

“Green Mountain Chronicles”
Oral History Transcriptions, 1981-1989 (bulk: 1987-1988)
MSA 199 & 200

Introduction

This transcription is one of approximately 42 transcriptions of interviews with individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 in preparation for a radio program sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.”

Scope and Content

The transcriptions in this collection represent interviews of approximately 42 individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 by Mark Greenberg, Mary Kasamatsu, Eleanor Ott, and Tom Davis in preparation for a radio series entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.” The series of 52 five-minute programs was broadcast by commercial and public radio stations throughout the state in late 1988 and early 1989. The earliest interview in the collection was conducted in 1981; the latest was in 1989.

The interviewers spoke with well known Vermonters such as Governors Philip Hoff, Deane Davis, and Madeleine Kunin; lesser known personalities such as Catherine Robbins Clifford, one of the first women to hike the entire length of the Long Trail; and historians such as Weston Cate. The following inventory of the collection highlights the major theme(s) of each interview. The following list of program tapes gives the title of each radio program.

The goal of the radio series was to tell the history of Vermont in the twentieth century using archival sound recordings and recent interviews. The project was undertaken by the VHS in celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1988 and was funded by a \$14,000 grant from the Vermont Council on the Humanities and Public Issues with additional support from New England Telephone Company.

MSA 199, Folder 0 contains background information on the project. The VHS website at www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles contains a list of the Green Mountain Chronicles radio broadcasts and audio files of those broadcasts.

Catherine Robbins Clifford
March 26, 1987

Interviewer
Mary Kasamatsu

MK Well let's start a little bit with the very beginning.
Where were you born?

CC I was born in Cornwall, Vermont.

MK When were you born?

CC September 3, 1901

MK Were your parents farmers in the area?

CC Oh yes, I loved the farm. I wish I was there now. I don't like living hunched up this way. We lived up on high ground you know. We could see Camels Hump if we looked north and if we looked west, we could see the Adirondacks. We could see one of the lights over there. Mineville over there, I don't know if it is still operating now or not.

MK In New York, Mineville, NY?

CC Yes.

MK What kind of mining was in that town? Was it a talc mine do you know.

CC No, I think it was iron.

MK Iron?

CC I think so.

MK Do you have brothers and sisters?

CC I had a brother. He is still living in Cornwall on the farm. He is not a farmer anymore, he is long ago retired. My father has gone. He lived to be 88. My mother's people lived longer than that. No, no. Grandfather's family had nine and my grandmother was one of nine and most of them lived to be in their 80's, almost all of them. But grandmother had one sister that lived to be 95 and she had another one that lived to be 103. I don't know that I will live that long. I am kind of not hoping I do, because I wouldn't have any friends left. The horse is gone that I loved. My dog is gone. This is somebody else's cat. She lived upstairs for four years. She was teaching school. She ??? bar place in Orwell that his mother used to own. She goes to school and the cat would be alone over there. There were children across the road, a neighbor across the road and said, "He would never stay there. You better keep him, he likes you." He is still here. My husband is very fond of cats. I like a good dog.

MK So you had a lot of animals when you were on the farm?

CC Well, we had cattle, horses, pigs, hens, sheep, Merino a few of them. They are miserable things to shear you know. All those wrinkles. Why when you get through shearing them, they are full of little cut places, terrible things. I love animals. I don't know why I didn't plan to work with them.

MK Did you always plan to be a teacher as you were growing up?

CC No. I don't think so. No I didn't plan to be a teacher at all.

MK What did you plan or did you plan? Did you think about it?

CC I loved to work with horses. We had a farm out of Middlebury. We always called it the Government Farm, because Joseph Batell, a very interesting man, who was interested in Morgan Horses. They are intelligent you know. He built this wonderful barn up there and got it all started. And then before he died, he willed it to the United States Government. So we have always called it the Government Farm when I came along. Of course they raised colts to sell and so forth. It is over in Weybridge, outside of Middlebury. This Joseph Batell, somehow became interested in Breadloaf you know up at the mountain. He had his morgans up there. Then the cars appeared. He said well you can't drive up this mountain because you will frighten my horses. And by george, he didn't let them for a year or two. Then the government got after him. He owned a lot of acreage up there. He willed it all to Middlebury College. That is why they got that lovely summer place for the Ames people. It is really wonderful. They use it all the time in Middlebury. I happen to be secretary of the Class of 1923 of Middlebury and so I have to send in four times a year a paragraph referring to the members of our class. I think there are 35 left. That was a long time ago. Well you see when I went to Middlebury College, it was a poor man's college. I had a tuition of \$100 and I got a scholarship from the State of \$50. Of course that didn't include my meals but now look at what it is. It is a rich man's college now.

MK Tell me how you did decide to be a teacher. Did that happen once you got to college or did you start out thinking you would work with animals?

CC Well, I took physical education in college. I guess that was a minor. But 8 of us stuck to the physical education 4 years. Eight of us did way through. I like physical education. I like athletic things you know. I also like mathematics. I didn't think I was especially trained to teach mathematics, but I liked it. Gee, you can correct those papers, but I couldn't correct an English paper. I couldn't do that. I knew whether it was right or wrong. I could find the mistakes alright, but ~~you can't~~ ^{even} taught trigonometry before I got through with it. When I came to Brandon, the principal came to Brandon the same year. He called me up the Saturday night before school was to open. Not the Saturday night, it must have been a Thursday or Friday night. He said, "Now Miss Robbins," he said you are going to teach trigonometry aren't you?" I said, "No, I didn't sign up to teach it. I never have taught it and I didn't sign up to teach it." "Well," he said, "I have six boys that have signed up. They want trigonometry and they think they have got to have it." He said, "you had it?" I said, "yes, I've had it, but what do I know about it now?"

MK How long was that after you had gotten out of school?

CC Three years out of school. I have been teaching three years. Two years. Well I said I couldn't agree to do anything but keep 24 hours ahead of them. That is the only thing I could do. So I went right up to Middlebury College. Of course, my teachers weren't there anymore but I hunted up the head man that was there. Of course college hadn't opened and presented my problem to him. I said I wouldn't even know what book to choose. He said, "I will tell you. Take this book right here. He said, "you teach this and this and not that and this and if you get into a problem, just call me up or send me the note and I will send you an answer right back." Well that was pretty nice. So leaning on that, it was the most wonderful class I ever had. We had to meet in the Home Economics room. The only room there was for us. I had two boys that were really interested and the others were just taking it to be good fellows I guess. But they worked, maybe they got interested I don't know. But you have awful long tables. Maybe you don't know. Awful long tables, a lot of numbers on them. That is probably why I can't see now. Now what did you ask me?

MK Let's talk about how you got interested in all these outdoor activities. Did that come from the farm? What do you suppose made you think about even getting involved in a hike like the Long Trail? Had you hiked a lot when you were living in the country as a kid growing up?

CC I always walked all over the farm you know. No, I didn't get interested in that. I taught in Elizabethtown, NY. I taught out in Hornell, NY the first year and my mother wasn't very well. She said oh Catherine come nearer home and so I came. That was the best I could get near home. It wasn't any better than where I was, but I was in a bigger place and came back to a smaller place.

MK How far was that from your home then?

CC You have to cross Lake Champlain ferry. Oh I don't know. 60 miles or maybe 70, because you know where Westport is? It is 9 miles up from Westport, if you know where Westport is. I might mention right here that one day I rode my little black morgan from Cornwall way over to Westport because I have this friend who was teaching in the grades in Elizabethtown whose uncle is a guide, an Adirondack guide. Several weekends I went with them in the Adirondacks where the pincher plants are growing. They eat the insects. pincher plants. I had a wonderful time with them. I have an idea that it may be 60 miles over to Westport the way I went. But I didn't go on the regular ferries. I went down to Bridgeport because I knew the man who ran the ferry. It is a very short ferry and I knew if my horse hesitated to go on the ferry, he would be a good one to help me. Well of course that mare would do anything I asked her to do I guess anyway and we went down on the ferry. (I love this, I am doing the talking not you.) I went down and a man and woman and a buggy drove on right ahead of me. Of course she walked right on no trouble at all. It was a very short ferry. I knew a man who had a barn who would take her in. It wasn't too good of barn. I checked on the floor and the floor was alright, so I knew it would be alright. He said he would water her and so forth. I hope he did. She looked alright. But when I came back to get her, probably I went over on either Thursday or Friday and came back on a Sunday. I came back on the steam ferry. A big one you know. I went up and got the horse and she was usually awfully pleased to see me. I thought she looked kind of indifferent or something or other. It wasn't as nice of place as she was used to staying. I don't know. Maybe it was just me. Of course, I didn't have my equipment so I could groom her well you know, so forth and so forth, maybe that made a difference I don't know. Probably it is just my imagination. So we went on the steam ferry. Cloppy, Cloppy, Clop, Clop, Clop all the way across way to the other end and nobody else on there. Nobody else, not a car, nobody. So the captain or whoever he was came down and said you tie that mare to the railing. I said I am not tying this mare to anybodies railing.

She will snake you all over the deck. I said, I don't think so. I guess he took my \$4 and disappeared. He said and I will tell the men down in the...What is that down in the ship?

MK Hold?

CC Well anyway I will tell them not to blow the fog horn as we approach the Vermont shore. I said I will appreciate that. So, I am standing there on the deck along with her and as we approach the shore, that horn blew. Well I went just like this and so did she. Of course my hand was on her neck. I was just as scared as she was. Just as startled you know. On top of all this other business, she wondered where we were going. We walked down the gang plank and went on our way. Of course, it is quite a way home from up north it was. A long ways home, but I wasn't worried but we would get home alright. So we did. Morgans are a wiry little creatures. She apparently didn't know where she was, but it was alright with her, she kept going along and all of a sudden she came down on Rt. 30, the street where we lived and she began looking around and moving her head around. She discovered she was where she used to be and she whinnied, and whinnied and whinnied and I don't think I had ever heard her whinn~~ed~~ before. She was so tickled. It was just lovely. Now I hadn't told you that. What time is it? Near 11:00?

MK 11:00 yes. Tell me how your hike started?

CC That is how it started. I was telling you. I was teaching in Elizabethtown you see. I went over there to teach mathematics and physical education two days a week. Of course that is a little bit of a school. Two days a week physical education. I had some ??? english students and I had a boy out of the woods. He was just like a rabbit. He was scared to death to talk to anybody else. Just like a wild rabbit. A homel~~ed~~ kid you know. He was scared. You could see he was. Well I loved it over there. We used to go to Lake Placid skating and I love to skate. I had wonderful experiences. Well this Hilda Martin who had taught in Elizabethtown one year or maybe two years before, I am not positive, two years maybe. She had lived in the same place that I was living and sort of a boarding house it was came back to visit. She had a lot of friends. In a little small town like that you get acquainted with people other than students. But she had a lot of students she was very fond of. But she came back. So when I came in for lunch that noon, Mrs. Agnes said, "I have had a former teacher come back and she would like to stay here. There were two beds in my room. She said, "would you mind if she

stayed in your room? I said, "oh no, I don't mind another teacher." She came in probably about 10:00 at night. We probably talked until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. She went back to Schenectady. She came back to Schenectady. Well now I got to go back and tell you. This girl who just graduated from high school planned to hike the Long Trail with her father in 1927. Her mother had died and her father had remarried not the right type exactly, so Kathy and her father had decided to go hike the Long Trail. He died. So Kathy decided she was going to go hiking anyway on the Long Trail. Well the stepmother said, "I guess you aren't, young lady, going out there alone. You'll have to get the right information and the right this and the right that and find out." So she had been to see some of the Green Mountain people in Bennington and found out what she had and they told her. They said you should have four in your party. So if one girl got hurt and sprained an ankle or got sick or something, there would be two girls to go out and get help, but two left together so one would never be left alone. That made sense to the stepmother. So Kathy tried to find three girls to go with her. Well she tried, but they were all girls with high heels and wanted to dance and go to the dance halls this that and the other. So she finally asked her physical education director if she would go with her. This Hilda Martin. Well Hilda said I will think about it. Well Hilda was being bothered by a man who wanted to marry her. Hilda thought well gee if I go out on that trail, he can't even telephone to me. I'll have time to think it over. So I think Hilda had agreed to go with her. Then they were looking for two others. Well Hilda went back from Schenectady and told her. She said, "you know I met a gal up there in New York State and it looks like she would stay put together long enough to hike the Long Trail." She said, "well where does she live?" "Well, over in Cornwall, Vermont south of Middlebury." She said, "she is teaching in Brandon. She says I know somebody in Brandon, I will go over and look her up. So she goes up and stays with these friends in Brandon and I'm always riding horseback when I can. So it was Saturday morning and I was going up to the Inn. I was riding Mr. Moore's horses because he was getting old. I was his exercise boy all summer on good horses you know. I didn't even have to saddle them. So she goes upstreet and goes down to the restaurant and goes into eat. This is the lower part of Center Street. I have gone riding early and I am probably coming home at 9:30 or so and I happen to walk by that side of the street with my riding habit on. She got up and runs out and says oh! Miss Robbins or something like that she called. I stopped and said, "well what do you want?" She said, "you must be Catherine Robbins because you have been riding. I said, "who are you?" She told me who she was and she told me the story. Well, that is how I got interested. See

Kathy, she was 18, she had just graduated from high school. and Hilda and I were both 25. That is the way we started. We decided that wasn't because they couldn't find anybody else, they kept trying. Those kids even had a trial hike. There is a lake outside, I don't know how far it is, 10 miles or so. It is quite a hike, maybe 8, I don't know. So they got their bags on here. Hilda carried a basket. Do you know what I mean, a pack basket. She is tall and long and she said it fitted her. But Kathy and I had army, what do you call them. I lost track of the words.

MK Sort of like a duffle pack.

CC It is what they use in the army you know.

MK Knapsack sort of.

CC Yes, knapsack sort of ideas. Canvas, kahki color. That is what Kathy and I used. They did a lot of talking with these people in Bennington. Of course, I didn't see any of them. The people in Middlebury I could have seen, this and that and the other, but I wasn't that interested you see before and now I didn't have much time. So I spoke to my mother about it. I said I would love it. Going up in the mountains like that would be wonderful. Well so I got knicker things like that. I had some nice boots. I used them riding horses with sometimes. But the other girls went and got....You see, these are my shoes and you see what they had. You could see the hole. This was before I started out. This is near the beginning I believe. See this is the little Kathy that started the trip.

MK Just let me move this over here.

CC This is the little girl that started the trip. This is the high school teacher that was persuaded to go with her to be away from the telephone. You know this one. I think that is a lovely picture.

MK That is a wonderful picture.

CC Central Vermont sent them to us. Not that big. Actually the smaller ones in there. But Hilda had it enlarged and gave this to me for a present. She has got one the same size. I think Kathy had one too. But she has given it to her daughter. I am not absolutely sure where that is. It might be up here at the Brandon Gap. I don't think so. But that's the way we were. You can't see there, but I will show you in another one. She has got the basket there. We had just these army.

(showing
pictures
here)

MK What is this you are sitting on there?

CC This here? We each carried half of a pup tent. That made only three pieces you see. We had half of a pup tent. I was the one who made the beds at night. If I needed more evergreens to put underneath, she helped me. She was the one to go find the well, where the drinking water was. I was to be sure the beds were made alright. She was the cook.

MK Did you work that out ahead of time or did that sort of evolve?

CC Just evolved. I don't know if I can leave that there or not.

MK Do you think it will slide?

CC Maybe I can put it on here.

MK Sure. There.

CC I am spoiling your fun.

MK No, not at all. This is wonderful.

CC There is another picture and there it shows her basket.

MK Who took the pictures? Do you remember?

CC The Central Vermont. You see James Taylor, he was the first one I think who was Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and he thought he could try to advertise Vermont. He ~~was~~ had pictures taken. Here is another of the three. Does that mean anything to you?

MK ??? potraits, commercial photographer St. Albans.

CC There, that is what I wanted to show you. See she is carrying it like that. See it fitted her better. Now that is the way we started out in the morning. She is the tallest. She has the longest legs. I am the middle one with the middle size legs. This is the shorter one with the shorter legs. That is the way we started out every morning. But that isn't the way we ended up through the day you know. We were always tired and we had to sit down and rest and sing awhile. This one before she was gone went to a hawk shop and got a ukulele. A little one you know. I guess she paid a dollar or two for it. She took it home and wrapped it up and made a little case out of oilcloth to carry it in. It wasn't a ukulele.

- Yes ukulele. We sat down and tum tum that until we got rested and we would get up and go on again. We had a lot of fun.
- MK I bet. It sounds like you must have had some incredible adventures.
- CC Oh, we met men. There is one where we are hot on the course. See there she is with her basket.
- MK Are you checking a compass. No you got a ...
- CC Sure a compass. We even had a pedometer. Wait until I tell you about that.
- MK Did any of you carry a camera with you?
- CC I guess we must have had a camera. See there we are. Here we are again. Kathy was a cute one. Every time we ran into men, she got all the attention of course. Because she was so cute. Here, I think that was the night we saw the northern lights. They were beautiful. That was in the northern part. Maybe I am showing this to you too soon. This is up on Jay Peak. Way up there. You can look at these later, but it illustrates what I was talking about. Here that is us hiking the Long Trail.
- MK That is the Vermont railway. It is a promotional ^{brochure} ??? to invite the tourists to come in and go for hikes. Weekend hikes in the Green Mountains.
- CC It goes there.
- MK Okay
- CC Now over here to this one.
- MK That picture shows ???
- CC There is your map of the trail. Probably the railroad is there too. But you can look at all these later.
- MK Now did you know that when you set out on this that you were possibly going to set a record.
- CC No. Somehow she got connected with this Jim Taylor. This Jim Taylor was terribly thrilled. He was awfully pleased. Then he caught the idea of we were ??? on Sunday. That was really something. There we were. That is the Boston Herald we were reading I guess. There was one man from Boston that came way up to my house to see me about it. That's my guide book. ???, I love that picture.

MK It is a wonderful picture.

CC One of my girls in school did this for me.

MK It is beautiful penmanship.

CC Isn't that lovely. She is the sister of that wonderful trigonometry student. Mary was her name. She had a sister Edith. That was a wonderful family. Her name is not in here anywhere. I am so sorry. You know you think about things afterwards.

MK How wonderful. Let's see if I can get over here without tangling anything up again.

CC Now I have answered your question as to how I got interested.

MK Right. Tell me a little more about the trip itself. You said you met men. Did you have any encounters with animals? I remember reading in the Long Trail book. It talks about a couple of women who hiked later than you did, a few years later who encountered a lot of porcupines.

CC Oh yes. We saw porcupines. We always slept in the upper bunk because the porcupines were on the lower bunk looking for our oily shoes. We took our shoes off. I guess we usually hung them way up high because the porcupines want the oil, the salt and sweat. We didn't change our clothes very often. We didn't have any to change. We started each carrying a separate shirt. We carried one complete; what do you wear at night? One complete, well isn't this funny, pants and a jacket.

MK Pajamas?

CC Pajamas. We decided we would carry one pair of pajamas because then if you were wet during the day and you could stay in a house, then you would have a dry outfit. So we had that. We had an extra shirt. But after awhile we decided we weren't going to carry that extra shirt. Everything extra seemed to make a difference you know. We had places we could mail things ahead to ourselves. Some places.

MK Where the trail went through towns or around the edge of villages?

CC Well, they didn't go the edge of villages very often. At the Brandon Gap, it is up at the top. But that is quite a ways from down here.

Catherine Robbins Clifford

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MK How did that work when you mailed things ahead? Did you have to hike down into town to pick them up at the Post Office?

CC That is another story. I have got lots to tell if you want to hear me talk.

MK I do, I do. That is what I came for.

CC Well, we had boyfriends. We went from the South to the North. The guide book reads from the North to the South. So we had to read the wrong way around all the time. Begin at the back and go toward the front. So we finally decided we would meet down at Williamstown. Williamstown in Massachusetts. We stayed all night there and the woman made us some nice sandwiches to take out the next morning. We went out on the Williamstown Outing Club Trail, which hooked up with the Long Trail. That is the way we got on it. But the southern part of the trail was the very poorest part of all. The reason we got through alright is because two fellows, I don't know why, had gone through that trail. I don't know why, we couldn't have been taking wires. There were no poles up there. But somehow two men had gone through a ways. So we could follow where the grass was all matted down. It had rained quite a lot. So we could kind of follow that trail. We hooked up with the Long Trail alright and then we caught up. The blazes you know were old. They are suppose to be white, but it was difficult to find them. But we got way through Harman Hill. I can't remember. I could look it up, which is up over Bennington. Somebody had told those girls down there in Bennington that Hell Hollow Camp is North of Bennington. That they would be smart if they took their two knapsacks full of goods and leave them with a family that lives not far from Hell Hollow on the side road and they wouldn't have to carry them the first day. Then when I came, I would have my pack. I was the only one that would have to carry anything you see. But I moaned to them. But of course, here I have in pack. I had this half of pup tent. I had a wool blanket. It was an army blanket, kahki color. Hilda's was a beautiful blanket, kind of light colored with a big red stripe and a big black stripe. I think Kathy had a army blanket the same as I did. So we had three half pup tents and three blankets. When I made the bed at night, if there weren't enough evergreen boughs we just went and cut them. Kathy and I and put them down. Then I put down two pup tents. They ~~???~~ were for us to sleep on. Then I would put down one blanket on top of the pup tent. Then we would get in and sleep just like spoons, like that. Then we would put the other one over us. Then the other half of pup tent on top of that to keep the moisture out. That is the way we slept every night, like spoons. What comes next. Of

course I think we went about 20 miles the first day which is, we should have had our heads examined. Whoever advised leaving those two packs there! The Green Mountain Boys, they should have had their heads taken off I think. Well, we come to the top of the mountain into a big pasture. The woods ??? go in way over there. Well, where do you find a blaze on a tree when you got a mile to look at? A half a mile to look at. Well, it is getting nighttime. The sun is still out, but it is over in the west and it is getting late and we are tired as we can be. But the first day, well that was ridiculous. We never did that again. So we decided we just, see down below was this, probably was Rt. 7, we could hear the cars and we could see them occasionally down there. So we just went left and headed down for that roadway. Just taking a chance we would get there. Well we got there. Kathy fell down. I said oh boy, here we are up in the mountain, but no she hadn't gotten hurt. We got down on the road. Hiking on the highway is so different than hiking on a trail. It's hard. But we hiked all the way into Bennington to the first hotel we saw and climbed into bed. I did. The other two went out and got some liniment and stuff to rub on. But I climbed right into bed I remember. I didn't care if I was going anywhere. They probably brought back something to eat too. I don't remember. They probably did. Then the next day, I think somebody must have taken us up there. I don't remember hiking back. Somebody must have taken us up to the Hell Hollow place where the luggage was left. We went in the Hell Hollow Camp. It was the most discouraging place you ever saw. Man's hat around and the dirtiest dishes it was terrible.

MK You mean other hikers had just left stuff and gone on?

CC Yes, we hoped they had been gone awhile. We hoped they weren't around. We finally went on our way. We finally got going. See we got pretty tired out. We kept going. Why didn't I keep a diary. We kept going north and we came to the Summerset Dam. I think back, it's the largest earth dam in the world. I didn't know it when I was there, but I read it just yesterday. We finally came to this Summerset Dam and the Webster family, not Webster, Taylor family, I think it was Taylor's. The guide book says you know they take you in. We came where the Taylor house was down half a mile below the dam I guess and they had I think two boys. Well anyway the woman took us in. It had been raining a lot and we were wet. So that is when we put on our pajamas I guess. Nobody up there has any meat. They might have bacon I suppose, but it didn't cost as much then, but they are a long way from the store you know.

But they always had eggs. They had eggs and I guess we always had bread, always. They could make that. I don't remember what we had for desert, but I guess we always had a piece of cake or something. Anyway it was grand. That was late in the afternoon, the middle of the afternoon around 4:00 or something like that. We stayed all night. We heard about the dam and this and that and the other. A Long Trail hike up there by the cabin. You see the hole in my shoe. We had been walking so much. My sole was getting ready to come off. My shoes were old, they weren't new. They had been in water almost all the time. A lot of the time. Well Mrs. Taylor said "You know our mail is an R.F.D. mailman, and he leaves our mail way down there at the foot of the hill, down on the street that goes over, and if you get down there and you got time now if you want to hurry, I think you can catch the mailman." and this is 27. The mailman will give you a ride back to, it doesn't seem like it was Bennington, but maybe it was. I couldn't go hiking any further. Get off in the woods miles away without a shoe. I said, "alright, I will go." So of course, I had to follow the outlet of the dam. Great wide river like going the outlet all brown blackish water. But the sun was shining so I kept going. I didn't see any animals. I kept going. I got there before the mailman did. There was no mail in the box. When the mailman came, it was woman. She said, "why of course I will take you down." So she gave me a ride down. I don't think mailmen are suppose to pick anybody up now. Maybe they weren't then, I don't know. She took me to her home and said, "I am going to take you to the swimming hole." She first took me to the man. "I know a man who will fix your sole for you this afternoon while you wait." So we took it down there and left it and the man said, "yes he would have it done." Then she took me to the swimming hole. Why it was a terrible dirty old swimming hole. A lot of people swimming in it you know. I needed a bath when I got out. Then she took me home and gave me a delicious supper. I remember that she had frosted chocolate cake that was out of this world. Why I didn't ask her if I couldn't buy two pieces to take up to the girls you know. They would have loved it. I presume I was a scared little buddy at this time out in public. Out in the civilization again. Anyway she says, "we are going to take you back up to the Summerset Dam." It is a long way up there. You have to go miles up there you know. I thought I would have to hire somebody to take me up. She said, "no, we are going to take you up." So the man and woman; the woman was awfully nice to me. And nowhere have I got here name. Nowhere. I haven't written to her once since all this was in the paper. She'd know about it. Nowhere have I got the name and I can't remember it. I

have asked the other girls if they can remember it. Of course they didn't know so much about it. But we got up to the camp and here were the two boys in an old car which apparently they didn't drive too often I guess. You know people didn't have too many cars in those days. They were all just starting out looking for me, because it was getting dark and all. Up in the woods it gets darker a lot quicker you know. Here I arrived. Everybody was all delighted. We would all be back together again. Then I guess we stayed at the Taylor camp that night. Then we went up to the other camp the next day because Kathy had the "curse" and she was having a bad time. So we decided we would stay over a day and give her a chance to rest. So we did. We stayed over there. Then we moved on to the Webster Camp, I think. Yes. Then we moved on. We got to the Webster Camp about 3:00 p.m., I guess. It wasn't an awful long hike. And Kathy and I got the beds made and got the fire already to strike a match to. We got all set. It was a new camp you see. So we selected our half and fixed, it up. We heard a car coming. A car up in the woods! Why it can't be a car. It came nearer and nearer and nearer. Well my dear it stopped right below the camp. And three grown men hopped out. One hopped out and he had a lot of gadgets, food and stuff. One hopped out with a book about that thick. Apparently, he was going to read. They came up to camp and we were flabbergasted when they found three females. Enough to go around you see. They were embarrassed to tears. 'Well, we are not going to stay in this camp.' 'Well, it is quite alright. We understand the rules of the camp. We will have this side, and you will have that side. You stay that side and we will stay our side. Why I mean, we didn't say it that way. Well they were going to be gentlemen. They were going to sleep in the thicket. Well alright go ahead and thicket if you want to. But before they went to bed, they had steak. We had our supper of cornbread. That is what I am thinking of. Johnny Cake. Johnny Cake and raisins. Why I can't remember what we had. We had our regular. They had steak. You could smell it. Oh, they had fruit. Oh boy. We didn't see any of it. We just smelled it. Well, one of those men, I think, was a graduate of Princeton. One was another college graduate. I have forgotton which one he was from. The third one was off the Floating University. Do you know what that was? Well, that summer school. The whole summer school went out on a boat while they went to school. The Floating University. There was quite a write-up about it. There was three young men. Hilda was graduated. Where did Hilda go to school Allen? What college?