

Former Davidson house on Dewey's Pond.

# Carol Dewey Davidson Interviewed by Randy Dickson March 4, 2006

**RANDY DICKSON:** My name's Randy Dickson and I'm interviewing Carol Dewey Davidson mostly about the Dewey Mills here in Quechee and I'll push this a little bit closer to Carol. I really don't have a great power set up but you got to talk into the mike, that would be a little, little better. Good, here we go. Hi Carol.

# CAROL DAVIDSON: Hi.

**RANDY DICKSON:** So your family was real instrumental in Dewey's Mills. What are some of the earlier things you remember about Quechee where you grew up? Things like transportation, groceries, and other basic things.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, of course everybody had gardens in the summer and everybody canned all winter, you know put up food for the winter. In Dewey's Mills which was privately owned one member from each family living in any of the housing units there had to work at the mill and part of the package that they received was they each got a garden plot that was maintained by workers from the mill and they each got a garage for each car.

So I have no concept of where we went to go grocery shopping, I believe in White River but I'm not a hundred percent, I think there was an A&P in White River and that was about it and I'm talking, I was born in '41 so you know I don't know when I would have been or where shopping. I know that in my family there were three girls, we and my mother used to get on the train in White River to go to Boston to buy clothes or go to an orthodontist or whatever because that wasn't readily available up here.

We actually had, as part of living in Dewey's Mills, or as a part of being part of Dewey's Mills, a fully functioning garage that had its own gas tank and we pay our people and also had a barn with chickens and I remember being in the garage one day watching them cut the heads off chickens, you know which was a fairly common thing. We also had flower gardens in town, which were very pretty, also maintained through the mill. Other things that happened regarding the mill was, there was something called the Dewey Ballpark which was where the State Park is now across from Route 4 and each year at least once a year we had skeet shooting day and you know games and stuff for the kids and cook-outs and that kind of thing. I'm assuming that happened more than once, but every year, but I'm not sure.

There also used to be something called the Dewey Band which was a marching band and I actually have the drum for that marching band, big bass drum, I think it's a bass drum, and we also I remember at Christmas time and at Thanksgiving we would get into our vehicles, whatever they might be and deliver turkeys and other parts of Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner to all the mill workers around which would include Quechee and Dewey's Mills and well I guess that's pretty much what I remember from the mills part of, you know, living in Dewey's Mills and being involved with the mill. I remember the mill was open twenty-four hours a day working around the clock. It started off as what they called the satin knit mill which is not fabric it's the weave and that was in I think in 1836, so it was the oldest mill of its kind in the country and I think I go back in Dewey's Mills maybe seven or eight generations I think and AG Dewey who started, started the mill apparently was very brilliant and inventive kind of a man who also at one point had a telephone quote unquote system that went from his house to the mill and then to a second house in town so three entities that you know he used for communication.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And that first mill that he had started, is it about the same location that the bigger mills and buildings went up?

CAROL DAVIDSON: On, in Dewey's Mills?

RANDY DICKSON: Yes.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, they no longer exist of course.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Are there foundations there?

CAROL DAVIDSON: No the Army Corps came in and they just plowed it under.

RANDY DICKSON: Plowed it all under.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: No remnants of it?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Nope and they, years later thought well maybe we should have done some architect, archeological surveys but of course they didn't.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Part of the mill complex not only was the mill itself but there was also a boarding house and there was a cook in the boarding house and I assume she probably cleaned and the single men I believe I don't think there were any women living there mostly men mill workers lived in it and they were of course fed and, and I used to go down there and play as a kid because one of the guys living there used to build me doll furniture, I guess he was a pretty good craftsman, spent most of my time down there getting doll furniture and I think at the mill there was a, I mean the boarding house itself was I believe a three-story building and it was quite large, also torn down at the same time.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Are there any, are there many pictures of those days, those people that you know of, that the Historical Society may or may not have?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** They might, they might, I don't know, I just, we just looked at the two books that have, the book called the AG Dewey Company has pictures in it of, of the foreman I think from the mill and then some, you know, pictures of people working and whatever the various departments were.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And you brought along this book entitled AG Dewey Company 1836-1936 and you think this is the only copy you've seen of this?

CAROL DAVIDSON: That's the only one I know of.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And I'm carefully flipping the pages, I'm looking for a date in the front of this, I don't know if there is one. It says the founder with a picture of him, and I have seen that picture before, it's a picture of, any idea when this was published?

CAROL DAVIDSON: No, I can't remember.

**RANDY DICKSON:** As I said before we started I don't know if the Historical Society has a copy of this, nice to know they did, but I don't know that.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Oh, I can get it down there.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah.

CAROL DAVIDSON: You could scan it I think.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah, and --

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** It was actually a pretty unique set-up, the Dewey's Mills and, and the way it worked. To my knowledge and I run into people still today who say it was the best job they ever had. I remember probably in the '50s when the unions tried to come in, maybe it wasn't the '50s, I guess it probably was the '50s and the workers all voted that they were better off the way it was than it would be if they had a union so they defied that and I think the, the packages as we talked about earlier were actually pretty good for, you know for workers back then. I'm sure most of them are deaf at this point but you know because it was loud of course. My father was not deaf when he died but certainly hard of hearing from the mills.

**RANDY DICKSON:** What, what created I mean I being in old mill shafts and buildings I mean I'm assuming there, there was a mill building that I don't know if you were, if you were the, the era of electricity but the earlier mill buildings of course had these big leather straps they called them all top of all leather run I don't know if you have any pictures of that, but I imagine that's the way it was run at one time.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Probably, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** The leather belts went down, but, but when you were there everything was electrified?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, it was.

**RANDY DICKSON:** But it was still very loud you say. Where, where did, did it move, did the noise come from everything, was there any one machines that was really noisy?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I just remember just horrendous noise almost every place you went in the mill and it was that clap, clap, clap kind of a noise, you know just and I, and I agree I think there were just huge leather straps kind of things that, that powered a lot of these machines still.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And I mean it wasn't the nicest place to work but it wasn't all that bad either. There, there was an elevator and I think the building itself was maybe four stories, five stories. One part of the mill one whole section of the mill was devoted I think to, yeah this was the section where most of the spinning I think took place and that was like called the card room or whatever that was, but you know and quite a few people working there. This building was the office building and of course that would be the elevator shaft.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yeah, I think what Mary said but there is, there is another whole office building.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Over here on the right.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yes, there is, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** That was the, that was the main.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Oh, that's actually a wooden shed I think they did, oh, of course they had carpenters that did all of the building and I think probably built most of the houses in town I would imagine.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure. Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** They were all painted one color. They were all yellow which was Dewey's Mills yellow or something.

**RANDY DICKSON:** You were, oh, Dewey's Mills yellow, everything was.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, everything was yellow.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Interesting. Mary said that this picture is probably '42/'43 and you having a copy of this you may know better.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Well I look, I look to be about five I would say.

RANDY DICKSON: And she was actually dating it by looking at you also 'cause she --

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** She, she labeled off these people in there, husband Ralph is right up there.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Oh yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Supposedly and there's a little arrow in a, in a better copy you can see it. Bill Dewey and daughters.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, no just me.

RANDY DICKSON: Oh, just you.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And the other one is my cousin Judy Hughes.

RANDY DICKSON: Oh.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** That was my father's sister's oldest daughter, only daughter.

RANDY DICKSON: Judy Hughes, she thought it was, was one of your own sisters.

CAROL DAVIDSON: No.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And Charlie Banagan she said she knew.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, Charlie Banagan was one of the superintendents.

**RANDY DICKSON:** She said also this picture was a Pat Gibbs, a Dola Brown.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Don't know them.

RANDY DICKSON: William Banagan.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Banagan, yeah, he was one of the superintendents.

**RANDY DICKSON:** She couldn't identify 'em but knew on my bad copy here we can't identify.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Oh and my father, oh she got Bill Dewey, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yep, yep she got, she got and there you are and there he is right there I think.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, right behind me.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yep, yep and there's your cousin you said.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yes.

**RANDY DICKSON:** So lot of those people of course you know we studied this picture real well and we are looking at for those of you listening on tape we are looking at a picture of maybe a hundred people in front of Dewey's Mills about this '42 or '43.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Actually it says right here '44.

RANDY DICKSON: '44. 1944. Now that's good to know. Now we know. Yeah, 1944 picture ofDewey's Mills with, with all their workers that were there that day, yeah. What, just talking about the mills,I mean, Dewey's Mills at that time maybe, maybe the year of that picture employed about how many?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Well, I would guess you know at least a hundred people with three shifts so going twenty-four hours a day. Our biggest time really was during the war. We made a lot of Army blankets, that kind of thing.

RANDY DICKSON: It was woolens, a woolen mill.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, woolens. They used for that, for Army blankets if I remember correctly they used, what the heck was it called. I just had it in my head. Oh, it was like reprocessed wool. It was recycled wool.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And then dyed green probably.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, yeah. Yeah, that Army green. We also used to make baseball uniforms for the Red Sox and the Yankees and Chicago.

RANDY DICKSON: Oh, wonderful.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, they are of course were lightweight wool.

RANDY DICKSON: So are there some place in somebody's collection is a baseball uniform that says

Dewey's Mills on the inside of it.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah probably. I have some of the fabric left.

RANDY DICKSON: Wow, wonderful.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: She said Red Sox.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Red Sox, Chicago White Sox, and the Yankees.

RANDY DICKSON: And the Yankees, oh that's wonderful.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah. Gosh, what was I gonna tell you? I forgot what it was. Oh, the interesting

part I think of my family is that my grandmother whose name was Emily Strong Dewey.

RANDY DICKSON: Strong.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, now she was a Dewey, her maiden name was Dewey. She lived in Dewey's Mills. That was her family in fact lived in Dewey's Mills and they lived in what is now the Pippin Inn and

which at that time was an absolutely gorgeous three story Victorian mansion. It was just beautiful and she married James Dewey, James French Dewey who was my grandfather and he was from Montpelier so they were distantly related but actually almost two separate branches of the Dewey family. He was Dewey, Admiral George Dewey, Thomas E. Dewey, John Dewey, that side of the family and my grandmother Emily Strong Dewey was Dewey's Mills Dewey and she had, I think there were four sisters and she was, she was the only one that stayed in Dewey's Mills. Her husband, my grandfather James French Dewey ran the mills I think through default, he hated it, absolutely hated it, he was more of a politician, he liked that kind of stuff better, but so that the, the minute my father became of age he took my father into the mill and said this is yours and he left. He didn't leave the family, he left the business. He just went off and did all the other stuff as I said cause he hated it.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yep, yep. And, and you said your, your, your great, great grandfather AG Dewey, Senior.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I don't know if it's my great, I can't, I don't know what his relationship was, but he was my grand – yeah I guess it would have, no, my grandmother's family, but not her father I don't think. Maybe I'm wrong. I don't know. My family was not big on talking about my family.

RANDY DICKSON: What did they do?

CAROL DAVIDSON: A lot of gaps.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Your, has the Dewey's Mill always been in the Dewey family through the years?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, I'm proud.

RANDY DICKSON: Privately owned.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, at one point a cousin was involved, his name was Tom Mann and I believe his side of the family was related to my grandmother Dewey I would guess that's how they came in, into it and I think there was a fight at some point and they split and Tom Mann went someplace else.

RANDY DICKSON: Do you, do you know, do you know how Mann was spelt, M-a-n-n?

CAROL DAVIDSON: M-a-n-n, yep.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Do, do you know where he went to or where he came from to begin with? **CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** The Manns coming up in this area from Connecticut is why I asked?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, could be Connecticut, for some reason I remember talking to one of the Manns at some point not too many years ago and he was from the Cape Cod area, my grandmother's sister, one of 'em ended up in Massachusetts, she married somebody down there I think and ended up living in Massachusetts so it could have been from her side.

RANDY DICKSON: Cape Cod.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: There's Manns in Peterboro I know. Yep.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Could be related, I don't know. Every once in awhile they'll come through town, one of 'em, you know one of the kids or whatever my age and stop and chat for awhile, but I seen them around.

RANDY DICKSON: So that's, that's a life time study of the family tree which of course gets bigger,

bigger, bigger, bigger. The more it stays the more, the bigger it gets.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yep.

**RANDY DICKSON:** What were some of the jobs that people had around the mill, I mean I remember hearing something about carding, which I don't know.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, I don't know what that is.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And do you, do you remember, well even if you don't remember what the jobs were called you remember, you said those two buildings in this picture were.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: What did people do in those buildings, that you remember?

CAROL DAVIDSON: It's hard to say.

**RANDY DICKSON:** What, what were some of those people do in those buildings, there maybe machines?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, a lot each floor was just jammed packed with machines. I think for some reason I only spent time in the center building beyond where the elevator was and that may have had something to do with the fact that there were canteens on each floor which were like two cents you got a big candy bar so that's probably why I was there.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Right, so this, this what we're looking at a big huge.

## CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** I think it's called a loom.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yep, you're right it is.

**RANDY DICKSON:** One person manning it and probably they, there's one person, well there's another one in the background there.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: So there's --

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Well I remember these women or men going back and forth, back and forth all day long in front of those weaving machines or whatever they were, just making sure that they were functioning properly and that was their job, they -- When they left work at the end of the day they'd come out you know with wool fuzz stuck all over 'em.

RANDY DICKSON: Isn't that something?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And we're looking in this, what you, we think is a very rare, it's, it's like a little PR pamphlet of sorts but it's, it's not as much advertising as just telling what the history, is about three inches tall by about nine inches and it says in front over a hundred years young a history corporation in a Vermont community, this is all Dewey Mills and inside the front cover is AG Dewey, an aerial picture of the mills and this part doesn't exist anymore right?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Well, the waterfall is still there and of course they use the waterfall to generate the electricity. This is the house that I grew up in until 1947 when it burned in the middle of the night.

RANDY DICKSON: '47. What, what happened with the fire?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Electrical.

RANDY DICKSON: Electrical?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, and luckily the mill was on around the clock operation at that time so one of the watchmen saw the flames and got us out of there and this building right here which is I guess three and a half, three stories is the office building, these out, our sheds, or whatever you want to call them out buildings were this is, I believe lumber, they stored lumber and parts and stuff like that in it, this I believe is where a lot of the carpentry happened and this building over here in the corner is the boarding house I

was talking about and, and then there used to be between the boarding house and the mill there used to

be a chute that went down into the river and that's where all the stuff that nobody wanted went, which is -

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yep, got rid of it.

CAROL DAVIDSON: In the river.

RANDY DICKSON: It was wool and --

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And I remember my parents shoving a grand piano over there once and they were not savers of things.

RANDY DICKSON: Right, right, right. What would you give for that grand piano today?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, I know it.

RANDY DICKSON: Yep.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And every time a color was used, you knew what color they were using because the river then became that color.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Sure, sure, yeah. Well I do not know this side at all. I look forward to discovering it sometime.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** There's a little hydro project going on, there's a hydro project that was used now the electricity goes into the grid or what have you.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Sure, sure. And is this the same dam used today as it was then, is it the same dam or did they rebuild it?

CAROL DAVIDSON: No, it's the same dam.

**RANDY DICKSON:** It says well for its building quality.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Cause it's still surviving all this time. We're back to the good picture of that, that picture in 1944 and sometimes people dressed up for pictures, you know you see in the old days they all got ties and I don't see hardly anybody, everybody just looks like they, they got of work or they're going into work and.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** No tie at all, well no tie, just look like ready to work, old coveralls in there someplace. **CAROL DAVIDSON:** I'm sure they all were wearing coveralls, **RANDY DICKSON:** There are several of Dewey family here.

CAROL DAVIDSON: My grandfather.

**RANDY DICKSON:** James, yeah, I'll jump back to make sure I don't miss anything, James Dewey.

CAROL DAVIDSON: That was my grandfather and William T, who was William Tarbox, I'm not sure why

Tarbox, but.

RANDY DICKSON: Tarbox.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, that's my father.

RANDY DICKSON: Tarbox Dewey.

CAROL DAVIDSON: And, and these things that I touched on 'em earlier you know gardens, vacation

with pay were you know were the perks.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: And the reason why the unions were never able to --

RANDY DICKSON: Right.

CAROL DAVIDSON: --get in there.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Right, low, low rents for employees, no rent for unemployed that means the family of

the employees of course.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yes, yes.

RANDY DICKSON: Christmas presents? And we're flipping pages here health and accident insurance,

free pension trust and retirement benefits.

CAROL DAVIDSON: I wonder what happened to those.

RANDY DICKSON: Do you, any copies of these that you know?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Not, not that I'm aware of.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And here modern plant and ideal working conditions, as you said all but the noise level.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: And -

CAROL DAVIDSON: But the place was clean, of course mills were always oily.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** But I remember it being clean, the floors were always beautiful because they were of course hard wood and oil soaked so they were, you know very pretty.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And there is a note in here that looks like it's printed off and then all goods manufactured by us which are, I'm just reading this here, up to standards of quality have –

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Warranted up to a hundred, to standard quality having duplicate of this notice. **RANDY DICKSON:** AG Dewey Vermont July first 1875. It's kind of interesting that it's a, it's obviously a print out but assume by his own hand originally.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, I think so, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Pretty interesting printing, well I'll have to check with the Historical Society to see if they got either of these as copies, amazing to me sometimes those things survive and sometimes, but of course that is something for you to definitely to keep track of. What are some of your recollections of the times that you visited the mills 'cause you, you visited there from when you were a child to when they closed and they closed in?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I believe it was in the '50s, I, '50s or early '60s I was not I think I was away at school actually when they closed so must have been in the '60s and so I didn't actually see them, the Army Corps coming into town and bull dozing everything. The deal at the time was that the people who were living in the houses that were owned by the mill had the option of moving the house, buying the house and moving it someplace or moving themselves. If they didn't buy and move them they were torn down.

**RANDY DICKSON:** So, so there are some houses around here that are the original houses.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, yeah, three of them on, two or three of them on Henry Hill which is just off Quechee Main Street.

RANDY DICKSON: Oh, that's wonderful.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Do they, I take it they probably don't resemble their original house had been added on?

CAROL DAVIDSON: First one does.

RANDY DICKSON: First one does?

# CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

#### RANDY DICKSON: Yep.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** The first one on Henry Hill looks, I think it was one of the houses that the Banagans lived in too. Can't remember about the other two and seems to me there may have been one in Woodstock although I find that hard to believe. I can't imagine somebody taking it to Woodstock.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Was this associated with some other, as a mining town just north of here and it's surprising how many things got moved.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** In the wintertime over the ice or over the snow with oxen.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And they picked up whole houses and it's amazing.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** There are, there's a house up near Route 4 which there, the Vermont Parks Department uses for their employees in the summer, they live there and that was one of the Dewey's Mills houses and then of course what is now the Pippin Inn was the original Dewey Mansion, the house that I used to live in that is below the Dewey Mansion right on Dewey's Mills Road was the house that my grand, my grandmother and grandfather and father lived in and then just down the street from that is a big long garage which was as I mentioned earlier a garage where there used to be gas tanks and we got our gas there and they chopped the heads off chickens in there.

#### RANDY DICKSON: Yes.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And did all the trucks associated with the woolen business, woolen mill in there and had two or three people that serviced that, that section.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Sure. Now jump back for just a second to, just kind of double check with you any, any comical or things you remember when you, when you visited, when you were younger, I'm just looking for that little piece of something, but you might not remember any particular.

CAROL DAVIDSON: I remember something

**RANDY DICKSON:** Sometimes, sometimes a name, but, but it's real important in history to kinda go, oh, yeah, yeah, that's, that's the name.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Well Pete Mosley who owns Mosley Associates grew up in Dewey's Mills. His father had a senior position in the woolen mill. I mean we just had a ball as kids. There was a pack of, you know, maybe twelve or fifteen of us. We ran wild, all of us. I mean it was just totally free. I had a horse and that was my means of transportation as a kid. I just would get on my horse in the morning and end up in Wilder or wherever.

RANDY DICKSON: What kind of horse or what was his name?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Billy was the first one and he was a quarter horse. The second one was Flipper and she was a Morgan, and then years later my younger sister Debbie had a thoroughbred for some reason which was, had broken its legs or something, I don't know but anyway I was the one that really did most of the riding in the family and I did it just so that I could go places other than, you know I liked it but it was also my transportation to get out of town if I wanted to go visit some other friend someplace else, which a lot of kids were doing it at the time. We'd go on rides, overnight rides and stay campsites or somebody's barn or wherever.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Sure, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** It was, it was wonderful, just total freedom, total freedom, without any consequences.

**RANDY DICKSON:** In a good sense, that's right.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** One of the stories that I do remember and I don't know if I actually remember this or was told this years later and I just acquired it as a memory but when I mentioned that I used to go down to the boarding house and be with this man who was building doll furniture for me and his little quirk was that he used to poop on newspaper in his room and then shove it underneath his bed, so.

RANDY DICKSON: Local color.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** It was sort of assuming that you know some of these unmarried men probably had a lot of these little quirks in that place, you know and there were these stories that came out of there which of course I knew nothing about.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Was he a carpenter for the mills?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** He must have been, yeah, he was you know working in the mills some place but I think probably in the carpentry part of it. The two houses that are still standing in Dewey's Mills, the

Pippin Inn and the house that I just sold were heated from the mill, there were pipes that ran from the mill to each of those two houses and that's how they were heated.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Came right directly from the mill.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: And as I mentioned we had our own phone service too.

RANDY DICKSON: That's nice. You went to a crank up and through the operator.

CAROL DAVIDSON: No operator.

RANDY DICKSON: No operator?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Somehow, I don't know I mean as I said this is you know some, I think it was AG that came up with this and it was really very unique. I have no idea what's happened to those phones. It's a shame.

RANDY DICKSON: Yep.

CAROL DAVIDSON: You know.

RANDY DICKSON: Yep.

CAROL DAVIDSON: But it really was quite unique.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And, and I kind of assume, I'm sure it's in the history books and such, but the houses were the families, the people who were married and then there's, there's bunk houses of sorts for the single men and there was, was there bunk houses for the single women because?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I don't know if the women lived in that boarding house or not, they may have.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Being a mill, there could have been some women.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** I don't know if we look back at that picture we'd see that but it's possible.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah. For some reason I just have no idea whether there were women living in that boarding house or not. I know that there was a woman who was the cook, so I'm sort of assuming there were probably women living there because I think she, she probably lived there the cook and I remember the big old kitchen with a big old stove, it was wonderful.

The area as you headed up towards Route 4 from the mill along the gorge side of Dewey's Mills Road there were oh, four or five apartment buildings and my last memory of them were outhouses, you know it was sort of perched on the side of the gorge, you know that's what everybody used, the outhouses behind these apartment buildings.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yeah, right, yeah, right. That's why it gets sort of, cause the houses go here and the outhouses all go.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Houses are lined up so the outhouses, outside.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Right, I've seen that before a bunch of times, kind of interesting, but the Mann's Used Furniture back there.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, it was wonderful place to grow up, it really was, we just, we could not have had more fun I think. You know not saying that we would have ended up being best friends for the rest of our lives the kids that grew up there but you know I mean at the time there were nobody, you know we didn't have fights 'cause we were all busy doing whatever else we did all, you know all year round.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And those kids you grew up with where did you go to school? Elementary.

# RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Which was play, fun.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, grammar school was in Quechee and actually it was built by my grandfather, it still exists today as the Waldorf School in Quechee and my grandfather built it because there wasn't a school and he had a, two children of his own and I mentioned this, the Mann family they had a couple of kids too that for a long time my father and his sister were tutored at home and then guessing my grandfather got sick of that, he built the school for 'em so they, then kids from Quechee went there and also the rest of the kids from Dewey's Mills went to that school which I did too and I think when I went there and so did my two younger sisters it went through sixth grade and then seventh grade everybody went to White River Middle School, the three of us because I think my parents were worried we were gonna end up marrying somebody who worked in the mill sent us away to school when we were thirteen, each of us so, so that's, so there were a lot of my memories were, you know.

RANDY DICKSON: Like stops because.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Stops, yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: When, when you went away and people went to White River Junction was it,

did they have a bus or did they have a horse? I know sometimes they had a horse where, where they sat back to back.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: Sort of like a buckboard, but more, more like a bus. Do you know how they

transported to White River Junction, do you remember?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Well, my, we went by, there was a small school bus and actually.

RANDY DICKSON: There was?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, it was actually a small school bus that took us to the Quechee Elementary School too, what it was, it was a woody.

RANDY DICKSON: Right.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** You know a station wagon with the wood.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: And that was fun.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And there was, kind of what it looked like but a school bus, but I only went down there for seventh grade after that we were gone, I was gone.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And but it was sort of a normal school bus of course I remember coming home one day and you probably don't know him but the people in, in White River and Hartford will know him Byrum Hathorn, the local guy and he was the bus driver for some, he was filling in for somebody but was my bus driver for awhile, Byrum was filling in for a man who had been driving the bus and had a heart attack as he was bringing us home from school one day.

RANDY DICKSON: Oh my.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, I think we just sort of drifted off the road as I remember but I think, I remember Byrum because years later he worked for my former husband who was the original developer

of Quechee Lakes and Byrum was working here in some capacity and he had been my bus driver at the time.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yep, yep, interesting. I can't think of other subjects. Where did you go to school or did you go away to school?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Cleveland, Ohio.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Not around the corner.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** No, no there aren't many schools at the time that had boarding schools for kids, for girls and boys so somehow my parents found Cleveland, Ohio had a boarding house or whatever they are called and that's where I ended up. My, my next sister Sally ended up in Rhode Island and then my younger sister Debbie ended up in Maryland, western side of Maryland. So as I said that's pretty much where my memory of growing up in Quechee or Dewey's Mills ends just the, my parents when our house burned down in 1947 the building which I keep referring to as the Pippin Inn was at that time an absolutely gorgeous three story Victorian mansion which had you know all the accoutrements and all this kind of stuff and the third floor was actually a ballroom and beautiful interior, carpeted floors, I mean it was just a gorgeous house and so in '47 when my parents were homeless because of our fire they shipped us, me I was six and I guess my youngest, my sisters were two and four we went to Florida where my grandparents had a place and, and stayed down there with them while my parents redid the Victorian mansion which had been empty for awhile and back a little bit that's the house that my grandmother, my father's mother grew up in and so they for some bizarre reason, reason renovated it and took all of the exterior characteristics away, took the third story totally off and turned the house into something that looked like Miami Beach.

**RANDY DICKSON:** That happened in that era when.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Where a lot of things got changed and didn't realize to save a lot then.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** The interior they all the parquet floors and the and it was a plank house so it was totally solid and they had to, to put more plumbing and wiring in, they couldn't put it in the walls they had to build other walls or lower ceilings to do that.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Right, right.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** But they left the parquet floors and a walk-in refrigerator, which my old house also has, a walk-in refrigerator.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah, yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And took the façade and put big plate glass windows in. At the time it was quite unusual, yeah, they used an architect from Hanover, I'll never forget Ted Hunt -- Hunter I think his name was, Hagen and Ted Hunter.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And House Beautiful magazine did a whole thing on that particular house and, and my mother and I think she wrote the script for it but it showed before and then after pictures you know in the House Beautiful magazine.

RANDY DICKSON: Do you have a copy of that?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** My daughter has it actually, just you know, I think there's only one copy left and when I moved out of the, my old house last summer I gave a lot of stuff to my daughter but I just had no place to put it.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And but so we, when we came back from Florida we moved into that house, which was fun. I mean it was a huge house probably six, at least six thousand square feet, and they gave us a swimming pool and that was very nice, you know. I remember playing baseball or softball or trying to do gymnastics and you know on the lawns up there and as a group, as I mentioned we sort of traveled in a pack, twelve or fifteen of us kids they used to, my parents for some reason had rabbits and you know how rabbits are, well we always thought it was just the funniest thing be to go, every time there was a new litter of rabbits we'd go out there and touch one of the babies which meant that the mother started eating 'em all I think, and that's the kind of stuff we did as kids, bad.

**RANDY DICKSON:** I'm trying to think of some other stuff cause I know I'll get back and go oh, I should have asked you about. How does stuff get moved in and out of the mills, cause did the train station come?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Well I remember -

**RANDY DICKSON:** There were trucks most certainly.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Blue Line Express was the trucking company that used to come into town frequently.

RANDY DICKSON: Blue Line Express.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And there were trucks so they must have been real old Model A looking trucks? **CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, yeah, I just remember I was coming out, I really remember them because we had a big dog named Johnny and I think it was like a Newfoundland and he used to lie in the middle of the road all the time and I remember having to go get Johnny 'cause the trucks were coming into town again, get Johnny out of the road cause nobody could move him, you know we had to pull him and so it was Blue Line Express of course they used to be the train that went, when the Quechee Gorge Bridge was originally a train --

RANDY DICKSON: Right.

CAROL DAVIDSON: -- bridge.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And that, and that, that train was although for transporting people was how much of it was for the mill?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I would imagine quite a bit since it ran from White River to Woodstock I think, both directions I don't know how far it went past either one of those places but I would imagine that a lot of supplies, I know originally they came down the Connecticut River and probably loaded onto trains in White River and then, brought up Route 4.

**RANDY DICKSON:** What -- You said the big, big things that was provided was World War II and there was something else in there you said was a big seller of woolens?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Baseball uniforms.

RANDY DICKSON: Baseball uniforms.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, Army, Army stuff, Army blankets primarily.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** The demise of the woolen industry in New England was of course the Italian fabrics that came into, you know into the United States. After the mill was torn down in Dewey's Mills, my father bought the mill that no longer existed in Hartford and also one in Enfield, New Hampshire and he tried to

modernize at that point and hired fabric designers to come in, but it was almost too late at that point to be doing that because all the mills were moving south.

RANDY DICKSON: How long did he make a try at it and, and I mean did they employ -

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Everybody in Dewey's Mills had the opportunity to go to the other two mills. I think they were running simultaneously. I think I remember the Army Corps of Engineers offered to –

(The end of side one of tape one. The beginning of side two of tape one.)

**RANDY DICKSON:** Just when the noise stopped so I might have looked down about when it stopped so not knowing that I think we just got to start, just start to just simply finish up because we wouldn't know how far back to go, so here we go again. We're, we're back here with Carol Dewey Davidson on the second side of the tape. I think we're pretty wrapped up. I don't think we have –

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah I just, one memory that just came into my head was and this goes into the category of nothing important, but.

**RANDY DICKSON:** These are sometimes the treasures.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I used to spend a lot of time, as I mentioned before playing in the mill or playing in the boarding house, or playing in the office and the office had a maybe three rooms that were actually closed off office space on the first floor and then a big open space that was where the secretaries and everybody worked in, in a big room together, there was also a Post Office there by the way. We had our own Post Office and as part, in, in the office building and I was in there one day playing and they had a huge tall desk with a slanted front and the, you know the tray that sort of lifts up and then all the stuff, the drawers and things and open space underneath it, it's like a schoolhouse desk anyway, huge and there was a, a bunch of, a combination lock on it and it was a lock that was, that, how am I going to explain it, like knobs at the end of you know, long rods kind of things, combination.

**RANDY DICKSON:** So you had to turn 'em all.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** No, you didn't turn 'em, you just played with them with your fingers or you did it you know like.

RANDY DICKSON: Tumbling?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, they ran the whole width of the, of the, the drawer.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And so I'm just as usual down there messing around with everything and I'm underneath the drawer just playing with these, something like levers really, you know and somehow I got the combination right, of course I had no idea what the combination was but somehow it opened the drawer so I just reached in and there was a gun in there so I just at the age of four or five pulled the gun out and started waving it around the room, saying yeah, hey look what I just found and everybody started ducking, it was loaded of course.

#### RANDY DICKSON: Yes.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And I guess was there for security reasons, I'm sure there wasn't any other reason for it, just one of those things that happened.

RANDY DICKSON: And you were disarmed? Do you remember who you were disarmed by?

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I think my father disarmed me quite quickly.

**RANDY DICKSON:** You got a little scolding about not being.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Probably, but of course it wasn't my fault, I had no idea what I was doing and it worked.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Sure, how I worked the combination out.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And I don't know it was just, all of the houses of course dumped into the river and they dumped into the, into the pond, you know it was never anything we thought about. We used to swim the pond.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah, right.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** We used to swim in the pond. We used to eat the fish that came out of the pond.

We used to eat the fish that came out of the river.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Covered with dye I'm sure, but you know we're all healthy, you know, everybody survived that.

**RANDY DICKSON:** I wonder to, to jump back to the mills that you might remember and you might not remember but do you remember anything your, your father said or any of the work that he brought home

you can remember he was upset about, happy about, cause that would be a direct thing that you saw that you, struggling building a new section or anything?

CAROL DAVIDSON: No, but I believe that he hated it as much as his father hated it.

RANDY DICKSON: The noise or, or, or?

CAROL DAVIDSON: I don't know it just, my father wanted to be in the Navy.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Interesting you say he hated it but he, he started the other mills in Hartford.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Well, he was stuck with it.

RANDY DICKSON: He was stuck with it.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** In a, in a bad way but he felt stuck with it and wanted to continue.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Sure.

RANDY DICKSON: Yep, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And he, he really had wanted to be in the Navy and that was what he had always wanted to do.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And his father had wanted to get out of the woolen business so, so my father therefore ended up in it. He, I doubt, all, all I know is you know when, when business was good everything was good. It wasn't consistent, there were times I'm sure when the mills were not running three shifts around the clock and probably that happened more frequently than, than not, than the opposite, also remember a big fire in the mill and I can't, other than that I can't really, I remember the fire which I --

RANDY DICKSON: How old were you when the fire -

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I thought I must have, I must have been, must have been after '47 and it wasn't actually. I think it was the out buildings that were sort of behind the office that burned down, you know always a hazard when you've got oil all over the place and all the wooden structures.

# RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And I don't know. I wish I remembered more. There's probably more fun that I can think of. More stuff going on but I just and my sisters two and four years younger than I didn't have, I

don't think the history that I had, I don't remember them ever being down there with me for some reason. I remember when we were in the, the original house, the house that burned down I used to, one of the things I used to do was take my diapers off and put them on the radiator, they were wet, cause I didn't like them wet and I guess nobody bothered to change me so I would dry 'em off myself and I don't know if I put them back on or not but I'd do that and then one day for some bizarre reason I think I decided to hide and I hid in the closet in our old, old house, excuse me, and I remember people running around looking for me, all over town, I remember my mother yelling for me, I remember my father yelling for me. We had a, a sort of a maid, live-in nanny kind of person and I remember her yelling for me. They thought I'd gone down the chute. Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And they were, they were scared to death and realizing the seriousness of it you stayed hidden.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, I did and I don't know how they ever found me, they did obviously, or I came out, I don't know thinking it was the funniest thing that ever happened.

RANDY DICKSON: Right.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And they thought I was dead at the bottom of the gorge.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And there were a lot of kids that, excuse me, a lot of kids that, I remember kids drowning.

RANDY DICKSON: Drowning at the gorge?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** From swimming.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, and I remember one kid.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Probably was just as it is today, think about jumping off of high heights.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, yeah, my father almost drowned at the gorge that they used to swim down in there and apparently there were some whirlpool areas and he got sucked into one of those once but he had some friends with him who pulled him out.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah, yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I remember some kid going through the ice on the pond and drowning out there, it just seems like a lot of people, you know when there were accidents they were bad accidents.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah. Do you remember any accidents at the mill in -

CAROL DAVIDSON: I'm sure there must have been.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I can't think of any in particular, you know, but I'm sure there probably were quite a few of 'em.

**RANDY DICKSON:** I think there, I think woolen mills were known for you know hand cutting thread and threads going in so –

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** But, but I'm, I'm not up on that, but can be a dangerous place we know those machines are.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, yeah, I'm sure there were.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Interesting.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And nobody died when I was waving the pistol around in the office.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yep, yep, well good, well I can't think of any other questions. You have just given us a ton of information, interesting information of the mill and growing up around that area and –

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I mentioned that my, my family was not big on saving things which was unfortunately true but there years ago when there was a Dewey's Mills there was and still is actually a big, beautiful red barn sort of that belonged to my, my parents when they owned and lived in the Pippin Inn was part of that parcel and it was just gorgeous and it was filled with beautiful carriages and you know I mean just absolutely covered carriages, closed in carriages and open buck boards and you know and all that kind of stuff and just jammed packed with that kind of thing as was another barn that used to be sort of where the, the long garage is now in Dewey's Mills and that also had other carriages and things like that. My father actually gave some of those or probably most of them to the Shelburne Museum and, and a railroad car thing that they had of course railroad car called the Gertie Buck and that was given to the Shelburne and actually is still displayed there. **RANDY DICKSON:** Gertie Buck, I have been up there not too long ago so I probably looked right at it and didn't know it.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** It's, it's where they have that railroad station section of Shelburne. It's one of the first areas that you come to when you come in when you go there and it's I believe in an enclosed barn at this point but I think they used to have it on a track outside.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yeah, I think there is a building up there that just has a lot of old tools and then there's a wagon, but they don't, there's, there's an open, it's in way back and they, there's all these wagons back in there and they are two deep, along the line so there might be some of those wagons.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yes.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Right in the front of the building there is an old picture of the train wreck.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Oh really.

**RANDY DICKSON:** The '20 train wreck right over here on US Hartford, on Route 14 in going up \_\_\_\_? **CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** So that caught my eye first, that's right down the street. I didn't know I was looking at local carriages.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Some of those I know in years past when I have gone to Shelburne I've been able to find some of the carriages because you know they have signs donated by so and so.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And the most recent time when I took my grandchildren up about two years ago, maybe three years ago couldn't find any of them so I guess that they do is obviously they rotate what they have because I'm sure people keep giving them.

RANDY DICKSON: Yep, yep, yep.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Things you know just to rotate everything, but luckily my father had the sense to do that, the rest of the stuff went over the chute into the gorge. My mother there where the railroad store on Route 4 is now and Massa and Dana's the restaurant up by the gorge, those three buildings used to be warehouses.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Oh, were they.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** And that's where the fabric in big bolts was stored until something came along and picked them up and took them wherever they were going.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Dana's which is still there today.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah, Dana's actually was where the Gertie Buck was stored for years.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure.

CAROL DAVIDSON: So that was a separate small building and then the other two bigger buildings,

Massa and the Laurel Store which are now joined were two separate big warehouse buildings and my,

actually my mother converted those into, she had a fabric store selling my father's fabric and other mills

fabric up there for years and years and years.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** She converted those into, into retail years ago.

RANDY DICKSON: I just met the new owners of Dana's just the other day just by accident.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, I haven't met them yet either, of course that used to be a cute little place, my parents, God I don't know probably in the '60s or '70s converted that building into what they called Hamburger Heaven I think or something like that, some little snack bar kind of a place, of course there wasn't anything like that around at the time, for a long time.

RANDY DICKSON: Sure, sure.

Well, good, good, I think, I think we covered. Can you think of other things, so don't be afraid to speak up we can before we leave but other than that if you think of other things you think because it's the only place to put it you can tell us.

# CAROL DAVIDSON: Yep.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Anything else, short, we'll write it down and, and add it on to this I imagine that's possible. So thank you very much for all your time.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Oh, you're welcome.

RANDY DICKSON: I appreciate it.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** I appreciate it myself, sort of fun to go back.

RANDY DICKSON: Yeah. We'll, we'll check with the Society on these and -

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Maybe they'll take a drive down the road, take a picture of that sign you said.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Sure, the Dewey's Mill Road, yeah.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Right, I'll try to get to the Historical Society a picture of that.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yep, that was on the front porch there so you'll see it when you drive by, the house is a big gray house on the left as you go down Dewey's Mill Road, actually the only one, there's one on the right, a small one that I mentioned used to be part of Dewey's Mills but now it's owned by the Army Corps of Engineers.

RANDY DICKSON: Right.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Leased to the State of Vermont.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Okay, we're back and I was talking to Carol about other things just closing up here we ended up with some other bits of jewels of information so you said the end of World War II back at the mill.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Back at the mill, we used to get truckloads of huge bales of rags that would come in and go to the picking house which was a separate section of the mill where all these bales were unloaded and people would pick through the fabric. They would sort the rags and use what was good. We also used to make something called melton cloth which is a very, very tight weave and a very warm, heavy fabric that was used for blankets and for coats and, and also I think today it's called balled wool but I also think we made the wool which again was a very tight weave, heavy fabric and these fabrics were sent to a New York office called a factoring house. Dexter Woolen Company was the name of the New York office where the fabric was sent to be made into blankets or coats or whatever.

RANDY DICKSON: And you said the end of World War II, the day that the war ended.

**CAROL DAVIDSON:** Yeah, there was a huge bell on the top of the mill and that just clanked all day long and all the workers came streaming out of the mill, everybody celebrating. My father actually was in Washington as part of the war effort board at the time. He was deferred but working in Washington, must have had something to do with Army blankets or something but he was, he worked down there during the war. I think that's it.

**RANDY DICKSON:** And, and you said your dad had no love for the business as much as he was dedicated to it?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Oh, my God, he hated it.

RANDY DICKSON: If we had him here today you said he'd probably would have said.

CAROL DAVIDSON: God damn woolen mill, God damn woolen mill.

RANDY DICKSON: Right, right.

CAROL DAVIDSON: But every time we passed a sheep he would tip his hat.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Oh, that's interesting.

CAROL DAVIDSON: Yeah.

RANDY DICKSON: And you said he was proud of his name, Tarbox?

CAROL DAVIDSON: Tarbox is his middle name, he was William Tarbox Dewey and it was a family

name, we're not sure how or where it came from but he was very proud of that name.

**RANDY DICKSON:** Yes, really interesting. Well thanks again for your extra time.