

**“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.”

**Catherine Robbins Clifford
Part 2**

CC Skidmore. That is in Saratoga you know and I at Middlebury. And Kathy was not a college girl, but she could hum along with all the songs. We sang and we sang and we sang, the six of us had the best evening you ever heard of. Singing all these college songs. The cutest things you know. Wonder What's Become of Sally. You know all these silly. Oh, you wouldn't know them, you are too young. So off they went into the thicket. They went in the thicket. We wished them goodnight. 4:00 a.m. we heard the most awful snort, terrible one. I have only heard one bad one since. In came those men with their blankets and everything. It had started to rain. They came ??? and ???. I don't no whether they slept on the boards on the floor or where they slept. But anyway they came in. We didn't offer to tuck them in or anything. We were just grinning in our snook in our three little sets you know. In the morning it was raining and we were headed for a five day hike. We felt we had rations enough for six days. We meant to have rations enough for an extra. Five day hike and it was raining. This one I think was from Bennington was a Green Mountain Boy. Well I don't want you to go out in this rain. Well I said, what are we going to eat if we stay here and eat it up, we will have nothing to eat over there, so we are going. So we went in the rain. We hiked. Oh, it rained. We came to the look-out and you could see nothing, so we just hiked along and pretty soon we came to, I suppose it was a deserted lumber camp. I suppose it was. With a door on it. We could see paths where people had been in and out. So we went and pounded on the door. No response. So we opened it. It opened alright and we went in. What do you suppose we saw on the table. A big jar of raspberry jam and two or three loaves of bread. This was Sunday. I don't know what else there was. But that jam and real bread. We just sat down and made ourselves three nice sandwiches. Then we wrote a note thanking the kind souls that had been so kind as to leave jam and bread for three wandering girls on a rainy Sunday. Well if had been a Saturday, I don't think we would have done it. But we knew it was a Sunday and apparently they were fishermen you see. They would be going out Sunday. That's the way we figured. They would be going out Sunday. So we hike along, pretty soon here we meet I think five men and a boy coming back to camp. We don't say very much, but we greet them and they greet us and on they go. But they will find the note when they get there. But that is where they had been. They had been down to this, I think it is Born Pond they had been fishing. They had some fish with them. So that was one time. So then we kept going. We got to this pond where they had been fishing. I think it was Born Pond. I have forgotton the name. There was three buildings right up there, three houses and a big sign that said, "Long Trail: Your camp is the last one. Use your own camps." So we go down to the third one. We look in. There is not one stick of dry wood inside. The rule says leave

dry wood you know. None. There wasn't one stick of dry wood. And underneath the porch was an old stump, still sticking in the ground, so we couldn't go there. So we went to the middle one and peeked through the window and it didn't look interesting. We went to the first one. And my dear. You could see rocking chairs like they used to have on the porch. Two or three rocking chairs in there. Two doors open where there were two bedrooms with real beds in there with blankets on them. You know, they weren't necessarily made up. And a stove and dry wood. Well, it was dark, raining and it was beginning to get dark early and we were wet and hungry. We discovered it was very easy to push up a window, right there off the porch. There was a porch on it. If we could get in that way, somebody could unlock the door and we all could go in. Which we did. It was Sunday night. We didn't expect that anybody would be coming in on a Sunday. If had been Saturday night, we probably wouldn't have dared done it. Then we went down to this old lumber place and hauled out a lot of wood. Well if it was wet, it was dry underneath you know. Three arms full to leave. We built a fire. I think there was kind of a long stove like that. We cooked ourselves a supper. We sat in those rocking chairs and nobody knew where we were. Not a soul. We sat there and we enjoyed that so much. Oh that was a wonderful night. Then we all three slept in the same bed. There were even, yes I guess it was sheets on the bed, but of course we didn't take our clothes off, just our boots. Oh, the sign said, now you be gentlemen and use your own camp. So I wrote the note I guess, one of us wrote the note and explained how it was raining and wet and there was no dry wood down there, so we came up and saw how easy it was to get in and thanked them very nicely for a pleasant, pleasant night. That was a lovely night. After I got home off the trail, I got a letter from a woman who lived in Manchester, Vermont. And she said that was her husband's camp and she said, "I spent many hours up there and stayed many nights in that camp, and I do hope you were comfortable and so forth and so forth. When I went to Manchester again, I stopped and called on her. That was kind of fun. But we were still at Born Pond. We had to go north but it had been raining all this time. The little river probably came out of that pond. It was big and terrible. We couldn't jump that and the stones were all covered up with water. Kathy said, "I can't get over that. But here is this big railroad tressel. Excuse me. Here is this big railroad tressel, huge one that went over this big gorge where the river came down. It was a great big gorge. I don't know how long it is, but it is big. Probably, I wrote somewhere 50 feet high. It was very high. Here Kathy has gotten up on that old railroad

tressel with her pack on her back. She said, I am going to cross on the tressel. Well, I said, if you can do it, I can do it. Hilda Martin said I can't do that, I can't do it. She went down and down quite a ways on the river. She finally got across somehow or other. But Kathy and I are up here on the railroad tressel. Are you familiar with them?

MK Yes.

CC Well, quite this way. This is the way we went you know, like this.

MK Scoot across.

CC That cross beam, what do you call it. I don't know what you call it. But you got to throw your leg over that and your bag is going to push you over this way and you could fall right down in it. I don't know how long it took Kathy and me to get across that tressel. It was awful long. It was long. I would say it is as far as here to the other side of the road, but probably I've forgotten. But anyway. Then we would go this way and this way and then this inside leg would have to go over and this would sway. But we made it. And Kathy was wearing a pedometer. I think we had been between seven and eight miles according to every bump, about seven and eight miles. Well we recovered from that and went along. Of course that was fun though. It is kind of scary, but you know when you have made it, then you are kind of pleased. Let me see now, what else did we do. And then I guess we kept coming along. We planned to get to the Long Trail Lodge for Sunday, the weekend. And Kathy's stepmother came and met us there and brought us good things to eat and we stayed at the Long Trail Lodge. There were bunks you know there. So we stayed there and had good things to eat. We started out Monday morning again. Oh, we got there the middle of the afternoon on Saturday and by the time I had hiked across this railroad thing, the inside of my pants were all wearing out because they weren't new to begin with. I had been horseback in them, so the inside of my pants were all worn out. So I said I am going to Rutland. 12 miles to Rutland, I think. So I go out and thumb a way. I don't remember if one of the girls went with me or not. But thumbed the way. I got to Rutland, down the base and went to Wilson's, that old men's clothing store. I had been there so many years. They took me down to the basement until they finally found a pair that would fit me and I wore them back and I wore them a long time after I got home of course. They were wool. I think Hilda May had been with me, because I think she bought a pair too.

MK This was in August?

CC No, this was July. That couldn't be it. They were wool anyway. Kathy didn't have them. Whatever she had was good enough I guess. So then we went back up. Then Monday morning we started out. What is that mountain up there? It goes the wrong way. That's where we met two men and a boy. They were hiking on the (I forgot the name of the mountain). We had a nice chat with them. I think that top one is them.

MK Oh yes.

CC We had a nice chat with them. Still didn't take any names down. And then we came up to the Brandon Gap, I guess from there. I wanted to come down. We all came down the Brandon Gap, I think so. Anyway, I had been over that from Middlebury down. I had been over that when I was in college. A boyfriend took me over home in Cornwall and they hiked on through to Middlebury, you see the Middlebury Gap. I met them at the Middlebury Gap and so forth and so forth. Then the Middlebury Gap, that is right above Breadloaf Mountain. I don't remember any particular happening there until we got to the Lincoln Gap. We got to Lincoln Gap and somebody had to go down to old Han Davis' and pick up our supplies. We had mailed to Lincoln. I don't know where their Post Office is but, anyway, somebody had to go down and nobody especially was anxious to walk on the highway you know. So we drew lots. Kathy got the lot to do down and find Han Davis and the mail. Hilda got the straw to stay right there and wait for Kathy to come up and then help her carry it in. I got the straw to go ahead two miles and find the camp and make the fire and get supper and get the beds ready. So I went along. Of course it got dark, dark, dark. Oh, we were short of bulbs for our flashlights. I guess there were some coming. So I didn't have a flashlight. I made my fire and I kept my ears alert in case anybody might be coming down on the trail to come stay at that camp. I think they call it the Backtail Lodge, maybe, so I wouldn't be disturbed you know, but nobody came. It got later and later. I know these old Post Offices and these old horses and so forth, but somewhere around 8:00 p.m., I heard a big Who-Who, so I knew they were coming. They came up and they told me the story that I told you. They got a boat ride. Let me see. It is quite remarkable what you can forget.

AC Can you stop? I have got some sandwiches here.

after lunch
→

MK So that we don't forget, why don't you tell me the story again about Lindbergh's plane?

CC About what?

MK About Lindbergh. Where were you on the trail when that happened?

CC Well, where is my guide book? Oh here it is. Here is this bad old railroad tressel. Must be I didn't write it down. I put these little notes on the side you know, all in pencil of course. I have got Bromley Mountain, I put after a good scramble. Why I could say Prospect Rock, I could say somewhere over Prospect Rock we heard an airplane which is most unusual. In 1927 they seldomed were heard. The girls wondered where he could be going. I said I think he is going to Springfield, Vermont to a big celebration they were having that day. I remember reading about it in the paper before I left home. See I am a Vermonter. I said I think it is Lindbergh. He is back from France and he was due to appear down there. So we waited and watched and watched and he flew not far from over our heads. We were on the top of the mountain. You could read on the bottom "The Spirit of St. Louis". That is all you wanted to know about that?

MK Did he wave to you, could you see him?

CC Oh, no. I don't suppose he could see us. We were little muffins down there you know. He didn't expect to see anybody, so he wouldn't be looking. I told you about being at the Long Trail Lodge. We had been at Middlebury Gap and Lincoln Gap.

MK When did you get the nickname "The Three Musketeers"? Did you dub yourselves with "The Three Musketeers" or did someone else call you that first?

CC "The Three Musketeers", well that is an old old story isn't it Allen?

MK Yes

AC Right.

CC But how did we get "The Three Musketeers". Wasn't that from an old old story?

AC Oh yes.

CC There was an old old story about three men, "The Three Musketeers".

MK But I mean did the three of you decide to call yourselves "The Three Musketeers" too or is there a tale to that.

CC It just happened. Well we said, we are three old goats. We weren't old goats then, but you know we were just like "The Three Musketeers" or something like that just came up. It just happened that way. Oh, we must have come to Camels Hump pretty near next. Between Brandon and I guess it is north of Brandon, I guess it is a Presidential Range. Nothing interesting particularly happened. There was Lincoln Mountain you see. I think there were four names with Lincolns in there. But I can't find them. Well anyway. Where am I. Back to Camels Hump. Here we are. It goes the wrong way. Lincoln and Mt. Abraham, Mt. Ulysses Grant and Mt. Grover Cleveland. Those are the four. They were north of Middlebury, I believe. I think that was on a Sunday that we were going toward Camels Hump. You look way down the Champlain Valley. You could see what looked like a terrible thunder shower coming. It took, well it took pretty near an hour or two in the morning to get up where we were. Finally it came and it just poured, poured, poured. Then we had to go down to and there was a ???

AC Bolton isn't it?

CC No, there was a place just before we got to Camels Hump, I am trying to find. Bolton is after Camels Hump. There were the Stark Mountains too. Molly Stark and ???

AC That's right next to Lincoln.

CC Oh, that's where they were. I can't find them. Well we came to this place. It had been pouring. We had the shower you see. We had our ponchos on and so forth. But we were still wet and hungry, tired and it was dark. Being rainy, it would be dark much earlier. We saw smoke coming out of the cabin. Smoke! That was nice. So we got down there. It was one man in the camp. He seemed to be very nice. He was a little bit queer. But he seemed to be very nice. He built more fire for us so we could dry our clothes. We'd take off this and that and we would hang it up to dry you know. We questioned who he was. We never found out who he was. But the other two girls were from Schenectady and they figured he might be German from the way he spoke I guess he might be German. They thought he might be somebody who was trying to escape people. They didn't think injury, you know, we didn't know, we were a little bit scared. But we all went to sleep without any trouble. He was there in the morning to build the fire for us to eat. He was going south and we were going north. We never saw him again. I didn't know anything about him.

But they just had a hunch. Then we went up Camels Hump. That is really something to climb. What kind of air do we have?

MK Are you thinking about acid rain.

CC It has taken the trees away. But we got up there. There was a galvanized metal hut up in there. Boy they are noisy. Porcupine claws on them. Oh! they are noisy. But we got inside you see and the porcupines were outside, so that was good. I wasn't feeling too good, but we spent the night and had breakfast there and we went down to Bolton. I still wasn't feeling very good. It is quite a little hike down. You have to squeeze between rocks and so forth. You had to ferry across the Winooski River. They call it the Onion River. The sign said ring a bell and somebody would come across in a rowboat and took us across the Onion River to Bolton. There we expected to find Kathy's stepmother to meet us. She was there to meet us. (Here's the mail. Allen.) There was a woman there who spoke to me. I don't think she did to the other two and she said "are you going on tomorrow?" I said, "no we are going over to...What is the town we went to Allen?"

?? Waterbury.

CC No. Over the other way.

AC Middlesex?

CC Probably. Over to Middlesex. That probably isn't right. Kathy's mother had met us there and was going to take us up there. We were going to stay and spend Sunday over there. I had this cold. That was what was the matter with me. I was coming down with this cold. That rain probably. Some woman was there at Bolton, the other side of the river and she asked me. "I said where are you going now. I said we are going over to stay with this friend's house." Kathy's mother said we could stay at the friend's house until Monday morning. Oh she said. You are not coming back here tomorrow? I said I don't think so. That was the place where we made our mistake. We should have stuck to the trail. What do you know, we stayed all night. I stayed in bed about all day Sunday. Kathy came and said "we are all going to go. There is an army climbing the mountain right here and we are going to go up with them and climb along with them up to Mansfield." The woman said she would be out looking for us Monday morning, I think she said. I think I told one of the girls that, but I probably didn't impress them. Maybe they didn't hear me, I don't know. They would be looking for us. If we had gone up that trail right there, there is a place to eat in there

and I had an idea that Jim Taylor and the other men there would have been in there and maybe had us for lunch or a meal or something. I don't know that that was true or not. But I had an idea that it might have been. But she said we are going up there. Of course, Kathy is younger. If I had been myself, I would have said I think Jim Taylor would want us to stick to the trail. But there was a little ways there that we had a lot worse climbing you know that if we had gone on the trail. We got up to Mansfield. There was a hotel up there then. We stayed in that nice place. There is a Chin up there like that. You could climb the Chin, but that's off the trail. That is of course hard work. So we decided we didn't want to do that. So we would hike along the trail and we came over the Chin, I guess. I said the other was Nose. We came over the Chin and went down the Devils...What do they call that. Oh, there is a name to it. The Devils something I think. It is an awfully hard trail. I remember that one. We were probably climbing Bolton Mountain to get up there. I don't remember. I think that was a mistake. The Chin reaches the height of 4,393 ft. above the sea. Of course that is the highest one. It says here that from the CV Station at Bolton (CV - Central Vermont) it is 20 miles to Burlington, 7.2 miles to Waterbury with its fine Waterbury Inn and so forth. If that means anything to you. There is the Lake Mansfield Trout Club at Bolton. A Lake of the Clouds up there, I remember that. A Rock of Terror and a Cave of the Winds.

MK Some interesting names.

CC We went through the Needle's Eye up there.

MK What is the Needle's Eye? Do you mean paths or something?

CC I think it is through the rocks probably. I don't remember that. Here is the Lake Mansfield Trout Club, a private club. It has a beautiful ??? club house. It is very hospitable to the hikers, but because of limited accommodations it is well to phone from the Summit House or from Waterbury or Bolton to be sure of rooms. As its own members require all the rooms. I knew that and I should have told the other girls. But I was sick really. Mt. Mansfield is the highest of the Green Mountains. Its silhouette strikingly resembles a man's face turned to the sky. You have seen that. The peaks are consequently named the Forehead, The Nose, The Chin and so forth. Former being at the southern end of the ridge. The Indians and the musical language of the Wabinaukies called it Mooseodbwadso (Moose Head Mountain). I don't know maybe that's the trail that comes from the Chin. That is a miserable trail. Then we went down to I guess Barns'

Camp. I think we stayed there one night. They were very nice to us. But we went down there and then we went on to Belvidere Mountain. Well this talks about a Barns' Camp, but I don't remember it. Anyway, there was a fire station up above where we were hiking and it was off the trail you know out of the way. I think a man with some boy scouts. No he didn't either, not there. Well anyway we didn't go up to the lookout tower where the fire station was. We came along on, I think Belvidere Mountain, and I happened to be in the lead then and we came to this great cliff and you could look way down like that and I heard somebody yelling, You-Who. I looked down and here was a perfectly civilized man in white slacks and a white jacket, white blouse I mean. He looked so civilized and clean. He said, I am looking for the three musketeers. I said, Oh, you are. Well here we are. The others were behind me. Well come on down. I have a gallon of ice cream for you. Boy did I go down that mountain fast. I found him. It was Mr. French. What is his first name? I can't think of his first name. Oh he was awfully nice to us. He was working for Frank... What was his name? The man that ran this whole thing. Jim Taylor. He was working for Jim Taylor you see. So we went down to Hazen's Notch. Hazen's Notch is a place, I believe if I have the story right, that the British were coming up to attack. So the Americans had built this road that went up to Hazen's Notch. It didn't go any further. So the British came up there I guess and I guess we got them. I don't know.

AC They were going to Canada to fight the French.

CC Oh, that was it.

AC It was before the Revolution.

CC Before the Revolution, they were going to Canada.

AC But the road was never finished.

MK The Baily Hazen Road and they never finished it all the way through?

AC Yes.

CC So we went down there. And the girls finally caught up you know and came along too. Now in the notch that night, there were two brothers from Yale University with their kid sister, probably the parents had gone on a trip or something and left them to take care of the kid sister, so they thought they would take her hiking. I believe that

was that man with these boy scouts. I don't know, four or five of them. Not too many. There was somebody else there. Well anyway. We went down and sure enough they had a (you know these kinds you turn with a crank) a whole gallon of ice cream and did we sit down and eat it. We gave it to the boys from Yale. We gave it to the Boy Scouts. We all shared it, until we ate it all up you know. This that we weren't expecting was just too much to believe. It was terrific. That was the one night that we had to sleep under the stars. That was the one night we didn't have a roof over our heads.

MK The only night?

CC The one night we didn't have a roof over our heads. What you could call a roof, you understand. May it leaked, but it was a roof. So we layed down. We found a place in the woods there and we laid down the three right together. Hilda Martin kept fussing. She said, "this is so uncomfortable. I can't sleep. There is something under me. I don't know what it is. Kathy finally said, "will you shut up. Isn't this what you came out here for." We were all three together so she stayed there all night I guess. In the morning she got up and there was a little stone right under her all the time. She stayed there all night. And, of course, the boys and their sister had gone on and I guess the man with the boys scouts had gone on that night farther too to stay. I suppose the boys with their sister would probably come down to another lodge that we had left behind us. But this one place, I don't remember the spot, but up in there, we were trying to decide what to do, whether to go, stay at that place or go on to the next camp, which I thought was too far at the end of the day. Somewhere we finally decided to go down there. Before we went there, we went down to an asbestos mine near Belevide. I think it was. The doors were all unlocked so we could walk right in and roam around. It looked in good shape too, but nobody around. So we came back up and then went to this little house off the trail and deciding whether we would stay all night or go on. We decided to stay. So we went in and the woman said oh yes I have room for you. She had a crow up on a rail you know. So we went in.

MK A live crow?

CC Yes a live crow.

MK For a pet?

CC Yes. I think she had eggs. She didn't have too much for us. But we got a good meal you know. A lot better than what we had out in the woods. She was very pleasant to us. And the crow looked at us and looked at us and looked at us. And after we had gone to bed, the woman said the crow said girls hike trail, girls hike trail. I didn't know a crow could talk. She said, he does once in awhile. Is that interesting? We went to another nice place. I should mention it, but I don't have any story to tell about. I don't think it was Barns Cabin. I think it had a french name. They were very nice to us. Then finally we got way up to...Where is that. I can find it in here anyway. North Troy is what I wanted. Up at North Troy and there a man came up with a Boston Herald. They had it up on North Troy that was the last mountain we climbed.

MK Was that at Jay Peak.

CC I think so. Yes. Oh, the name isn't here. Isn't that too bad. Oh, here it is. I can't read it. I don't know if you can or not. Can you read that? A French name?

MK De Sol maybe.

CC Maybe we better forget it. They were very nice to us, so I should mention it. They may still be there.

MK They very well might.

CC They might be there. I have some pictures. There is no motel on the top anymore.

MK No. Did you see any bear when you were on the Long Trail?

CC There were tracks. I saw bear tracks. I went to a Monday Club meeting the other night right here in Brandon and we went over across the Otter Creek and she lives the other side of Otter Creek. I spoke to her sister who lives across the road with a brand new husband and she spoke about the animals we have been talking about in the program. I said do you have many animals here other than deer? Oh yes. Coons and all kinds of small things running around. I said you don't have bears. Right up there we have plenty of bears. Right here in Brandon!

MK You don't have to go on the Long Trail to see bear.

CC No we didn't see any. We saw the bear tracks.

MK Did you see moose? Did they have moose in Vermont then?

CC No. Just Canada.

MK We have seen signs of moose around our house, not right around the house, but up on our land.

CC Where do you live?

MK Middlesex.

CC Yes.

MK We got them occasionally on our road.

CC We had a moose down here once when I was teaching school. But I think he must have been sick. Because I know one day we all left school at noon time after we had lunch and went down on the creek road to find him. He didn't seem to mind. I know one boy went up and patted him. I wouldn't have done it. I think he was sick. He hung around here. Somebody shot him during deer season, which is probably just as well.

MK One thing I didn't ask you about. You talked about the kind of food you had. Did you carry a lot of supplies for cooking with you or did you get new supplies for each ???.

CC I wouldn't say we carried a lot of anything. We carried a few bars of chocolate, chocolate bars. A few, they are heavy. We carried cornmeal and oatmeal. I said raisins didn't I. When we started out, we had a little fruit with us that would last a day anyway. We carried dehydrated sticks with us. They were brand new then. Boy, we got fed up with that because they took so much water and took so long to cook them. We didn't have wood enough to cook them that long. We might if we were crossing the highway, we might sit on the highway and wait for a car to come along. Sometimes a car would stop, sometimes it didn't. But sometimes we stopped a car because we took a few paid postcards with us and I would write a note to my mother and ask them if they would be good enough to mail it somewhere. And mother got them all. Once in awhile, they would pass us a cookie or something as they went by, but that didn't happen very often.

MK Did you have problems with blisters or anything like that?

CC What?

MK Blisters on your feet. You said after your first day, you said the other two hiked in for liniment.

CC Our feet were wet all the time the first week or two. Practically wet all the time. So I don't think we got any blisters. I don't think we did. I didn't anyway. Because we were wet and we wore those white cotton socks next to our feet. Then we put the wool ones over the top. Because the white cotton was supposed to be healthier. The wool was to keep us warm. I know one noon, we had 21 raisins apiece, because I counted them. We had exactly 21 raisins apiece. That was the day we knew we were coming to an overnight place where we could stay and we would have something to eat. That's all we had left to eat. Unless maybe some cornmeal. We didn't cook that only at night, probably or maybe fried it in the morning if there was any left over. Maybe you don't like cornmeal mush and stuff like that. I didn't think I liked oatmeal, but boy it got so I could eat it. We probably took some sugar with us in the beginning, but there might not be any left after five days.

MK So you made cornmeal mush then with the cornmeal?

CC Sure. Hilda was our cook I tell you. Kathy and I would see to the fire. We got the fire built and she could make what she wanted to. There was mush. We had the oatmeal in the morning. But if there was mush in the morning or left over from the night before, we saved it. You couldn't fry it, we didn't have any fat or anything to fry it in. No I guess we just ate it. Milk we had. Yea, we had powdered milk didn't we? Yea. Cereal isn't very wonderful with that on it either. Unless you are good and hungry. Our cat will eat what we give him if he gets good and hungry. Otherwise he is finicky. That is what we did. If you got hungry enough, you would eat it. I am very fond of oatmeal. I think the reason I didn't like it too well, because I always had to wash the oatmeal dish. Maybe I don't know. But vegetables tasted so good to us you know. We did eat berries, raspberries and blackberries. I think we went from the 25th of July to the 25th of August. It was about a month that we were gone you know. Well the boyfriend met Hilda up at the North Troy. He took her across Lake Champlain and took her home and she finally married him. After how many years did Stanley divorce her?

AC 20 or so.

CC Yes, he divorced her. I don't know what it was. But anyway he married a younger girl and had two daughters. He has been long gone since. We don't know. We lost interest in them. But anyway she got on the trail before she decided.

MK The Long Trail, I gather has undergone some changes since 1927 when you hiked it.

CC I hear it has.

MK Not only the acid rain problems on Camels Hump, but over-population on the trail.

CC I hear they are spoiling it.

MK Would you go again today, I mean, if you felt able? Would you do it again?

CC At 85?

MK Say you weren't 85. Say you were 60.

CC I don't think I would do the whole thing again. No because my life is different at 60. I wouldn't do the whole thing again. I might like to do a section of it.

MK Did you have a favorite section, a part that you liked better than any other part of the trail?

CC Nobody ever asked me that before. I don't know as I do. I probably would like to go Middlebury north, probably, because that's. I don't think I have a section. I wouldn't pick the southern section. Though it is all developed now I understand. I told you it wasn't developed.

MK It was rough.

CC I don't think I have a choice. That is just near home. So that is where I think of it probably.

MK Is there anything you would like to add about the experience as you just try to...any last comment about the whole experience that you would like to add?

CC Well, it was very helpful, and I just loved it being away from the mob. You know, a chance to be alone. A chance to think. A chance to do some thinking. You had two other girls with you, but they were thinking too, I guess.

MK You didn't worry about anybody bothering you.

CC No. There was one place, I don't know ??? or some place down further south that we were all in bed, snuggled down, our feet together and the road is right outside. I don't like camps that are near a highway. I don't like that, I will say that. This one was quite near the highway. This car came up the mountain. We heard it stop outside. We were all snug in bed. We got a flashlight out so we could use it if we wanted it you know. We were in the upper bunk.

In comes a bunch of young fellows and young girls. They were out for a party of some kind. So they came in. They didn't know anybody was there. They come up on the steps. They come in and we put the flashlight on them. Boy, some girl was in the lead and she said, hey they are girls. Their party was all spoiled. They didn't stay long and they went on their way. That is the only time that happened. Of course, I guess that's the only one that was so near the highway maybe.

MK When you consulted the Green Mountain Club for advice before the hike got started and everything. I asked you awhile ago if you knew that you were likely to make headlines with the trip. You said you didn't.

CC I didn't know that. I think Kathy might have known it. She might have talked to them. They advised her. But I didn't know anything about it. I was just to be the third member I guess. I didn't know anything about it. I just like the outdoors. I just love the outdoors. I still do. I can stand up alright. When the summertime comes, I work in my garden. If I fall down out here, that's alright. The ground is soft. But I don't like ice. I couldn't trust that.

MK Did the publicity surprise you then? Were you surprised that so many people were interested in ~~the~~ your hike?

CC Oh, well. We found out about it. We would stop along the way you know and it would be in the paper and somebody would talk about it. I remember once we did a very illegal thing. We thought there was going to be a nice article in the paper. Somebody told us it would be the next day. So we came along to a mailbox and we said gee if we saw a paper in the mailbox we would want to take it out and look at it wouldn't we. We came along to a mailbox with a newspaper in there. The house was down there. We didn't see anybody around. We took the newspaper out and read the article and put the newspaper back. It's illegal to touch a mailbox you know. It probably was then. That is the one thing we did we shouldn't have done. We were going to tell the people why we were interested if they had shown up. But that was the one thing we did that I wouldn't recommend doing today. But it was quite exciting to have all this chit-chat going on about us. I hope I haven't forgotten some things that you would be interested in.

MK Well, I can always come back.

CC Yes, you can come back.

MK Thank you so much for taking your whole day to talk to me.
I really appreciate your talking...

CC It has been kind of fun though.

MK It has for me. I have enjoyed it.

CC It has been kind of fun for me. Because I had to go
over the...I looked through my guide book, and I thought
why didn't I keep a diary. Well that would have been
an extra book to carry.

MK Sure.