

Speakers: George “Rusty” Locke, Ann Sprague, and Coralie Dickinson
Interviewers: Matthew Gunby and Linda Hough.
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MG: Where you were at the time any other information you'd like to share about where you sort of were in 1968 and then sort of go from there. We do have some prompts if those end up being helpful, ideally we won't have to use any of them since neither of us were there so we know the least of anyone in the room about Meredith in 1968.

AS: You probably weren't even a twinkle in your daddy's eye. [Laughter]

MG: Nope. All right. Whoever would like to start please feel free.

GL: My name is George Rusty Locke, I live here in Meredith. 11 Chase Road. I've lived here since 1980 I believe it was. At the time, in 1968 I was a radio announcer with WLNH Radio in Laconia and my story has something to do with that. Did you want to go around?

MG: Sure, yeah.

CD: [Laughter]. My name is Coralie Dickinson – Linda – they call me Linda. I live in Meredith up on Philbrook Avenue. I don't know how many years it's been 40 something years there. But in '68 I lived down on Meredith Neck. The old Whitney place, my husband was a caretaker there. It's right on the water. It was nice. I had three kids by then – ooh. [Laughter].

AS: My name is Ann Sprague and I was born and raised in Meredith. Well, technically I was born in Laconia Hospital. My family has been here for 200 years since the early 1800s. In 1968 – in the summer of 1968 I believe is when we actually celebrated the Bicentennial, I was between seventh and eighth grades.

MG: Great, so, we'll just start with a very general question. What do you remember about the town of Meredith's 200th Anniversary Celebration?

LH: We can start with George.

GL: Sure, again, I was 25 in 1968. I was the morning drive man at WLNH. I'd just been married and was starting my second year at the radio station. It was about ten o' clock in the morning I recall on that particular day. When I looked out the window, where the studio was and I saw a couple of gentlemen coming in through the door with long muskets and tricornered hats coming into the station. I thought, this is wonderful I wonder what all of this is about. Before I had a chance to turn around, they busted right into the studio and they were gonna hold WLNH kidnapped until they returned the Meredith Pound. Now, for those who don't know, in the early 1700, 1800, and 1900s most small towns and villages in New England and perhaps elsewhere had what they called a 'Town Pound.' It was a place where if a farmer's animal happened to wander away during the day they could be stored in this pound until the farmers came to pick them up – goats, sheeps, cows, horses, whatever, pigs got loose. Meredith had its town pound but

it was probably closer to Laconia at the time. As most people know, Laconia at one time was called Meredith Bridge. The town of Meredith and the town of Laconia at the town line somehow got moved somewhat so that the Meredith Town Pound was in I believe in the town of Laconia and directly across from the WLNH radio studios which is off the corner of Pickerel Pond Road and Parade Road. Of course, nobody was serious about kidnapping us all or that sort of thing, but it was the 200th anniversary and I think it was a way to bring attention to the town and just to what was going on to the celebration that was happening that particular year. I never was worried although I did wonder whether the muskets were loaded or not. I asked them about it. The gentleman that was there – it might have even been your dad possibly [said to Anne Sprague, sitting across from him] they were very nervous and embarrassed young men, because they didn't -- here they were bursting into a radio station and that sort of thing there. It was a fun time. It was an enjoyable time. I know the listeners got a kick out of it because we got a lot of phone calls about that happening. 1968 was a watershed year for an awful lot of things in this country. A lot of things went wrong, a lot of things went right. And the 200th Anniversary of Meredith was one of the things I think that they got right. That's it.

LH: Thank you.

AS: I brought with me a -- I know this an Oral History so you can't see it. Show and tell. This was my father's Bicentennial Tricorned hat [Anne holds up the hat]. If they were young then, they probably wouldn't have been my father because by then he was probably 50 something. I remember. I don't remember a lot from the Bicentennial because I was such a young lass at the time, but I do remember, in seventh grade – we – finished we did one through six at the Humiston School on Main Street then you went up to the high school and that had grades seven through twelve, and we started having classes like Home Economics and we learned how to sew. For the Bicentennial – the girls sewed their Bicentennial outfits. So we all sewed these dirndl skirts – gingham and with a little white lace around the bottom. That was part of our costume for the parade and what have you for the summer. I don't still have that but I distinctly remember it was red with tiny little flowers on it.

LH: Were you in the parade?

AS: I'm sure I was because we had a Children's Parade. I'm sure I was still considered a child at 12 or 13 and I know a friend of mine who's moved down south sent a picture that I put on our Facebook page and he was in it and they were all really little kids. It's funny because they had these hats on like that show on Hulu the Handmaid's Tale, you know white. That's my memory of the Bicentennial. The other thing I remember about the Bicentennial was the men had a beard contest to grow the longest beard or whatever.

GL: It's funny that you bring that up because Laconia was having its 275th Anniversary about the same time and one of the things we were doing was growing beards. Up until that time I was completely clean shaven always had been most of my life and I sprouted this bright red beard and I sort of kept it. It fit in with the personality and it looked ok. It's funny that you should bring that up cause that was the time that I began to grow my beard too. Funny story about that, a couple years after I shaved it off once. I wanted to see what I looked like with my beard off. My children panicked. I have nine kids I have four from one marriage and five from another. My

four kids from the first marriage went ballistic. They thought it was somebody else who had come into the room and they were crying. That's what I remembered.

LH: Do you remember anyone else who participated in Brothers of the Brush?

AS: Is that what it was called? Brothers of the Brush?

MG: We've seen some news clippings about it, yeah.

LH: There was a softball game as well involved with it.

GL: I think Warren Clements in Laconia. Warren Clements used to run the Sundial Shop in Laconia. I believe he had started a beard then. I believe there were a couple of other people.

AS: That's Laconia.

GL: That's Laconia right.

AS: It probably would have been their 175th or whatever because they broke away in 1855, I think.

GL: You're absolutely right, yes I think it was their 175th. I stand corrected [Laughter].

AS: Because they were part of Meredith and then they separated so they would be younger than us.

[Church bell ringing].

CD: My memories are, cause my mother and father are gone now, they lived on Plymouth Street. My mother had made a dress for my daughter. That's Debbie. [Pointing at Photography of a young Debbie in a period dress pushing a baby carriage] She's a cop now. I still have that carriage and there's a doll in it with the same outfit. My sister, who was in the parade, Melody, has one and my brother – she made their outfits. Her outfit was the same as my daughters. My mother made all those. Debbie don't like that picture.

GL: Don't they call those Mother Hubbard hats, is that a name they use? Mother Hubbard hats? Look at that that's beautiful [Laughter].

CD: Cause she used to sew a lot. Then she wasn't because she was working all the time, but I was amazed that she was able to do that. We still have the doll with the outfit on still.

AS: Oh, you should bring it into the – here in the [Meredith] Historical Society.

CD: She was wondering if anybody know who was behind her. She wouldn't remember anyways. She couldn't tell who that was. I don't think Debbie marched in the parade she was in the Children's Parade or something. And then I remember them in the ballpark, because they

were walking through the ballpark we had a good spot because my mother lived right there in Plymouth Street in that apartment building right below Valliere's. That's what I remember, I remember the parade. It was good. It was good. I remember it was hot too I think.

AS: Hopefully it won't be too hot for this year's parade.

CD: Yeah.

LH: Do you remember any specific floats or anything that stuck out in your mind.

CD: No, just the Hart's one and the one with all the little kids on it.

AS: Yeah the Hart's one was made up to look like a turkey.

CD: They used to have the ice races on the ice. I don't know what year it was but I rode the racer because my husband had one. I remember going into the snowbanking and -- like crashing -- and I couldn't get out they had to get me out. Take me down off the banking while they fell, they fell while they were pulling me up -- whatever. [Laughter]. I don't like to remember that.

GL: You know I recall the closing of St. Charles Borromeo right here on Main Street in Meredith. Correct me on this. I think it was about fifteen years ago? Do you recall that? Does it ring a bell with anybody?

AS: What was it?

GL: Saint Charles Borromeo. The place where Church's Landing is now used to be Saint Charles.

AS: Oh yeah.

GL: Saint Charles had a long history in Meredith beginning in the 1800s and I'm not sure exactly the late 1800s I believe and there were about six or seven pastors right here in town that were in that church. They closed of course. I remember the Saturday night mass was the last mass they did. I remember standing outside of the church and looking at it and one of the older ladies who had been a communicant for many many years there. She came up and they closed the door and they locked it and she just put her head down and wept against the door seeing the closing of the church. It meant a lot a great deal to a lot of people in town. Now of course, Saint Charles has moved a little up route 25. It's a beautiful area now. It's gorgeous a great church. A really beautiful thing. And they've done such a good job over there with Church Landing.

CD: Now they do the BaccaLaureate over there. They used to do it at the Saint Charles up here. Cause a couple of my kids went there and my grandchildren went to the other one.

AS: For so long they didn't have -- while they were raising funds -- the church was just the basement.

GL: It was only the basement of the church, right. What had happened was, they wanted to, in fact I was there I think it was Father Pichette dug a first bit of dirt in from of the old church there because they were going to put a bathroom upstairs and all kinds of things were going to go in up there, well the zoning unfortunately they couldn't grandfather it and they were unable to do that and that was one of the reasons why the church didn't stay there. Who could complain it's a good place now, love going there worshipping there. Good church.

CD: Well, Father Bosa was the priest there for many years a long time ago and the Stations of the Cross that were so beautiful in the church, I don't know if they're Sacristy or something up at the new church.

GL: They moved them to the chapel at the new church those have been handmade and they were beautiful beautiful and they're still there which is attached to the new church now.

MG: One question we have is were there any people or personalities you remember specifically around the 200th that may have contributed a large part to the preparations for it or wore particularly interesting costumes just was memorable in some way?

AS: I don't remember.

CD: I was too busy raising kids. [Laughter].

AS: Well, I think the Dever Family. I remember seeing pictures of Joe Dever. I think he was one of the men of the bush or whatever it was called.

GL: Was Bob Montana around then at that point? In 68? Was he involved; because I wasn't here I was a Laconia boy, so I didn't know.

LH: He was very involved, yes.

GL: Yeah.

AS: Yeah I remember Ray who was the third oldest son of Bob and Mrs. Montana, we were born on the same day at Laconia Hospital. My mother would say she had heard Ray's first cry – first scream or cry. Yeah, I don't remember them as – as I said I was younger relatively speaking, so I don't remember them for all they talk about the Village Players. That was before my time if you will, but then they went away, I think they lived in England but then they came back some time around that time. I don't know exactly when.

CD: I'm wondering if maybe Bob Valliere had something to do with it too because he was involved in a lot.

AS: Well I'm sure, you know, in a small community you've got a few people that. With many things there a few people that do all of the work. In a small town there are some people that take leadership roles. Some of the old town fathers and that we recall. Because Bob Valliere he had gas station next to my dad's here on Main Street.

GL: And those two ladies are running the barber shop now, didn't their dad – wasn't their dad involved?

CD: Jim Rule.

AS: Jim Rule was. The Rule Family.

GL: I always go there for my haircut.

CD: Bobby, Joe, or France maybe.

GL: I wish I knew more about the town because I've come to love it over the last thirty five thirty six years I've come to love this town as my town. I was born to wander and I did many many towns before I finally got here. It's the longest I've ever lived in any town my whole life.

AS: I was one of those people who went away and came back. That was the first thing I wanted to do. One of the first things I did when I got out UNH was get out of Meredith. [Laughter].

GL: What brought you back though? Here again? What was it?

AS: Well, my mom died. I came back, I was living and working in Washington D.C.

GL: The old Beltway!

AS: I came back with the idea that I'd just come back for a year or two to make sure dad was ok and then I never left.

GL: Is the pace of this town slow do you think? Because small New England towns are thought to be kind of slow kind of reserved. Did you ever get that impression? Did you ever think that about this town?

AS: Well it's a lot different then what it used to be so I'd say the pace has picked up a little bit.

GL: I think it has too.

AS: When I was in high school, I think there was like 1700 people who lived here and now there's over 6000.

GL: Really?

AS: Mmhhh. Big town now.

CD: In the summer I would say I hate Meredith in the summertime.

GL: Usually we'll smile and say 'Hi, leave your money and go home!'

CD: Yeah welcome to Meredith now go home.

AS: It's a beautiful town and all the things and changes that's been made has made it into a beautiful place and I guess we just have to consider ourselves fortunate that we live here and welcome the – I know that I always appreciated growing up in what became a tourist town because that gave me an opportunity to work. You know we were raised to you work hard, you get an education, and you get a job and that type of thing. To be able to waitress at night and work at a gift shop during the day enabled me to put myself through college.

GL: Wow, yeah.

AS: Working six days a week two jobs and in the summertime for several years and back then you could afford to go to college and fortunately ended up when I graduated not having the debt. I don't know if kids also see it that way these days. I always joke you know I could have been brought up in like Danbury or something like that where there were really no opportunities to work. Where here there are opportunities to work and make a living for a teenager.

GL: One thing I've noticed about the town of Meredith over the last fifty years it's become a place where events are held. For example, the Fishing Derby. When does the Fishing Derby start? Does anybody know when that began? Ann?

AS: Oh god. Decades and decades ago.

GL: But of course we've got the Pond Hockey thing that has come up that draws a lot of people into the town. The town has become more not exclusively a summertime place although people do come here for that -- I think people come here for all seasons too in the town with the ice and the ice fishing I've even seen ice boats out on Meredith Bay. I remember the funny story. I forget when it was. It was a winter I think it was ten or fifteen years ago the lake was as clear as it could be and it was January and I saw a bob house sailing down Meredith Bay. The wind had picked it up and just pushed it along, opened the door, and there it was going. I was thinking to myself gee I hope there is nobody inside that bob house. They're gonna find themselves over at Alton Bay if they're not careful. It's become a seasonal – a multiseasonal town – that's one of the good things going for it and why a lot of people come here is because of that. It hasn't turned into a -- I hate to use the word -- a 'tourist' trap. I don't want to belittle the Weirs, but the Weirs has the tendency to look like how do you say it like something – I don't even want to say it.

CD: Like it looks now getting ready for motor cycle weekend?

GL: [Laughter]. That's another thing of course with the Harley Davidson place up on the hill. A lot of bikes and bikers are here.

AS: I think that we have a well-run town with people that are involved on all of the boards and the commissions and the community development officer. They oversee things and people aren't going to build some crazy ugly thing because they have to conform to rules and regulations. There are a reason why they have them.

CD: I haven't been going to the alumni banquets for many many years. My sister started going and I started going. They do a fantastic job.

AS: Yes, thank you. I just stopped. I've been the president for the last four years. It's my first year not as president and it's 200 people that come now.

CD: The first scholarship, Miss Lee's scholarship. My granddaughter got it. Two years later my other granddaughter got it.

AS: Oh well congratulations, wow.

GL: Wow.

AS: It used to be held up near the high school cafeteria but then it got to be just too many people. There were a lot. There were too many people so we couldn't hold it. So, it's at Church Landing these past several years. That's kind of a fun thing.

CD: I know my brother – I don't know what year it was – but he came home from California to go to his fiftieth.

AS: Yep.

GL: You know, the town is always changing for the better too I think. A lot of things are done. The rotary up there at the top of the hill by McDonalds.

AS: The roudabout! It's not a rotary it's a roundabout.

GL: The roundabout is a brilliant piece of traffic. A lot of people that I know dislike roundabouts immensely, but I think that's a great thing up there. It works well. I think putting a lot of time and effort into changing the traffic pattern here down by the docks and a lot of effort did go into that a lot of thinking did go into that and one thing I wanted to ask – does anybody know if they're going to fix that little gazebo that sort of leaned over there by Church Landing. Have you noticed that? Did you notice that gazebo over there? During this winter, it got [smacks hands together] look at it the next time you go by it's actually tipped to one side, but that has nothing to do with this I was just curious if anybody knew what was going on.

AS: Well, we owned the property right there at the corner where Parade Road came out to Route 3, my parents bought it in 1950. It was Reed's Garage. There was a house and a garage there and that's where my father had his bus business. We saw so many accidents of people trying to pull out of Parade Road or what they now call Route 106 out onto Route 3. It was a very dangerous intersection. Then it was equally amusing watching the roundabout being built to see how many people getting used to it – they didn't know it was there they got used to it. They came up and hit their car on the side of the ramp. Of course a roundabout, when there's a lot of traffic a roundabout doesn't help at all but it does keep the traffic flowing more safely when there's little traffic.

CD: When it first opened, I was coming home from work one night and it was very confusing and I started to go through the wrong way and there was a cop sitting right there and what did he do? He got right on the loudspeaker and put his lights on and told me to back up and go the other way – oh my gosh. [Laughter].

AS: That must have been embarrassing.

CD: Good thing it was dark.

GL: Oh yeah yeah.

CD: And they didn't know who I was.

AS: Of course you know that Route 3 was built in the 1940s and used to be the main traffic flow. Came down Ladd Hill was now Lower Ladd Hill Road on Main Street and onto Route 25 which was then Winnepesaukee Street and Route 3 as we know it today didn't exist until the forties. 1948 I think it opened.

GL: So when you leave here you drive from the Historical Society and you hang that right to go by Waukegan. Was that the main entrance of the town there?

AS: Main Street – don't take that right to Waukegan keep on going to the railroad tracks and you go – that's Lower Ladd Hill Road then you cross over Route 3 and there's Upper Ladd Hill Road and then it connected into Parade Road. There was a cow path or a calf path or something that went along the Route 3 from there south to the Weirs but the whole Route 3 here that we see out in front of our docks has been since the Bicentennial. 1948 I believe it was part of those post World War Two CCC projects or something.

GL: Civilian Conservation Corps. GL: Civilian Conservation Corps. My uncle, uncle Jack Heath, worked for the CCC in fact he helped build the Kancamagus Highway – that has nothing to do with Meredith – but he happened to be in the thirties and you had to be on the Kancamagus Highway up there during

AS: It's not pronounced Kancamangus it's pronounced Kancamagus [Laughter].

GL: It's funny too, Lake Winnepesaukee, all the Indian names that are around here, Waukegan. We live across basically from Wickwas up on Chase Road. It's amazing how much Native Americans have contributed to this area here. I will bet you dollars to donuts that this part of Meredith at one time had probably some Native American settlements in this area.

AS: Oh, definitely. There's whole histories about that. In the Weirs certainly. That's how the Weirs got its name, from the settlement.

GL: Cause there was the Weirs.

AS: Yep.

LH: Do you have any recollections on how the businesses have changed on Main Street and how they participated in the Parade?

AS: Brad's and Samaha's. Samaha's is where Phu Gees is.

CD: Wasn't there a drug store and it had a soda fountain? You could get ice cream and that was right there. The man with the barber shop is there now.

GL: There was an IGA store here right?

AS: Yep.

GL: IGA where Aubochon's was? That was the IGA store, correct?

CD: There was a First National on Main Street wasn't there? I think there was a First National on Main Street and then it moved up on Route 3 by the NAPA there.

GL: I think this is a good town for that. For bringing businesses in. I worked at the Vu Tech. Vu Tech was a very small company here at the time. Run by two guys: Peter Duffield, I can't remember the other gentleman who ran it. It started out small here in Meredith. In fact it was right off Route 104 at a small metal shed building and they were building these giant printing machine, mega machines, that would print three four or five meters.

CD: Huge.

GL: They'd print billboards. Well they came up with this idea -- Duffield and the other gentlemen and the place expanded and it just exploded. It moved down the road to where if you're coming down 104 you turn left and go down Waukewan Street -- I think they call it or Wickwam.

CD: Waukewan.

GL: And there's a building there a whole series of metal buildings. When I started working for them there were thirty people and they moved across the road and they moved up and I think there were at least 1200 people that were working for him. So the Town of Meredith provided a lot of stuff including places for people to work. Very much so.

AS: Not to be negative, but of course they had to move out of town because they couldn't find help around here.

GL: Yeah they're moving down.

CD: So that's not there?

GL: They're moving down south anyway, they did move south at that particular point.

AS: One thing I think about the area because of so many different factors there's a lot of entrepreneurial spirit.

GL: Yes, absolutely.

AS: People start – they have a craft or a trade and they start their own business because there aren't the big business to go to. So you have a lot of people who are electricians or plumbers or carpenters or doctors who have their own businesses that's how they make a living.

GL: That's very true. There are a lot of shops in the area really some nice stuff. One of the other I noticed too, I was talking about what Meredith does bring people in. One of the things is the – two or three times a year they have the craft show that fills up the parking lot down there that

AS: There's mixed reviews on those things, but that's something that's a more recent thing. Back in the '60s, we were just finishing up the Cabin Colony. Still, when I was younger

CD: They didn't have condominiums.

AS: Yeah, the cabin colonies where people would have their cars and they would just hop and stay in a cabin and there were Alfs' cabins up on top of the hill, and it cost them that. The Robinson's had cabins there and that's how people vacationed.

CD: No more cabins now.

AS: Then it transitioned into motels. Now it's nice Hotels and that type of thing it is now.

MG: Now in 1968 where in that transition do you think they probably were?

AS: '68 was probably into motels by then. Because I remember as a little girl, by 1960 there were still the cabins at the top of the hill. The Alfs they just came here for the summer time and they ran their cabins opened them up for visitors to come and stay at.

CD: Yeah that was cabins, that's what my mother did for work. It was the Shangri-la.

GL and AS: The Shangri-la.

CD: She worked for them since 1957.

GL: There are a lot of places that are important for the town of Meredith. One of them is Harts. Harts has been around for a long long time.

CD: Started with one little building.

AS: They raised turkeys there and [gestures across her throat]. They've probably been there sixty

or seventy years. We should know that because it's probably on their sign and we drive by. They had their fiftieth anniversary in the mid-nineties. Could be seventies.

AS: And it's still a family owned business.

CD: What's the mother's name? May Hart? I think I cleaned for her I would go there.

GL: You see Dale every now and then. [sighs] This little town has grown over the last fifty years it's become a place for people to go and enjoy the summer or any time of the year and I hope to be here another thirty years if I can make it that far. I'm going to have to boogie now.

CD: The parade and there was a lot of people saying, "What's going on?" [Laughter].

AS: It was a great parade on Memorial Day.

AS: That's one thing that I was reflecting on with the parade was -- I played in the band and they have such really good uniforms now and we just skirts or pants and white. They'd have the ceremonies at the library at the Lang Street and then at the Meredith cemetery up route 3. It was always hot on Memorial Day and marching all that way up to that cemetery and they did whatever the service and we got a little break and then marching back down into town. It would be the first day a year you jumped in the lake [laughter] and the lake is cold in May.

CD: Now the kids don't go all the way.

AS: No, the parade doesn't the parade stops at Hesky Park.

GL: All my kids went through the Meredith School System in fact my son John was the very last class at the Lang Street School. That was it that was the last class. They've been through the whole school system and one thing I have to say about the town of Meredith – they have a good school system. I think it works very well. My wife is a speech pathologist – she works at the elementary school. She's retiring in another few weeks, but she's watched things change too. The schools are filling up with a lot of kids. A lot of places in the area the schools are losing kids but we are getting a lot more. Sandwich and Center Harbor.

CD: Does she find that there's a lot of kids that need more help than what they're getting?

GL: Yeah and I think the reason for that is that they weren't flagged years and years ago especially kids with ADD and anything like that. You didn't know what that meant, you didn't understand what that was. I think because they've become a little more knowledgeable about things more kids are being seen nowadays and being on the spectrum as they say nowadays. That's increased I'd say quite a bit.

CD: My daughter-in-law works in the library up there so she must probably know.

GL: What's her name?

CD: Stacey Dickinson.

GL: I'm gonna fly guys.

LH: Thank you.

CD: There's a lot of people I think in the summer

GL: It was nice to have met you [sounds of George getting up and shaking hands with other members of story circle].

CD: people that are out in tents they had to kick them out. It's really sad sometimes.

AS: What?

CD: The people with no place to live. Stacey, my daughter-in-law works at the community center.

AS: It's very expensive to live around here.

CD: They were staying behind a deck out in the [unintelligible].

AS: Really?

CD: This was a couple years ago.

AS: Wow, I'm sorry it's sad to hear that.

GL: We bought a house 1980 for a little over \$20,000. You ain't going to find that around nowadays I'll tell you that.

CD: We bought my father-in-law's house in 1965 there was two houses for \$6,000.

GL: Wow!

[Laughter]

CD: There's been a lot done to them.

GL: Thank you guys, God bless you.

LH: Thank you.

MG: in that vein, other things about 1968 specifically or 1965 things that have changed so significantly, things that have changed like the cost of a house by 2018 we're not necessarily thinking about – any of those things? Part of this is trying to paint a picture of what life was like

in 1968 as many of us at this point don't know that and fifty years down the road they also aren't going to know.

AS: My parents bought the house and the garage on Ladd Hill where we sold the property after dad died to Northway Bank. [George Locke talking to Historical Society members downstairs in the background]. I think they had a mortgage of about fifty dollars a month dad used to refer to his mortgage knoll then when the mortgage finally got paid off he started calling it Poverty Peak. [Laughter]. That wasn't really helpful but it was just a thought that I had. I don't know.

CD: I'm sure the gas prices were a lot lower. I don't even know if I was driving – yeah I was. [George Locke talking to someone in the distance]. I learned to drive at the driveway in the Whitney's down at Meredith Neck.

AS: I was too young to give you two any information about that.

LH: You've shared some great stuff.

MG: I was just going to say, recreational things for someone who was a teenager at the time that might have been very different than what we have today.

CD: Nothing! There was nothing was there? Used to go to the Weirs to dance.

AS: I know my sister used to tell stories about they had dances at the Weirs and they had dances down at Laconia. What we had, I remember growing up here was the old – we called it 'the Gym' – it was on Lang Street and that's where we had parties and things like that I guess probably before Saint Charles was built. They would have town wide parties and there was carnivals and things like that over time that happened in the town that were community wide because there weren't things like you go out to a restaurant or a dance or something.

CD: There wasn't a lot of things for kids to do. The movie theater was one of them. What was it 35 cents back then?

AS: In the wintertime, dad would take the local kids over for free down over at Gunstock to go skiing on Saturdays.

CD: For kids to do, no, nothing.

AS: Prescott Park they would have – I don't remember when that was built, that might have been later – they would have softball games or baseball games that we would go to.

CD: Little League and stuff like that. Boy Scouts.

AS: The diners and things like that, but when I was a kid –

CD: Do you remember Chase's Diner? That's on the corner? My mother worked there. I did too I think. Just a little tiny thing it was.

AS: I remember when McDonald's opened. The Tamarack. Go down to the Tamarack and have an ice cream. Exciting stuff, but it was still fun it was simple.

CD: To go to the Drive In was exciting. Take the whole family and go to the drive in, but other than that.

AS: Easily amused, you know. Most of the time would be spent outside and you'd have your neighborhood gang. Not a gang like we think of these days. You'd ride your bike all day and swing on a set of swing sets or I remember in the winter time you'd have the snow coasters. They were silver, not aluminum but metal coasters. You'd have to walk all the way up the hill and slide down it then you'd have to walk back up the hill and slide down it and that was a lot of fun.

CD: A lot of kids would ride their bikes down to Waukegan Beach. My kids did.

AS: They used to have swimming lessons with Mr. Garret at Lake Waukegan in the Summer time.

CD: Do they still do that? I don't know. They're having a tough time getting life guards.

AS: Someone said they thought that the town started but I don't have children so I don't know either. That was one thing that you live in the Lakes Region you should know how to swim. [Laughter].

LH: The day care gives some swimming lessons at the lake.

AS: Great.

AS: 1968, 1968, I'm trying to think of other things from the 1968, but as I said I was twelve and my big memory that I was going to share with you was that at Home Ec class we all had to make our costumes for the bicentennial.

CD: Do they even have Home Ec class now at school?

AS: I don't think they have Home Ec anymore, unfortunately.

MG: We don't necessarily have any more questions. If anything else comes to mind that you want to share with us.

CD: I hope you get some other people that know more than I did. [Laughter].

LH: Thank you for sharing your stories with us.