



**Ronald Theriault**  
**Interviewed by Beverly Bishop**  
**September 24, 2004**

**Ronald Theriault:** I believe his name was, oh dear, but it was called Butch's Diner and after his son and it was Bootan, his name was Bootan, Bootan, and it was right next to where they had a bus terminal there, that's where the buses came and it was a gas station there and a bus terminal and down the road from that was the Lyric Theater which of course now is gone and, and made into offices right next to the library.

**Beverly Bishop:** Can you tell me a little about the Lyric Theater?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah the Lyric Theater, I had pictures that I gave the, the Hartford Historical Society and the, of the exterior when it was built and also the interior of how it looked back and I believe that was in 19, I believe that was in the '20s also, late '20s.

Stop for one moment.

**Beverly Bishop:** Actually it starts so.

**Ronald Theriault:** We're talking of the Lyric Theater and Al Graves is the one that opened it up and the manager at the time when I was a young boy was a guy named John Gallagher lived

over in West Lebanon. Al Graves built a beautiful home up in the center of town here in White River called area called the center of town, as a matter of fact his home was featured in a, either I think it was a Better Homes & Gardens magazine, it was such a lay out, I think he had a numerous amount of theaters throughout the State of Vermont, I guess over into New Hampshire but the Lyric Theater and my father used to tap dance there back in the late '20s and or during the '30s really and my brother was, yeah cause it was in the '30s my brother was born in 1925, and he was, I think my father started him tap dancing when he was six years old.

Father, like I said could play the violin and the drums, got into drums and tap dancing came up when he was in Manchester as manager of that Waldorf cafeteria and what happened there was that this guy came in and he didn't have any money but he, you know wanted to have some, you know some work he could do and my father said no and the guy he said well I said I teach tap dancing or I, I know how to tap dance and would you like to learn, and my father said well I'll give you a five dollar ticket for food if you teach me how to tap dance, so the guy used to come in and teach my father steps in tap dancing and that's how he learned how to tap dance and used to tap dance at the Lyric Theater with my brother and that would've been about 1932, '31 when dad, when Teddy my youngest – my oldest brother was six, seven years old.

**Beverly Bishop:** Would this be during some other event like a movie or something?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, yeah they would have, they would have variety shows and dad would be in those and sometimes I guess in between films or whatever I guess they would put on little skits but they would usually put out these bulletins which I gave some to the Hartford Historical Society, these plaques or, no not post -- postal advertisements and they, they were about I'd say probably eighteen by thirty inches and they were posters they would put on poles around town saying that there'd be a vaudeville show and that was back when they had minstrels and they had the people dressed up in black face and all that and did tap dancing and such.

**Beverly Bishop:** You never got to be on stage?

**Ronald Theriault:** No my oldest brother was very, he caught, well what happened was dad would be practicing his tap dancing and my oldest brother Teddy would take and start tapping his feet, so my father grabbed him and said okay you're gonna learn how to tap dance too, so he

taught him some steps and he caught right on, he was a smart little bugger, well my next brother who was eighteen months younger than my oldest brother, my brother Larry, dad tried to teach him, but he always said Larry was left handed and he had two left feet, he just couldn't get the steps and matter of fact they used to use it as a skit at the Lyric Theater, my father would be up on stage with Larry and he'd teach him a little few steps or things like that and Larry would try to, you know do some of the steps and Teddy, my oldest brother Teddy would be about ten years old and Larry would be about eight and Teddy would come down like they used to do in those days selling newspapers, and he'd say newspaper, you know and he'd be selling newspapers for a nickel or three cents, whatever they sold for and he'd be through the audience and my father would say stop the music, and he'd say you know because he would be, my little, my oldest brother would be, Teddy would be interrupting the proceeding here and my father would say to him, he'd say we're trying, we're doing a tap dance routine up here, and my brother say the oldest, Teddy, would say you call that tap dancing and he'd say well yeah it's tap dancing, he'd say, oh, that's nothing and he'd come up on the stage and he'd say I'll show you how to tap dance and poor Larry would have to shuffle off to Buffalo, he'd have to do a little shuffle off the stage and Teddy Junior would take over and of course then the routine would really take, take hold, he was really a good dancer and so that's one of the little skit they used to do.

They had another one where they dressed poor Larry up in a, in a little girl's outfit and he said that was the most embarrassing thing when he had to go to school and his friends saw him in a little girl's outfit and they had him up there on stage and he remembers those embarrassing moments and then the, the third brother came eighteen months later, Norman and he also wasn't taken to rhythm or anything like that and I was six and a half years after that, I was the baby. My mother had three boys right in a row eighteen months apart so she thought if she spaced it out and waited she'd get her little girl, she had me and that was the end of that, so no more trying on that business.

Those are the early days that I can remember.

**Beverly Bishop:** You were born when?

**Ronald Theriault:** 1935, yeah. Teddy was born in '25 and then Larry was born in '20 -- I guess '26 and I guess he was born in August, no August '25 and then Larry was born in '27 and then Norman was born in the August of '28, I think that's the way it ran or '29. They were eighteen months apart anyway and then I was born in '35 so quite a space there. I was the only one born in a hospital, at Mary Hitchcock; my brothers were born on the farm up in Lyme and Pompanoosuc River it was up in that area. Old Pete had a farm up there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Is that your father's name?

**Ronald Theriault:** That's what?

**Beverly Bishop:** Old, old Pete you said?

**Ronald Theriault:** That was my mother's father.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh, okay.

**Ronald Theriault:** Pete LaCroix , that was old Pete LaCroix, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Your father's name was?

**Ronald Theriault:** Leon Thaddeus Theriault and my brother was Leon Thaddeus Theriault Junior, which they, we always called Teddy Junior and people that hear this and remembers back in the 40s and 50s would know my brother Teddy Junior.

So, let's see that about does it for the early years. Dad took and sold off his diners, he had one I believe up in Bradford, Vermont also but anyway he sold off the diners and bought what was called the Adam House, it was a hotel and restaurant and he bought that right there on Main Street in White River and that was right across from the Lyric Theater as a matter of fact kiddy corner to the Lyric Theater and he had a contest as to what to name it, and the diners were always called Teddy's Diners and everybody tried all kinds of names but anyway one little girl wrote in and said you know why change it, you know you've been so popular and so of course he stayed with the name and she got a \$25.00 bond or whatever it was back in those days, and, and then it was the Teddy's Hotel and Grill and it was a three story building and the restaurant would be on the bottom and then there were rental places and Larry Falzerano had a little soda fountain place there and, and then Fern's Barber Shop was at the end and then there was the Polka Dot which was not part of the block, it was separate building.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now that was facing the?

**Ronald Theriault:** Right, facing really what used to be I believe the Gates Block.

**Beverly Bishop:** Okay.

**Ronald Theriault:** Which adjoined to part of the Hotel Coolidge block.

**Beverly Bishop:** And now, so now it's Briggs.

**Ronald Theriault:** Well it used to be, there used to be JJ Newbury's there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Ronald Theriault:** There was a Newbury's and the Newbury's you could enter from two streets, either from that street there, there was an entrance and there was also an entrance on the other side facing the railroad and, and you could go in one door and walk through the store and go out the other and then of course back in those days there was always, usually an upstairs. I remember Powers Hardware Store was in back of that block in the backside across from the telephone company that's still there today and it used to be New England Tell & Tell, and then it became Bell and now it's Verizon.

**Beverly Bishop:** I didn't want to interrupt you.

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, that's okay.

**Beverly Bishop:** You were, you were talking about the building that your father?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Bought?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, he bought that and he bought it in the early '40s and he turned it over to my brothers or I guess probably, yeah the early '40s and he made his money because White River was a train junction where the Boston and Maine and the New York Central came up and that's where it met with the Canadian Pacific I guess it went up north into Canada and back in the, from '40, 1941 of course until '45 all travel was by train for the troops and, and the troops would come through there and of course other people also and so my father had a liquor license, before that all he had was a third class license which was beer and wine and then he got a second class license which for liquor there at the restaurant, but with the diners he just had the beer and wine and then with the liquor license and being New Hampshire was dry at that time

and Vermont wasn't so of course Dartmouth College was only four miles away and students that became twenty-one could cross the river and could entertain themselves at Teddy's Bar and Grill.

And then in 1940, early, well late '48 he sold the business to my two older brothers Teddy and Larry and they ran it and they took in, they used to have bands come in and they think what happened is that there was an electrical fire that the amplifiers or something got the wires warm and back in those days the wires were coated with this cloth type insulation and I guess the wires got so warm that it started a fire and it burnt down and that was in March of '49 and that's in St. Croix's book on the Town of Hartford and in that they even have a picture of the building burning and that burned down and so then dad meanwhile was building a sports good store on the other side of the river across from what is now the Municipal Building which used to be the grammar school and so he had a sporting goods store going where he had a diner there at one time and he had moved out the diner and put the sporting goods store there and that so we continued, he continued with the building of that and at the same time took the, of course in, the place was insured and took and rebuilt it but not as a hotel just as a business strip and the first corner spot was of course Teddy's became Teddy's, my oldest brother Teddy Junior, Teddy's Bar and Grill and then next to it was a, was a shoe store and then next to that he put my other brother Norman in there as Norman's Spa and it was like a soda fountain place for young kids to go after school.

**Beverly Bishop:** Was it spa like s-p-a?

**Ronald Theriault:** S-p-a, spa, Norman's Spa and then after that he took and beside that was a bus terminal which had a door right in the spa which, where the people would wait for their buses of course it gave more business to my brother and meanwhile Larry Falzerano who had a place there went down South Main Street and bought that land there and put the townhouse in, and any, and then back to the block again besides the terminal was another office space that the VA rented and then besides that was, used to be Fern's Barber Shop but then it became Lucien, Lucien's Barber Shop and then of course then the Polka Dot was next to it all one area there, and some of the property, the building was shaped kind of odd because the property, part of it, belonged to the railroad and so they had to be kind of a jagged affair it was not a square building,

it was kind of jagged so like the barber shop was very small whereas the where the restaurant was at the other end was quite large, and it kind of tapered down in a triangular shape.

That's about it for the, for that business there and then dad of course had that Teddy's Sports Center and he had a, there was an Esso station and there used to be an apartment house besides that and then, then the sporting goods store and then the white house we lived in. Dad rented the space to Esso not, it was before Exxon and Esso stood for Eastern State Standard Oil and they rented the property for it and dad said I want a penny for every gallon you sold with a minimum income of \$75.00 a month and so, I guess he had to trust their honesty but anyway he always made at least \$75.00 a month rent off that corner for that Esso gas station. It was run by a good friend of mine's father, George Bell, my friend being Harold Bell and Harold's still here in town up on Jericho Street outside of Hartford and across the street was a Gulf station called Timmy's Gulf Station and then on the other corner across from that which is all gone now there's just two apartment houses or homes there, and there used to be a, the Public Market and it was run by Payette, Mr. Payette and I remember going over and I used to, I was just a young boy of seven, eight years old my mother used to send me over to get groceries and I would, cookies back then weren't packaged up, they came in big boxes and you just picked out so many cookies, and they would weigh 'em, of course different cookies cost different prices and I would drive the guy crazy cause I'd want three of the chocolate marshmallow cookies, I'd want maybe five or six of the ginger snap and I, and he would be bagging them up behind me doing all this and then at the end of course I had no money but he'd put it on a slip and he had this big container of all these slips of all the people that traded there and they would charge their food daily as they went over there and bought their fresh meat or fresh fish or whatever and then at the end of the month or so, once a month my mother or father would pay the bill and he would just keep those tabs there.

The school now is now the Municipal Building here in White River that use to be the grammar school and right across from Maple Street and then the street besides it was, I think that's called Pine Street I'm not certain but it used to go up and join, there were two streets there and they would come up and join and go into the Tafts Flat and the high school was right there up

on that street there and that was the high school which is now the junior high school, but the Municipal Building had fire escapes from the second floor that were large tubes, they were, they were little doors in the, in the rooms on the two ends of the school building and on the second floor and these doors you could open 'em up then you could slide down. Well when school wasn't in session we used to go over there and, and climb up those things of course you couldn't get in the school unless you broke the door but we never did that, but we would go up those things and then slide down.

**Beverly Bishop:** On the inside?

**Ronald Theriault:** On the in – on the, the tubes that were.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, they were attached to the building, they're gone now but they were these, that was the fire escape instead of ladders or anything like that and young boys playing pranks used to go up there and, and just hide from each other, they also used to relieve themselves, kind of embarrassing, anyway let's see there, that was the yard, right adjacent to it was where we used to take and the Fire Department would, in the wintertime would flood the land and we used to skate over there and play hockey and they were, the, the railroad tracks was up on the knoll right there in back and as a matter of fact the trestle is still there today that you go to go across the Connecticut River and there used to be billboards up there, and I can remember I never smoked in my life, and I can remember, I think I was nine or ten years old and some of the older boys eleven or twelve, some, one of 'em had a, buy a pack of cigarettes, and it was about five or six of us that went up there behind the billboard and this boy passed around the cigarettes to everybody and we all lit up I took a puff and man I choked and wheezed and spit out and I said hey I don't like that, and the guy said, no, no, you got to, you got to inhale or you got to keep trying it, you know and I said no I don't and I left and thank God today I don't smoke because of that early experience of not liking the smoke in my throat and coughing.

**Beverly Bishop:** Tell me about your backyard of that house.

**Ronald Theriault:** Oh, we had a, yeah at the, it used to be, I don't know what the address is today, easy enough to look it up but it used to be 13 Maple Street and, and I, that was we, I think



there were fourteen rooms in the house as a matter of fact the garage in the back upstairs my father put a basketball hoop up there and I think there was probably, must have been at least sixteen feet of space up there and so of course the basketball hoop was just a little bit over my head but I remember I used to play basketball and then the room adjacent to that we put a pool table in and had a pool table there and, and that house there, there was downstairs when you entered on the right-hand side my father made a little, he had a bar inside there and then, and that was our little room, sort of our, what today you'd call a family room and then off from that was the kitchen and then on the other side was a, was a living room with a baby grand piano and then in back of that was separate little room that later became a bedroom and then upstairs there were three bedrooms upstairs with a bath and there was a, what we called a study, a little room which later also became a bedroom, but I understand today that they've got four apartments in that house that we lived in and that, that's the only house that's still standing next to it where, where the diner was which was moved out and where the sports store became that was 15 Maple Street and I lived there from 1949 until I left town in 1954 after graduating from Hartford High School.

**Beverly Bishop:** Could you tell me about the backyard?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah the back yard when you went in the back my mother had people that stayed at the hotel that worked for my father and some of them were masons, carpenters and things like that and my mother would hire these people to come over and she had a lattice work and gate entrance where you could drive through with your car into the backyard and back there she had a, a fountain put in, she had a, a water pumped in, a little young boy holding a pitcher with the water coming out of it into a fountain. She had a little walkway with what I want to say a, little mounds on each side and you walked that walkway into a, the building maybe was about sixteen by thirty feet and in there we had a juke box and we had a fireplace and my brothers of course who were teenagers at the time that's where they would take their friends and they would party back there on weekends and they'd have a little get together so I was a little young for that at that time. When I left there I was fourteen years old and but when, when they were living there of course like I say them being when I was ten years old my oldest brother Teddy was twenty years old, so there was quite a, my, my youngest brother Norman who was six and a half years

so when he was sixteen and had a car I was only nine years old so I didn't have much to do with my three older brothers. It was Larry I remember the most coming home from the service and really taking me out and I was interested in photography and he bought me some pans and developing equipment and like that but he paid, seemed to pay more attention to me where my other two brothers were more interested in flirting and girls and going out, and Larry was also but he, for one reason or another kinda took to his younger brother more so than the others and that backyard oh, it also had an outdoor bar, had a cement bar that she had built with stools and of course an overhang and it was quite elaborate and today it's all gone now it's all owned by Jimmy Flanagan of Hartford Motors and he bought all that land there but the, the building when my father built the sports store he had the builder was Beaple who was just starting into the construction building as a matter of fact dad gave him the job of building back the Teddy's Restaurant across the way and, and I remember dad telling me that he, he got him to build it at cost plus ten percent and, and so he built the sporting goods store and then he ended up, the sporting goods store had a basement down there, that's all level now and the, the foundation is still there, I was there looking at it and the, where the foundation was and the store always seemed so big but when I measured it, it was only twenty feet wide really and I think it was, ran about probably thirty-five, forty feet deep but there was a downstairs and then of course the main floor. Downstairs we had Old Town Canoes and we had Evinrude Outboard Motors and dad had the franchise for these and he was the largest for the State of Vermont he was the largest indoor seller of boats and motors inland even, I think even he beat out over in Mascoma and some of the places over there and you, back in those days, I don't know how it works today, but you had franchises and once you got the franchise in that covered you within a radius of so many miles and I think his radius was like fourteen miles, nobody else could carry Old Town Canoes or Evinrude Outboard Motors or Rally sporting goods or things like that.

**Beverly Bishop:** How would you describe your father and your mother and maybe the family dynamics?

**Ronald Theriault:** Dad was a very small man and but very business orientated I always used to joke about how my father knew how to make the money and my mother knew how to spend it and

that was the truth. It was really quite funny because it seems like the, the more ventures that he got into, they had a camp out at Lake Mascoma for awhile and, and they were married for thirty-three years and then after thirty-three years of marriage they, they fell by the wayside and, and got divorced back in 1955 and I guess it was just waiting for me to get out of school. I got out of school in '54 and joined the service, went into the Navy and when I came home on leave I noticed that things were kind of cool and then in '55 they got divorced and dad went and moved to Florida, met a lady, a local lady Doris Rogers from West Lebanon, was introduced to him by Frank Gilman, who was a good friend of my father's and they hit it off very well and they were married that year down in Florida and she had cancer and she only lasted four years, she died in 40 – '59 and my mother went on and never remarried and lived in the area and then eventually she moved to Florida, she moved to New York, lived with my brother there and anyway she later on ended up living with an uncle and, Bud Olsen and his family, she helped raise the family with him.

**Beverly Bishop:** In Florida?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, yeah, they finally, they ended up in Florida, they. Yep, he was from Hanover and up that, in that area.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep.

**Ronald Theriault:** And let's see that, that gives most of the background.

**Beverly Bishop:** Was there, was there I'm just curious about like the dynamics of the family was there humor, music?

**Ronald Theriault:** Oh yes we.

**Beverly Bishop:** Was it a calm household or was it?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah dad was an Elk, as a matter of fact I still have his Elks card and he was an Elk for seventy-four years. He lived to be ninety-six years old and he joined the Elks down in Manchester in 1923 at the age of twenty-three and he, very avid with the, very involved with the Hartford Elks Club although he never, he chaired one time that they had a state convention and of course they had him take care of all the cooking and all that stuff seeing that was his background and mother was the home keeper and she was always a, a very neat individual as a

matter of fact while she'd be talking to you she'd be picking up the ashtray and wiping underneath it seven times and they, she was very feisty individual, as a matter of fact there's a story of an individual back during the war sugar was at a premium as a matter of fact we had rations on things and of course we used to have the containers on the table and unbeknown to the woman my mother observed the woman putting a, a shaker of container of sugar in her purse, well my mother kept her eye on her and didn't do anything and then later on the lady went to the lady's room and my mother went in there and confronted the lady and took the sugar out of the purse and there was a, little scuffle ensued, that's the kind of spicy woman my mother was and the story was that my mother actually dunked the woman's head in the, in the toilet.

**Beverly Bishop:** That woman?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, that woman that took, took the sugar, so you might say she was a spicy feisty little thing and cause she was a small woman and by, my mother and father I think were probably about the same height and dad was always very business orientated where like I say dad was the business part of it and my mother was really the worker, she was very strong worker, they used to get up and with the restaurant back in those days you weren't open on Sunday of course liquor laws and such as that and so Sunday was our big day to go to church here in Saint Anthony's Church in White River and but during the week my parents would, mother would get up and get open up the place around 6:30, 7:00 in the morning and she would work until two, dad would probably get up around ten and do all the shopping and go to the produce, he dealt with Twin State Fruit Company for his beer and everything and back then they had liquor stores in Vermont, one right over on Gate Street, and he would buy the liquor for the day and whatever he needed and then he would relieve my mother around 3:00 when I got out of school between two and three and then she would go home take care of me and, and then he would continue and stay there until they closed at midnight and so he'd get home at one, 12:30, 1:00 in the morning and I remember times that I used to listen to the radio, no television back then and this was in the late '30s early '40s and I would be, I would be listening to radio with my mother laying on the bed in her bed and I'd fall asleep and dad would come home and have to take me up and I'd be waking up when he was carrying me to my room, but we used to listen to the great

Gilda Sleeve, and I remember that, Life With Luigi Bosco and all these old radio shows that they had at the time and.

**Beverly Bishop:** Speaking of church, you had a, a story that was handed down about going to church in a sleigh?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yes, that was my mother.

**Beverly Bishop:** So about that?

**Ronald Theriault:** Interesting story my mother telling me when she was young used to tell me about the days back then when they used to have to take a sleigh to go to church very religious family as I say that she had, there were nine children in her family, the LaCroixes and they would take the sleigh to church, well it'd be very cold in the wintertime and of course it's an open sleigh and what the children used to do was they had a pot belly stove in the house, and they would put the bricks on the stove and heat 'em up and then they'd wrap 'em up in cloth and put 'em at the foot of the, the sleigh to keep their feet warm and I remember telling me stories like that and another one I got a kick out of was that oranges used to come in crates in stores and they used to wrap the oranges in this orange tissue paper well this tissue paper when it was red, when it was wet, excuse me, would you know bleed the color and young girls would take those papers and wet 'em and then rub their cheeks to make their cheeks look rosy, they didn't, they couldn't afford rouge back then, and they would do things like that.

**Beverly Bishop:** So I had another question a, about the church you, you had mentioned something about being an altar boy?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, yeah, yeah, back in, I think I was in, started when I was in the sixth grade which means I'd been about eleven, twelve years old and I was on the altar and I remember the priest was Father Roberts was a young priest and the, oh heavens I just thought of his name and I forgot it, Father Barry, Father Barry was the, the head priest there and I remember me and this kid named Fabian Hodgney called him Spider, name was originally McCormack but his mother remarried and not if he didn't think, wasn't bad enough to have a name Fabian but then he took the name Hodgney, and anyway he and I were at, at the church during Lent we used to have the holy day of obligations and we'd go in and serve the morning mass with the Father

and I, I guess three of us showed up that day and he only needed one altar boy so Spider and I sat on the side of the altar in one of the pews on the side of the altar and there were some Sunday missiles there and Spider would put the missiles together and build little pyramid there and then I'd knock 'em over and we'd giggle. Well right in the middle of the mass Father Barry turned to us and said leave the altar and so of course we did, and we went right off into the vestibule on the side where you robe and disrobe and we took our little altar boy robes off and we sat there and when he got done with mass he came there and he said what are boys doings here I told you boys to leave, I don't want to see you here again, and we left and then so that was it, and I went home and had to explain the situation to my mother who was a very stout Catholic, did not like it at all and Father Barry, Father Roberts who was the younger priest came over and talked to my father, my mother about me coming back to the altar cause see I had really been kicked off and/or relieved of my duties so to speak and so anyway my mother would nope she said no, if that's the way he acts, nope he's not gonna do it anymore so that was the end of my career as an altar boy and.

**Beverly Bishop:** How did that affect your belief systems?

**Ronald Theriault:** Well you know it's funny that you bring that up because I was very stout, a very strong Catholic, I went to every holy day of obligations as a young boy and everything and brought up in a Catholic family, my mother being a LaCroix and my father being a Theriault being very French and of course relatives from Canada, my grandmother was a school teacher up in Canada on my mother's side, she was a LaCroix and came from Three Rivers, Canada, no she came from Tinwick, I'm sorry outside of Quebec City and my father came from, his family came from Three Rivers and so but my mother and father were both born in the states buy my grandparents were Canadian, they were born in Canada and I remember you know every, the whole family was very religious and in the Catholic religion they, of course we all had our Godfathers and Godmothers and mostly Godparents I should say and, but when I took and went in the service of course I used to kneel with my mother and say the prayers and we would also (\_\_\_?-Spoken in Latin), that learn the Latin having been on the altar and then my mother would do the rosary and she would do it in French and I can remember there kneeling as a young boy

and being brought up to kneel by the bed and saying your prayers before you went to bed every night, well of course when you join the service it's kind of embarrassing to kneel in front of your bunks so you don't do it and then when it came Friday and I was aboard an aircraft carrier for two years and of course you had to eat what they serve or go without and there was no fish and I didn't understand it, plus also there was no on shore we would have chapels, and there would be a Catholic priest and of course be ministers and like that, and a lot of times but on the ship there was no Catholic priest or anything like so on Sunday they would have little sermons led by different people that were studying religion or studying to go into ministry, the ministry and I took and kind of got away from it, I kind of left it and then I started to think about different things about the religion and everything like that and this really probably shouldn't be on tape but.

**Beverly Bishop:** You want me to turn it off?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah.

Some good books are on the historical, "Historical Highlights of the Town of Hartford" by John W. St. Croix is a good reference on any background of White River and then John P. Gates who became principal of Hartford High School did a history from 1895 to 1963, and that's in a pamphlet form, it's very good and I'm a collector of year books. I have a year of Hartford High School called the Hartford Key, and yearbooks that go back to 1942. I have a, one for 1942, then I jump to 1946, and I have 1947, and I don't have '48, but I have 1949, 1950, '51, '52, '53, '54 and then skip cause I, that's when I graduated in '54 and then I have '56 that I, people have given me over a period of time and then I have, oh I have one from 1957 and then I have Briggs, gosh I forget his first name.

**Beverly Bishop:** David?

**Ronald Theriault:** David Briggs. Yeah, David Briggs gave me a pamphlet that they had of the Hartford High School Catamount that they made up one year in 1964.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yes.

**Ronald Theriault:** And then I have a bunch of future ones that people have given me.

**Beverly Bishop:** So the early one there you were looking at.

**Ronald Theriault:** 1942, what I, what I get the biggest kick out of Barbara.

**Beverly Bishop:** Beverly.

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

**Beverly Bishop:** This is the second side of the tape with Ronald, and we're just looking at the Hartford Key a 1942.

**Ronald Theriault:** Year book and what I enjoyed Beverly is looking at the old advertisements like here it's got congratulations kids IJ Davis Agency, that was an insurance agency here in White River back in the 40s and Brown Shoe Store and Raffaele Guarino's Grocery Store, the Halls Drug Store was on the corner there across from where the Polka Dot is today which the Polka Dot used to be called Walt's Diner, and then my father had a little quarter page ad here, no it was, I guess it's a sixth of a page, it's Teddy Hotel and Grill, clean, comfortable, good food, reasonable prices, White River Junction, Vermont. They didn't even put addresses and a lot of 'em didn't even put their phone numbers cause back then everybody knew everybody and you knew everything, you know, you didn't have to worry, but here's Summer & Summer Real Estate, White River Junction and they put their phone number in here, telephone 32 and I remember my father's telephone number and my brother when he took it over in 1949 after it burned down they rebuilt it and our telephone number there was 123, I shall never forget it, my home number was 891-J. I may not remember my service number, my Social Security number but boy I remember the numbers back in 1942.

There's a lot of business in here, the Brogal Brothers, they had a wholesale jewelry store and Wheeler Brothers Furnishings, Clothing and Shoes in White River, the Lyric Theater in White River Junction, JJ Newbury Company in White River Junction, Virginia's Beauty Shop, all branches of beauty culture, CL Parker who had plumbing and heating, sheet metal and I remember one of my school friends, as a matter of fact I took the young lady to junior prom was Shelia Parker, Shelia Holbrook and she, her father had the Junction House Restaurant down on South Main Street and down there was a bowling alley back in our days back in the '40s and '50s and the American Legion was upstairs over, I believe it was over the bowling alley and they eventually moved across the street to where they are today and then the VFW was up in back of



that today of course back of Miller, what used to be Miller, well it still is Miller Auto Company and I believe they just do a used car business there.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well can you tell me a little bit about your school days, your?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yes, yeah it, I think I already told you about the, you know the school being right across the street, right across Maple Street was the grammar school which is now the Municipal Building and then go across the other street which I, I, you know I, I can go look it up I think it's Pine Street anyway and that's where the Hartford High School was and there was a bandstand there, I remember the bandstand and that's all gone and it was right in back of Timmons Gulf Station which was across the street from my father's property where the Esso, Bell's Esso Station was.

I remember as the age of six I think it was yeah, let's see I was 19 – no, I was born, I was about seven or eight years old and I dressed up as Sam, as Uncle Sam I had an Uncle Sam uniform and I remember having a candle and the candle caught my fake beard on fire. I remember that but luckily it was put out in a hurry but I remember for dressing up as Uncle Sam and that was during the war years, so it had to be '41 or '42 and I remember getting a \$25.00 war bond which I kept for years and years, and I, I let a, I have a cousin Rector, Betty Rector married Dolly Rector, very prominent people in White River Junction she worked for Interstate Trust Company here in White River and she convinced me I ought to cash it in cause it wasn't gaining anymore but it was, it was the old Series E before the double E and that thing when I cashed it in was worth about, it was a \$25.00 war bond and I think I got something like thirty-eight or \$40.00 for it, but I shoulda held onto it because as a memento but for some reason I guess I was going through things, and I kept things a little bit too long and so I thought, but I did save a little booklet we used to have these little books that you would save ten cent stamps and I still have that booklet today and you, you used to buy the stamps for ten cents and when you filled this booklet I think it came to \$18.75 or something like that, or seventy cents, it had to be, must have had a round number and anyway you would trade it in for a war bond, that's what you paid for a \$25.00 war bond.

And let's see what else I can, I can remember the service men coming into my father's establishment and of course being a little boy all the patrons made a lot out of me, that was kind of a flattering thing as a young boy, of course some of 'em would drink too much and get intoxicated and I remember at the hotel we had a gentleman named Mr. Priest, last name was Priest and he used to come down every day and he stayed at the hotel and rooms were, for railroad men rooms were fifty cents a night, and for that you got a clean towel and you got a room with usually a bunk room with three or four other men and you'd have a sink there and if you had to use the lavatory, if you had to use the toilet you had to go down the hall and it was in the middle of the hallway and but anyway Mr. Priest was a tenant there at my father's place and he can, used to come down and eat regularly in the restaurant and one day he was very quiet over in a corner and all of a sudden he just slumped forward and died right there and then we had another elderly gentleman that was a, used to, was a long term tenant at the hotel and dad used to take him in there and he didn't, he wasn't seen for a day or so and my brother Larry had to go up and knock on the door and he didn't answer and we were concerned so they took, back then you only, one key fit all doors and he opened the door and the gentleman had passed away during the night in his sleep and then we had Leo Johnson and his son Leo Junior stayed at the hotel until Leo graduated in 1947 from Hartford High School but he was there for quite a few years, he'd lost his mother and he was with his father and he had two younger sisters who went to the orphanage but his father managed to take care of him and kept him right there at the hotel and this, like I say that was back in the '40s, early '40s until, Leo stayed there I believe until he left and he's now living down in New Bedminster, New Jersey, I happen to run across a piece of paper with Leo's name on it when I was helping the alumni association and I said I'll be darned Leo Johnson and I called him up and we made contacts and I even had a copy of the, his old year book, he'd lost his year book years ago in transit moving around from place to place and I sent him copies and he really appreciated it.

**Beverly Bishop:** Can you remember anything about school days during the war at all?

**Ronald Theriault:** No being young just the war bond drives I remember the drives and I remember saving, cigarettes came, cigarettes were seventeen cents a pack and George

DeNoyce was the gentleman in charge of vending machine for the town, he took care of vending machines and pinball machines and of course he had a cigarette machine and a weight machine in my father's restaurant and you put a penny in to get your weight and then the cigarette machine the cigarettes were only seventeen cents and people were, they, they couldn't take pennies in a vending machine they would only take dimes and quarters and silver so I remember he had a machine that would actually stuff the sleeve the cellophane of the envelope with two or three pennies so when they were seventeen cents he did three pennies and when the price went to eighteen cents he put in two pennies and I remember sitting in the restaurant and he would have rolls of pennies and he would stuff those things with this little machine it would slit the cellophane and then drop it in and people would buy 'em and of course they would just take the wrappers and fold 'em up and not care about the pennies and I used to go around collecting all the pennies and I remember on Sundays when we were closed after church dad would have to go in the restaurant to clean up or do something and let the cleaning people in and I remember going all the booths and I would search and lift up the seats of the booths and collect all change that fell out of the patron's pockets. I remember doing that and dad would let me keep the coins.

And the weight machine my friends were with me one day and dad wasn't around and I remember one of the friends pushing the weight machine to one side and we noticed if we slid it from side to side and we jiggled it side to side pennies would fall out the bottom, we were kinda little crooked back then and we would take the pennies, and I was right in with the best of 'em.

So anyway I remember the, the service men of course coming through town and stopping over at the station and I remember individuals that lived in town. I remember Johnson, Connie Johnson, Conrad Johnson was the Chief of Police and Alfonzo Guarino was one of the deputies and some of the other gentlemen.

Oh, I remember this was quite the, quite the thing there was a, a Henry Levitt, and a nice gentleman and in the wintertime it would be very, very cold and at this time I was eighteen years old and I was helping my brother work in the bar and I was at Hartford High School until nineteen and so I would, after I was a junior or senior in high school and I, I would help him on weekends and nights and I remember old Henry Levitt all bundled up in the wintertime cold as blazes

outside and of course inside we were filled with smoke, they didn't have a no smoking ban, didn't know cigarettes were bad for your health back then and the place would be jumping and old Henry would just stand out there and look in and my brother would finally notice him looking in the big bay windows there and back then you had to keep your windows open if you sold liquor so I don't know what happened, apparently the laws in Vermont changed cause now I notice the Rap has black windows, you can't look inside from outside, but old Henry Levitt, back to that story, he would stand outside to look at my brother and my brother would say here and he'd pour a shot of whiskey, and he'd give it to me, he'd say take this in the kitchen and put it on a butcher block and I'd, I'd say what, what are you talking about, and he'd say just do what I told you, so I'd take the shot of whiskey and I'd go to the back and I'd put it on a butcher block then I'd come back out and I'd work for another ten, fifteen minutes and my brother would say okay go get the empty glass and I'd say what empty glass and he'd say the empty glass you put on the butcher block and I'd go back there and sure enough there was an empty glass and old Henry there would go around the block down by the Polka Dot and come in the back door of the kitchen, and that would be his little toddy there to keep him warm through the cold winter nights.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did he have a home or?

**Ronald Theriault:** Oh yeah, of course he was a policeman.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh.

**Ronald Theriault:** He was the town cop, he was patrolling the, yeah he was patrolling the, the, the, the streets.

**Beverly Bishop:** Oh I see.

**Ronald Theriault:** Oh well when you say did he have a home, I remember my father when he had the diner during the Depression you know in 1928 when he had the diner, men would come in you know looking for work, you know they'd do anything, sweep floors or anything, and my brother Larry tells me that of all the men that came in nobody was ever turned away.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Ronald Theriault:** They always got a bowl of hot soup and a sandwich. Remember back then my father had to take the tomato ketchup off the counter because the bums would come in and

ask for a cup of hot water and then, and then they would take the tomato ketchup and put it in the hot water to make themselves a little nourishment and let's see what else.

**Beverly Bishop:** So school did you?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you want to talk a little bit about your school experience?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, I, I was, I started the first grade with a bunch of people as a matter of fact I made a list of some of 'em that I started in the first grade with, there was Richard, Dick Cosingham, and he was a, of the black race, the only one we had at that time, well there was a Cosinghams and the Brooks and I remember the Brooks and the Cosinghams, and let's see and they lived up in the campgrounds up in Tafts Flat going towards Wilder, and, and there was Jimmy Packard and Jimmy Packard was quite a musician and I saw Jimmy just a few years ago. He's deceased now. He passed away and but Jimmy used to play at my brother's place when my brother brought in entertainment, my father didn't, my father had juke boxes, he didn't have live entertainment, but when my brother rebuilt the Teddy's Grill, Teddy's Bar and Grill he brought in entertainment. He used to bring entertainers up from Boston and New York and they, he'd put 'em up in town usually over at the Coolidge and then they would entertain on Thursday, on a weekend, Friday, Saturday, Friday -- Thursday, Friday and Saturday night like that, three nights I believe.

**Beverly Bishop:** Excuse me, I'm just curious about the campground, they lived at the campground?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, we called it the campgrounds in Wilder.

**Beverly Bishop:** They weren't camping?

**Ronald Theriault:** No, no, they lived there, it, it was a, a religious organization that had the campgrounds down there and the families lived down there, as a matter of fact I think the Sullivans moved in later on and lived down there in that area and it was right in back of the cemetery there in Tafts Flat going towards Wilder there's a large cemetery right by Knight's Funeral Home, and there is a road there and that road goes down to the campgrounds, had buildings down there and that's where a lot of the people lived.

Anyway other classmates I had were John McKenny, Sabino or Sammy Romano, Samancho Kat, and of course myself, Ralph Healy, John Pippin whose uncle was Buster Pippin who owned the Gateway Motors which today is still existing and doing selling Fords and John's father was Eddie Pippin who was a brother to Buster, and then there was Lois Hunt was in the class, I believe a Walter Wilt was in the class and Jerry Terino, Claudette Botan I think was in a class, Neil Carpenter, Leon Jacobs, Brigham Stone I know was in it, and a girl named Nancy Love Davis, middle name was Love, and then there was Richard Pollius who used to work for the Post Office, and worked for the Post Office for years, as a matter of fact passed, he died of a heart attack right as he was on the floor at the Post Office up here in White River.

And I was telling Beverly earlier about the Airport Road up there on the hill here in White River which used to be the airport, there used to be a private airport up there that later became a drive-in theater and they had Marion's Drive-in eating place there and Frank Gilman bought a bunch of that property up there. Frank Gilman who started out, Frank had many businesses as a matter of fact I think he even had a couple of times where he had to claim bankruptcy, I think he was in the auto business, and I know he had Green Mountain, where he made his money was in Green Mountain Lumber Company and he and his daughter now have a Gilman, well I, I forget what he calls his business but he's a very, very nice gentleman, he and his daughter Brenda and they donate, I believe story is last year they donated over \$600,000.00 to scholarships. I think he came from Bethel, Royalton, up in that area and he gives scholarships to that school and to Hartford High School and which is very, very nice.

**Beverly Bishop:** I've heard of the Gilman Trust would that be?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, that would be Frank, yes, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** Okay.

**Ronald Theriault:** And his wife was Olive, Olive Gilman, very good friends of my parents of Grace and Teddy Theriault, yeah.

**Beverly Bishop:** And he still leases all that land?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yes, yep, yeah, he does, as a matter of fact he's got land in Florida that he leases to the Post Office, United States Post Office and came down there one time with Olive and

stopped by in St. Petersburg when my father was living and I was there with my father at the time and we all went out to dinner and Olive and he and myself.

**Beverly Bishop:** What do you remember about, I mean hearing about like the railroads and how it affected White River, I mean how it?

**Ronald Theriault:** Remember, one thing I remember lived right over there where the railroad trestle is that goes across Maple Street and railroad used to go by there and there was an embankment there and of course in the wintertime it would be snow and then I remember the trains would give off a soot and that would be like sooted snow, I, I always thought snow came speckled because of all that soot I used to have to see as a young child and the trains used to go by there and I think I already mentioned in the part one of the tape about the billboards that they had up there and going back there and hiding and the kids smoking cigarettes.

What I remember was that a lot of the, back then there were porters and oh, my father as a matter of fact his diners originally were Pullman cars and they were made by a, a division that made diners out of these Pullman cars and they, you'd see the rounded roofs like they were at the, like they were at the train station and they were diners.

**Beverly Bishop:** Did you get, did you ever use it for transportation?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yes, yep, as a matter of fact when I joined the service, I joined the Navy and that was back in '54, 1954 and that's the only way the Navy transported you around they didn't fly you, they transported you around, I went from White River down to Boston and Springfield, Mass. was where I believe I was indoctrinated into the Navy, then from, took the physical and then from there I went from train down to Bainbridge, Maryland and for boot camp, and then after boot training I went out to Norman, Oklahoma to aeronautics school and again by train, I remember that and then from there and then after I did my instructions there at that school then I went to Naval School Photography in Pensacola, Florida, and that was really my first taste of Florida and boy I fell in love with it, I got sand in my shoes as they say and then I came back to Vermont and I went to the Cambridge School of Radio and Television in Boston for a year and then from there I went to UVM up in Burlington, and my father then was living in Florida in '59 and his wife had passed away, Doris Rogers of cancer and I took and went down there cause he told, I was, I, I

paid \$1,800.00 which would be probably a couple, one month today at a college but I paid \$1,800.00 to, to room and board at University of Vermont, I lived at Wills Halls in Burlington on the college campus and my father said why don't you go, there's a junior college right here in St. Petersburg and you can go there and stay here with me and I checked into it, and it was \$70.00 a semester tuition so for \$140.00 a year I could stay there with my father and so I utilized the GI Bill and so I went to the junior college and I met my wife to be and Margaret Steely and got married and I moved over to Tampa where I attended the University of South Florida and got my degree there in Bachelor of Arts in marketing. Then anyway that's the history of me more than a history of White River Junction.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well, that's fine, no, we, we want to hear about you.

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah I raised three children in Florida and two of them are still living there, one in Newport Ritchie and he's a vice president stockbroker with Smith Barney, and my daughter married a stockbroker and she lives in Tarpon Springs. He lives, my son lives in Newport Ritchie and her in Tarpon Springs, although they're two different counties one's in Pasco County and the other one's in Dells County but they're only a mile and a half apart from each other and my home's originally was in St. Petersburg and now I live up on the Suwannee River in a place called Old Town, Florida, not to be confused by you tourists that go down to Florida to Disney World there's a development called Old Town but that's not where I live, that's a development. I live in the actual town of Old Town in Dixie County that ought to tell you something about the good old boys, you know the term of red necks how they got their name from the bandanas they used to wear around their neck causing a, in the summertime causing a sweat and red necks but there I call 'em the good old boys and they really are, they're nice people, really nice and I love it down there. I, I moved down in, as I say to Florida in 1960, so I been down there forty-four years the date today being September 24th, 190 -- I mean 2004.

**Beverly Bishop:** You got a test.

**Ronald Theriault:** I know it, Beverly, you're telling me.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now where's the third child?



**Ronald Theriault:** He's out in Texas. Yeah, and he designs swimming pools, he's very artistic, and he got into art and wasn't making much money doing that, he was going to college, all three of them, I'm very proud all three of my children graduated from college and my daughter went to FIT up in New York City, which is a division of New York, New York University and Fashion Institute of Technology, and my other son graduated from Gainesville, Florida he's a gator, and the other boy graduated from the University of South Florida that I did and he's a bull.

**Beverly Bishop:** A bull?

**Ronald Theriault:** A bull, a Braham, bull Braham is our mascot, Braham bull and he lives out in Texas and designs swimming pools, does very well, he's a director of marketing for a pool outfit out there and doing very well so.

**Beverly Bishop:** And you were and after you graduated from?

**Ronald Theriault:** After, I graduated from high school in 19 -- I graduated in, I was really started out in the class of '53 but in the second grade I always tell people I couldn't color between the lines but what it was actually was I had whooping cough, measles, chicken pox, mumps, I had 'em all right within a year and a half, I just kept getting everything, everything that was out there I caught it that year and so I stayed back in the second grade. I remember my first grade teacher Mrs. Rector and I remember forming chairs and, and her husband was a railroad man, he was on or her brother was a railroad man, I take it back and he, they would, we would sit in these chairs and simulate a, a train and we'd have a conductor and we would play railroad station and things like that. I remember that in first grade.

Then the second grade was Mrs. Scully and that's the grade I stayed back in second grade and then I had Mrs. Fumagalle for my second year in the second grade and then I went on third grade I believe was Mrs. Payne, and then fourth grade was Mrs. Farmer, fifth grade, oh that was fifth grade, and I think then Mr. Dolney he was the principal of the grammar school and he was a sixth grade teacher and then from there I went onto Hartford High School where Mr. Gates was a teacher then and Mr. Frattis was the principal and then Mr. Frattis went on to be superintendent and then Mr. Gates became principal and anyway when I left in '54 then I was gone four years in the service and got out '58 and then I was here for a short time helping my brothers, my brother

Norman with Norman's Spa and my other brother Teddy and my mother had taken over the sporting goods store after they, my mother and father divorced she took over the sporting goods store and I would help her in that cause I had done that as a young, as a younger boy so I basically started working for the family at age fourteen, fifteen and was a good, good development.

**Beverly Bishop:** And what did you do after college?

**Ronald Theriault:** Then, then I graduated from college I was working for Sears, first when I went to Florida I remember walking the streets trying to get a job and I couldn't get a job down there and I, I wanted a part-time job cause I wanted to go to school and I went down in 19, September 1960 and Hurricane Donna had just gone through and raised havoc with Florida and fortunately dad's little house on Central Avenue in St. Petersburg didn't have any damage at all, just a lot of tree limbs and lot of debris and so I, I took and I wanted I couldn't start school then, I couldn't start it until the next term I was too late to, to join that term so I took and I went to looking for work and I didn't have a car or anything and I could use my father's but I was mainly trying to find something right there, he was right near Central Plaza so I applied there and then there was an advisement for, they were looking for a, I went to these people that put you in jobs and they couldn't help me at all and so I saw an ad or somebody told me about they wanted somebody to process x-ray films at Saint Anthony's Hospital, well here's where I use my little Catholic boy routine and met with a nun and of course informed her I was a Catholic boy and I was photographer, aerial photographer for the Navy, and I could process films and I knew all about sodium sia (?) sulfite and all the chemical short stops and all that everything and she said okay, and I would go to work at six in the morning and the day she hired me I went home and there was a call from Montgomery Wards and they wanted me too to work there, so I worked it out with them so that I went to work at the hospital at six in the morning and cause you had to get ready for the doctor when he came in at seven and between seven and eight he would start throwing films at you, and so I would go in and work from six to three there, forty hours a week and I got \$40.00, I made a dollar an hour and my take home pay was \$36.00, thirty-six and change so \$3.00 and something for taxes and Social Security, whatever and so I worked there and until

three then I got off at three and then I went to Wards and I worked from five to nine at Montgomery Wards then whenever I had time off I was at the beach. I remember going down there in September which was at the end of their summer really and in the middle of September and I'd go to the beaches and hardly anybody was there especially in February, I would swim in February when others wouldn't cause I was used to the Spruce Brook and swimming up here in Lake Mascoma and then I went to and then that winter in January I started St. Petersburg Junior College and so I had to give up the job at the hospital at the x-ray department and which by the way the nuns were after 1:00 there wasn't much to do for a couple of hours so the nuns had me taking class from being an x-ray technician and which was quite interesting and I did that but I decided that wasn't my cup of tea, I didn't want to do that.

So I liked the sales part of Montgomery Wards better and so I did that and then I met my bride to be and we got married in February of '63 and I, we moved to Tampa and there I attended University of South Florida, got my degree in marketing and I went to work for GTE, General Telephone Electronics in their telephone division and I worked for them for twenty-three years and retired and I, I managed to accumulate a couple homes in my works and my dealings and so I rent those out and that's my income and I bought land now up on the Suwannee River, up off the Suwannee River up in Old Town.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now you get back here every once in awhile?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yes, yeah, I come up to White River, I, I started coming up for class reunions after I retired and got this, made a lot on my own.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you --

**Ronald Theriault:** I graduated in 1954 and that year I was on the year book staff because of my interest in photography I was in charge of photographs and I, to the other members of the class I, of the staff I mean of the year book staff I suggested that we, on the advisements that we would take pictures of the different establishment and we'd incorporate students into the pictures and that way I felt like we could sell more ads, bigger ads and for more money, and they thought that was a good idea and so that's what I did and the ones that participated of course was my brother Norman with Norman's Spa, my father Teddy's Sports Center, we had the S & H Green Stamp

Store which many people probably won't, will remember if you're an old timer and then we had Terino's Market and with my cousin Vincent Agan worked there and Kathie Terino, and then we had Goules Atlantic Station in Wilder and we had Aher Brothers and I would incorporate the different students I had Betty Jamison and Mr. Aher in the picture and then Office Supply Center where Cal, Carl Beard who is a previous graduate of Hartford High School and two of our class members, George Gothier and Lucille Twist.

**Beverly Bishop:** So you, you took all these photographs?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, I took every one of these and then had 'em printed up.

**Beverly Bishop:** And, and you set, set the stage and everything for them?

**Ronald Theriault:** Oh yeah, yeah I would have everybody pose and I'd, and I'd have, either sometimes the owner would be in it sometimes they'd have a helper in it, like Jay's Shoe Store which is right in my father's, my brothers' block there and had he right in it, Mr. Chalmers, Jay Chalmers and Gloria Barnes and also Arden Martin and the one picture I put myself in was David Pierce Studio because I had, being my interest in photography I became quite good friends with Mr. Pierce and his son Junior and so me and Herbert Willard went up to Hanover and we sat a camera on a tripod so we could get in it and so that's the only picture I was in the advisements cause I wanted to be in there with the Pierces, cause I, of course I learned a lot about photography from them while I was doing this project and became quite interested in it and as a matter of fact thought I was going to have a career in it, but I made more money in sales than I did in that so I, I, when I went to work for Montgomery Wards I was put in the camera department selling cameras and then of course I, when I left Montgomery Wards which was in St. Petersburg and I moved to Tampa, Florida and to go to college and I worked for Sears & Roebuck and they automatically put me right back in the camera department and matter of fact I became a manager, division manager for Sears & Roebuck and they really wanted me to stay on but the retailing was long hours and weekends and then they started opening up on Sundays and I kind of wanted an eight to five Monday through Friday job and I went with General Telephone Electronics when I got my degree in marketing.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yep. That's quite, that's really a beautiful book.

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, yeah we --

**Beverly Bishop:** With all those beautiful pictures.

**Ronald Theriault:** We did a, we did quite a job on it and of course my brother got, we didn't want to take a picture of the bar so we have an out, exterior view of that and on the corner of Main Street in White River there right across from the Lyric, kiddy corner to the Lyric Theater and White River Paper Company at the time.

**Beverly Bishop:** Now the Lyric Theater is what now?

**Ronald Theriault:** Right now it's office buildings there. It's right besides --

**Beverly Bishop:** Okay.

**Ronald Theriault:** It's right between the library, the public library in White River and the, what used to be the White River Paper Company.

**Beverly Bishop:** Okay.

**Ronald Theriault:** But now they're all different offices and businesses.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yeah.

**Ronald Theriault:** Existing today.

**Beverly Bishop:** So are there any more in there that spark, spark your memory?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, the Woodard's Garage I remember, oh there was a big fight when I did the cars, when I did Gateway Motors and when I did, there was Gateway Motors and there was Woodard's Garage and let's see and oh Vermont Miller Auto Company and all the boys wanted to be in the cars, they all wanted to be in those and so as you'll notice Dick Wood and Joe Milassi was Vermont Gateway and Stanley Jackson and Sandy Shaddock, Sally Shaddock got in on Miller Auto Company but Dick Woodard and Joe were Ford boys back then they all, they liked Fords, they thought Fords were the car of the day and so of course they were my best friends so they got to be in the Vermont Gateway ad and the other one Woodard's Garage was Sonny Romano and Herbert Willard. I'm surprised I didn't have George Woodard in it himself, he was a young boy in a class behind us but I got the clerks Virginia Hill was working at The Corner Drug Store which was The Corner Drug Store is no longer on a corner anymore but it still exists in White River, it's over by the P & C grocery store on the other side of the river what used to be

Halls Drug Store became The Corner Drug and it was right across the street from the Polka Dot Restaurant so anyway I got people from outside Newbridge Restaurant was involved in the pictures and Renehan Acres and we had First National Bank and of course right besides them was Interstate Trust Company and where my cousin worked.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well it sounds like you really did a bang up job with that book?

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah, we really –

**Beverly Bishop:** Must have made you very proud.

**Ronald Theriault:** Yeah and today I'm a collector of yearbooks like I say I have all these yearbooks and looking for more.

**Beverly Bishop:** Yes. Well I really thank you for this wonderful interview. I can see the tape is coming to an end here so maybe this is a good place to, to stop at least for now.

**Ronald Theriault:** Beverly I thank you for the opportunity and cause the reminiscing is something I really like and as Pat Stark and Mrs. Nadeau and the others will tell you I, I, I really, I like history of the White River and brings back old memories and my roots are really here.

**Beverly Bishop:** You're def –

**Ronald Theriault:** I might be a Flordian today but my roots are here.

**Beverly Bishop:** Well you're definitely into it, that's for sure, full of history. Thank you so much.

**Ronald Theriault:** Thank you.

(The tape ended.)