but that's the way we learned anyway.

I: Did you get a chance to learn any reading before you went to school, like at home?

\* See copy of "Lightly Row" at the end of the transcript.

A: No.

I: Did you enjoy school?

A: Yes, I think so. We used to play Hutchuck at noon.

I: How do you spell that?

A: It's H-u-t-c-h-u-c-k, I think. You would choose up sides, ten or fifteen to a side and one fellow would try to get the other fellow's goal, and they'd rush out and get the other fellow and throw you to the ground and you tried to stop them. If you get everybody from one side onto the other side, well, then you won. It was a lot of fun and a lot of rough work. Then there was Prisoner's Base, and that was way out. We used to play that right where the Catholic Church is now, that was all school ground then. We chose up sides, then (unclear) start running out and you'd try to catch him. If you caught a fella you put him in a little (unclear) your goal and keep him in there as prisoner, see. If the opposite side could get over and catch him without being caught, why he was freed. I guess that's when we were about ten years old or so, that was the chief game. And then, of course, later on we got to playing baseball. We never had basketball at that time till a little later on, and football (unclear) the last couple years of school. And baseball, we'd choose up sides and I used to be the pitcher sometimes not very good but maybe as good as the next one, eight or ten on a side and had good games.

I: You usually had that kind of thing during lunch period?

A: Yes, oh yes.

I: About how many kids were in your class?

A: Oh, I suppose fifteen or twenty.

I: Were the classes together?

A: First and second were in a room, third and fourth were in a room, and upstairs was the sixth and seventh; and then the last room was the eighth and maybe some ninth, but mostly eighth. Eighth was about the top there. That was two grades in each room.

I: When you say fifteen kids in a class, you mean the two classes together?

A: Well there were thirty in a room, so each class had around fifteen, so there were about twenty-five or thirty in the two grades.

I: What were some of the rules in school? I know you said that one was that you couldn't jump over the hedge.

A: Yes, of course, I learned that one very quickly. One time in the third grade, we had a teacher by the name of Miss Bliss. She later on married George Riley and stayed in Mattituck the rest of her life. And she was kind of a stocky woman. I was a little unruly, maybe a little bad boy, and she put me up front. She had a stick about two feet long and about four inches wide with a handle on it and she (unclear) me on my rear end, and I said, "Miss Bliss, my trousers are thin!" She got laughing so she had to quit beating me. So I got out of that!

I: Do you remember what you had done to deserve the punishment?

A: I don't remember, no. I whispered or talked out loud.

I: What happened if a kid talked up in class, did they get the paddle on the rear or what?

A: Sometimes, maybe. Mostly they'd just have to stay after school or something like that for half an hour, twenty minutes and write so many words, you know. That was the popular thing, to write a hundred words after school.

I: Do you remember any incident where a kid was really bad, and got punished for it?

A: Well there was a black boy in school, of course there were very few blacks. Of course when I started I don't believe there was any more than two blacks in school. I just forget what he did, but there used to be up in the White Plains a school for children like that and he got sent up there.

I: A correctional school?

A: I was really scared to death that I would get sent up there, but I never did.

I: Were you considered a trouble maker?

A: Yes, I guess, yes. I was a devil, more or less, nothing bad.

I: Tell me one or two of the things for fun that were considered mischievous. Did you throw spit balls?

A: Yes, oh yes. Of course in the morning we always had the exercise and read the Bible and had a couple of songs and I guess the teacher played the piano, something like that. And

then it was school work for the rest of the day. The first couple of days you had a recess at 10 o'clock, probably you went out for ten or fifteen minutes. Back then they had toilets outside, one for the girls and one for the boys.

I: Were they three seaters?

A: Yes, they were, as a matter of fact. Then they had a little bicycle shed. It was probably twenty feet long and maybe fifteen feet wide. (unclear) fifteen or twenty bicycles in there every day, probably. Then when we'd go to get the bicycles out, the boys would raise the devil with some of the girls in there.

I: When did you start using a bike?

A: Eight or nine years old.

I: Was that your own bike, or was it handed down from one of your older brothers?

A: No, no. It was a girl's bike. It was bought from a neighbor.

I: It didn't have inflatable tires, did it?

A: I think it did, it had an inner-tube.

I: You said that they used to read the Bible in school. Most of the kids were Christian then, weren't they?

A: I would say so.

I: But they were from different churches I suppose, like Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist...

A: Methodist, I wouldn't know as they had a Baptist church at that time, I don't think.



I: And it didn't matter? They all read the same Bible?

A: No problem. Nobody objected to anything. We had I guess a Lord's Prayer.

I: Did you have the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag?

A: Yeah, yes. They didn't have a Catholic Church in Mattituck then, it was in Cutchogue I guess. No one ever thought anything about Catholics (unclear).

I: It sounds as if there wasn't much prejudice, either religious or racial.

A: No, I wouldn't think so. The only prejudice was...well there were some kids, that were well, they weren't retarded, but they were kind of mama's boy, I guess and they would get chased around, something like that. There was no racial hatred, I wouldn't say.

I: In other words, it was important for a boy to be kind of rough and strong and independent?

A: And run fast and ....

I: Was there any comparable thing about girls, like a tomboy girl?

A: Well they had some tomboy-like girls, yes.

I: Did they get picked on like mama's boy?

A: No, no, they were more or less respected, if anything.

I guess it was in the second grade. I had been a bad boy or something, the seats held two people, and I was turning around talking to (Florence (?) unclear) Freeman. She was black. Her brother still lives in Mattituck, younger

brother. So the teacher said, "Well if you're that interested in talking to her, then you're going to have to sit with her." That was an awful thing at that age, to have to sit next to a girl, and I went and sat with her. That was chastisement, I suppose, but I didn't really mind. The other kids laughed a little, and made fun of me.

I: Were the girls seated on one side of the room, and the boys seated on the other?

A: I don't know if they were separated as much as that, but of course they were separated, yes.

I: So a girl would sit with a girl, and a boy would sit with a boy?

A: Yes, that was the idea.

I: Did the desks have a place for you to put your books?

A: Yes, they were opened up on the side. They had an ink-well. And then when you had your class, you'd come up front and take the front seats... like if you had arithmetic class or something like that.

I: Oh I see. When you were in the first and second grade, if the teacher was doing some second grade math, the second grade would come up to the front rows and the blackboard and the first graders would go sit in the back of the class and do their homework and stuff?

A: They had a regular slate blackboard, that was quite important at that point.

I: Did the students have little blackboards or did they have paper?

A: We used to have to buy regular paper tablets.

I: Did you have the little steel pen tip and dip it in the ink and so forth?

A: Well later on. At first it was mostly pencil.

I: You didn't have to wear smocks or anything, did you?

A: No, (unclear) no uniform. Of course, at Christmas we always had a little speaking, you know, plays, something like that.

I: Were you in any of them?

A: Oh yes, scared to death.

I: Why did you get scared?

A: That I wouldn't remember my part. I was very shy (unclear) to appear in public at that time. I was a bit shy, I might say, except when I was outdoors. There I was right to home.

I: What kind of homework did you get?

A: I guess we did it all in school, the first seven years anyway.

I: What was your favorite subject?

A: I guess arithmetic, maybe. The teacher would give us some examples, like to add or something. The first ones to add it would rush up to her. I would usually get up there first.

I: Did you get prizes or anything?

A: We used to get, yes every month you had a, what did they call it? You had a card with your grade marks on it.

Report card. I used to do fairly well, I was above average.

I: What was your least favorite subject?

A: I guess art, drawing. We had drawing yes. That was the

last class after maybe the fourth or fifth grade. Some of the boys were very good at it but (unclear) I got by somehow.

I: So you had the different subjects by schedule. You started out with a little Bible reading and then you had math?

A: English. Spelling was a big thing too. And reading and writing and spelling and arithmetic.

I: Do you remember when you first started writing things yourself? I know you have been keeping a diary; but your earliest memories of writing. I don't mean learning how to write letters and words, but writing little essays and stories and whatever...

A: Oh, I would say in the fifth grade or so.

I: Do you remember any of the first stories that you wrote?

A: I really don't know.

I: Would they have been about your life, or things around the house or the farm?

A: Probably. Possibly.

I: Did you enjoy that back then, or was writing something that you enjoyed later on.

A: More or less later on, I'd say.

I: Okay, so what happened after school, when you got home?

A: Well, kind of a hard time to get home, fooling around with the kids, you know, having a good time. Of course I had chores to do when I got home, with my brother, have to go out in the field and bring in a couple of calves that was tied out on the stake.

I: Were they on a long rope so they could feed out there without getting lost?

A: Oh yes, probably a thirty foot length of rope in a circle so they got plenty to eat. That was one of the first jobs after school to go out and get those calves. Then when we got them to the barn, you'd always have to have a pail of milk warmed a little for them; then later on they'd just have straight water, two, three months old.

I: So you took care of the calves, the chickens, pigs?

A: Father would always take care of the pigs. They needed a little special care. He would give them so many ears of corn and stuff left over from the table, corn meal and bran and the milk, 'course we always had a lot of skim milk, which was good for the pigs. And we also made butter and that was a source of income.

I: Who made the butter?

A: My mother, 25¢ a pound. We had a churn with a handle on it.

I: What else did you do after school?

A: Well usually in the summertime after supper we'd go out and play ball. There were three or four of us, brothers, as you know. The neighbors would come down, and we'd go out in the road and knock up flies and tell about it. Then we'd go out to the field and (unclear) until dark.

I: Tell me what kind of supper you would have.

A: Generally fried potatoes anyway, and of course at that time we used to have a lot of canned peaches. (unclear) peach trees.

My mother would can a good many cans of peaches, so we would always have fruit and fried potatoes. At suppertime we rarely had any meat because in the morning we'd have bacon or something like that from our own pigs. At suppertime there was bread, homemade bread and fried potatoes and maybe jelly or something like that, nothing special.

I: What did you do after you had dinner and played ball? Did you come home at dark?

A: We went to bed about that time, 9 o'clock.

I: Did you have any bedtime stories?

A: We used to have (unclear) every Wednesday with the Youth's Companion and for years we used to take it and every Wednesday (unclear) sometimes serious stories, very interesting. I'd always grab that and sit down at the dining room table with it. We'd do that when we would come from playing ball, we'd sit down at the dining room table and we would read stories. That newspaper came every week.

I: Who read them to you when you were too young to read?

A: I don't remember my mother reading much stories to me.

I: Did your older brothers or anybody read them to you?

A: No, I wouldn't say so, my mother did the reading if anybody. Or perhaps my sister, she was six years older than I. But there were not so many bedtime stories when you went to bed, you went to bed. I don't remember, although I guess we had stories at that time, but not too many.

I: I would like to ask you what you think makes the changes

in history? Do you think it's the people, great people, or do you think it's condition and forces?

A: Probably both. Some of the ideas derive from the way the world is changing or something like that. New machinery was invented and of course I think that the people that invented some of these things are pretty responsible, like the reaper, and the mowing machines and (unclear) and those kinds of things. And of course I always felt as if the first World War speeded the production of tractors tremendously. Before that we hardly had any, maybe out West they had some tractors, but there was nothing around here up till about 1924, shortly after the first World War. We lacked food and (unclear) and (unclear) back to fourteen and fifteen. The price went up and you could make some money. (unclear) used to have six and eight acres and they begun to want more, and then they had to have better machinery to take care of these crops. The veterans and so forth got on the job and they come up with these things.

I: When you were a young boy in the early 1900's what were the conditions that caused changes? People had smaller tracts of land, or what?

A: Well they might have had larger, but there was so much hay and those crops raised that didn't take much labor. The potato acreage and cauliflower were small, (unclear) they had big farms (unclear), my grandfather probably accumulated about 150 acres. He had two sons and he divided those. Then my father had six sons. Of course I got most of the farm,

and the other fellows got out and did otherwise. But I would say back then, in the late 1800's the farms were bigger than they are now. A lot of them would be up near the Sound, and up by the Sound would be oh about twenty, thirty acres of woodland, snakes (unclear). Of course the woodland was the source of fuel for the fireplaces and the cookstoves. We'd always cut several cords and sell it to the neighbors for about five or six dollars a cord, and we made a little income that way. And then we left the trees that way and the stumps would shoot out sprouts and in another thirty, forty years you'd have--I cut a piece off in 1917 and in 1960 I cut that off again, big trees. That's why we had a lot of acreage.

I: How big is a cord of wood?

A: Eight foot long and four foot high, and four foot wide-- eight by four by four.

I: Would you say that that was enough to run an average family of five for the winter?

A: These people would buy five or six cords a year to get by. And we'd cut ourselves about six cords.

I: That was just for home heating?

A: Mostly for the kitchen stove. Then they had what you call base burners.

I: What's a base burner?

A: Well that was a, it burned coal. We had a base burner in the living room.\* We didn't start that up till about Thanksgiving.

\*A pot-bellied stove that burned coal.



Up 'til then you had the small space heaters and you used wood. You'd have one in each room. And of course in the kitchen you had a wood stove. But they went out every night. My father would get up at five in the morning. His first job was to start the fire. You had a kerosene can and some kindlings and a few corn cobs. You'd pour kerosene on the corn cobs and light them and put in small kindlings. And in twenty minutes you could put in large wood and go out and do the chores. (unclear) get up and get breakfast.

I: Who woke you up in the morning?

A: Oh, I imagine my mother. Pop, he'd gone (unclear) milking the cows and feed the horses and so forth. But I didn't have any chores till at night. Then when I was seven or eight years old I'd have to bring in the wood from the woodpile and put it in the wood box in the kitchen.

I: The pile was behind the house?

A: Yes, about fifty feet away, all split and cut up.

I: Why did you keep it so far from the house? Were you afraid of fire?

A: Possibly, but it was not too far to walk. I used to bring it in my arms. Sometimes a little express wagon (unclear). My kids coming along the same way, they had that chore to do, and I insisted on it. Shirley came home late one night and it was pretty dark, and I said, "You got to get in wood." She didn't like it but she did it. When I was older, we always were bringing up a calf or two. I'd have to feed them with a pail.

I: You would have to do that in the morning too, wouldn't you? How early did you get up in the morning?

A: Oh, I would say around six o'clock or six thirty.

Pop was up around five.

I: It would be dark in the winter, wouldn't it?

A: Oh yes, it was.

I: How would you see, a kerosene lantern?

A: Yes. We had a kerosene lamp in the kitchen and in the bedroom. Up in my room we had nothing but cold air.

I: Did you have a space heater in your room? What were the space heaters like?

A: No, I didn't have a space heater in my room. They were like a drum or pot belly stove. Of course they had to have a chimney in them. A little heat got upstairs. This base burner, it had a pipe went upstairs through the register and it threw heat in that room and that's where my grandmother slept, up there. Made it fairly decent up there. Otherwise than that we had a little soap stone that we would take to bed with us. We put a cloth around it, keep from burning your feet.

I: We used to use bricks when we were younger. Why did you use soap stone?

A: It had a handle and you could carry it by the handle.

I: I know soap stone is easy to carve, maybe that's why they used soap stone, because they could carve a handle into it.

A: Yes, I would say that it would be an improvement on a brick.

I: Tell me who lived in the house. What was the house like?

A: (unclear) pictures of it. It's still over on Elijah's Lane there. Oh, there was (unclear) in 1900, then it had I guess

five bedrooms, no bathroom, of course.

I: You had an outhouse? A three holer?

A: Yes, oh yes, a three holer. We had a living room off the kitchen, had this base burner in winter time, had a table in there with a nice, good-sized kerosene lamp on it. And we'd sit around the table and read, you know. And sometimes we'd have a comfortable chair (unclear) put your feet up on the base burner and get warm and maybe go to sleep. And then of course we went upstairs. I didn't particularly like the bedroom. We had a small light in our bedroom that was lit, but in the winter time you would want to get in bed darn quick. I guess when we were children we undressed downstairs, put our nightgowns on downstairs then run up the stairs and hop in bed as fast as we could. And of course in ten minutes we'd fall asleep.

I: How many rooms did your house have before it was added onto in 1900?

A: Originally, I think, there was a good sized kitchen and only about two rooms upstairs. And that was probably back in 1844 or somewhere around there.

I: In 1900 you added some rooms.

A: I think in sixty-eight they added a big addition which was two big rooms downstairs, a stairway going upstairs, and they added on three bedrooms, I think. Then in 1900 they tore down the old kitchen, it had only been a one story affair, and they put on a two story affair and had two more bedrooms and the kitchen was bigger. And had a better chimney and the kitchen didn't smoke so much when we had an east

wind, something like that.

I: What was in there before you had the chimney?

A: Well, we had a chimney, but it wasn't tall enough I s'pose and sometimes when the wind was just right it would blow smoke all over. Then when we built the two stories why the chimney went up thirty to thirty-five feet, was high enough so that it didn't happen.

I: So who lived in the house?

A: Well the first one was Elijah and his wife Abigail. He was born 1817, she was born 1821. They was married somewhere around 1842 and they moved in. They only had two children that lived. I imagine that they got by with those two children for about ten or fifteen years until around 1865 when they built on that big addition. I can show it to you sometime. Then, of course there was my father. They got married in 1881 and they came to live there, which of course it was customary at the time, they came to live in the same house. And I remember my Grandma Abigail. She died in 1909 and Grandpa Elijah I don't remember. He died in 1890, six years before I was born. But they lived there together and soon after my mother and Dad were married in eighty-one (unclear) to have children and every two years they had a boy -- the first boy born 1881, 1883, 1885, 1887. Then they skipped three years to 1890 and then they skipped to 1896 for me. And then 1900 (unclear).

I: So how many kids in your family - seven?

A: Yeah.

I: You were the second youngest. So what did you do after you got up in the morning, when you were four or five years old? What is your earliest memory?

A: Well, watching trains go by. (unclear) railroad track. We could look out the window, step out the door and see trains go by. There was five or six trains a day then. Otherwise we'd eat breakfast and play around the house or something until after we got seven years old and going to school every day and we had a routine and had to get off to school. Then usually walked up, couple of miles. Then, of course, when I got (unclear) ten years old I had a bicycle and I'd ride the bicycle to school.

(unclear) didn't carry me up to school very often or get me at night.

I: What time did you get up before you were going to school?

A: Well breakfast was probably at six thirty or so. (unclear) get up just before breakfast. (unclear) fool around and (unclear) mother had to get the lunches. My brother started to school probably before 8:30. It started at nine.

I: What did you do before you were going to school, do you remember?

A: Well of course in the winter time we pretty much stayed in the house, sometimes I'd go out, go in the barn. Oh and I had a job feeding the cats out in the barn. We had four or five cats. I took cat food out to them.

I: So you were the cat feeder before you started going to school.

A: Um and we always had a lot of kittens around, yes.

I: What did you feed them, scraps from the table?

A: Scraps from the table.

I: And do you remember any toys that you had before you went to school?

A: One Christmas I got a little team and a wagon, and had a harness on. You could push them around the floor, you know, and that's when I was five years old, I suppose. And then of course we always had in the stockings, we always had an orange, and that was the only orange I'd ever see in a year. I know we got a sled and a little express wagon one time. That wagon (unclear). The kids would use that wagon outdoors every day. (unclear) the cows, the cows and the horses (unclear). We (unclear) had a dog, lots of cats.

I: Did you use the dog for hunting?

A: Well, we used to go, I can remember going with my brother in the woods and catching rabbits. What you did, you had a snare for them. We used a bent-over tree, and you had a (unclear) bait with an apple on it and the rabbit would eat the apple, nibble at it with the noose around its neck, and swing him up in the air. And we'd find it in the morning and take it home. They used to ship them in the top of the, which you wouldn't believe, used to ship the barrels of cauliflower to (unclear Walabout?) Market. They used to put tarpaulin (unclear) they used to put this rabbit, dead rabbit.

I: Why?

A: (unclear) return, the cauliflower so much, one rabbit 15¢.

I: Why did they put the rabbit under the cauliflower?

A: I s'pose they didn't want to put it inside. It would deteriorate faster. (unclear) but we caught them in the morning and it would usually be down in the Market by the next morning.

I: People ate rabbits?

A: Oh sure, sure. (unclear) diary, my brother Ray's diary 1903 -- one rabbit, 15¢. And he even caught a 'possum several times and that was (unclear) 25¢ for the tail. He'd get that and then skin it and get maybe half dollar for the skin or hide, income then. If you got sixty cents once in a while (unclear).

I: What was the average pay at that time, the earliest you can remember?

A: Well the earliest I can remember, in the winter digging snow was twenty cents an hour. I used to do it for twenty cents an hour. And the wage was, well 1914 my brothers had left home and we hired a man, he was a single man, <sup>(George Stegman)</sup> and he boarded at our house. We paid him twenty dollars a month, that was the wages and then of course in the wintertime we didn't pay him anything. He did just chores, and if he did anything extra we'd pay him by the hour. He stayed two years. The next year he got twenty-two dollars. I thought that was some jump.

I: Well he got room and board, too, right?

A: Yes, he got by. The first year he saved up a hundred dollars. The next year he got to drinking and didn't save too much. He had come from a home, been brought up where

they used to take a boy, they would sign up to take him until he was eighteen and give him room and board and let him go to school, which he did. When he was eighteen he left that place and came to work for us for a couple of years. But he was a good fella, a good worker, he had kind of a quick temper. I was only fourteen, but he couldn't quite handle (unclear). We used to pick potatoes together by hand three or four hours at a time.

I: When did you start picking potatoes, how old were you?

A: Oh probably ten. We used to go out with a small basket, and my father and brother would be picking along and we'd pick up in our small basket and dump it in their basket. And at that time we used to grade the potatoes in the field. The small ones you would throw in heaps, maybe four or five rows in heaps and the big ones, of course, in the bags. Later on it was more or less my job to pick up the small potatoes in the small basket. There wouldn't be too many of them, a few bushels maybe, (unclear) picked up. They made good cow feed, sometimes they would boil them in a great big boiler and feed them to the pigs. They were very good for pigs, cooked like that and then mash or ground grain in there, it was very good for cows. And then in fall it was starting along late August, to cut corn. It was a slow hard job. (unclear) husking corn (unclear) took about a month to husk the corn



and when you got twelve acres or more and you husk by hand, cart the corn, put it in corn cribs, it's quite a job. We always had three or four pigs that we were fattening.

We'd feed them that corn. You'd grind it or shell it with a corn sheller (unclear), feed the chickens with the wheat and the corn, a good feed.

I: When did you start feeding the pigs and chickens? You started out as the cat feeder. When were you moved up in your career?

A: Ten years old I was milking cows.

I: So what happened between being the cat feeder and the cow milker?

A: Well I used to get the eggs, of course that was a big job to get the eggs. Because the hens weren't confined, and they'd lay them all over the barn, up in the hay mow, the straw mow, there were nests all over; sometimes out in the weeds, and it would take twenty minutes to collect them all.

I: So you didn't have chicken coops?

A: No, we had a chicken coop at night. They'd go and sleep in there at night but there was no pen to it so in the morning it got light, they would rush right outdoors anywhere (unclear) you had to find the nests, you know, out in the weeds, out in the...

I: So the chickens left their eggs at night?

A: Yes, well of course if they stay on the eggs too long they wouldn't be fresh, so they would just lay there. There would be three or four hens laying on one nest, then they'd

go back in at night in the coop, in the roost we called it, and I'd pick up the eggs at night, I'd come home from school. Of course that was quite an income there, getting three or four dozen a day. Then the grocer man would swap eggs for groceries, so that would take care of the bill very much. It was quite a help. With the corn and wheat it didn't seem as if that were much expense (unclear) quite a source of income.

I: So you graduated from being the cat feeder to being the egg collector. Then what was your next responsibility?

A: Well then Pop paid me so much a chicken to hatch, to set hens. You'd put about thirteen eggs under a hen after they'd been setting a week or two. He'd pay me 2¢ a chicken after I hatched them out. I'd have to take care of them. I had a little pen to put the hen and the chickens in, I'd make a few dollars that way. Then once in awhile you would have a hen that would go off somewhere and steal a nest, and she would come back with eight or ten chickens. Mostly we'd set the nests around in the straw mow or hay mow. And then a hen lays a certain amount of times. Then they start to set and if you don't wake them up they'll sit there for two weeks at a time. If you put eggs under them, well, in twenty-one days you'll get some chickens. I made a small income that way. It was plenty of work. Every morning you'd have to feed them and at night you'd have to feed them and water them. They was in an individual coop and they

weren't let out until they got half grown. And the mother, of course, she was very motherly. That was a lot of work, too. Say you had four or five coops with hens in them and they had to have fresh water and grain in there. You'd see it didn't get too much dirt in there. That was an awful lot of work. We used to put the coops on boards so it would be a little cooler that way.

I: Were the coops fully enclosed?

A: Yes. They had slots in front so the chickens could walk out but the hen couldn't. The chickens would be outside all day, more or less. When they was young the mother would have them under her quite often, but when they got three or four weeks old they would run outdoors practically all day.

I: So was that your first allowance?

A: Pretty near, yes.

I: So how many hens did you have in a coop?

A: Well in the big coop, we had probably fifty or sixty. In the other pens we just had one hen to a coop because if we had more than one they would fight like the deuce. If you had two coops side by side and a chicken from one coop got over in this other coop that hen would peck the deuce out of him.

End of tape

See page 3.

1984 -- A page from a beginner's piano book

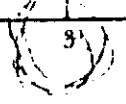
# LIGHTLY ROW

TRADITIONAL

The first system of musical notation for 'Lightly Row' is written in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The melody begins with a half note G4 (finger 5), followed by quarter notes A4 (finger 3) and B4 (finger 4), then quarter notes C5 (finger 2) and D5 (finger 1). The accompaniment consists of a steady quarter-note bass line: G3, F3, E3, D3. The lyrics are: "Light - ly row! Light - ly row! O'er the glass - y waves we go:". Dynamic markings include *mp* at the start, *cresc.* under the first measure of the second line, and *f* under the final measure. Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 5, 3, 4, 2, 1, 3, 4.

Special  
Arrangement

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The melody continues with quarter notes E5 (finger 5) and F5 (finger 3), then quarter notes G5 (finger 4) and A5 (finger 2). The accompaniment continues with the same bass line: G3, F3, E3, D3. The lyrics are: "Smooth - ly glide, Smooth - ly glide, On the si - lent tide.". Fingerings are indicated above the notes: 5, 3, 4, 2, 1, 3, 5. The bass line has fingerings 5, 3, 1, 5 indicated below it.



AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

name Ralph Welles Tuthill

birth date 5/20/1896 place Elijah's Lane, Mattituck (Tuthilltown)

father's name George Bryden Tuthill born 1856

mother's name Carrie Case Tuthill Ralph's grandmother Abigail lived from 1821 to 1914

childhood Farm life with chores for all the children

education Mattituck School through the second year High School

job training At sixteen, he was his father's main man on the farm after a childhood on the farm.

work 1917-1919 in the Navy, nineteen round trip Atlantic crossings on a transport. 1919 to 1938, he and brother Clarence rented and ran his father's farm. Partnership dissolved and 1938 to 1948 Ralph ran another rented farm. In 1948 purchased Nat Tuthill's dairy farm.  
official positions 1948 - 1969 Justice of the Peace for Southold Town.

member of Was on the School Board for both the old and, after 1934, the new school. Library Trustee, served as president, and was a Trustee for many years.

special activities, projects, hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

spouse's name Laura Hoogland Fanning

children's names Ralph W. Jr.; Dean Fanning; Lois Mariory, (now in Carbondale, Ill.); Shirley, (Mrs. Bean in Washington, D.C.)  
Twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

major turning points in:

Mattituck	my life	my field of interest
1 _____	1 _____	Ralph's brothers and sister:
2 _____	2 _____	2 1882 Ernest Case
3 _____	3 _____	3 1884 Frank Halsey
4 _____	4 _____	4 1886 Clarence Bryden - or 1885?
5 _____	5 _____	1887 Raymond Elijah
	1-RWT-1 to 5 & 30-RWT-6	1890 Edith May
	31-RT:IR-1	1896 Ralph Welles
		1900 Jay Smith

for me, Mattituck was \_\_\_\_\_

Mattituck is \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like Mattituck to become \_\_\_\_\_

(feel free to expand on any of the above; -your opinions are welcome!)

## MATTITUCK HISTORY PROJECT

Contents of Tape 2-RWT-2      Date of Interview: Spring 1978  
 Oral Author: Ralph Tuthill      Interviewer: John Traversa

Teen Years on the Farm

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 Migrant labor; Mexican, Puerto Rican, southern  
 Standards of behavior, fights among boys  
 Persons and places mentioned: Ralph Tuthill, Jr.,  
 Frances Tuthill, Ray (Raymond E.) Tuthill, Grandmother Abigail,  
 Dean Tuthill, Elijah Tuthill, Grandfather Case, Edmund Lupton,  
 Edith Tuthill, the Goliffs (spelling?) Uncle Herbert Tuthill,  
 Brydon Tuthill, Ernest Tuthill, Con Grabie, Charlie E. Tuthill,  
 Clarence Tuthill, Dr. Peterson, Frank Tuthill, Cutchogue  
 Electrical Company, Gildersleeve Brothers, Donald Gildersleeve,  
 Jim Pierce, Lottie Wood, Amelia Downs, Abe Brown, Levin store  
 in Greenport, Walt Williams, John Williams, Florence Williams,  
 Sidor brothers, Henry Walker, Ray Cleaves, Charlie Reeve,  
 Hazzard.

Autobiographical Sketch

MATTITUCK HISTORY PROJECT

Contents of Tape: 2-RWT-2 Date of Interview: Spring 1978  
Oral author: Ralph Tuthill Interviewed by: John Traversa

Teen Years on the Farm

I: I'd like you to tell me about the autobiography that you are writing. Basically, you told me, that it is the story of your life. Can you tell me how you thought of it and why?

A: Well the one who got me going on it was my daughter-in-law who lives across the way, Ralph Tuthill, Jr.'s wife. She's the dietitian down in Greenport Hospital. She was born in Phillie and went to Cornell and graduated in Home Ec and so forth. She's been after me for a couple of years. One night I woke up and couldn't sleep and I thought this is a good time to start. It was about three o'clock when I wrote the first paragraph. I wrote until daylight.

I: Are you writing this for any particular person or group of people?

A: Not really. Of course my four children are all very much interested in it. One of my grandchildren, I went to his graduation in Maryland on June fifth, he said he learned more about history and the Tuthill family by reading that and he's eighteen and he's very interested. My brother Ray is very much interested in it. It was probably as much Fran, my daughter-in-law over there, as anyone who got interested in it. I thought it would be interesting sometimes, and then of course you get writing and there's the wintertime, there's not too much to do you know. It

fills in the time. A lot of times I would sit down, I'd write for a couple of hours and sometimes until ten at night. And then I got a book where I'd write things from about 1925. I had that up to about 1941. (Unclear) my memories up to about 1925 or '30. I had another book where I kept, not every daily event, but like I would follow right along when the cow had a calf and when we planted potatoes and did this and did that and gradually worked into more or less of a diary. My wife said that I told everything except when I had a son or a daughter. I didn't put that in the diary.

I: You remember that anyway.

A: Yeah. (Unclear) But we used to put on clam bakes during the recession in the thirties, my brother and another fellow, feed about a hundred twenty-five people. I've got the complete menu, how much we made.

I: It might be interesting to find out if there are any recipes from those days that are not used anymore.

A: My wife had some recipes from her mother that I got in here somewhere.

I: I think it would be great to include a few that are not used today.

A: My daughter-in-law would know just as much about that as anyone around here.

I: What's her name again?

A: Frances, Ralph Jr.'s wife.

I: Well, it seems that the people you are writing your autobiography for is really your family.



A: I would think so, yes.

I: Do you think of any people in particular when you're writing this, like your daughter-in-law, your son or more of your grandchildren or is it just general?

A: Well pretty much general, though of course my daughter-in-law, she lives in Carbonville, Illinois, is very much interested in this. Well, they all are. Dean is too, he's coming up here. He was here Saturday, he & his family.

I: When you were a young boy I assume that you heard stories from your father and your grandfather.

A: Not as many as I wish I had. I don't remember my grandfather on the Tuthill side. On the Case side, I just remember him. He died in 1901 or when I was only four or five years old. But Elijah (unclear) died in 1895. But even my father, like he went to the 1876 Centennial in Philadelphia and I wished I'd asked him how he got down there. Of course he could have gone by boat then, you know. I didn't have brains enough to ask him what he did down there and how he spent his time, and he never told me much about it. He used to speak about it very little, very little. But he went down there and he was, well, he was just twenty years old, born in 1856, so it was quite an event I imagine.

Other stories I didn't get too much except parts of them. (Unclear) .... my grandmother Abigail. I was thirteen years old when she died, and she was born in 1821 and I didn't get as much from her as I should. At thirteen you know you don't think of things.

I: Right, right.

A: She was a pretty good singer, but the songs they used to sing were the saddest kind of songs. But I just happened to think I have got my grandmother Abigail's, she got four diaries -- 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871. She wrote down pretty plain writing, it's pretty good. She tells about making a coat, she was a tailor. She'd take my older brother's pants and make me a pair of pants out of them I had to wear. She make 'em so you're gonna grow and I didn't really like it. But she tells about what they did. They even went to Riverhead once in awhile. They went to Greenport once in a while on the train.

I: Where are these diaries now?

A: I have one right here.

I: What year?

A: 1895.

I: Your mother's diary?

A: (reading from the Diary) "John went skating, then stopped to Edmund's to dinner." That was Edmund Lupton's down in Tuthill Town. He was a pretty prominent man. "In the evening (unclear) my husband and his brother went to Cutchogue. Charlie and Henry were here". Charlie is a cousin of mine and Henry was a neighbor. "Rainy day, warmer." Now here's June fourth. "Mother" that's Grandmother Abigail," made Farmer's fruit cake. I made molasses cookies. P.M. Edith" that's my sister, "and I went to Goliffs (spelling?). (That's the neighbors across the way. They were old Germans). They are in bed

very poorly". That's what they used to call it when they were sick, 'very poorly'. "Baked bread in the afternoon and mended." That was a typical day. (Unclear) this would be the year I was born, 1896. Let's see. Now here's Christmas Day. We always used to visit back and forth. "It's a beautiful day. Herbert's" That's my Uncle. "folks came down. At night Brydon" That's my father. "took Ernest" That's my brother. "and I to Con's" That was Con Grabie, an old German blacksmith. "Edna, the children and I went to Oregon." Edna was her husband's brother's wife. Then she talked about the weather in there, you know, different times.

I: I noticed in your Grandmother Abigail's diary here, 1869, there's some beautiful old drawings, one of a cow and one of Raymond E. Tuthill, January 21, 1871, born August 4, 1887. A little portrait of him. (unclear) There's a picture of a horse here, Charlie E. Tuthill, Mattituck, and it says Abigail at the bottom. I don't know whether she drew him as a horse or what.

A: I don't believe she did. Charlie, of course, was my first cousin. (Unclear) I wrote the history of where I was born in the Elijah's Lane house and I wanted to find about what year the bigger part of the house was added. I was able to look through the diaries and pretty much pinpoint it because she mentioned cleaning a certain part of the house which I knew wasn't there in 1860, so it must

have been between '60 and '70 that the big part was added on.

I: I assume that your children and your grandchildren know about your father getting rheumatism, it's not very private information.

A: No, no. I told them all the story, just about everything.

I: You said that he went berserk.

A: Well, he had this....well his muscles dropped in his legs. He used to soak them in cold water. The doctor gave him a kind of, what the devil's the name they always used for a pain killer....not laudanum. I forget the name of it. Well they gave it to him for pain and (unclear). It made him go off the beam.

I: So you think it was the medication?

A: Oh yes. He was in an institution for...first up in Central Islip. They had to tie him in bed up there for a while. Then he came home (unclear) was very nervous and they sent him over to Connecticut to a sanitarium. (Unclear) and they got him calmed down (unclear) working over there (unclear) he came back and he was all right.

I: Was this around 1907 or 1908?

A: Yeah. We had to pay fifteen dollars a month and we had a hard time scraping that fifteen together.

I: So he was gone for a couple of years you said. Who took charge then, Clarence?

A: Clarence and Raymond. They used to get me up early in the morning to pick up the potatoes before I went to school, you know.

I: When was your father born?

A: March 17, 1856, either the 16th or 17th, 16th I think it was. The 17th would be St. Patrick's Day, wouldn't it.

I: Right. So he was fifty years old at the time. That must have been really rough on him.

A: Yes it was. He was branching out. He was quite a horse man. He was driving (?) trotting horses and he was going out on the road and selling seed potatoes, and he finally asked his brother-in-law to start a store in Peconic. All of a sudden he developed this pain in his legs and it wasn't arthritis. I guess sciatica, terrific pain. The doctor gave him this well-known drug. It got to be too much. They didn't know enough about it to regulate it. He just went a little off the beam.

I: You were about 10 years old or eleven at the time.

A: Of course in those days we had neighbors that would come in and stay nights with him. He was nervous then, he couldn't stay in bed but they would watch him and my mother was always afraid that he would go up to the railroad tracks which were only 300 feet away. She was afraid that he'd go up and jump on the tracks or something. We had to watch him for that. (unclear) It was just due to the drug, you know.

I: Was he a nervous kind of person?

A: Oh yes, he was nervous and a heck of a worker, strong, energetic.

I: Was your mother more of a calm person?

A: More or less, yes. She had brown eyes and my brother Frank and I I guess are the only ones that had brown eyes in the family.

I: I guess that must have been pretty rough on her too.

A: Well especially when he came back. Before he went he couldn't stay in bed.

I: When he came back from Islip, before he went up to Connecticut?

A: Yes. It was rough on her, no question about it. (unclear) gone through.

I: Who was the doctor then, do you remember?

A: Dr. Peterson. He brought me into the world and he brought Ralph Jr. into the world. He brought my wife into the world. Good old family doctor.

I: Was he the one who recommended the medication?

A: Yes. He was the family doctor. He would go down to... I forget what you call it, but he would go for a week to study stuff on the modern methods and get right up to date. Of course, even in 1916 - '20... He had a very small hand and some of the doctors, when women was having babies they couldn't ... they'd have to call on him. He had a very small hand ... and turn the baby around, something like that. He made good money which made some people mad. He used to come to our Church. He was in the Bible Class for awhile. His wife was a very good singer and a very good Presbyterian but he left his money all to a couple of Polish people

which always got our goats a little bit. The woman had been his secretary up in the doctor's office for a number of years, a very nice gal. (unclear) I don't think he left a cent to the church.

I: Now when your father was away I assume that was kind of a rough period for you too.

A: Yes. Of course I was ten or eleven years old and I had to hoe potatoes. I was eleven years old I used to take the horse and (unclear) potatoes. And milked the cow, fed the chickens, get in the wood. Played quite a little bit, too.

I: If your father had been around would you have not done those things?

A: No (unclear) he insisted on you had to work, do your chores and everything. Of course my parents had to go ahead and figure out the farm, plant potatoes like that and corn, and harvest it and all that.

I: Where were Ernest and Frank at the time?

A: Ernest was living in the house where we were. He started a milk business, delivering milk in Mattituck and he lived with us. He wasn't married at that time. He was twenty-five or so. He picked up when we had a dozen cows and he picked up from our Uncle Herb, he also had a dozen cows or so. He'd pick up milk from him and us and deliver it around Mattituck in a horse and buggy. In the summertime, a hundred and fifty to a hundred seventy-five quarts, and in the wintertime about seventy-five or something like that.

He bought a small farm and raised quite a few vegetables, (unclear) lima beans, string beans, things like that to sell, eggs. So he wasn't really near the farm to speak of until later on after Clarence left home. Frank had gone around 1900 to Stanton Typewriter down to Grand Central Station. Clarence left in 1909. So then my brother Ernest went into partnership with my father. They added his small farm to my father's. I was around fourteen then. That was kind of a tough age. They expected you to do a man's work but it kind of made you (unclear) to do it. I used to swear the men wouldn't beat me so I'd stick with it planting potatoes and husking corn, you know, but I wasn't quite mature yet.

I: So Clarence became the man of the family while your father was gone.

A: Yes he did in 1907 and 1908. Then when Ernest (unclear) working on shares (unclear) he was in good shape then, he was all fixed up. They had a steady man year around pretty much. The farm that my brother Ernest had bought had a house on it which was only about 500 feet from our house. We put the Polish man in there and he could walk across first thing in the morning and feed the horses and go back and then come back again at six and go to work on the farm. My father and Ernest and I did the milking. We did have a 12 qt. pail with a spout on it to fill the bottles with. They'd fill them a little from the top and my job was to come along and finish



filling them and put the caps on them. We'd do about 70 or 80 quarts in the winter-time. At night we'd do maybe about 30 quarts. It didn't take too long.

We'd cool them with an old cooler in the summertime. Had a ... had a (unclear) held about ten gallons of water. It was shaped like that. Then on top of it was (unclear) small holes all along. You put the milk through (?) the top through a strainer and these little holes would run down over that cold water and it cooled the milk and when it came out of the spout it was quite cool. Then you had a little agitater that went in the water to keep the water stirred. Otherwise right near the surface where the milk went down would be warm. (unclear) It cooled it down, oh maybe thirty degrees or more.

I: Incredible.

A: It did pretty good. It wouldn't keep too long, of course. In the wintertime, of course, (unclear) cooler (unclear) got by pretty good.

We drilled a pipe, it was forty feet to water. The pump worked pretty good but they had to take, about a hundred and fifty feet, all that water out to three or four horses, six or eight cows. It all had to be carted out by pails. Then around 1885, (?!) in there, Pop had a system dug and then you had a leader run along the barn -- the barn was maybe a hundred feet long -- and the pipe and the water from that ran into the system and that was right near the pump. You had buckets and it ran right into the tubs where the cows would drink so we didn't have to carry any more water

to the cows. We still had to carry water, up to 1924 when I fixed up the house, out to the horses. My brother and I had six horses at one time so we figured it out, whenever we went out to the barn we'd carry a couple of pails of water and keep them in the barn. Quite a chore.

I: So it was easier to get the water to the horses than the horses to the water?

A: Yes. The horses would have to go up near the house where the water was. We had no pump out in the barn. That went on to about 1920 when I got married. We had no electricity. I spoke about telephone. I think Ernest for his milk business found out he needed a telephone. I imagine we had to pay for the phone, it was up the lane about a mile. We had a telephone probably around 1910 or '12 which was quite an invention for us.

Previous to that the first telephone line that they had out there was from Cutchogue from what is now the North Fork Bank and Trust Co. It was a feed store and all kinds of (unclear) stuff. They had a telephone from there down to the New Suffolk Branch which was the first telephone around, and that must have been around 1900 or 1905 maybe. Then they put through (unclear) and the lights too.

Cutchogue built an electric light plant. They had their own generators there. Probably around 1910 they furnished lights to Cutchogue and New Suffolk, and they ran it to twelve o'clock and then the lights was off. I used to go down to see my wife in New Suffolk and at twelve o'clock

the lights went off, automatically. They just went off. That went on for a couple of years until, I imagine the Long Island Lighting Company came through and took over that local lighting place.

The Main Road got lights, of course, but we didn't get them down where we were until after 1920. In 1921 when I got married, why here I had a Delco System with sixteen big batteries. That was the first lights we had. It was enough juice so that I could pump water then by electricity. That was down in the cellar. We had faucets in the house and we had a bathroom. The first bathroom with running water in the house I ever had was in 1921 when I got married. The Delco System was pretty good. It cost, I think the whole motor and batteries weren't more than six-hundred dollars. But the batteries went for a couple of years before they had to be renewed, three or four years. You had to put water in them every once in a while. It was pretty satisfactory. You could have an electric iron and an old type of electric washer. It revolutionized things around our place, I'll tell you that.

I: Can you think of any other things that came up around the early 1900's?

A: Well of course the lights and the water was the big things. But...no tractors then.

I: What about cars?

A: The first car we had was 1916.

I: Was that your first car, a family car?

A: Yes. Yep. I was dickering kind of for a motorcycle. I had a gal up in Watertown, New York, I met down here, and I had an idea, I suppose I was about eighteen or nineteen years old. My father says "The heck with a motorcycle." Says, "Let's get an automobile." We got a second pretty snappy car . We knew the man who had it so Pop put in seven-hundred and I put in a hundred and I had full use of it which was very good. That was around 1916, the Fall of 1916.

I: What about before that? For instance, I remember you telling me that the grocery people used to come around with a cart and deliver groceries.

A: First off they had, let's see, 1906, around then, a team on a big covered wagon and they'd get almost everything in the store in that wagon. They'd come down on a Wednesday and you'd get what you could and the stuff they didn't have they'd take your order and then the following Wednesday they'd bring it. Like kerosene, if they didn't have it they'd bring it around the next week. But they had sugar and coffee and all kinds of things in that wagon. 1915 or 1920 is when they come around with a single horse and then take your orders and deliver them the same day and that was nicer and quicker.

I: Did they deliver them by truck?

A: No, it was a horse. Gildersleeve Brothers had the store there. They started delivering by car somewhere in the twenty's, I guess.

I: That was the Gildersleeve's that had the grocery wagon?

A: Yes, it was Donald's, he ran the store for years. His grandfather, I guess, started it.

Interruption

In my story I recounted that there was a mason, a mason by trade. He was Pierce, Jim Pierce, I think it was. He lived down Factory Avenue. He had a wife and she was darned good looking. Goddarn if someday somebody ran off with her so then he got going with this Lotty Wood. He married her and he made a prediction, he said she <sup>was</sup> so homely nobody would ever run off with her and it was true. But she was a good cook. They lived together for years. It was quite a story. She was homely, buck teeth you know. She'd come up and through the village and if you met her you couldn't save from turning around and looking at her and she knew this and she'd always turn around too and catch you looking at her because she must have known that she was kind of a (unclear) character.

I: Was she a nice person?

A: Yeah she was all right. Yes, yes, she made him a crackin' good wife. (unclear) lived right near where Mrs. Rosenfeld's house is.

Interruption

A: (several unclear sentences) and they had a butcher shop up there.

I: That was around 1910?

A: In Mattituck they had a place on the Creek where they used to kill cows and they could pick up another source of income those years. The cow would have a calf and you'd

keep it for two or three months and you'd get eight cents a pound and you'd get twenty-five or thirty dollars for it, a good piece of change. Yeah, 'course it was veal calf, milk fed and the calf would be fat and four or five calves a year well that was a nice income.

I: But mostly in your family you sold pork, right?

A: Yes.

I: You sold a few pigs in the Fall and a few of them in the Spring?

A: We used to have a sow and we'd have a litter of ten pigs or so. We'd keep five or six and fatten them up six months and sell them to a local butcher. It was a good source of income, it helped.

I: Did you do a lot of butchering yourself?

A: Yes. Every December we'd kill three or four pigs that weighed three or four hundred apiece. Pop couldn't stick a pig, but we always had, there were one or two butchers that would come about five o'clock in the morning and we'd have water heating. They'd go right into the pig pen with their knives and flop the pig over and hold him by his front legs and then they'd stick him. They'd take the hot water and scald them, and then the hair comes off.

I: And then they'd scrape the skin?

I: Right, and shave them.

A: We called them (unclear, candle ?) sticks. They had handles on them with a little round thing and we'd scrape the hair off. We used to kill them in the pig pen and then we'd have the shear (?) poles outside of the pen, three of them with a high

thing that had the block and tackle in. You'd raise them right from the pig pen and you'd have a barrel of hot water. And it used to be quite a job to cart all that hot water out. You always had a tank of hot water and then very quickly lower the pig in there and the hair would come off.

I: You said that they stuck them right in the pen, they stuck the knife in the throat. What did they do with the blood that came out in the pig pen?

A: It went into the pig pen, we didn't keep it. (unclear) a couple of men had a thing to catch his front foot and they'd throw the pig on his back and my job was to jump on his stomach and hold his back feet while they stuck him. (unclear) hold his hind legs (unclear) dig into your clothes, take half your clothes off with his hind feet. Of course you just got used to those things, anybody now scream 'You can't do that to a pig'.

I: I wonder how many kids now know what it takes to get from the pig, the live animal, to the neatly wrapped cellophane package.

A: This gal, she was speaking of killing chickens, "Aw, it's awful!". Well I was brought up, it doesn't mean nothing to me to kill chickens. You're brought right up with it. Like you said, they don't realize where all this stuff originated in the store, all packaged nice, but they had to be killed and dressed and someone had to do it, shoot a steer, or something like that.

I: Is that how you killed steers, you shot them?

A: Yes.

I: I suppose you couldn't get something heavy enough to hit them over the head the way they do.

A: We did have a (unclear) from Southold. He was pretty good with a mallet and he'd hit them right where the brains are, and they'd drop in a second.

I: I believe there was a certain respect for life back then even though killing was part of living. You had to kill the pigs and chickens to have food to eat. It's done now too, but it's done where nobody sees it. In a way I suspect there was even more respect for animals back then because peoples' lives were closer to them.

A: If a cow was sick or a horse was sick, like that, you did everything you could to save them. I can just remember the first Vet, he'd come on a motorcycle from Southold. He'd been to Cornell. Before that it was just that some fellow in the neighborhood seemed to know a little bit more and you'd call him, you know.

When my wife was ten or twelve years old, I guess her sister was a couple of years older, they was going to kill this chicken. So my wife was going to hold it. They had a chopping block and Marjorie was going to axe, chop the head off. Well she missed the head and my wife let go of the chicken and the chicken ran off. They just chickened out.

We used to raise chickens, sell quite a lot of hens and roosters to the local butchers. I got so I could take a hen's head right between my two fingers and snap it and break its neck in a second. (unclear) sloppy and the neck was broken.

I: Not as messy as cutting it off.



A: No, very little blood. The blood ran into its neck so when you chopped the neck off when the chicken was dead, the blood wasn't in the chicken at all...no mess around.

Interruption.

A: Yes, they used to grow rabbits around here. (unclear) they was....like the wild rabbit around here now they would be way over three pounds. But they was white rabbits and black ones, like that, and gosh, they would weigh probably over six pounds or more, quite a lot of meat on them, I imagine.

I: Did you use rabbits for food?

A: No. I had a spell of raising rabbits. I had a pair we raised, sold them, (unclear) mostly just for sport, you know, just for sport. Eventually you'd let them out somewhere and the dogs would catch them and that ended our rabbit business.

I: Did you go hunting as a child?

A: No, except trapping, maybe, but no, I never (unclear)

I: Did anyone in your family hunt?

A: My oldest brother used to go hunting some. The rest of them not too much. We used to have an old shot gun that we kept in the shop there that we used for shooting rats, 'pposums, skunks, like that. We did go trapping.

I: What did you trap?

A: Mostly rabbits. We'd catch a 'pposum now and then. We'd shy away from the skunks. We did catch a skunk or two.

I: What would you do with them when you caught them?

A: I guess the skunk I got we'd just kill them and leave them in the woods probably. There was the smell and so forth.

Of course, we didn't want to catch them but they'd get in the trap.

I: I believe I heard you say, on another tape, that there was a bounty out for rabbits.

A: 'Pposums...

I: 'Pposums, not rabbits? How come they put a bounty on 'pposums?

A: I guess they was known for killing chickens and taking eggs, great for going in chicken coops, suck eggs, break eggs and chickens too. They'd grab a hen by it's legs or something like that, you know, and of course, their teeth were very strong and there were a lot of them around and they'd get in the hen roost and raise the devil. I guess they could see at night pretty good.

I: So what did you do when you caught a 'pposum?

A: Well, I'll tell you what we did one night. Ernest... we had a brooder house and we had a little wire pen around it on Elijah's Lane, oh maybe a hundred fifty feet away from the house.

I: What's a brooder house?

A: Well it was one in which you put a kerosene lamp in to put baby chicks in. You had to have it warm for them. And a 'possum was in the house killing the chickens so we got a pitch fork. 'Possums are very slow, they can't run fast so he just stuck the pitch fork in the 'possum and stuck it in the ground, and there it was in the morning. Ordinarily

you'd kill them. Of course at that time we never bothered to skin them even. And then when (unclear) came along in the twenties. (unclear) They were kind of a pest, I guess that was the idea of the bounty.

I: So if you took the tail to a government office....

A: A local Justice of the Peace.

I: How much did they give you?

A: A quarter. I think at one point they used to be paying for the ears too. But one fellow thought he was smart and took in the ears and the tail from the same 'pposum and got himself a half a dollar. They finally did away with that. They were making too much money.

I: If it was a quarter a piece anybody that wanted to earn a little living on the side could do it that way. Did anybody ever try to do that?

A: I don't think so. Of course whenever they caught a 'pposum they always took the tail to the Justice of the Peace. No, I don't think they tried to make it their living. 'Course if you got four 'pposums that was a dollar and in those days it was pretty good.

I: What would you say that was comparable to, wages of about twenty-five or thirty-five today?

A: Well I used to work for a dollar and a half a day in 1912 and now the same fellow would get why three times that in an hour. Now he'd get....the same fellow would get about twenty-five dollars a day.

I: Were there any events or things that came into your own personal life that brought about big changes?

A: Not too much until I got married.

I: That was the first big change in your life?

A: Probably, yes. It was going out galin'. We used to go out in a horse and buggy taking a gal to a show or a dance or a movie or something like that, ....1915 or 1916.

I: When you were a young boy, let's say eleven or twelve years old, was there much mixing between boys and girls? Did the boys pretty much stick with the boys?

A: I would say the boys pretty much stuck with the boys. In school there, I'd say there was very few girls that was athletic. They wasn't supposed to be really. The games, Up Chuck. Prisoner's Base was always boys. You rarely saw a girl out at all.

I: You didn't see girls outside?

A: Very little outside. This was lunch hour. They would eat lunch in the school and then they would come out and walk around a little bit but no sports, not to speak of. I guess in the first year high the girls would come out and play a little and run around a little bit but not too much. They, typical, I guess the way women were at that time.

I: What did girls do instead of sports? What were they expected to do, learn how to sew?

A: Yeah. I'd say more of those things, yes and cook too. By the time they got to be fifteen or so they were going dancing, you know, school dances. Up till then they didn't do too much. At lunch hour they'd walk home for lunch or bring their lunch. What would be the cafeteria now was just a room in the school, a lunch room, and supervised by a teacher. So

when I was about fifteen, fourteen, kind of girl crazy and they used to come out (unclear) I s'pose I was about fifteen or so, then me and another fellow, we went out and caught a couple of roosters and threw them in the room while they was eating...wasn't very nice.

I: Scare them a little?

A: I think it shook them up.

I: You had one sister, Edith May, right? She's four years younger than you?

A: Six years younger. Of course the gals then, quite a few of them would ride bikes to school. She rode a bike to school.

I: Did they wear very long skirts?

A: Yes, probably somewhere near their ankles and (unclear). Of course they'd have a guard over the chain so they wouldn't get grease on their dresses.

I: So you say the girls stayed pretty much inside.

A: Generally, I'd say yes.

On nice days they'd come outside at lunch time and eat their lunch outside and one time I was quite stuck on a girl, her name was Amelia Downs. She was a popular girl in school and I suppose I was fourteen and fifteen. On Elijah's Lane we was carting out manure, my brother Jay and I, with a team. We had to take it out to a hay lot and spread it and it was dry and it would be nice to get it out of the way. This time we was going over the railroad track

heading north on Elijah's Lane and I was driving and barefoot and I looked back and gosh, I saw....I recognized the horse that my girl used to drive. By gosh, I says, I don't want her to see my bare feet. So we was opposite the hay field where we were going so I gave the lines to my brother Jay, he was four years younger, and I jumped off the wagon and by that time she was within, oh four hundred feet of us. I ran into the hay field and I dropped down quick so she couldn't see me. I never thought too much more about it. I stayed there until she got out of the way and the first day of school she was with three or four other girls under the cedar tree. It was a nice day, and we was playing ball right near them, of course, consequently I had to go over there and talk to them. "Golly", she says, "Ralph you're some runner". If the ground opened up and I could have jumped in, I'd have done it. She was referring to me running across the hay field. I had hoped she hadn't seen me but she had.

I: Was that kind of an embarrassment to have a girl see you with your bare feet?

A: Oh. I would say so, yes-s-s!

I: What did it mean, that you were a poor farm boy or something like that?

A: Pretty much I guess. Well you know nobody walked around the streets barefoot those days.

I: I am a little surprised to hear that. You mean if you had your shoes on you were more respectable?

A: Yes, yes, I wouldn't think of going to Mattituck to get the paper or the mail barefoot. At home I used to go

barefoot pretty much all summer but to go on a picnic or to go to the village or anything it was always shoes and stockings as far as I know.

I: Did you also wear your best clothes to go on picnics.

A: Well, school clothes, semi-decent clothes. (unclear) shirt on.

I: You had one pair of shoes usually?

A: Oh a couple of pairs, one for good, one for school and some old ones for work. Of course sneakers were quite popular then too, in the summer-time.

I: What were they made of, canvas, with rubber soles?

A: Yes. They were quite popular.

I: Could you tell me more about the clothes? You said you used to wear maybe coveralls for picnics. Were they made out of that cotton cloth, blue denim?

A: In those times for picnics you would never dream of wearing jeans to a picnic. You had to wear regular knee pants.

I: Were they usually made out of wool?

A: I'd say so, yes.

I: You used to buy them?

A: Grandmother Abigail used to make some, but she passed away when I was thirteen and my mother wasn't able to do those kind of things. We always bought some then. We'd have Jews that come around selling clothes. They'd come around with a horse and wagon maybe once a month.

You'd get your shirts and pants and underwear. There was a Jewish family by the name of Brown in Greenport and he used to come up here. He finally, eventually had a big store in Greenport. He'd come up on a train to Mattituck then he'd go to the livery stable and rent a horse and then he'd come around that day with a horse and a nice looking buggy and solicit a suit of clothes, shirts and then he'd deliver the following week or something like that. First he came out with a pack on his back and in thirty years he had a great big store in Greenport. He was a good businessman and a good fellow to do business with.

I: Do you remember his name?

A: Brown...Abe Brown.

I: Was there any prejudice against Jews?

A: I wouldn't say so. (unclear) There was Brown in Greenport, Levin in Greenport. No, they kept good stores. I don't remember like you said (unclear). I wouldn't say there was any prejudice.

I: Was there prejudice against any group of people out here?

A: Not too much. Of course, a lot of time there wasn't too good feelings between Catholics and Protestants, but there was nothing serious, I went socially with some of the Roman Catholics. I never thought anything about it. There was very little prejudice on the negroes because there just wasn't many around to speak of.



Most of them were pretty poor and most was pretty good workers. Walt Williams, he's in the hospital now, I'm going to send him a card today. He's a pretty darned good colored fellow. His father, John Williams, he lived not too far from the railroad track up there by Wickham Avenue. He was kind of a character, you know. Nobody thought of any prejudice, I wouldn't say. He had a daughter, her name was Florence. We went to school, in second grade and I was talking to her and the teacher said, "Ralph, you seem to like her. You can go back and sit with her." I did, but everyone in the class laughed. To sit with a colored girl was almost unheard of. That was my punishment.

Florence Williams was all right, she was a nice girl.

I: Did the black people live in one section of the town?

A: (Unclear) I would hardly say so, no. There was so few families. Most of them would probably work for a farmer somewhere and live in a little shack. Most of the men laborers, were Polish, Lithuanians.

I: Did the Polish and Lithuanians live in one section of town?

A: Not too much. They would come over, see, the men quite often. They would come over in immigration and land in New York and drift out this way. They would work for a farmer, like these Sidor boys. There's four of them, darn nice neighbors. Their father come over from Poland and I think he worked for a farmer in Orient first. He saved up his money and got married and bought a thirty acre

farm up there right near me. He worked hard and his wife worked. They had a team of horses and now his four boys are worth probably a half a million dollars or more, you know. (Unclear) all the time, hard worker, good neighbors. 'Course he never bought a car those years. When most bought a car, he never had a car. (Unclear) saved his money. That's the way most of them came over, worked for a farmer.

I: Did they live on the farm, get room and board?

A: Quite often. Like at the end of Elijah's Lane, they had a little shop, like my wife's family that same thing. He would sleep in there and eat with the family. They'd have a little side table in the kitchen where they'd eat, eat the same food. They were usually eighteen, twenty, twenty-two and if they got married, then eventually as long as we had 'em, my brother and I, around 1920, we'd build a small house and you'd have a Polish family and two or three kids come in and live there and that was part of the salary. (Unclear) good money and then in the wintertime they would just do chores and have the house free there. That was pretty much a custom along the twenties.

I: So most of the farm families had a Polish tenant.

A: Yes. One time we had three tenant houses on different farms that we had. We had a Polish in each (unclear) worked. You didn't have to worry about eats. They took and fed themselves. It worked out wonderful. Their wives were good workers. Gosh darn! They'd pick up potatoes, hoe potatoes, even had one woman -- we used to (unclear) a bag weighed sixty pounds -- I had one woman, I'd go along with

the wagon, she'd even put the bags on the wagon for me. Only woman I had would do that for me. (unclear) hoe potatoes, go through and pick out the big weeds, you know. It was very satisfactory and they were satisfied. In fall when we'd pick sprouts, you'd pick maybe ten or fifteen bags of sprouts with three baskets to a bag. And at night, they'd, each family would take three or four bags and have the crates and quarts right there and in the morning they'd have them packed and crated and we'd pick 'em up and take 'em up to Mattituck.

I: How did you pay, by the hour?

A: No, by the month. Brussel sprouts was by the quart, and they'd make, maybe three, four dollars, which was nice in those days. They did well. (Unclear) saved it. I know one particular man, his father worked for us three or four years and his kids grew up, and then they went up to Calverton and bought a farm. The father died and the young boy, he was interested in the Farm Bureau, was a member of it. Then five, six years ago when the big throughway came through to Calverton, he had some acres there and he sold them for half a million dollars. When I think of that little kid used to work for us, going around with his mother picking potatoes, fantastic. Two or three families that I had, moved up that way and bought land, got a cheap team of horses and they gradually worked up. They made money and one of the daughters worked in the County Clerk's

office in Riverhead later on, smart people, nice people. It was just a wonderful way of working in that time. You had no labor troubles, you paid them a fair wage and they were satisfied. (Unclear) putting up sprouts, picking potatoes. They liked it and we liked it. It went on for a good many years. Then you began to get your combines and so forth. Then you got your labor coming in from Puerto Rico or Mexico or south. These farm crews, the labor boss would have like a big school truck and they'd go out to Arkansas and go through the streets, "...how 'bout coming to Long Island...big money out there." They'd lie some and probably in about a week they'd recruit twenty-five or thirty fellows from eighteen to thirty, mostly single. They'd come out and they'd stay in these labor camps and the boss, he'd finance them out here, to get out here and they'd have to work and he'd take most of the money. And he'd furnish the beer for 'em and so forth. He was the boss. Well he was a slave driver practically. That's what the colored were more or less used to. They wanted a boss. (unclear) camps. Cutchogue had one, Riverhead had two or three. They would build pretty good shacks for them. They'd have a store there and restaurant. Tried to keep it fairly clean. They'd have running water and toilets, of course, but those colored, they never knew how to use a toilet. They'd stuff clothes in them and plug them up. Gradually the

Board of Health began to come in and make them clean up, which was a good idea. It got so that the camps were pretty satisfactory.

I: When did the labor camp thing start, the labor gangs?

A: I would say probably in the thirties, forties. It gradually worked in that way. First I think they had the Mexicans then Puerto Ricans. The first camp was in Peconic. It was, I guess it was a children's camp or something and it was taken over by them. The town ran it. There was (unclear) Riverhead (unclear) maybe a hundred of them in there. You'd go down in the morning and get a couple of men and have to take them back at night. It was very inconvenient you might say, but you didn't have to board them. You didn't have to house them or feed them. You paid by the hour. They'd live in these camps and if they was married they'd have a wife or somebody else. They were mixed up pretty well. When I used to be a J.P. they'd bring them in quite often, they'd have cuttings and things like that. Most every week at the end of the week you'd have to get the cops in there to arrest a couple of them. Monday morning it was a little hard to get help, they were pretty pie-eyed. Tuesday would be a good day. Over the week-end was bad.

I: Speaking of J.P. and law and order, do you have any memories about that when you were young around 1900?

What was law and order like? Was there any crime problem?

A: To a certain extent, yes yes. Of course as a young boy I don't remember too much about it, but I do remember, well the first family we had living in the house we built for workers around 1920, or '21 or '23. They had a daughter, she was thirteen I guess, and she come in my house when my wife and I were away. She come in after school, she was living right there in the back of the barn. I came home, I guess half past four and "gosh", I said. "Somebody's been in the house." I figured it might be she. I went out that night after supper around seven o'clock. I went out there and asked Joe Murky, he's still alive, he's eighty-four years old, where his daughter was and he says "I don't know." They had a cook stove right in the kitchen there and pretty soon I seen that she was in back of the cook stove. They knew where she was. I got a hold of her and I said, "Did you take..." My wife was missing two twenty dollar bills and all my French money and jewelry was gone and some kids clothes. I said (unclear) nice looking, smart little girl, and she said, "No Mr. Boss, I don't know where any of it is." So I got a hold of her wrist and I twisted it a little one way and then the other way and, "No, I don't know nothing Mr. Boss." Then I twisted it a little harder and "yes," she said, "I'll tell you." She buried it between the barn and the hen roost. So we got the two twenty dollar bills back and other stuff but there were some clothes, kids'

clothes which didn't amount to too much and some French souvenirs that I never got back. I went to the local J.P. up in Oregon here. And then she stole some more stuff. Her father used to say that she stole a five dollar bill out of his pants that were hanging up at night. She was eventually put away. I've talked to her mother and father, they're still alive. I go up and give them a five dollar bill once in awhile and take them a bag of potatoes or something. She disappeared, they don't know where she is now. But as I said the J.P. took care of that.

I: What about when you were younger, were there any kids that used to get into trouble?

A: I would say very little, very little.

I: What if a young kid stole something? Say he went over to someone else's house or farm and stole a watermelon.

A: They'd probably settle it among themselves. Of course watermelon stealing wasn't really prohibited to speak of. There was a lot of it done. If you caught him in the patch why you chased him out. Maybe if you had a shotgun, you wouldn't fire it at him at all but you would shoot it off to scare him off. I don't know anyone who ever took anyone to court on that. But they would have to be taught a lesson.

I: Did your parents have any stories that they told you or proverbs to teach you how to be honest or not to steal?

I: I wouldn't say so. You were brought up not to get into

that and we never did it among ourselves. Of course Pop was very rigid in his discipline, and mother too.

A: Do you ever remember telling a lie and getting punished?

I: I can't recall anything really but sometimes I'd get home--somehow it was always hard for me to get home, I'd always be playing with kids around school. I'd get home and have to get these calves up in the field. I'd try to sneak around so Pop wouldn't see me too much, but I don't think I ever....I don't remember lying out of anything. I couldn't lie about it 'cause he knew where I was after school. I was just a little late that's all. I don't remember being punished for it, not much of a reprimand really. He was stern enough so I just tried to toe the mark automatically. I don't think he ever laid a hand on me.

I: What about the kids in school? Did they get into much trouble?

A: Oh they used to have some fist fights.

I: What would happen to them if kids had a fist fight?

A: Well mostly they'd keep them after school and let them fight it out. I do remember Joel Howell, he was a janitor in the first school I went to. There were about a dozen or so kids. There was Henry Walker and Ray Cleaves and they got to fighting and he went out and got each of them by the collar and marched them in and shut them in the room. Nothing done about it. And that Ray Cleaves later on was in the First World War and was on the Hindenburg Line and got hit, shot. When he came home the Legion Post was named after him. And my brother Ray, I 'spose he was ten, and another fellow by the name of Young--some older boys got



hold of some boxing gloves and they got them on these kids.

And this Young always kind of antagonized my brother, more or less. My brother didn't know what to do. But they gave them each a pair of boxing gloves and my brother cleaned him up in good shape and never had any more trouble from him.

The kids stood by and watched it. Usually it was settled right there but sometimes the teachers would take them in and sit them in their seats. After school there were very few renewals of it. There was one time with Charlie Reeve and (unclear) Hazzard (?) they were about fourteen or fifteen then. They were skating down at the lake and they got in a fight down there, a bare fist fight. One of them wasn't able to show up the next day at school. They were both beat up pretty badly. They were fairly strong boys. But nothing was ever done about it. The parents never did anything. They fought it out and there were no arrests or anything. Once in awhile there would be a fight in school and generally the kids would gather around and watch them.

I: Was there any kind of rule about fighting? Was it dirty to hit below the belt or anything like that?

A: No, I wouldn't say so. Catch as catch can.

I: They usually used fists, there wasn't much wrestling?

A: No not too much, a little wrestling, of course.

I: Did any of the girls ever get into fights?

A: Not to speak of, not to speak of.

I: Was it considered very bad for girls to get into fights?

A: I would say so, yeah, I don't really remember girls much, getting into trouble. Of course they were separated from the boys, (unclear) with boys much anyway. The school teacher was the boss, really. She might send a report home about the boys, but not too often. If a boy got real bad, why they would send him home. They'd tell him to come back when he could act better. Then his father would lick him or something. There really wasn't the number of boys or the number of people to raise the devil back then.

End of tape

MATTITUCK ORAL HISTORY

Contents of Tape No. 5-RWT-5  
 Oral Author: Ralph W. Tuthill

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Autobiographical Sketch

I: What changes did the period around the First World War bring about, changes for you personally, and changes for Mattituck?

A: Well of course I was just beginning to get of age, sixteen or eighteen, and was becoming more involved in the farm and more interested in the farm. Because prices shortly after 1914, potato crops and everything, began to jump in price and it made it a lot more interesting. And a chance to make more money, which previous to that, the margin between profit and losses was very little really. The vendor made more of a profit there, and could do better.

I: Why did the prices go up?

A: Well of course they wanted, I suppose they were shipping stuff to Europe and there wouldn't have been so many imports anyway. But the general trend of war of course is to inflate prices I think, and if it happens, certainly it happened in fifteen anyway, some in fourteen. But sixteen they were going to go up more yet of course.

I: Did that mean also inflation and prices for equipment and other things that you needed to carry on your farm work?

A: Some, the machinery went up some, but not too much then, like it has later. Because of more machinery available like National Harvester people, and those people, they began to get tractors out that would do plowing and like that. And they had a lot more demand for them and farmers began to have more money.

I: And this was around the First World War that the tractors came out?

A: Yes, they began to come out west more because there were big tractors out there before they came here. I guess the

first to afford tractors out here were oh maybe 1920 to '24, something like that. Before they got too numerous, it mostly was horses.

I: Was the United States getting involved with the war something that you personally believed in?

A: Well, I, I yes. I felt that after the Luisitania and so forth, I felt as if they were justified.

I: How did the other people in the town feel about it?

A: More or less the same way I would say. They were pretty patriotic, quite patriotic.

I: Would you say that the war helped people in Mattituck feel more as if they were part of the country?

A: Oh probably, probably.

I: Were there any kinds of rallies or anything?

A: Oh yes, oh yes, of course they very soon formed a home guard. I joined that and we had one or two people in the town that had been in the Army and they could conduct a march, how you should march and different things that you do when you're marching. And yes, we had parades on the, where the Catholic Church is now and that was open ground there. Had marches and the people began to be patriotic more or less, and it was brave (? unclear) to parade in the home guard. Of course they thought it was necessary if anything happened locally, why they were more or less on the job.

I: Was there any fear that anything might happen locally?

A: Oh not too much I don't think. Everything at that time was so far away really.

I: Would you say the local churches were pretty much behind the war effort also?

A: I would say so, yes. We had a Presbyterian Minister, Reverend F. G. Beebe from Cutchogue, he gave a....we had a meeting in Library Hall which could hold six or eight hundred, and we had a rally in there and he was the chief speaker. And he spoke on the aspects of war, what would happen, and expect to have some people killed and so forth. But it was a big rally, a lot of people out.

I: How did you decide to go into the Army? Did you volunteer, or were you drafted?

A: Neither. I had gone to see the local draft board of Dr. Craven, he was the head of it, and asked him what he thought of a chance of a farmer being exempt or something. And, "Well," he says, "I would say the chances are pretty slim." So shortly after that, going down with a couple of friends, down to New York, and I knew I would be drafted pretty soon, so I went down there and met in Grand Central Station with my brother Franklin who worked there. They knew a feller who had just joined the Naval Militia which was part of the Navy, and they suggested that I go over there, so I went with my two friends and we enlisted over there, which was 96th Street in New York.

I was indoctrinated (inducted, Editor) in August 2nd, 1917, went to Mount Vernon to be sworn in, Mount Vernon, New York.

I: Were you scared?

A: Oh no, no. Nope I wouldn't say so.

I: Were you looking forward to going overseas?

A: Oh, to a certain extent, yes I suppose so, the excitement you know at that age. Well they discovered that I had, that my nose was blocked up and maybe I had too much bone. So I had to go to a Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat

Hospital, I guess 63rd Street, New York, for an operation. They took some bone out of my nose. When I joined the Navy they said that that was what I had to do before they would accept me.

A: And I did that, and then I was home. Oh, probably for a month or more before they really got the call to go into the Navy, around the first of October I would say. Then I went down for training at the foot of 96th Street in New York.

I: Looking back on it, do you feel as if you learned much from being involved in the War?

A: Oh, oh yes, because the average farmer boy at that time never saw much of the world, and it was a chance to see something. And after I got out I began to advocate that you either <sup>get</sup> a college education or join the service, you broadened yourself so.

I: Is there any particular event, any experience during your service that had a great effect on you?

A: Well, of course after going on a troop transport, why going across with thirty or forty ships and the big battle ship and going over there, why it was quite an experience. And I just....to a certain extent I guess, I rather liked it really. Of course I never expected to ever see Europe. Then we would go ashore at Brest (unclear, St. Lazare or St. Nazaire?), Bordeaux, those places. It was the kind of dream that I never expected to have fulfilled.

I: What impressed you the most about these places?

A: Well of course the wooden shoes on the streets for one thing, the noise they made, and then the lack of some food,

although we did go in restaurants, and the Y.M.C.A., it was over there and the Red Cross. In those places we got a pretty good meal. But people themselves, of course, there were very few men on the streets then, and all in the service, practically all the French were. They still had stores where you could go and get souvenirs, very nice handkerchiefs and silk stuff to bring home as souvenirs.

I: Did you find yourself looking at their methods of farming at all at that time?

A: No, we never got...About all we saw was one concentration camp (prisoner of war, camp-Ed.) there of, I don't know what nationality they were. But they was in an enclosure. They didn't seem to be mistreated at all, but the (unclear) around Brest (unclear) very little farming done I would say.

I: At the end of the war, when President Wilson was advocating the League of Nations, do you remember what the attitudes in Mattituck were about that?

A: More or less negative I would say, possibly. The majority was negative maybe, didn't think that we should become involved with protecting the other nations and join in with other nations.

I: Were there any reasons behind that?

A: Well, I wouldn't say what percentage was for it or against it. I know one personal friend was quite against it, and he didn't think that we should be in. But the idea was good, personally I thought the idea was good. And I am not so sure but that the majority of people did too, but being involved in joining in with other nations it meant some sacrifices. Possibly we didn't know what would happen.



If the war came along to send a lot of boys over somewhere.

Some people were against that really. But it might have been that a majority might have been really for it, which I think personally was a step in the right direction.

I: Why did you feel that way?

A: Well, if there is any possibility to avoid future wars, why I was for it. After seeing the destruction of the First World War, the poverty it caused with nations and with families, I was pretty much against wars if we could avoid it. You didn't mention politics at all or didn't you want that to come into it?

I: No, go ahead. Tell me what you have in mind.

A: Well I, of course, in 1912 I think Wilson went in in 1912 and he beat out Taft 'cause Roosevelt\* was the third candidate, on the Progressive Party, I think it was. Taft was on the Republican Party; 'course Wilson's on the Democratic. And at that time of course, that was before the war and I heard and remember the <sup>headlines</sup> forming in New York City. The poverty was pretty bad and the people were getting hungry I guess, and Wilson went in somehow. But of course he went in because of the three people running, and I guess he did all right. But then of course what saved him, that maybe saved any President, was the war coming on in fourteen and automatically prices went up. And the President couldn't avoid,

\* Theodore Roosevelt

being that they thought the Administration was good because things did go up, which was more or less due to the war probably.

In 1916 of course there was quite a race, I wasn't able to vote yet, you see I was only twenty years old, but Hoover\* was running I think against Wilson, and the first report we got was that Hoover was elected, that night. Next morning I guess it was California that swung it to Wilson. Wilson was in there, and the war and all helped him out. They thought the Administration from 1912 to 1916 was pretty good. Most people weren't dissatisfied I don't think with it, they went along. Things went pretty good.

I: So you would say that over all, the First World War helped things for the United States and Mattituck.

A: Oh yes. Well I had a cousin, it didn't please my Father too much because he had two boys in service, my brother Ray and myself, but this other cousin said (unclear) he said, he had no children in the service and he was too old himself but he says war suits him fine, he made a lot of money, which my Father didn't like.

I: Would you say there were any significant changes after the War in Mattituck?

A: Offhand I just don't think of too much. Of course it was very much of a sign of prosperity. Several businesses opened up probably, and produce in general like potatoes and cauliflower and all those things, the prices were up and farmers were, well they did increase the acreage, no question about

\* It was Charles Evans Hughes who ran against Wilson. Ed.

it in all those things with better implements, techniques. Whereas in 1910 you couldn't handle over eight acres of potatoes, with more modern equipment probably in 1920 you could handle fifty acres.

I: Was there any decrease in demand for awhile after the War, or did demand stay at a certain level?

A: Well it seems to me in twenty-one, around in there, there was sort of a recession I would think or say. And of course locally, the farmers depended on, it was the potato crop. If the crop was not too heavy why the price was good and they made money, and if the year came where Maine and out West had tremendous crops, the price was poor, why it affected Long Island farmers very much.

I: This recession was around the early twenties?

A: Seems as if there was a slight recession, yeah, but it perked up later.

I: Can you remember any reasons why it picked up again?

A: Well of course 1924, along in there, the stock market began to pick up very sharply and people were dickering at Wall Street, and probably making money for several years there. The economy apparently picked up, whether it was as you say the European countries, a lot of those countries had been depleted and they hadn't gotten the land back to normal for agriculture. There was probably a good demand over there for grain and like that.

I: Do you remember when prohibition came in, and how that affected Mattituck?

A: Yes, yes, of course, Mattituck being bounded by the Bay, the Creeks and the Sound, why it made a great place for bootleggers. And they would, small ships would get stuff

from larger ships out in the ocean somewhere, and they'd come in, and in Peconic Bay (?)\* and just anchor outside. And they had the blinker systems working and there'd be a feller on the beach, and if everything was quiet, nobody around, why he could blink to the boat and they would send in a rowboat with a lot of cases of stuff that would be, a truck would be backed up there to the beach and take it away. And they stored it in barns in Mattituck up near Bergen Avenue, and one in Cutchogue and of course those fellows made a mint of money by just having it stored there.

I: Were those local people?

A: Yes, local people yes.

I: Was this mostly rum?

A: I suppose so, I suppose so. Of course then there was trucks who picked that up and they was going to the city with it, and sometimes they got highjacked, and someone else would seize that truck of rum or liouor or whatever it was. They used to have probably guards to go along with them. Yes, I knew one local bootlegger, he was a farmer too. I knew him well. He is passed away now but he was into it pretty thick. He used to wear a, well, a bullet-proof vest because he was pretty much mixed in it and he stored some stuff. And he used to live on the Sound and he had stuff come in from the Sound. And he was a good farmer, but he was making more money bootlegging probably, and he stored it to his place.

I: Did they deal with organized crime?

A: Well they was some organized in there, but not as much,  
\* Other reports describe this activity on the Sound, not the Bay which is far from the ocean.

I wouldn't say, too much. It was, well they was organized somehow so they knew what was going on. They had ways of telling when the boat would come in safe and when it couldn't. If the signals weren't good why the boat would then stay out.

I: Was this farmer named Gunboat Smith by any chance?

A: No.

I: Then it was someone else?

A: I knew Gunboat's wife very well. He was rum running I guess. She was making home brew.

I: Out of what, do you know, potatoes or corn?

A: It might have been potatoes or corn, or I really don't know but she told, if the officers hadn't gotten after her she was gonna make a fortune. But I knew them very well.

I: What was the general attitude of Mattituck people about prohibition?

A: Well I would say that eventually they began to be opposed to it, probably.

I: At first they were for it.

A: I would think so, yes, yes.

I: Why?

A: Well this, they had shootings. It wasn't safe to go around to the Creek or Bays at night, up to the Sound. You were just as liable to get shot as not. I know I talked to several fellows that they went up to the Sound at night and (unclear) they were stopped and told to go back. It just wasn't accessible and it was really dangerous. People begun to feel that, and the attitude changed that they, well they didn't know what to do but they didn't think prohibition was working. They didn't prohibit - it, it was making a lot of people rich. Several people in Mattituck they were farmers,

but I know another feller, a relation of this other one there, they lived near the bay, he stored liquor. He made a good bunch of money and he is still alive and in good shape, due to prohibition.

I: Were most of the people of Mattituck for prohibition, but objected to liquor on religious grounds?

A: Well, of course there was some fanatics both ways. But they, it's like everything, when you have laws to prohibit thi<sup>s</sup> and that, you always have someone that wants to break those laws. And it seems to be human nature to do that. And when you prohibit something, why then that's just what they want to do.

I: What would you recommend instead of the law for instance, that would solve the problems connected with liquor?

A: Oh well, Gollies that's a, I would say that's beyond me. I don't know there's any control there. I guess in Roosevelt's term they sold it in package stores, and did away with the local saloons pretty much, which was probably a good idea. There was two or three saloons in Mattituck where I don't know as at that time if there was any age limit. You could go in at sixteen or so and I guess you could get a drink, and the<sup>n</sup> they got a little drunk or something like that, they was more apt to be disorderly and cause trouble. And then they did away with the open saloon, I think it really was a good idea. Of course at package places, you couldn't drink in there, you had to take it home.

I: Do you think that prohibition in any way strengthened or encouraged traffic between Mattituck and New York City.

A: Oh it did yes, and dangerous traffic, these bootleggers. These trucks that went in they all had guns and any interference why they didn't hesitate to use them. And might be stopped, and even some private cars might have, if you was getting too close to something, even if you didn't realize it, they might think that you were a revenue officer after 'em and they would maybe stop you, and find out what was doing. It wasn't too pleasant. It was a little bit dangerous going into the city I would say really, these trucks going in. It had guards on them and people had guns and they didn't hesitate to show their authority more or less.

I: Was there any corruption of local authorities or county authorities? Did they get involved, did they get bribes?

A: Oh, to a certain extent yes. I do know a feller that was coming out and lecturing. He was for a, to go to Church, and to be more friendly with the Negroes and so forth, and his preaching sounded good. In less than a year, he turned into rum running him<sup>s</sup>elf and was making money, and it was surprising for a fellow who seemed so good and sincere, but apparently his making money overcome his good deeds. He wasn't a local fellow, but he didn't live too far away. Well it might have had some local people who no doubt, the police at different times were maybe paid something to overlook certain things, but not too much that I knew of really.

I: Would you say that there was any kind of sense of relief when prohibition was recalled?

A: I would say so, yes. They figured that these trucks, illegal boats coming in were done away with and I think there was a relief of tension there, yes, oh yes. People had gotten kinda fed up with saying Long Island was a typical place. For there was so much water frontage, boats came in, and a lot more then they would have in an inland place. And it didn't take long to get in to the city, which was the place to sell that stuff.

I: Do you remember the market crash of 1929? How was Mattituck affected?

A: Well of course the farmers were very much affected because take myself. We had stored at that time around five thousand bushels of potatoes and we didn't have the nice storage that you have now. We had to shovel them up by hand, and load them on trucks and we put....Of course along in August, September the price that was fair was \$1.75 a bushel out in the field, but there was rumors of going higher, so we stored the five thousand bushels and after the crash, when was that, October, November, the market value went down and we took them out for a dollar a bushel. So we not only had the extra labor, the cost of it, but we lost about \$.75 a bushel or so just on the commodity itself. Cauliflower was the same way. The cauliflower block in Riverhead went down in prices from where they ordinarily had gotten two or three dollars a crate. I had some crates sold for \$.35 a crate which was quite a loss.

I: About how many pounds is a bushel of potatoes?



A: Sixty.

I: What about a crate of cauliflower?

A: Twelve heads of cauliflower.

I: Big or small, it didn't matter?

A: Well yes, smaller it would be sixteen heads probably.

But a nice looking packet with a head facing out, (unclear) twelve heads was what they really would like. They would pay more for the twelve heads than the other. Brussel sprouts went down the same way.

I: Did you have any kind of warning that the depression was coming on, or the crash??

A: I wouldn't say, I don't remember any warning, no.

I: So it was quite a big shock for everybody.

A: Well yes, it sure was, and local people....I know a Doctor and a Dentist and two or three people like that who were investing in Wall Street, and they'd been making money, and it hit 'em very hard I tell ya. Like Sears and Roebuck, those stocks went down two, three hundred points in a very few days, some of them did. I know some went and bought, you could buy at that time, you could buy farms pretty cheap. And these people that survived it realized that property was probably safer at that time than the stock market was, so they bought these local farms. They did all right by buying them. Eventually they sold them for more money, or worked them, had people, tenants on them and worked them. But the crash itself, no doubt there was local people suffered severely.

And I don't know as anybody out here jumped out of a second story or third story window, but you read about it in the papers.

I: Why did people sell land at that time?

A: Well, more or less....I have one instance in mind. I guess he was the farmer himself had died at 70 years old, and his wife I guess she had to , and the farm was....they had no children and no reason keeping it in the family. They sold it. Generally, I don't know as there is too many farms sold like that, because a lot of people figured they was more secure on a farm. With some land to work and have a garden and vegetables they could live cheaper, which was probably true, than a city person. The taxes weren't as high then, your taxes weren't too bad, and they could get by much more easily on a farm. Although they didn't make much money, but wouldn't starve. There weren't too many farms sold at that time. Of course the people felt that this was a better place to be, and more secure than the stock market.

(unclear question)

A: Well they didn't, not too much of it. Of course if they lost money in the stock market, well they didn't have too much left to invest in a farm. But I didn't see that the farms were being bought by city people at that time.

I: People who would come here for the summer, did those people sell their land and their houses?

A: Did they sell em? No, I don't think so. No, they felt if they had a little piece of land out here and a little house, they felt pretty secure. I know I had a brother, he had a good job in the city but he lost it and he lost his house in Rockville Centre and I got him a job where Agway is now, in

Mattituck. It was L.I.P. then, Long Island Produce, and he was able to get a house very reasonable. And he had been out of a job entirely, and he was glad to get a job. It was enough so he could support his family all right, live decently until about in a couple of years he got contacts back in the city again. But for those two years, (unclear) in Rockville Centre, and picked him up and they hardly had enough to eat, no job, no money, a baby coming you know. But when he came out here why with that bookkeeping job, he did all right for a year or two. Eventually he went back and came out very good.

I: The first news of the market crash, do you remember reading it in the paper, or where did you hear about it?

A: I would say the paper probably. Of course I probably had a radio, but I imagine my first contact was in the local newspaper or city newspaper.

I: I assume that because of the crash and prices going down, that labor also became cheaper.

A: Oh yes, yes, more available.

I: So did that change in any way the kind of people that you had working on the farms?

A: Well it may have. It was coming slowly, but it brought about where you had to put up a small tenant house that had Polish, Lithuanian, a man and his wife come out with a couple of children and they lived on the farm. And you paid them good money during nine months, and the remaining three months why they lived in the house free, did chores, and if you had

a job for them, you gave them a job and paid them by the hour, or by the day. And that begun to be quite prevalent during that time, and it worked out very nicely. You were sure of your labor, and they were people that all they knew was to work, come over from the old country, and they was darn good laborers, very good farmers, and there was no strikes. They were glad to have a job, and they was putting money away. At night they would put up sprouts.\* The wife and husband would put up sprouts at night and make them a good many extra dollars. And some of those that had worked for us, they went on later up in Calverton and western Riverhead. They bought land and farms and now they're worth anywhere from two to three hundred thousand dollars.

I: Where did these Polish and Lithuanian people come from, the city?

A: Well, a lot of them came more or less direct out here. Some of them came to Orient. I imagine they landed in Ellis Island Immigration there. Course some of them stopped in the city, some went west, but a lot of them came directly out to the Island here, I think, and went to Orient, Mattituck. The Sidor bunch, four boys now all good people, nice neighbors. I guess their father Martin Sidor came right out here as soon as he came over, he and his wife. They went to work for a farmer. Some of them maybe didn't bring a wife over, maybe they wasn't married at that time. But so many obituaries you read now if you notice them Polish women eighty-five years old who were born back in Poland, came over probably with their husbands maybe in the twenties. Went to work for a \*Packing them into quart boxes.

farmer by the month and then a lot of times some of them, if the farmer was getting elderly and he had no children and wanted to stay on the farm, they worked the farm on shares. They would furnish the labor and the farmer would furnish the material. It worked out very good too, and they had this little house on the farm where they lived, and they worked hard and the wife worked. Why they could take care of the crops without you hiring anybody else probably. They could build up their reserves, so in ten years they could go and buy these farms, have a nice down payment. Did very well, and they were good farmers.

I: When did the labor camps start around here?

A: I suppose in the...Of course there was a shortage of labor especially in potato season and maybe even in picking strawberry season. I would say in the late twenties.

I: Did they become more frequent around the thirties during the depression times?

A: Course there was probably more local people you could get to work for you. It was no trouble to go out and get someone to mow your lawn or to work for you by the day. They was available. But I guess these camps gradually increased some. The first camp we had out was in Peconic. I think they was Jamaicans come up from Jamaica. The Farm Bureau pretty much was the ones (unclear) the men, and they had a supervisor down there and of course you had to go down and get your labor and take them home at night, which was quite a chore really. But you was pretty sure of getting a pretty

good man at not too much expense.

I: What was the reaction to the depression in Mattituck in terms of religion and church going?

A: I wouldn't dare say whether it increased the membership or not. People at that time were more churchified than they are now I would say. They attended churches more regular probably.

I: It seems that the Puritan ethic says that sweat and good works will bring about success with God's help, and the depression in a way seems to have kind of disproved that or at least

(End of first side of tape)

A: Oh I would say so, I think they believed still in the old basic values more or less. It didn't change the mind of some people out going to church because they figured that things hadn't gone the way it should of. I don't think it changed too much, those things.

I: What about politics? When Hoover was in he seemed to be pushing for a kind of optimism, you know, a chicken in every pot, a car in every garage.

Did the people in Mattituck get disallusioned with that, with him or with the Republican party? What was the political situation?

A: Well of course he was as you say, he was optimistic and it sounded good, and it was the way trends, things were going. It was the way because he was in at a bad time, the stock market crash, and I don't know how responsible he was for it, I don't believe he was responsible for it, but

people begun to get fed up on him, no doubt about that.

His policies just weren't getting anywhere, and his philosophy was good but it wasn't putting food in peoples' mouths at that time, or money in the pocket, when Roosevelt come along with his motto and ideas. Of course he wanted to do away with prohibition, and I think that got him a lot of votes. People figured that it didn't work, there was too much crime connected with it, and they were satisfied to have that done away with. When the party advocated that, that pleased the people and with the crash and so forth why the present administration was in disfavor pretty much.

I: Would you say that there was a lot of crossing over party lines during that election?

A: I would say yes, a lot of crossing over party lines, yes. It disillusioned some with Hoover. He was a very smart man. It was a question of whether, I don't know whether he could have helped more. 'Course I always felt when Roosevelt went in, when he went in, all the Banks in the United States closed down, you know for a week or two, and it looked bad, but he advocated, what was it, the only thing we had to worry about was fear itself, something like that which was a good motto. And he seemed in his talks, to inspire the people and satisfy 'em that he was on the right track. And once he started several -- like the N.R.A. and different things, relief, that worked out pretty good.

I: Would you say that the majority of the people of Mattituck were for him?

A: I would say, I would say yes, yes.

I: Were people pleased enough with him, with his performance during his first term to reelect him?

A: I would say yes, I think he went in pretty strong in '36. I think they was satisfied that he had taken over when the Banks were (unclear) closed, and he brought 'em out the depression and more people working. And I would think that the people were at that time pretty well pleased. 'Course, he certainly went in pretty strong I think.

I: Were you personally involved in party committee meetings or anything like that?

A: Oh, not too much, not too much, I was on the local election board, one of the workers there, but not involved in politics too much, but through the thirties here, it was nice to have a job election day and primary day, and three or four times through the year. If I could make fifty, sixty bucks extra was very good, but I wasn't involved in politics too much. Of course I had a friend that was in politics pretty much at that time and he helped me get that job, as far as that goes he had (unclear) gave my name as Inspector of Elections.

I: Was anybody in Mattituck afraid of Roosevelt at the time, in terms of leaning toward socialism, anybody afraid that he was going to get communism started in this country?

A: Oh I guess they was talks of it, yes. Of course I knew one man, his family, some of it, still around, his daughter, but he had run a canning factory upstate and he had personally come in contact with Roosevelt and he didn't like him so he was against anything he stood for. But he was only one person



around here really. Most of them were pretty much for him I think, I would say, but they had begun to, like you say, maybe they thought he was a little too socialistic.

I: Did you find yourself agreeing pretty much with him in his policies?

A: Well, I suppose so but being a pretty staunch Republican I never voted for him I don't think, although I wasn't too much opposed to him. I thought at the time the way he went in, the way the country was that he came through, doing better than the way Hoover was going really.

I: Did the drought in the mid thirties, you know the dust bowl and the problems they had in the mid-west particularly, did that have any effect on farming out here.

A: I wouldn't say anything directly. Of course it was disturbing, but I don't think it helped to raise prices really out here.

I: You didn't have any trouble with drought?

A: No. Well we did yes, of course there was no irrigation then you see. and there was seasons when the crops lacked water, no question about it. And when irrigation came in in the late thirties I knew there was a few farms that had irrigation and they would probably get double the crop of potatoes than the ones who didn't have it. If you had a dry season, why those that didn't have it they just didn't do very well.

I: You didn't have irrigation?

A: No, not until forty-two, or something like that.

I: What kind of irrigation did they have in the thirties?

A: Well I guess it was pipes about the same as they have now. They had a motor with, of course they had to go down forty or fifty feet for water, but it was a six inch, six or eight inch casing and it would throw a lot of water. These pipes they were forty feet long, and at the end of each one they had a sprinkler. They put out a pipe line of probably, maybe twenty-five pipes. That would be twenty-five times forty feet. Twenty-five times forty feet was quite a long row and each had a sprinkler there, and the most motors then would carry about forty sprinklers. And these sprinklers would cover about twenty rows of potatoes. And you let it run for three hours and then change it, which was, going through the mud, was kind of a mess with boots on, but change it to another twenty rows and then put it on again. And in a day, of course it was used to a lot of times, worked till maybe 12:00 at night changing them at different times. Well in three hours it was the equivalent of an inch of rain which was just fine. It probably was cold water. It wasn't good as a warm rain. At the same time it had a lot of affect on getting a good crop. As time went on 'most every year, there were a good many additional farmers that would put in irrigation until it got where probably in the middle or late forties practically any good farmer had irrigation.

I: What do you think brought about the end of the depression, particularly in Mattituck?

A: Well, off hand I would say the Second World War. Because in thirty-eight I sold twenty acres of land, of good potato land for five hundred dollars an acre. If I had known that the war was coming on, I wasn't really forced to sell, I did hope

to relieve my financial situation to a certain extent, I cleaned up some mortgages. But I could have hung on. And if I had known that prices then would have gone up in a matter of three, four, five years where this same land that I sold for five hundred dollars an acre has just been sold now for \$10,000 an acre.

I: When?

A: Three years ago.

I: I see.

A: On Elijah's Lane there, all those new houses. But that was in thirty-eight. In 1950 of course land went up tremendously, about five hundred dollars an acre, probably up to at least \$1,000 an acre, \$2,000 an acre. Of course in thirty-eight it seemed a pretty good price.

I: What did you do for fun and enjoyment during the depression?

A: Well we had our family picnics, several during the summer probably. Two, three families would get together. Either you would go up to the Scund or down to the Bay, or down to Maratooka Club where I was a member there on the Bay. I had access to that, I had the key to it, a nice porch, very beautiful swimming in front. And used to get a baby sitter at night and go to the local dances like that, movies once in the while, not too much out to a restaurant to eat. We never did that like you do now. But we'd go out to dinner once in the while but quite seldom, maybe celebrate a wedding anniversary to something like that. But, I say, we could get a baby sitter pretty cheap and I'd have to go after them with a car, but that would mean I would have to take them home. Then it worked out better as long as I had a Polish

family on the farm, lived in the tenant house I had spoken about, and he had either his wife or maybe he had a daughter, is twelve, fifteen years old. They could come in for baby sitters, and it worked out beautiful.

I: Do you remember the family's name?

A: Well, John Prussick was one, P-r-u-s-s-i-c-k, I think it was. And another family we had, I think his name was John, I can't think of his last name. His wife's name was Katie, and she used to come and babysit for us, and she came in one night before we left and when we came home she wasn't there. The next morning when I saw John doing chores I asked him what happened to Katie. Well he said she came home and had a baby, that's why she left the house. And in about three days she was out washing clothes with a tub on the ground, bending over, washing clothes that way. Two days previous to that she had had a baby. And they did very well. And they moved up to Calverton, and the sons become involved in Farm Bureau work, and they made the farm run into money very much. Old Katie she used to have her children, at that time they had a, most cigarettes had little bags or something like that and she'd get a lot of them together and make a dress for the little kids, and it was quite unique, but she was very economical. (Tape interrupted) And I did through the thirties there, the Legion, we had quite a volleyball team, and we got six or eight together and we played up in Port Jefferson, a team up there and back and forth. It was, and on a Saturday we'd practice in a local hall. It was for

three, four years. It was very good, and it was good exercise and I enjoyed it and it was good competition. Had a couple of teams form in Mattituck and we used to play back and forth, and the local hall was suited for it, indoor. It was amusement and worked out very nicely.

I: This was in the mid thirties?

A: I would say so, yes.

I: What would you say were the effects of the depression on social life besides getting people together, playing sports like volleyball? Were there any other effects?

A: Well I, offhand I can't recall anything like that. Of course it made 'em, they probably had local picnics and so forth a little more, but they went on about the same as before. They just tightened up the belt. The movies weren't very much, didn't cost too much.

I: How much were movies?

A: I would say offhand a quarter, but I really, I didn't go too much. I'd always fall asleep, so why go?

I: From tiredness?

A: I guess so, yeah.

I: What was about the average wage for a laborer during the depression, for a day?

A: In thirty-eight I was paying \$3.00 a day.

I: Was there an hourly wage as well?

A: Yes, I guess, I guess. Oh gollies \$3.00 that was an eight hour day.

I: How much would a meal for an average family of five cost, roughly?

A: If you lived on the farm or if you lived in the villages?

I: Both, one and the other.

A: Oh, I would offhand, \$1.00, \$1.25. Let me first mention that in thirty-nine they was quite a lot of labor around and I had some woodland to clean up and things were worth a lot more cleared than they was in woodland. So I had this, I suppose I always called this colored man, black man who lived in this tenant house on the place. He had a couple of brothers and they....

I: Oh your place?

A: Yes, on Elijah's Lane, yes, and he worked for me in the summertime. In the wintertime, well he agreed to clear an acre of land for me for \$75.00 with a pickaxe and shovel, no machinery at all except that, and maybe a pry, a long stick of six inch tree to pry a stump out when it got nearly out. But for \$75.00. And when the war came on in forty-one & forty-two and, I had a bulldozer do it--\$300 an acre. But the fellers at that time (unclear) had, oh every week I'd turn and give them ten, fifteen dollars, and they lived on that very nicely in thirty-eight/thirty-nine. Did it seem to me you had another question there?

I: About the Library Hall, and the social activities going on there during the depression.

A: Well of course at that time, I don't know as Riverhead or Greenport had anything to compare with it really.

It was put up by a Frank Lupton, a former Mattituck member and I don't know what it cost. But the second floor was a dance hall, and also it had seating which would probably seat

seven hundred people. And when they had the dance, when they had the basketball, they could put the seats back against all the sides and there was plenty of court and room for basketball, very good basketball court. Of course there was a lot of playing going on there. Teams from the South Side would come over and go out on competition. Of course the attendance was pretty good too. We had local teams that we was proud of you know, and we had first and second team.

And then they had a lecture course for years. It was all planned ahead and we would have these, they was regular men, regular people that were on it and wanted to get these different people to come out. Some of them would be musical, or four or five people with musical instruments. Some would be a lecturer. The date was all set and you would buy tickets for it. It was for Library Hall, and they probably had five or six different lecture courses through the year, through the winter.

I: How much would a season ticket cost?

A: I guess less than \$5.00, maybe \$5.00, and I knew some people used to hire a stage coach and horses to bring them up there. It was very popular, and we got good entertainment.

I: They had dancing as well with music?

A: At those lectures, no, there was no dancing, just the speaker. Or sometimes they'd have some minstrels out you know, and they were very good shows. But they were top at that time, they were top billed show people, and there were musicians. Many of them were very good.

I: Where were they from?

A: Well, the city I guess, they had the Boston Symphony Orchestra out there like that you know. And the lecturers was popular men at the time. They was going around the country as lecturers and they would probably, oh they'd talk for an hour or more.

I: Do you remember anyone in particular that you liked?

A: I, I can't think of one. They used to come year after year, but I can't think of his name right now, no. But quite often they'd have them year after year, they'd have the same one come out. If you had a lecture course ticket you was one of the four hundred then you know, and if you couldn't go why you let someone else have your ticket, and it was very popular. I've even got the minute book on it, and I didn't know whether to give it to the Historical Society or what. It's expenses and just let me get the (tape interrupted).

I: So what were the main things about Library Hall that contributed to bettering Mattituck?

A: Oh I would say, best of all, was one of the big things. They had Literary Society which went for years in Mattituck. It started, do you know where this Jim's Diner is in Mattituck near Hansen's Garage there? It's not too far from the Library, just a little bit toward Mattituck. And that originally, I can remember very well was a store just north of where the Bank is now and it was close to the railroad and was the local hall\* where originally, before Library Hall was built, they had this lecture course and they had the dances

\*Apollo Hall, north west corner of Pike St. and Love Lane. The building was moved to the Main Rd. next to Hansen's Garage. Ed.



and the Literary Society. And that Literary Society went on for years. It was very popular, every two weeks on Tuesday night. It was one of the big things in Mattituck. People would come there from Southold and Greenport. They had a President, Secretary and a committee for putting on the little entertainments, and the laws of it were you had to put an entertainment first. Then the seats were put back and you had a dance. You belonged to it and if you was a member all the dance cost you was a quarter. Anybody come in from outside, it was a dollar. They had a local orchestra more or less. Well this Slat's Reeve of course, he was very popular in Mattituck for fifty years. He was a very good pianist and they had a violin from a feller that was a Mattituckian and he was very good, and sometimes they had a coronet or something from Peter Harvey Duryee which run a hardware store at that time.

I: Who played the violin?

A: This (?unclear) he was a widower, he never married until he was about sixty. Jack Dennerman, Jack Dennerman, quite a character. He lived in Mattituck for years and years, and lived right near Penny's Lumber Yard there.

I: Were you ever involved in any of these programs?

A: Oh yes, oh yes.

I: How?

A: Well, they would put on plays with local people, and I was involved in that sometimes. And say it was very popular and it certainly was a cheap dance for a quarter. And when the school teachers used to come, in 1915 to 1916, why they

would board down Pike Street about where the fire house is now. There's two, three houses boarded the teachers, and the teachers would come there and then of course us fellers, we would take a walk home with them. Something like that, you know, very popular. Yes the Literary Society was like the lecture course, it was something to do and clean dancing. There was no drinking or anything like that. Once in the while an outside feller might throw a beer bottle in there somewhere, but very seldom. But there was local people there and a lot of dancing there. And you could take a girl, and if you didn't take a girl why there was always several girls available in there that we knew and very popular. That went on for I guess till the first World War probably. Maybe 1922 it begun to go bad.

I: To go bad?

A: Well it, the tenants, they got well the dancing wasn't as popular right in a local place like that. They used to have Saturday night dances in Library Hall, and I don't know, the Society, it, I wouldn't say went bad but whether the tenants (unclear) or just why the Library Hall....But I don't think that was going when the depression in twenty-nine (unclear).

I: What would you say caused the change?

A: I, I, don't really know except of course Library Hall eventually turned into a movie house. And you see the lower part was Barker's Drugstore, the original one was in

Library Hall, and they'd have ice cream there. And you'd go to a dance above and come about 9:00, 10:00 you wanted an ice cream. You took the girl down, just down to the lower floor and there was the drug store. The clerk would be there till eleven, twelve o'clock, and get your ice cream. Very, very satisfactory, and then you'd go back dancing again.

That's where the local Library started in in 1905. The building was built in 1904, and the Library up till then had been in the Octagon House and was moved over to Library Hall in 1905, and had nice spacious quarters. That's where the Mattituck Bank originated, in Library Hall. And then they very soon had a dentist. And they had in the early forties probably, late thirties, they had three doctors in there and sort of a clinic. It was very nice.

I: So with all the things that were going on in Library Hall up until the twenties, where did people go for that kind of thing once Library Hall started to phase out?

A: Well, I would say like the....like the bowling alleys up there. Bowling came in good, and - -

I: In Peconic you mean?

A: Well there was one in Mattituck, and they got a bar in there. And it got so, that people would to in and sit at the bar for hours, and the bars became more prevalent. And of course then there was some places like that that we could also dance you know. Well then it drifted away pretty much, movies became very popular at that time. And that's why they

changed over Library Hall eventually to movies, because these other entertainments had pretty much ceased. Which was too bad in some ways. But it's like my grandson from out in Carbondale, Illinois. He entertained his girlfriend the other day. Where did he take her? Went and took her to a bar. And they sat there and drank for about two, three hours. Never got drunk, (laughter) but that was the entertainment. She was a very nice girl, she's in college.

I: Tell me about any of the plays that you remember, that you were involved in?

A: Of course the main one was from school, when I was probably in the first year high, or second year high. They put on in Library Hall a very good show. I was in it with a bunch of people and I did a, oh I had to introduce pantomime, which at that time I didn't know what the devil pantomime was. But I had to introduce some people without saying much. But it represented different things. Like we had the Goldust Twins. They were represented by two people there and Aunt Jemima's Pancake Flour. I guess I was Aunt Jemima's Pancake Flour, and I had to give a little talk on that. They was all arranged to be read, a nice show. A lot of people came out, and I guess they did have a little refreshments later. But the school did all right on it and the principal's wife was very good on putting on plays like that, excellent she was.

I: Do you remember her name?

A: Yes, well Mrs. Wallace. He was Professor Wallace and I should know his first name 'cause he shook me up once.

I: How's that?

A: Well he said he thought I was the worst boy in school. I didn't. I disagreed with him.

I: Why did he think that?

A: Well, I had in the eighth grade, Hortense Foote was teacher, she later married a Tuthill. And of course this friend of mine, he lived on Elijah's Lane when I did. He and I would always go to school. We'd always, the first day of school we'd get the back seat. 'Course it wasn't long before we were moved up front, but this time we had a back seat and a girl by the name of Bessie Zenzius was in between us. She still lives in Mattituck, I meet her every once in the while. And this friend of mine his name was Tuthill, he passed me over a piece of paper and in it was wrapped up a kind of a rotten apple or a core of an apple. Well quickly I took the apple and threw it at him. She caught me at it and she said, "Ralph," she says, "You'll have to go see the principal." So I went outside and very quietly, he said, "Don't you think you're kind of one of the worst boys in school?" I says I didn't think so, and he kind of shock me up a little.

I: What, did he grab you?

A: Hmmm, by the shoulders, yes, yes, he swung me right around. My feet hit the door as I went around you know, (laughter). Then he was there for two, three years after that, and he was a good principal. Of course he'd go down and maybe start to take a pupil out of the seats see, and give him a good shaking and they would hang on to the seat. "Well," he says, "That's all right." But a lot of time he says, "I take seat and all."

He was quite a strong feller, and very athletic, but he was all right, a good teacher, and his wife, she was very excellent at putting on shows. Very good, very good.

I: Was there an agricultural society here in Mattituck?

A: Well, Sound Avenue more or less had one. I think Mattituck belonged to it. The Town probably started it and I don't know whether it was called Long Island Institute or something like that. But I think they had a sort of co-op and you could probably buy your fertilizer and seeds through there a little cheaper and they had meetings no doubt in the winter time.

I: Were you involved with them?

A: No. I was when the Farm Bureau became effective in 1922 or so. Then very soon I became active in that.

I: How so?

A: Well, they'd have annual meetings and dinners in Riverhead somewhere, and we were involved in getting members. I was on the Membership Committee for years. First we'd have a meeting of two of the fellers where they had different sections of - - well this would involve right from Greenport to Riverhead really. Mine was to patrol the Mattituck section, and we would meet and discuss what we would like through the year, what we wanted to advocate, and also to try to get members. And then they'd have their annual meeting, say in December and we'd go out, and there was a prize for the number of members that you could get. Well, we'd go out and I'd sometimes get eight or ten new members. Then we'd have the annual meeting and had a nice dinner. Why for a couple of

dollars you could have the dinner, and you had a speaker. You'd always have a speaker from Cornell or something like that, a very good speaker on agriculture, economist usually. 'Course they was connected you see with Cornell. Also with Farmingdale to a certain extent. But, well this Henry Talmadge really started it. That was the offshoot of Cornell and they had the Agricultural School right there. And of course then they sent out through the Farm Bureau, the Farm Bureau Magazine. It's still going under a different name, but they would have articles on dairy which I was very interested in, and potatoes and poultry, a darn good magazine. And they had people that knew their stuff and had very good articles in there, insecticides, how to control different aphids and potato bugs. And when it got so some insecticides were banned, then they'd come out with something else and they'd tell you just what to use. And well you just more or less farmed by the Farm Bureau, what they advocated. And of course they were always trying to get a good price for potatoes or anything and working toward those things, and they had a lot of power in Washington or anywhere.

I: They had a strong lobby?

A: I would say so, yes. Well they called it the Extension Service. More or less dairying has gone out. Now it's more or less taken up with horses, mostly riding horses I would say. The horses have increased as far as the pleasure horses. But at that time for years it was a very good magazine. If you had any difficulty with a, if a cow was

sick or a chicken was sick or something, you could take specimens up to this place in Riverhead you know, and they would send it maybe to Cornell or somewhere to be diagnosed. Very valuable, very valuable information. And they sent out monthly bulletins advocating this and that at different times of the season. Did a swell job. Of course it's still going. You can call up there now anytime in Riverhead, questions on what you should do with gardens and chicken diseases and potato diseases.

I: That's free of charge?

A: Yeah, very valuable.

I: O.K. - well thank you very much, we have run out of time.

A: We have that, I guess.

I: I really enjoyed it.

End of tape



MATTITUCK ORAL HISTORY

Contents of Tape No. 3-RWT-3

Oral Author: Ralph W. Tuthill

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MATTITUCK ORAL HISTORY

Tape No.: Volume 3. RWT-3  
Author: Ralph W. Tuthill

Date of interview: June 1978  
Interviewer: John Traversa

Justice of the Peace - Law and Order

I: Since you were Justice of the Peace for awhile in Mattituck, I wanted to know about Law and Order, and the kinds of things that happened in Mattituck, particularly when you were young, to kind of set the background of peoples' attitudes toward the law, and toward a sense of right and wrong.

A: Of course, I would like to start it off with that place. When I was young they had what you call a Constable, and he was about the only Police Officer in the town, and pretty much things were settled among themselves. When they got in a bad crime or robbery or something like that, they'd get this Constable in and he would try to solve it. Then in probably the thirty's we had a Police Chief, Otto Anrig, and he had one assistant and that was practically the police force, and then as crime gradually increased and the population increased, why of course the police force increased, and by the time I was elected Justice of the Peace why there was, I think, fourteen policemen on the force.

I: That was 1949?

A: Mmm, '47. Otto Anrig was the Police Chief, and he had an assistant in there, and I guess there was a sergeant or two maybe. With that they covered the town. Of course, by that time they were patrolling in cars and they had

I guess four police cars. Of course, they had a radio man in the office then and so they could call up the office and get all of the details. These cars, there were a couple of them on the road all the time probably, and they picked up, well of course they generally got traffic violations. That was their main job. Of course in the case of an accident, they had radios in the car and they were called to these places and they would get there within five or ten minutes and get the data and names.

I: Tell me about the earlier date, like the Constable. Do you know who he was, or do you remember anything about the Constable when you were a little boy?

A: Fred Booth from Southold.

I: And he was there for a long time?

A: Several years, yes.

I: I see, do you remember approximately when that was?

A: Oh, that was probably the late teens or early twenty's. Before that I don't know. Well, of course, they had an Overseer Of The Poor then, that was one man had charge of Southold Town, and anyone that was in need or what not, why they got in touch with him and had no place to go, why he'd take them up to the, what they called the poorhouse then, up in Yaphank. Yaphank is about thirty miles from here, and he had quite a lot of power, very little salary, but I remember one of them, he was a Tuthill, a distant relative of mine.

I: Do you remember his first name?

A: Yes, Allie, A-l-l-i-e. I guess, Albert was his name, Albert Tuthill.

I: And did he wear a uniform or anything?

A: No, no uniform, went around with a horse and buggy and he wasn't called out too much, but there would be people that they had, well if they went a little berserk, why he could commit them to Central Islip.

I: I don't understand why he was called to Overseer Of The Poor.

A: Well, that was his title really, Overseer Of The Poor, and I imagine it was the poor and needy that he catered to more or less. If that person was down and out, had no relatives, no place to live--why I remember a Mr. Clark in Mattituck, his relatives all died, he was left alone, and I guess he was drinking some. They committed him to the poorhouse up there in where they call it, Yaphank. They used to call it "over the hill to the poorhouse," and he was there for several years probably. But he had no relatives, and no place to stay, and that gave him a lodging and eats. On that farm which is still in existence they had probably a hundred acres, and then any inmates that were able, which he was able to do, why they helped plant potatoes and the crops. They had a big dairy herd that supplied the milk for the institution. It worked out very well and cheaper than welfare now.

I: Yeah. I can imagine. Did they have people who were considered criminal there, or a mixture of both?

A: No. The criminals were either put in jail or, if they were crazy more or less, they went to Central Islip, which was a mental institution.

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I: This Overseer Of The Poor, then, took care of the poor and the people who were destitute or sick and didn't have the means to support themselves.

A: Oh yes.

I: What if somebody committed a crime, like stealing?

A: Well, they had Fred Booth investigate it. The Overseer Of The Poor had nothing to do with crime at all. He was just called if the person was sane all right but his relatives had all passed away and he had no way of supporting himself.

I: I see. Now what happened if somebody stole a cow, let's say. Did that ever happen?

A: Oh yes, some. I know one black man stole a cow once, and when he came before the Justice of the Peace, they asked him how he happened to get the cow. well, he said, he found a chain in the road, and the cow was on the end of it. That was a fellow that lived in Mattituck.

I: That sounds like a familiar story.

A: Well, that was supposed to be true. His younger brother still lives in Mattituck. He died some years ago. But there wasn't too much crime then, and petty crimes were more or less settled among themselves probably.

I: Do you remember any instances of petty crimes or squabbles over land or over animals that were settled between two people or two families?

A: Well, not specifically, but I know there were boundary troubles. Of course, it was later on as Justice of the Peace, I was called to settle these boundaries, to try to settle it out. As a young fellow I don't remember too much but there

were disputes no doubt, and no doubt over boundaries there was trouble now and then. Because in olden times a boundary was a bunch of trees. When the trees were cut down, there were no markers there to tell where they were. They would get into trouble sometimes over that but it was generally settled without going to law I would say. Of course, (unclear) then it was probably a court case. They didn't have any Justice Court to speak of. (unclear) County Court, Civil Court, something like this.

I: All the disputes that you settled as Justice of the Peace involved no jury, -right?

A: well, you could have a jury of six local people. I have subpoenaed six people and have a trial and have each side .... I'd have an assistant District Attorney and they would have a lawyer too. I had them in that big house over there, and I've had them in a smaller court room. Not too many of them. If it warranted a real trial, if it was like a felony, why I couldn't handle it. It had to go to Riverhead court. I could put them in jail temporarily, but I couldn't handle the case. It was up to the District Attorney. Usually in a small case like that on (unclear), why they would have an Assistant District Attorney into my office and he would advise me on different things (unclear). They would be all very friendly (unclear) helped me a whole lot (unclear) Assistant District Attorneys.

I: Would you say there was a big change in the crime rate from when you were young to the present day?

A: Oh yes. Well, of course, there was less population and less crime. A lot of petty thievery never came to light at all. (unclear) just kept still and (unclear) themselves.

There probably wasn't so much going on anyway.

I: How did people settle petty thievery when you were a young boy? Did they fight it out? Did they talk it out?

A: well, sometimes, they might have taken it to the local Justice, and get his advice and try to settle it that way.

I: Was there a local Justice in Mattituck when you were a young boy or was there just the Constable?

A: There was a local Justice, Oscar Robinson.

I: Did you know him personally?

A: Sure. He lived right up (unclear).

I: How do you spell his last name?

A: R-o-b-i-n-s-o-n.

I: Would you say he was a very strict man?

A: No, he was just a (unclear) farmer really. He had a good sense of law and order really, and his judgment was good, I would say.

I: Was he nominated or elected?

A: I guess he was elected, I think then, the same as I was.

I: What do you think people looked for in those days in a Justice of the Peace? ..... Obviously he was not educated in law. I guess he had a sense of fair play ....

A: Pretty much. And common sense. And (unclear) that was fairly brilliant, you know, and a smart fellow. Maybe just a grade school education. But people that could talk, and as I say show good judgment. That was the main thing, common sense.

I: When you were a young boy where did young boys, in particular, get their sense of right and wrong?

A: Well, I would say from the parents. And the schools helped

some. The teachers I would say, yes. But how they were brought up. If they were brought up in a family that was (unclear) law and order why they more or less kept the same way. Sometimes you might have had parents that were a little loose themselves, why the children were. I can remember a couple of instances. They had a horse and they used to get drunk and I'd see them go by the school, whipping the horse, you know. Nobody had them arrested. They'd go home and sleep it off.

I: Arrested for whipping the horse?

A: Well, it could be, but, of course, in those times there wasn't any punishment like that. The horses were supposed to be whipped more or less if they were disobedient, but generally the horse is very good, of course.

I: So, what would you say caused the rise in crime between when you were a boy and now? You said part of it is the population - there were less people, right?

A: Yes, and also it used to be the teacher could use pretty good discipline, which they can't do now, and the children know it. So they just more or less run over the teacher and their teacher can't do any severe punishment at all. I think that has one bearing on it. Of course, then so many times now the parents back up the child. My child can do nothing wrong, you know. And years ago, when the kid came home, maybe, why he got a spanking. But now it's entirely different. The teachers have no authority to speak of. And the parents don't exercise what they should.

And, of course, so many times they are both working, and the home life is entirely different from what it was fifty years



ago, when the woman was home. when the kids came home from school the mother was right there, and got them a sandwich or something like that, was there to keep them straight. Now they come home, and there is nobody there so they go off on the street and do what they want to. It helped to increase crime, I would say. When they come home, they used to have chores to do, which they don't very rarely have much to do now-a-days. Everything's automatic. You don't have any wood to bring in or chickens to feed or cows to take out to pasture. You come home with nothing to do, and (unclear) on the streets, if you were in the cities.

I: So, you would say that kids were much busier at the time. They didn't have that much time to get into trouble.

A: I would say so, yes.

I: Also, do you feel that in doing these chores and learning to accept and exercise responsibility for the well-being of the animals that they learned to take care of things, to accept responsibility and to exercise responsibility?

A: Well, I would certainly say it helped to build character, and it helped to realize animals and to take care of them, and to learn to like animals. And to learn to like to do a little something, instead of being idle all the time. And quite often they would (unclear) on a farm, they might give this boy a calf and he could raise it, and maybe one day if they happened to sell it when it got older, which happened to me, they'd give the boy the money, you know. I guess when I was eighteen or so, I'd raised a calf and Pop sold it and got fifty dollars

for it, and he gave me the fifty bucks, which was very nice.

I: What did you do with the money?

A: I put it in the savings bank.

I: How'd you feel? Did you have a sense of accomplishment?

A: Oh yes, oh yes. To break a calf to lead, it was quite a problem. You had to be quite patient.

I: You say, "break a calf to lead" -

A: Yes. With a rope. I mean, when they start, why they just pull back, and you can't do anything about it (unclear) come along and maybe get behind him with a little slack on the rope why eventually they get so they lead. And that was the trouble later on when I got cows from Upstate. You try to lead them out and they've just never been led. The calves we raised, why by the time they were a year old they were broke to lead. When (unclear) why there was no problem. You could put a rope on her, you can lead them anywhere.

I: So, it's like training a dog on a leash?

A: Same thing, sure. Exactly.

I: Getting back to the sense of right and wrong and discipline. You say that when you were a young boy there was much more of a sense of discipline both at home and in school.

A: Oh yes.

I: Do you remember some of the things that you had done or somebody that you knew had done, that were considered wrong and what happened as a result?

A: well, it's pretty hard to get specific instances. When I was brought up, more or less, my father was the boss, and my

mother was good too, and when I went to school when they told me to do something, I was used to authority, and I didn't try to dispute them like some children would. They would argue with them.

I: In your class, they did?

A: Well, once in a while. Most of them would mind all right. They were brought up to it. I was used to doing what I was told to do. It helped. I didn't get in much trouble in school.

I: What happened if somebody disputed the teacher's orders?

A: Well, she would (unclear) and give them a good shaking or with a ruler slap their hand good.

I: Did that work pretty well?

A: Yeah, I think, generally.

I: Do you remember any instance in which that didn't work?

A: I do remember (unclear) maybe twelve or fourteen years old, they were expelled temporarily. They usually got back, but they had to more or less apologize.

I: That was considered a great dishonor, to be expelled?

A: Yeah, I would say so.

I: Did the parents react very strongly to that?

A: Well, they didn't uphold the child like they would now. They felt as if he was wrong, and they would send him back to school. And the teacher would take him back, and they might go to the school and talk with the teacher about him, get some of the facts and explain things. But they didn't uphold the pupil too much like they would now probably.

I: I get the impression that the parents were supportive of the teacher?

A: Generally, yes. Of course, as you say, education - there is no doubt the blacks, the more education they get, the less prejudiced they would be, I think, and more liable to get a very good job which would be helpful and they couldn't complain too much.

I: I want to ask more about the sense of right and wrong. Did your parents, for instance, talk to you about right and wrong, or was it mostly a matter of following their example?

A: I would say following example, and of course, my mother had a little paddle (unclear) that she collected things (unclear) now and then .... But no, I never remember my parents ever taking me and giving me a talk on right and wrong. It came natural to do the right thing with me because that's what my parents did, my brothers too. And I don't remember ever, except if I did something a little wrong, as I say, I got the paddle.

I: Can you recall anything that your mother would paddle you or the other kids for?

A: Oh, not really. They were pretty minor.

I: Like if two of the children would get into a fight, would that be an occasion for getting paddled?

A: Well, it might be. Of course, you might have to paddle both, see, and that would be difficult maybe. But I would say the parent would try to settle it. Sometimes it meant just talking to them. probably would do the trick, and separate them and keep them apart for an hour or two and then they'd get over it.

I: Was this a special paddle? Did she keep it hanging in the kitchen or somewhere?

A: Right in the pantry.

I: She used it just for paddling?

A: No, she also used it to stir the wash when we put the clothes in the boiler, stir them around and kind of cleanse them, you know. She kept that on a nail right on the pantry door.

I: Did it hurt?

A: Not too much.

I: Is that pretty much what other parents did in Mattituck when you were a boy?

A: Well, I would say something like that. Of course, probably generally they used their bare hand.

I: What about in school. Did the teachers or the principal or anybody give you any talks about right and wrong?

A: Well, I imagine they probably talked on that some, but I don't remember off-hand too much. You generally get your lessons and go up to class. If something happened in the school, a couple of fights, they might have a little discourse on it, right and wrong.

I: What about in church?

A: Well, of course, that was in the Sunday School, it was well more or less right and wrong. Yes, you had the Commandments and so forth. And we learned something about the Bible and some Bible stories which led to more or less right and wrong. The young people now. I've got some grand-children that they don't know what a Bible looks like or anything at all. It's regrettable, but it's the fault of the parents really. It's just like my daughter here. She's got two daughters. She

brought them up, always went to church. Now, one of them is twenty-four or twenty-five, and the other one is twenty, and they just don't go to church at all. Whether they will resume later on, I don't know. But there is nothing bad about them. They are very good. But I don't know just what happened, whether they've (unclear) the church, I don't know. But in the church they did get, well you might call it discipline. They got right and wrong more from the church, I would say, than anywhere almost.

I: Do you think that was an important part of your upbringing?

A: I would say so. I got more out of the Bible, the Bible stories and the Old Testament in Sunday School when I was well eight to sixteen, than I've ever gotten since.

I: Do you remember any stories or people in the Bible that you felt particularly affected by?

A: Oh, not really offhand. There were, of course, a lot of parables (unclear). It was not quite a true story maybe....

I: Do you remember, for instance, when you were Justice of the Peace and people came up with some kind of a litigation, did you ever recall something from the Bible?

A: I would say I did. Offhand, I don't remember, but I might quote certain things from the Bible with reference to these cases.

I: Did you have any heroes when you were a boy that you admired and that you would like to be like when you grew up?

A: Not off hand. Of course, I always admired old Teddy Roosevelt.

I: Did a lot of kids at that time admire Teddy Roosevelt?

A: I would say so.

I: What would you say he was mostly admired for?

A: Well, he was, of course, (unclear) which was in the textbooks, and then he (unclear).

I: His courage?

A: Yeah, pretty much, his courage, and he did several things when he was president that were very good, I think. I don't know but that he was an instigator of Panama Canal, to a certain extent. And, of course, where he lived on the west end of the island there on Oyster Bay, and I've heard him talk in the Fair at Riverhead. So consequently, I always admired him. (unclear) elderly people that you kind of looked up to, you know, that always, as far as we knew led a good life, and the example was good.

I: Was there any problem with juvenile delinquency then when you were a young boy?

A: Oh probably.

I: I assume there wasn't any drug problem.

A: Not that I remember.

I: Alcoholism?

A: Not too much. Some of the young kids, I do remember, eight to ten years old had been sneaking cigarettes or something like that. Not too many. And drink was practically no problem. Of course, they had these saloons, the old time saloons, and the young people just couldn't go in.

I: How old did you have to be to go in a saloon?

A: I really don't know. I imagine 18, maybe 21.

I: It was strictly for men?

A: I would say yes.

I: Was there any problem with vandalism?

A: Oh, not too much, I would say.

I: So vandalism has really increased?

A: Oh yes, oh yes.

I: Would you attribute that to any particular cause?

A: Well, they don't have as much respect for law as they used to. Sometimes, maybe the need for stereos, radios, something like that, we didn't have those gadgets then. There wasn't so much to steal, but now if they can go in and take a radio or a T.V. or something like that, if they can sell it they can get good money for it. The morale is more or less down.

I: While you were Justice of the Peace, did you give much thought -- you were in there for twenty-one years, to things that could be done to reduce the crime rate, particularly juvenile delinquency?

A: Well, of course, what I tried to do, and Chief of Police too, was give a fellow, say sixteen, seventeen, fifteen, try to give him a break. Instead of putting him in jail right away give him a suspended sentence or just a talking to and let him go. I hated to put a young fellow in jail unless the crime was very severe. But generally, a good talking to. A lot of boys later on would see me and thank me for not putting them away when they were young, you know. There was some satisfaction that way. I hated to see a young fellow fifteen or sixteen..... if you could straighten them up, do it by all means, which happened a good many times.

I: How did you accomplish that?

A: Well, talk to them like a Dutch uncle. I know just how that was, and the Police Chief would also go along too, and he



tell  
would/then he was going to watch them, which he would. He was around town, you know, and at night time he was around. These boys, they more or less watched, and if they got caught again why then there was a little more severe penalty. But even then, they would try to go easy on them, if you could. But there comes a limit to those things. Which now they will sentence them for something like that but they are out on the streets again in a couple of weeks. Of course, it works for some of them, and a lot of them it doesn't, I suppose. Of course, there is a law now that, I think, at eighteen you can, I just forget what they call it, but you can convict them of something but it doesn't appear on their record. Up to nineteen, I guess it is. Which I guess is a good idea to a certain extent. Of course, it can be overdone, but if I try to tell a fellow, which I've done a good many times, now this won't appear, this is private and nothing against your character, it will never appear on the record, I think it helped a lot of times. Then, if they got caught a second time after they were nineteen, why the rule was you couldn't bring that record up against them. Maybe it was overdone, but it was helpful, I think.

1: Was there anything that you tried where instead of punishing you might say, okay you did this thing wrong. Now you have to correct it, in some way pay back the people that you have damaged?

A: I never had jurisdiction over anything like that. It may have been a higher judge that could do that, but I don't think I could. Well, of course, we did maybe if he broke a glass or something like that, make him clean it up possibly. But I didn't ever realize or think that I had the

power to tell him now you've got to, which they used to sometimes maybe but I put him in jail. I felt like doing it on Saturday and Sunday when there was the most crime committed. They let him out on Monday. But I don't think I had the power to do that really. A higher court judge probably could do that. I used to have plenty of fellows that their trouble was over the weekends. If you could put them in jail then, but you really couldn't do it. I couldn't do it. You'd like to just pick them up even though they hadn't committed anything on a Friday, put them in jail and let them out Monday at 12 o'clock.

I: I see. These were considered kind of regular trouble-makers?

A: Yes. That's right.

I: Were most of them from the labor camps?

A: Pretty much, yes.

I: Is that because they got their pay checks on Friday night and so they had quite a bit of money?

A: Then they'd get drunk and then get in card games and then have a stabbing or two, you know. And they'd get in trouble. One Sunday, I was working then pretty hard. I tried to relieve the men I had working for me. Certainly, I would milk with one of them. This Sunday, I milked sixty cows and put five men in jail and went to church. I thought that was pretty good.

I: It's a lot of work for one Sunday.

A: And those men it was all the cause of drinking. That was on a Sunday, and they got their money Friday. Usually they got drunk say Saturday, and the police would put them in - they had - now we've got one in the police station in Peconic. But the nearest lock-up thing was Greenport. They'd put them

in the (unclear) in Greenport, and Sunday they'd bring them up to me. They'd dispose with them or put them in jail for a week or just let them go on a suspended sentence or something like that. Because so many times the farmers needed them Monday morning on the farm.

I: When you were Justice of the Peace, did you have any particular goals in mind of things that you wanted to accomplish as Justice of the Peace?

A: I wouldn't say really. I had trouble keeping my accounts and the money involved. Of course, the first ten years or so, I had no secretary, and if I had ten people in for traffic violations and so forth, I had to write everything up in the docket myself. And then send a report to the overhead. It kept me fairly busy.

I: Yeah, I can imagine.

A: The last few years I had a secretary, and it was much easier really.

I: So, she did all the writing for you?

A: Yes. But still I had (unclear) audited. I had to kind of to keep within the law, you know, and keep track of the money. There was a lot of money involved, the fines and like that. For an (unclear) it was kind of a job, you know.

I: Can you tell me what your duties were as Justice of the Peace?

A: Well, of course, one duty was they had regular Town Board meetings, and I was on the Town Board.

I: Is that once a month?

A: Yeah, once a month. Of course, they might call a special meeting. I always attended that. It was always interesting.

And then they'd have an informal meeting in the morning maybe, and then in the afternoon at 2 or 3 o'clock would have a public meeting. The Town Clerk would read off all the bills, and there might be some discussion on some of them.

I: What do you mean by bills?

A: All the town bills. Once a month, he would have them to go over with the Town Board. At the end of them, (unclear). And then he would pay them out like that. And then, of course, there was all the discussions come in, like when zoning came in effect. Of course, that caused a lot of people to come in to those meetings and a lot of talks between the supervisor and the people.

I: But your main duty as Justice of the Peace was to take care of criminal cases?

A: Well, we at that time, of course, originally the town had four Justices. But very soon after I'd taken office in probably four or five years, they cut it down to two.

I: How come?

A: Well, I don't really know whether they figured that two could handle it. The other two were made councilmen. And I would have maybe the month of August, and then he'd have September. We'd alternate months like that. During my, say in August, I would have traffic court every Wednesday night. And we got so we hired the Peconic school at night. That was centrally located. I'd go there on a Wednesday night with my secretary and usually someone from the District Attorney's office, a lawyer, and these people would come in, ten, fifteen or twenty of them and sit down. I'd call the cases and dispose of them that way. Fine them or sometimes you'd have to carry it over

for another week. Sometimes want a jury trial. And then we came home, and the secretary would write up different offenses and keep them in the docket. In the meantime, I'd have, well, anytime of the day the troopers used to bring in cases (unclear) 2 o'clock in the afternoon. I'd have to stop what I was doing on the phone and come home and dispose of it. Hardly any day went by but what I was called for something really. Especially when it was my month. And the next month I'd have it a little easier. Although then, any local thing they'd usually bring in to me but generally it went to the other Justice.

I: Do you consider yourself a strict judge?

A: I didn't think so. Some of them used to say so.

I've heard them say, don't get before Judge Tuthill, he's severe. But I always liked to talk and have a conversation with them, you know. Of course, a lot of them, I knew the parents and knew the people.

I: Did anybody consider you lenient?

A: I rather think they did maybe, yeah.

I: Did you remember any case where you felt, okay let's say (unclear) own decision?

A: Not too often. Possibly sometimes.

I: How did you feel about it?

A: Well, I didn't feel good, I suppose. But I tried to deliberate. Of course, if you were undecided, you could always postpone it and set another date to come in. If it was uncertain just what the (unclear) should be and uncertain that you might make a wrong decision, why postpone it a week

and have them come in then, and talk with the Chief of Police. I used to call the town lawyer quite often and ask his advice. Sometimes I called the District Attorney. And if you thought it was difficult or if you were liable to make a wrong decision, they were always very helpful. And then we'd reach a decision, then it would more or less, it should be the right decision.

I: Did you ever have any regrets of decisions that you (unclear)?

A: Not too often, I don't think, no. Maybe I felt a little sorry for them but they (unclear) what they got, I think.

I: Did you do much talking with the defendants?

A: Oh yes, sure.

I: Were you trying to find out why they did what they did?

A: well, to a certain extent, yes. And I had some come in that I knew the fathers. I would try to tell them that I knew your father very well, why don't you straighten up and be a good example and have your father think something of you rather than to go down the way you're going. Talk to them like that. And it helped. I got one fellow in Mattituck. He used to be speeding and chasing women around. I was always a little lenient with him but I gave him a talking to, and now he's my best friend. He realizes that as a young fellow (unclear). He turned out fine, turned out all right. He's married, got a nice family. In instances like that you always felt repaid for talking to them, you know.

I: Did you ever feel taken advantage of, cases where you tried to be understanding and encouraging and inspiring to the person

(unclear) they just took advantage?

A: Well, possibly but not too often, I would say. Once in a while I might have thought that they took advantage of my talk. I don't think so. I'd talk to them and get the background of why they did those things, and usually they would talk. But I did have one fellow from a very good family. He came in with his father, surly, wouldn't look at me, you know. I'd try to talk to him. It went on that way for a year or two. He would be out to 2 o'clock in the morning. His father couldn't control him.

I: What kinds of things did he do?

A: Well, he was (unclear) some of the young girls and going out late at night. I don't think he was stealing anything like that. Very nice family. And when he was about, I suppose eighteen or so, he married a girl sixteen. He invited me to the wedding, my wife and I to the reception. She seemed to straighten him out. After that, I'd meet him on the street, "Hi Judge," wonderful.

And I always felt very good over that. Of course, his father is a very good friend of mine. And he is now, he and his wife. I used to tell her, "My gosh you did a wonderful job with your husband." They've got two or three children. I meet him on the street now once in a while, talkative speech, you know. Just changed entirely. His attitude toward the world and toward me and everybody. It was just wonderful. His father was very pleased (unclear) I don't know as I ever put him in jail really. I put him in his father's custody and like that. He didn't do anything serious but he just wanted

to raise the devil more or less, you know. He was out late nights with the girls (unclear) but I straightened him all out, and now he has got a good job and for years he has been fine. But such a difference. I couldn't realize the attitude that he had toward me now. He's the best friend, you know. Wonderful. And I had other boys like that too. But he was an outstanding one from a very nice family. I was reading my diary last night, and most every page I had someone come in for a traffic infraction of this and that and I told my disposition. But for me to remember those things, it's almost impossible.

I: You've handled a lot of cases.

A: Yes. Well, we have six hundred or seven hundred a year. And some of them were maybe outstanding, but it was pretty hard to recall those things. Most of them are traffic infractions, and most are misdemeanors. A felony I couldn't handle. That had to go to the District Attorney. I just put him in jail and turned him over. But misdemeanors I could handle. And infractions.

I: Did you learn about law mostly from practicing, from reading, from talking with the District Attorneys and so on?

A: Well, that helped like everything. I had a law book that I used to look into, you know. And then we were required, not the first year but the last eight years, I guess, we were required that we had to take a course at (unclear) University. Went down there for week-ends for a month, I guess, went down on a Friday. They had a class of probably twenty Justices of the Peace there. They would talk over these things, and



finally maybe on Saturday afternoon we'd have a test, those questions, and have to answer them. I have a paper (unclear) that I passed the test. And that was a requirement. After that, in order to be a Justice of the Peace, you had to take that course. It was only maybe week-ends for a month. But it was at (unclear) University. Of course, the teacher was a noted lawyer. And he was very interesting. And you learned quite a lot. And then once a year they had the Association of (unclear) Towns meeting in Syracuse. (unclear) at a big hotel there. And in New York once in a while, meet there at the Ambassador Hotel and some of those places where they had the tremendous rooms, to have meetings, you know. They'd have a banquet. They'd have (unclear) three or four days. They'd have a certain panel. The Justice of the Peace could go there and listen. And different ones, if they had questions to ask, they would ask and get the answers. It was very instructive. And I learned a lot that way. If you had problems, take them there and ask the questions during that period. I used to take my wife down, and then at night we'd go out to a show or something, you know, but the daytime was pretty much taken up with going to these different conferences.

I: If you look at the system of Justices that exists today, not necessarily just Mattituck but I guess throughout the country, it doesn't seem to be working completely well, right? Do you have any reactions to that or suggestions? What do you think would make it work a little better?

A: Well, you see, (unclear) to abolish in small towns the Justice of the Peace and make District Courts, which I guess they've done in Nassau County. And I always felt more or less

that in a (unclear) county like this, that the local Justice knew the environment, knew the people and how to deal with them much better than some judge coming out from New York City. And, of course, as the towns grow bigger why that may be better but the local people and local Justice knew, I think, how to handle (unclear) good.

A: There was something else I had in mind too. Of course, in the cities, it had gotten so many times you don't even know your next-door neighbor. But I would say (unclear) Justice courts, I think the trend is to have Justices lawyers, which I really think is a good idea. Because unless you study and have a lot of common sense, which I used to depend quite a bit on the District Attorney's assistance and town lawyer out here. Of course, I learned a lot that way. I would recommend that a Justice be a lawyer. And it is gradually coming to that, I think. Of course, now they have to take that course in some university.

I: What would you say to young people about breaking the law? What would you say to encourage them to keep on the right side of the law? How could you inspire them? What would you say to parents?

A: I don't know offhand. Of course, felony (unclear) and you are convicted, why you lose your right to vote and so forth, which is pretty much of a (unclear) I would say.

END OF TAPE

name Ralph Welles Tuthill

birth date 5/20/1896 place Elijah's Lane. Mattituck (Tuthilltown)

father's name George Bryden Tuthill . born 1856

mother's name Carrie Case Tuthill Ralph's grandmother Abigail lived from 1821 to 1914

childhood Farm life with chores for all the children

education Mattituck School through the second year High School.

job training At sixteen, he was his father's main man on the farm after a childhood on the farm.

work 1917-1919 in the Navy, nineteen round trip Atlantic crossings on a transport. 1919 to 1938, he and brother Clarence rented and ran his father's farm. Partnership dissolved and 1938 to 1948 Ralph ran another rented farm. In 1948 purchased Nat Tuthill's dairy farm. official positions 1948 - 1969 Justice of the Peace for Southold Town.

member of Was on the School Board, for both the old and, after 1934, the new school. Library Trustee, served as president, and was a Trustee for many years.

special activities, projects, hobbies \_\_\_\_\_

spouse's name Laura Hoogland Fanning

children's names Ralph W. Jr.: Dean Fanning: Lois Mariory, (now in Carbondale, Ill.): Shirley, (Mrs. Bean in Washington, D.C.) Twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

major turning points in:

Mattituck	my life	<del>my life</del> <del>my interest</del>
1 _____	1 _____	1 <u>Ralph's brothers and sister:</u>
2 _____	2 _____	2 <u>1882 Ernest Case</u>
3 _____	3 _____	3 <u>1884 Frank Halsey</u>
4 _____	4 _____	4 <u>1886 Clarence Bryden - or 1885?</u>
5 _____	5 _____	<u>1887 Raymond Elijah</u>
	<u>1-RWT-1 to 5 &amp; 30-RWT-6</u>	<u>1890 Edith May</u>
	<u>31-RT:IR-1</u>	<u>1896 Ralph Welles</u>
		<u>1900 Jay Smith</u>

for me, Mattituck was \_\_\_\_\_

Mattituck is \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like Mattituck to become \_\_\_\_\_

(feel free to expand on any of the above;-your opinions are welcome!)