

Charles Everett Papers, Complete Text

This collection of reminiscences of a former resident of Smith Hill was typed and put in order by Bill and Bonnie Betts for the Colebrook Historical Society in 1989. I have added wherever possible the house numbers that were not available until federally mandated in the 1980s. The content of this text is important historically, as it is written in the style our local people spoke in and documents the lifestyle of an average boy who was raised on a small farm and progressed through life finding whatever work there was to be found in these relatively poor and unforgiving hills. Like many young men growing up in the early years of the auto era, he was consumed with an interest in trucks, tractors, cars and motorcycles that lasted throughout his lifetime. There are places where he repeats himself, and there is the rare occasion where his memory wandered somewhat (or is it my mis-recollection of a shared experience that happened all those long years ago?). At any rate, for an accurate account of life as it was lived throughout the bulk of the twentieth century, this account ranks high up on the list of local historical documents. [Any additions of mine will be contained within brackets [-] R.L.G.]

Letter #1, May 8, 1989

“Am living up here at Holley House, 95 Hurlbut St. Apt. C. Would be glad to see you or call me sometime – Tel. 379-0565.”

Mr. William Betts:

“Have been doing a little writing about the Gilbert Home. Have been talking to some of my old pals up around Colebrook. Was talking to John Passini, Sr. I think that was the last place I saw you and your wife – (Passini’s) 50th wedding anniversary at Jack’s house. [71 Prock Hill Rd.] Also talked with Mark Glynn and Martha. [250 Smith Hill Rd.] Roy Millard is an old friend of mine; he has a birthday May 8th [born in 1912]. Called Rudy Stenman on his party for his birthday. I can remember Victory Grange when it was in Colebrook River, when the Osborn’s lived there – Elsie, Lillian and Bill. Also talked with Fred Wilber right after the Jespersen’s 60th wedding anniversary. I knew all the Jespersens when they lived on Wallens Hill. Carl and Walter, Anna and Donald and I think Ruth. That was back when I went to school on Wallens Hill”.

My memories of the Gilbert Home:

“The old Gilbert Home was off the end of Williams Ave., where the Gilbert School is now. The old road went up the hill and was made of cinders. It crossed a little brook, which had a bridge made of stone. Then there was another building that was also made of stone. I think that it was used as a horse barn. They kept a pair of horses to do their work.

My father and I used to deliver milk there some of the time. Milk was furnished to the home for a good many years by H. L. Culver (Burt).

Culver’s farm was on the Colebrook Road where Mason Hale later farmed it for several years. [4 Stillman Hill Rd.]

Freda DeMars and Margaret graduated with me. Ray and Russell Green were also Gilbert Home Boys. The Gilbert Home and the Hinsdale School and the First School

(Greenwoods was not built then), all graduated on the stage of the new Strand Theater, 1926.

I knew Irving Treadway very well; he was the driver of the horses. I remember when he used to drive the horses out to Happy Valley Camp, which was nearly out of Colebrook River at the bottom of Woodruff Hill.

I also knew the Van Whys, who were the managers of the home at that time. They also kept chickens, some of which were very beautiful.”

Letter #2, Aug. 18, 1989

“I am the son of Ernest Ransom Everett and Charlotte St. John Everett, and was born on Smith Hill on Dec. 12, 1812 (12/12/12).

My folks lived in Ellsworth, Connecticut, between Cornwall Bridge and Sharon. I have 1 older brother, Donald, who is in the Highland Acres Convalescent Home. He was born in 1909. He was a fireman in Winsted for 50 years, and also was a member of Riverton Grange for more than 50 years. He married Ruth Deming and they live on Deer Hill Road. [They built 6 Deer Hill Rd.]

We went to Wallens Hill School for 5 years. Had to walk to school most of the time (a little more than a mile). Then we went to the First School on North Main St. The First School was a large wooden building just south of the Greenwoods School. The Greenwoods School was built in about 1926-27. [Now part of NWCCC.] My class was the first class to graduate from the First school.

I went to the Gilbert School for 2 years. Now this building is the Northwestern Conn. Comm. College. We had to buy all our books from the Case Drug Store, later known as Sceery & Ivory, later still as Ivory and Dudley, near the Mechanics Savings Bank. [Then 74 Main St., before it moved to 118 Main St. The business is closed and the building now vacant.] I remember when the Mechanics Savings Bank’s new building was built. It is now Northwest Savings.

I lived with my folks running the farm and peddling milk in Winsted for 30 years. Started with 6 customers at 6¢ a quart for milk. All the milk peddlers delivered milk every day.

Also started working at Nelson’s Garage at the foot of the hill. [Now the Shell Station at the intersection of Conn. Rts. 8 and 20.] The old road [Smith Hill] turned left before you crossed the bridge below Harvey Deming’s. [This is the first house on the right as you start up Smith Hill.] That bridge was put in when they built the new road. John DeMichal of Torrington put in the road and bridge.

There was a tannery back of Nelson’s old garage that was also known as Dish Mill Hill by Harvey Demings.

I also worked at the Jim O’Neil’s, known as Wyndecrest Farm, later owned by the Howards. (Now the McNiffs.) [255 Smith Hill Rd.]

Helped cut a log job at McClaves in 1935-36 with Harold Jespersen. Harold and I cut the logs with a cross cut saw. Was mostly pine and hemlock. The lumber was delivered to Tiffany & Pickett for \$17.00 a thousand feet. Standing timber was \$4.00 per thousand at that time and we got \$2.50 per day.

Then we cut a big job at the top of Pratt St., beyond the Burwell place on Joe Carey's trotting park. Joe Carey was a contractor and lived on Coe St. There was 500 acres on that job and we sawed about a million feet.

I used to draw the gasoline for the mill in six 50-gallon barrels in my 1927 Reo truck. I also used to draw a lot of slabs and sawdust from Joe Rowley's sawmill in Tolland, Mass. with my Model T Ford 1 ton truck. Joe had a pretty big job in Tolland. Sawed about 1 million feet of lumber on 1 setting with 2 or 3 teams working, mostly all hard wood.

Joe Rowley lived in Colebrook River. The Rowleys had 6 children: Helen Rowley Griffin, Nathan, Edwin, Mildred Rowley Church, (Mrs. Earle Church), Alice Rowley Riiska from New Boston and Joe Rowley, [who married Allison Lasher]. Mrs. Rowley was Jim O'Neil's sister.

The O'Neils lived on Beech Hill at one time where the Paul Griggs lived. There used to be a road from Paul Grigg's to Simons Pond. [Renamed Lake Marguerite some time after 1903.]

I also drew a lot of slabs and sawdust from Montville and West New Boston, Mass. Sawdust was used for bedding for the farm animals and also for ice houses. Most everybody had to put up ice at that time. I got about \$3.00 a load for sawdust and \$5.00 for a load of slabs.

Helped cut ice up at McClave's when Alfred Spring was caretaker there. Drew the ice there with my 1927 Reo Truck. McClaves bought their farm about 1900 [1903], known as State Line Farm, later known as McClaveville.

Also helped cut ice for the O'Neils and Doyles on Smith Hill and the Dursts on Eno Hill. Cut and drew from Marsh's Pond where Bunnslls live now. [62 Eno Hill Rd.]

I cut ice on Pond Hill [Norfolk] for the Hayes' Farm. Drew ice there with my model T truck. Hayes ran the gas station on Pond Hill and their farm was towards Colebrook from there. [George's Norfolk Garage now.]

John O'Connor bought his first new 1928 Reo truck and was also drawing ice from Pond Hill. I knew all the O'Connor brothers pretty well. John, Tom, Russell and Harold. My brother and I did quite a lot of business with them later on. I guess Russell and his son carry on quite an extensive business there now. I think Gordon Pratt worked there quite a long time and I think Richard Wilber works there now.

I worked for Fred Wilber when he started farming on Beech Hill. I started clearing up his farm, as he had to go into the service. He bought an F-12 Farmall tractor and I cut brush and drew out rocks and blueberry bushes. I worked for Fred for quite a few years. Later on he got a new Farmall Super-C tractor and also bought a new International hay bailer T-45, which we used for a good many years.

We also cut the hay at the McClave place. Richard was about 4 or 5 years old and George a little older and he had started school. Fred finally planted a lot of corn and had 2 silos. He later bought an Oliver tractor from Isidore Jasmin; Jasmin had a farm machinery place on the Old Torrington Road. He repaired chain saws and lawn mowers. Izzy was a sawyer on a sawmill on Torrington Road, owned by Wilson, Howard & Wilson. He owned and operated a sawmill of his own for a while. He lives on Shantry Road. Burwell owned a lot of land and timber on Shantry Road and this was later sold to Ralph M. Harrison Lumber Co. from Branford, Conn. Alford Spring was foreman for

Harrison Lumber Co for a good many years. He was also an estimator of timber. He could estimate most any size job without a pencil and paper or ruler.

Some of the history of Smith Hill, back when it was only a dirt road and not too many houses: The first house up from North Main Street (Winsted) Rt. 8, was the Ed and Lena Pierson place, later bought by Harvey and Mildred (Winn ?) Deming. Next was the Walter J. Bushnell place, bought by Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Everett. The Dayton Wright place was next, known as Echo Game Farm. He raised pheasants and minks and skunks and frogs. Wrights sold out to John Spencer and Kenneth Frink, later sold to Ralph Meggison, and then sold to Richard Colt. The next place on the left was the Eddie Nickerson place, sold to Tom Head and later to Gurtskys. Eddie Nickerson went away one night and was never heard from again. Across the road was the Emmet Parsons place, bought by Mike Doyle. Doyle came from Fargo, North Dakota. He married Joe Lewis' sister. The Joe Lewis place is on the Losaw Road where Gallo's horse farm is now. Mike had a brother, John who lived with them. He kept a few cows and sold cream. The next place on the left past Spencer Hill Road was the Ned and Annie Rowley place now owned by John and Helen Beach and called Lakeside Farm. Next on the same side was Joe Pfaefflin place now owned by Bob (deceased) and Marge Pfaefflin and occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Frank Holt, Jr. and son. Then on the right was the Bill Pfaefflin place where Leo Roy now lives. Then on the left was the Maurice Pfaefflin place where David Johnson lives now. Maurice was father of Joe, Bill, Harold and Margretta. They had a large icehouse just south of Bill's house where Ted Saunders lives now. The next place on the right was a cottage owned by Walter D. Hood. He was the principal at Gilbert School when I went there. Clara White was secretary, and lived to be over 100 years old.

Malcolm Hood was son of Walter Hood and I think he married [Colebrook Store owner] Clarence F. Stotts' daughter.

I used to furnish wood to Mr. Stotts at the Colebrook Store for a few years. Also sold wood to Mrs. Cooper, Ralph's mother.

The next place on the right is the Glynn place. [250 Smith Hill Rd.] Mark Glynn, Jr. lives there with his sister Martha Powell. There were 6 Glynn children: Paul, Isabel, Martha, Mark, Mary and Thomas.

The next place on the left is the Jim O'Neil place. The O'Neils had 3 children, James, Margaret and Helen. Margaret married James Lee of Waterbury. He was coach at Wilby High School. The O'Neils had a farm and also kept a lot of boarders during the summer. They would come from New Haven and Waterbury on the train (to Winsted) and Mr. O'Neil would have to pick them up at the railroad station. James O'Neil, the son, kept a lot of chickens, sold a lot of eggs and dressed broilers for the Crissey place in Norfolk.

The next place on the right was the little brick schoolhouse [South School]. The George Howards purchased the O'Neil place and later sold the schoolhouse.

Then came the Lowry place, later owned by the James Martin family. Martin ran jitney from Winsted to Hartford with Hudson cars. Dr. Whelchel later owned the place. ("Cad" Brown & family were there before Whelchel.)

Bill Pfaefflin also ran jitney from Winsted to Hartford with a Cadillac V8 touring car.

The next place on top of the hill was the Bricklemaier place, with a large windmill and a big barn across the road. Bricklemaier worked in New York and came up weekends. He had a caretaker named Chaffee and they had a pair of buckskin horses. Chaffee had to pick him up at the railroad station every Friday night. Some Friday nights were not fit for man or beast.

The place was later bought by a Dr. Woodruff. Leroy Millard went to work there and they bought some cows and sold milk. Later the place was bought by the Lufkins. The Lufkins had 5 children: Debbie, Sue, twins Amy and Lucy and son David. They raised Cornish game hens. Wilber Mills worked there for a while until he was not able to work anymore. I went to work for Mrs. Theda Lufkin for about 5 years until she sold out to Dr. Stewart Ragland.

She bought a place on Platt Hill and I worked there for 4 years until she sold out to Dr. Richard Dutton. She raised some beef stock and some sheep and had 3 horses. Mrs. Lufkin was an artist and taught art at the Gilbert School. She painted 2 portraits that are in the National Iron Bank. She later bought the Larkin house on Wetmore Ave., and later went to Martha's Vineyard.

The next place on the left was a Smith place, later owned by Bronson King. [Now 327 Smith Hill Rd.]

At the bottom of the hill on the left was a cottage that was built for a dance hall, later rebuilt by Alfred Thomas, where he lived for several years. [Now 351 Smith Hill Rd.] He married a nurse from the hospital. Al was a carpenter by trade and later worked at the Winsted Container across from the Hinsdale School and was the Gail Borden Munsill property at one time. I helped Al cut down some of those big hard maple trees by his house with my 2-man Mall chain saw with a 30-inch blade. He split the wood all up for firewood.

On the right beyond that was the old Al Thomas place with a big house and barn with a small pond down in the lot. [Now 366 Smith Hill Rd.]

Then came another Smith place with house on the left and barn on the right. Was owned by the Walter McGills at one time and later sold to Skinner. It was later bought by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hesse, who sold to Moses Sternlieb. [Now 381 Smith Hill Rd.]

Those were most of the old places, but there has been a lot of new houses built since then, beginning from the Demings."

Letter # 3, August 30, 1989

"I knew Ruth Cross and Mr. Palmer. She was a writer; her place was called 'Edendale'.

The Springs were most all lumbermen. John Spring used to draw lumber from New Boston to Tiffany & Pickett with horses. Alfred Spring also drew lumber from New Boston to T & P, driving horses owned by Charles Spring of Eno Hill. He got \$10.00 a month and board. They also drew a lot of poplar wood into T & P. They made it into excelsior, which was used for packing. Poplar was cut at 5-foot length and peeled. It usually had to be cut in the spring to make it peel easily. A lot of poplar wood was cut on the West River Road in Barkhamsted, and up on the mountain on Sandy Brook Road in Colebrook. Tiffany & Pickett made a lot of wooden boxes. Most everything came in wooden boxes, such as axes and nails. A 50-lb. keg of nails cost about \$4.50.

Tiffany & Pickett was a pretty big concern having as much as a million feet stacked up in their lumber yard. I helped draw lumber in there about 1926 for John Wilson, who had 3 trucks, drawing all of the time. He had a 1924 GMC with solid tires, also a Bridgeport truck and a 1924 White with solid tires.

The Bedore Bros. Worked there, along with H. Thrall, and Harold Streever and John Passini. John was working there when he got married.

Ben Anderson also drew lumber with a Mack truck.

John Spring married Bessie Roberts, whose folks lived on Roberts Road in Sandisfield. George Nichols lived with the Springs and also worked on the log jobs.

Roland Johnson worked for Bill Nelson, who also drew lumber with a Federal truck. George Palmer also drew lumber with a Reo truck. Don Brown of Beech Hill drove the truck for Palmer.

The Reo truck was a pretty popular truck. The (Gilbert) Clock Shop had a Reo truck, also Manchester Grain Co., Harrison Lumber Co. and Leonard Grain Co.

Joe Avery was a good farmer and a hard worker. He had a son who later did most of the milk peddling. He kept several men, including Bill Osborn, Mason Hale, Don Everett, Roy Millard and Lauren Howard. He would also hire some woodcutters during the winter. Louie Corsi and Jim and Larry Bull used to cut from 75-100 cords of wood every year. Their pasteurizer was fired by wood, and they had to have a lot of hot water to wash all the bottles and cans.

Burt Atwood used to be a woodchopper and he used to cut a hundred cords for \$100.00.

A lot of wood was cut for the limekiln in Canaan, also cut a lot of wood for the charcoal pits. That was all chestnut at one time. We had 2 charcoal pits on our place.

It would be impossible to ever guess how much lumber went to T & P. At one time they had about a million feet of lumber stacked up.

Baled shavings were .25¢ a bale. We used shavings for bedding for a long time. They would deliver 10 bales for \$20.00 in the summertime.

I knew all the Gray boys and their father, and played baseball with them. [‘Old’ Bill married Lea Jasmin, and had four sons: Bill, George, Walt and Eddie.] Also knew Mr. & Mrs. Seth Seymour when they lived in Robertsville; also knew Homer Deming. His daughter, Ruth, is my sister-in-law. She married my brother, Donald. Also knew Grace Deming Seymour. [Who lived at 297 Colebrook River Rd.] She is 93 years old today, Aug. 29, 1989.

Alfred Spring was one of the first men to work at the Hitchcock Chair factory; he worked in the steam room as a bender where the temperature was about 100°. He also built their first incinerator and could run any piece of machinery in the whole shop.

Rob Ward cut a job over on Roberts Road and drew the lumber clear around the pond and out by Wilber’s. [In other words, he came down Simons Pond Road in Colebrook.] McClaves owned land clear over to the Roberts Road. The lumber was drawn by Fred Goenvey with a White truck about 1938.

Ray Bell cut a job on Roberts Road and drew it to T & P.

Harold Dupont cut quite a lot of oak on Roberts Road, which was drawn to the basket shop in Shelton by John Rhodes with a 1948 International KBB.

Kelly Lumber Co., also bought logs from McClaves on Simons Pond Road, but drew the logs to Pittsfield.

That was about the time skidders and the big log trucks came out. Peck Lumber Company sawed a job on Simons Pond Road and drew the lumber with 4 Chevrolet trucks. I think that timber was owned by Joe Rowley.

Ray Bell sawed timber on Fred Wilber's place about 1935, and also sold green wood from there. 2 cord loads of 4-foot wood delivered for \$12.00.

I worked for the Butler and Hodge Lumber Company in Riverton, drawing lumber and sawdust. Later I ran the planer, which was powered by a large Hercules motor. They also had a McCormick motor for the smaller planer. Sometimes when I drew sawdust, I would shovel between 400-500 bushels a day. One day we drew slabs from East Hartland to the railroad car and it poured all day, but we only had two days to load a carload. [Otherwise the railroad charged you extra for letting the empty car sit idle on the siding.]

Butler cut the timber on the Whitman place around 1938; also remember when Ray Bell cut the timber on Jim Allen's place. [Both on Pinney Street in Colebrook.]

I used to go to the card games at the church basement and also played cards at the old Grange Hall in Colebrook River and then to Victory Grange later. [In Robertsville.]

Remember when Orville 'Pop' Smith used to play for square dances at Victory Grange. Most always had a New Year's Eve dance there.

Alfred Spring and Ray Bell and Sammy Spring used to hold outdoor square dances in South Sandisfield at one time.

I knew the Smiths who lived in S. Sandisfield; one of them worked in the Winsted Post office.

Mr. Williams sold his place and bought the old H. Parks Holcomb place in Robertsville. [Now 1 Old Forge Rd.] He had a 16 cylinder Cadillac that he sold to Vincent Johnson. We had it on Highland Lake on the ice one year and went 90 miles an hour. It sure was a smooth running car.

Had ice racing on the lake for several years. The ice got to be 30 inches thick some years. Irwin Johnson used to win most of the races with a 1936 Ford V-8 touring car.

There used to be a pavilion on the west side of Third Bay where they used to have dancing with the big time bands. Mr. & Mrs. Fred Winn ran it. Later on they had roller-skating there. We used to go to our Sunday school picnics there. Went up on the trolley from Winsted.

The Nortons and Schaeffers had cottages there, and also the Nelsons. Used to sell them all fireplace wood. The Nortons and Schaeffers also had cottages on Brookside Pond [On Deer Hill, Colebrook.] and also had houses on Main Street where Jessie's Restaurant is now. Joe Norton ran the scythe shop on North Main Street near Gilbert Clock Shop. Later, Schaeffer married Helen Norton and was the lawyer trying to save Colebrook River, but his life came to a tragic end at Brookside Pond. Nortons had two other daughters, Ruth and Frances.

Another farm was the Jespersen Farm on Wallens Hill. Carl, Walt, Harold, Donald, Anna, Bertha and Ruth all lived on Wallens Hill, and went to school with me.

Carl was a log cutter and worked for George Palmer. Walt, Sr. moved to Bunnell St. in Colebrook, Harold went to California; worked at Gaylord Farm at one time and Donald lives on Wallens Hill.

Bert Culver had a farm on Colebrook Road and sold milk to the Gilbert Home for a good many years; it was later farmed by Mason Hale. I helped Mason do some plowing and fill silo for a couple of years. [3 Stillman Hill Rd.]

Charles Holcomb still has a farm on the Old New Hartford Road, farmed by his father and grandfather, Erastus Holcomb. That was the change-over place of horses from Hartford to Albany.

R. [Ralph] H. Harrison Lumber Co. bought most of the land and timber on Cobb City Road. That road was all dirt at the time.

[E.R.] LeManquais later bought a lot of land and built a house on Simons Pond Road.

Donald Brown also lived on Beech Hill and drove lumber truck for George Palmer, also drawing lumber to Tiffany & Pickett's.

A lot of lumber was drawn from South Sandisfield by horses and Mile Hill was a long, hard draw, like Woodruff Hill was drawing from New Boston. Mile Hill or Woodruff Hill would take a team about an hour. [The Rock School is located on Mile Hill (CT Rt.183) in Colebrook.]

I think Frank Johnson and his wife live on Mile Hill. [687 Colebrook Rd.] Frank's father was Joseph Johnson who ran a gas station where English's Station is now. Frank married Mildred Sanford, who lived near there. Joe Johnson was brother to Bart Johnson, Sr., who lives on Smith Hill. There were several Johnson boys; George, Frank, Vincent, Theodore, Greg and 2 girls. Their father, F.J.C. Johnson, had a farm on North Main Street where the new sewer plant is now. My folks owned that farm before they bought on Smith Hill. My folks sold out to the Johnson's.

James Pettit's mother was a Johnson. Pettit's own the Engineered Wire and Cable [Across from the sewer plant.] and I worked for them when they started business about 30 years ago.

Remember when Colebrook had a pretty good baseball team. Two or three McClave boys, the Gray boys, Spencer Deming and Gordon Pratt. We had a baseball team, some from North Main Street, called The North Enders. I also played quite a lot of softball in Winsted, and we used to play quite a lot in New Boston at Benny Poole's place. I think Mrs. Pool was a Verchot from Colebrook River. Riverton also had a baseball team. Harry Williams Sr. also played baseball; he was also a hunter and fisherman.

Remember when James Otto and Wyllys Smith were selectmen.

Ralph Cooper and Preston Deming and Walt Gray worked on the Gypsy Moth Gang. [Also Harry (Sonny) Williams, Jr.]

Fred Williams worked for the telephone company, but is in the real estate business now. Harry Jr. worked for the state on the bug gang for a while. Harry, Sr. worked for the Town of Colebrook for quite a long time.

I remember Louie Allen when he lived on the Norfolk Road and used to walk back and forth to Winsted. Later he moved into the Lawrence house and I sold him slabs and wood for a couple of years. Charles Lawrence had an ice business and sold ice in Winsted. Pete Cote and Ray Simmons worked for him and he had 2 Reo trucks. He cut ice on Rowley Pond one year. That was the year Frank Barber's pond went out and washed the road all out above Meggison's. [On Smith Hill.] Washed it out 12 feet deep in

some places and was quite a long time before it was repaired. The pond is now on the Frazee property.

There were two or three other ice peddlers in Winsted, such as John Hannon and son, Frany Bros. and Maurice Pfaefflin. Used to have the ice cakes that were about 300 lbs. each.

Took a lot of ice to the Elks Home or Club on Fairview Avenue when I worked for Pfaefflin. Also took a lot of ice to the fish markets and to the restaurants.

We used to sell milk to Russell's Restaurant in 40-quart cans. George Guest used to bake about 60 pies every day. George Adams used to have a restaurant and we used to get 2 hamburgs and a cup of coffee for .25¢.

James Miner also had a restaurant in the Hotel Winchester. Also had a barber shop there where I got my hair cut. Haircuts were .30¢ and a shave was .25¢.

There was a Burt Lawrence place on Pinney Street now owned by the Fredsalls.

Mr. & Mrs. Stenman had a farm on the Norfolk-Colebrook Road. [3 Pinney St.] I knew all the Stenmans including Rudy, Arnold, George, Harold and Ruth. Stenmans put in the dam for the pond at the [Northwestern Fish and Game] Club in North Colebrook. [On Rt. 183 at the base of Church Hill. The house has since burned down.] John and Fred Nelson and I furnished the lights with a Chrysler motor hooked to an electric welder and we worked well into the night because it all had to be poured at one time. I think O'Connors had to go get a load of gravel in the night. I used to sell slabs to the club for kindling wood.

Also delivered wood to the Forge Schoolhouse.

Mr. & Mrs. Rob Fritz lived on Stillman Hill and Miss Sonier [the long-time music instructor] lived there later. [This is # 65, right across from the intersection with Bunnell Street Extension.]

Remember the Martin brothers who lived on Old Colebrook Road. Used to do some work for Mrs. Wagner on Stillman Hill [33 Stillman Hill Rd.] and furnished them with wood.

I knew all the Passinis, including Frank, John, Tom and Bernard. Stella Bajorin is sister to them. Charles Bajorin ran a grocery store at Holland Beach at Highland Lake. Bernie's father-in-law, Fred Raydenbow, did an extensive wood business for a long time. Wood sold at \$7.00 - \$8.00 a cord at that time. Fred had a son, Ralph, who was in the lumber business. Fred cut about 600 cords of wood on the Center Brook Road; the property belonged to Arthur Johnson, who lived on top of the hill just beyond Center Brook. Arthur had a son, Robert, who went to Gilbert School when I did and later moved over near Simsbury. Roy Johnson of Platt Hill went to Gilbert School and later worked for the telephone company.

Elton Godenzi lived on Old Colebrook Road. The Godenzi boys worked on the farm and later worked for Ray Bell. [Elton bought the farm from his father, and eventually sold it, retaining a plot of land on Bricklemaier Road where he built a new home (53 Bricklemaier)].

I cut some logs on the Losaw Road for Ray Bell. Remember when Ray cut a lot of timber on the Gene Twining place. [The house and buildings are all gone now, but they were across the road from 123 Old Colebrook Rd.] I sold Gene Twining sawdust for bedding when he kept cows. The farm was later left to Johnny Mangan.

I think Don and Ruth Everett bought most of their lumber from Ray Bell. Their house was built by Edward Machowski, Sr., of North Colebrook. [6 Deer Hill Rd.]

When I was running the planer for Butler and Hodge, lumber was \$25.00 a thousand rough, and \$30.00 planed. Butlers furnished the lumber for Roberts' big chicken house and I think for the Riverton firehouse and post office.

I moved the Hoffmans from Winsted to New Hartford about 55 years ago [1935] with my Reo truck. Dorothy Hoffman is the daughter of Mrs. Gladys Weigold of Old North Road. Mrs. Weigold is 94 years old and lives with her daughter, Evelyn Crane. She has one other daughter, Frances Green and a son, Robert.

I used to cut about 5 acres of corn by hand when he had a farm on North Main Street, the old Leroy Millard place. Roy Millard's father was Clifford Millard.

Used to travel the old Sandy Brook Road quite a lot and it was quite an improvement when the new road was put in by O & G. [1947]

Gravel was taken from a bank across the Simons Pond Road on Fred Wilber's land. They had a new shovel with a 1-yard bucket and the trucks were 3-4 yards.

Rob Fritz moved onto the Center Brook Road near Mabel Newell's. Eddie Newell worked for Gilbert clock and later moved to Keene, New Hampshire.

George Vogellus of Smith Hill drove truck for Gilbert Clock to Keene, N.H.

The Schells lived on Center Brook Road and I furnished wood to them and also did other work for them. I cut down a big hard maple tree down in the lot near the brook and split it all up with my 16 lb. sledgehammer. Kenneth Lord helped me cut it down and saw it up with my 2-man Mall chainsaw with a 30-inch blade. Kenneth used to help me for a long time (on) Saturdays as he worked on the state highway during the week. Kenneth is father of Carol Lord Radocchio. Bob and Carol Radocchio run the Winsted Diner, which has been in Winsted for a good many years. They have a daughter, Trudy, and 3 or 4 sons.

Mr. & Mrs. Luckey Bowman also lived on Old Colebrook Road. [24 Old Colebrook Rd.] They had a daughter, Hannah Bowman Cantwell. Mrs. Bowman used to own the house across from Dr. Luchs' office, and I used to cut the brush and do the hand mowing around the house with a scythe. Also did quite a lot of work for Dr. Luchs when he lived in North Colebrook. [897 Colebrook Rd.] That was the Phillips place, near the watering tub. Mrs. Nickerson did housework for Mrs. Phillips and George Heebner was caretaker. Mrs. Nickerson lived on Smith Hill at one time and was a Weingart from New Hartford.

The Leonard Grain Co. had a store and office on Main Street in the building next to the Mechanics Saving Bank. [70 Main Street, in the same building as Sceery & Ivery at 74 Main St.] Also had a large building on the railroad tracks near Tiffany & Pickett and a grain mill on North Main St. where they ground the grain. This was across the river from the sewer plant. Clarence Osborn worked there for a good many years. Clarence married Grace Guest, and they had 3 children: Clarence, Eleanor and Harry. Clarence Jr. married Phyllis Tuttle, daughter of Frank Tuttle, who lived on Danbury Quarter Road and peddled milk in Winsted.

(End of letter #3)

Letter #4, September 6, 1989

Dear Folks,

Am sending along a copy of the letter that I wrote about the Gilbert Home and also a copy of the letter I wrote to Bob Steele about motorcycles and Model T Ford cars. He talked about them one morning on the radio. He sent me a post card with his picture and thanked me for the letter.

Also sending along a few more pages, mostly history. Hope I have not got to repeating too much. Am sending \$10.00 that you can use for some worthy cause - Charles Everett

Note: "The Folks" are Bill and Bonnie Betts, who contacted Charles Everett and asked if he would like to do an oral history for the Colebrook Historical Society. His donation of \$10.00 was returned to him along with a copy of DeLarm's "Colebrook Stories".

C.S.J. Everett's letter to Bob Steele, WTIC Radio, Hartford, CT.:

Dear Bob,

A long time listener to the Bob Steele radio program.

You were talking about the old Model T Fords one morning, so I have got to respond. I had at least 4 Model T Ford cars and a 1-ton Model T truck.

Had a 1923 Touring car, a 1924 coupe, a 1925 Coupe and then a 1925 4-door sedan. Most of them were bought for \$15.00 to \$25.00. I paid \$15.00 for the truck

Changing transmission bands was almost an everyday job, as I worked at Nelson's Garage in 1927. The Nelsons bought a new Chrysler Imperial in 1928, a convertible, with a spare tire on each side, with mirrors and rumble seat.

I think you and "Punk" Williams stopped in the garage one day to check your tire pressure. "Punk" Williams was a bicycle racer.

My neighbors, the Johnson boys had a Stutz Bear Cat, and a Stevens Duryea, and also a little 4-cyl. Saxon. They later had a 16 cylinder Cadillac Coupe. We had it on the ice at Highland lake. Went up to 90 miles an hour on the ice. The ice one year was 30 inches thick.

Put a set of bands in my truck one morning and then went to Hartford and towed a truck to Winsted with a chain.

There was no hand shift in the Model T Fords, all the shifting was done by the feet. There were 3 pedals, one was for low and high, one was reverse, and the other was the foot brake. The emergency brake was on the left side. There was only a hand throttle and spark lever on the steering post. A new Ford roadster in 1925 was \$525.00. My brother had an Indian motorcycle and later had a Harley Davidson. I used to ride them once in a while. We also had a 1924 Overland touring car. Other popular cars were Reo, Buick, Maxwell, Studebaker and Packard. Packard and Studebaker also made trucks. We had a wagon made by Studebaker.

My Memories of the Gilbert Home:

The Gilbert Home was located off the end of Williams Ave. and up the hill. It had a road made of cinders and had a stone bridge over the brook that came down

through there. Also had another stone building just beyond there, which I think may have been the horse barn. The big building was a little farther to the left. The milk was delivered there for a good many years by Bert Culver, who had a farm on the Colebrook Road and was later owned by Mason Hale.

My father and I used to deliver milk there some of the time if Bert did not have enough. We took the milk there in 40 qt. cans and used to have to slide it down a long walk and then carry it to the cooler. There were two men working in there, and did it smell good in there from the bakery. Mr. Bristol and Mr. Segar were the cook and baker.

Freda DeMars and Margaret Patton graduated with me and also the Hinsdale School class. We graduated on the Strand Theatre stage. Other boys that were at the Gilbert home were Ray and Russell Greene, Mason Hale, Larry Robertson and John Potpolak.

Irving Treadway used to drive the horses out to Happy Valley Camp in Colebrook River at the bottom of Woodruff Hill. I used to go to several outings there.

Eugene Van Why was overseer there and I knew the family quite well. They used to raise some fancy chickens there at one time.

Back to the history:

The Avery farm was sold to Roy Bowman and he farmed it there for a few years. He only had to pay less than \$15,000.00 for the place. He had a son who was in with the Boy Scouts and he did not want to work on the farm...Roy also rented Gaylord's Farm for a while. Roy was related to Mrs. William Fancher, mail carrier, and also related to Edwin Bowman, who had a farm on the Newfield Road. Edwin fell down a hay chute and broke his neck. He has not been able to do anything for a long time.

Roy was a great man to mow a lot of hay at one time. One day he mowed some on the Avery farm and then went to Gaylord Farm and mowed 9 acres more. David Avery in Winchester was another that mowed a lot of hay. He mowed for 2 days on the W.C. Johnson place, and had about 1500 bales. Fred Wilber and I had 800 bales down at one time at the McClaves. The Avery Farm was later sold to Harold Swartz – 350 acres.

When we were cutting timber on the McClave place in 1935, we sawed out some lumber for the Hubbard place in Colebrook [645 Colebrook Road] when Joe Strampach worked there. The timbers were about 18-20 feet long with just one slab taken off so there was only 1 flat side. I think they were for rafters for the garage.

I mowed the Hubbard place one year with Fred Wilber's Super C Farmall tractor. He had a 6-foot Kasch side mower. One of the best mowers I ever used. It had a cable to the clutch so if you hit something, it would pull the clutch. We hit something sharp at McClaves that cut the back tire right to the tube. Had about 35 acres to mow at McClaves.

The Bahres built a house near the Hubbards. [647 Colebrook Road] They used to run a restaurant on West Main Street near Cannavo's. Debbie Bahre married Arba Roberts of Riverton.

C.A. Roberts used to have quite an extensive trucking business in Winsted. He did local and long distance trucking and moving furniture. He had mostly White trucks. He drew some wood from Old Shantry Road to New York for \$5.00 a cord, 4-foot wood, 5 cord loads, trucking only. He also moved the carnivals when they came to town. Had a carnival on Willow Street one year where a person climbed 100 feet in the air and landed

in a tub of water about 6 feet deep. Also had carnivals on Main Street, near the old Conn. Light and Power. {Behind the block containing ABC Pizza.]

C.E. Newett ran an express route from Winsted to Hartford every day with 2 Reo trucks. Errol Barnard had an express route to New Haven every day with Chevrolet trucks. Hunts' also ran express to Hartford.

Bud Rice's father used to carry the mail from the railroad station to the post office with a 1929 Reo truck. I knew Bud's father and his sister Dorothy Durst.

John Pustinger ran an express from Winsted to Boston with a large Reo truck. We built the body and did the iron work at Nelson's Garage. He had a rack built under the body that would hold 5 tons of steel.

We put pneumatic tires on a Bridgeport truck; it came with solid rubber tires. Nelson's had a wood business, drew lumber, had a blacksmith shop and a garage with 5 gas pumps. They sold Tydol gas and oil. Gas was 5 gallons for \$1.00, oil was 25-30¢ per quart, or .80¢ a gallon. They also repaired and changed batteries. Also sold Armstrong and Firestone tires.

The Nelsons had a 1928 Chrysler Imperial roadster with a rumble seat and spare tires and mirrors on the side. Also had the windbreakers on the sides of the windshield.

John Passini later worked at Burwell's Lumberyard and was the first man to work at the YMCA (Camp Jewell) in North Colebrook, clearing the land and making roads. George Gray worked there later and also Bernie Passini.

Floyd Hart went to Gilbert School when I did. Norfolk, Colebrook, Hartland, Barkhamsted and Winchester go to Gilbert School. The rest go to Regional 7 School. [Charlie is mistaken here; the towns listed were the ones that went to Gilbert before Regional 7 was built. RLG]

Curtiss used to run the [school] bus from Norfolk. Marion Mulville from Norfolk used to teach 5th grade at the old First School.

Greenwoods School was built about 1927-28. Some of the stones in the foundation of Greenwoods School came from Smith Hill where the Nelsons and Proskes live. They were drawn with a chain drive Bulldog Mack and a Northway truck. Stones all loaded by hand – got about .50¢ to \$1.00 a load. Otto Maier had the Northway and Walt Palmer drove the Mack. E.J Busby owned that lot and his land went down to North Main Street where John Kemp lives.

Used to be an apple orchard where Nelsons and Proskes live, also had a hay barn where Nelson's home stands.

Burwell Lumber Co. owned a lot of land and timber on the old Shantry Road. John Newth sawed lumber for them. Moved the mill out one winter when the snow got so deep we could not work. Later R.M. Harrison Lumber Co. bought all the land and timber.

John Newth married Carla Carlson from Eno Hill. [His son] Delbert Newth married Gloria Sweeny. The Sweenys lived in Robertsville near the old Wilfred Roy place where Henry and Bernice Huse live. [328 Colebrook River Road] Bernice was sister to Bob Adams.

Albert Griffin lived in Robertsville near there and they had 2 sons, Bill and Earl. Bill married Helen Rowley and she is visiting Mildred (Rowley) Church this summer. Helen was 80 years old this summer.

Roy Millard's sister, Florence Head, was 80 years old Sunday; lives in California.

Preston Deming and Earl Griffin used to go to Gilbert with a Model T Ford roadster. Pat Deming used to work with Ralph Cooper and the Gray boys on the Gypsy moth gang.

The old Newth farm was where Mildred Smith [Mrs. Earle Smith] lives across from Hemlock Cemetery. [The original house burned and was replaced with the present building; [192 Colebrook River Road, the first house in Colebrook on the east past the Winchester town line.] Earle Smith and Bill Bettes had a garage in Colebrook River at one time.

Charles Osborn ran the hotel in Colebrook River and carried school children to Gilbert. The Osborns had 3 children; Bill, Elsie and Lillian Sweeny. Bill was a square dance caller for more than 50 years. Some of the players in this band were Elliot Bond, George Sesko and Lyman Wright, Jr. Bill and Elsie live on Nanni Drive and Lillian lives on Wallens Hill. Have a son, Ted.

The Comstocks lived on Wallens Hill where the Carmen Centrellas lived. Art Comstock ran a bicycle and motorcycle shop where Don's Coffee Cup is now. I used to eat at Don's Coffee quite a lot.

Clarence Comstock moved up on the Norfolk Road, married Edna Plante. They were long time members of Victory Grange.

Ed J. Busby was founder of Riverton Grange. He lived where John Kemp now lives on North Main Street. The VFW was moved from farther down the street. I used to cut the hay there when Adelaide Wilson lived there.

There was a big barn where the Nutmeg Pantry is now, and Busby had a big lot there. Busby raised garden produce and pansies, kept a few cows, also owned an apple orchard where Fred Nelson lived. Fred Nelson died about July 30, 1989. (His widow is Helen Beech Nelson) [120 Smith Hill Rd.]

Some of the other small farms on North Main St., besides Busby's and the Leroy Millard farm was the George Spelman farm. George had a son, Dorman, who drove truck for Standard Cycle (Scasco). He had a son Dorman, who lived in Mason Hale's house on Colebrook Road.

Matt Wheeler also had a small farm later owned by Homburger, and he raised sweet corn. [Where the barn with a couple of horses is across from the entrances to the factories on the west side of North Main St.] Then there was the house where Charles and Stella Tainter lived. Art Wilber, Fred's father, also had a small farm there, later owned by Frank Passini. Rob Green also had a farm just before Bill Nelson's where the horse farm is now. Bill was a blacksmith and also drew lumber with a Federal truck. He drew railroad ties from our place about 1924.

H. Parks Holcomb had a farm in Robertsville where the Putnams live. [1 Old Forge Road] He also did shrubbery work, digging laurel and trees. He furnished some of the shrubbery for the Saville Dam. Frank Pease and Frank Anstett of Riverton worked for him, also Alfred Spring. H. Parks has a son on the old John Northway place [258-A Colebrook River Rd.] and he also did shrubbery work. That is Parks B. Holcomb.

I remember the 1938 hurricane. It ruined all of our silo corn as well as all my neighbor's sweet corn and silo corn. We also had to shingle our barn after the storm. Bought the shingles from Butler and Hodge of Riverton and they had been under water, so I bought them for \$1.50 a square. Kenneth Frink helped me shingle one side of the

roof, which was 63 feet long with 18-foot rafters. He charged me \$13.00 to help me. That was a beautiful barn with beveled beams and mortise and tenon joints.

We bought a horse from Bill Burke in Colebrook River and rode him home. It was no big job to drive a horse to Colebrook and back. I drove a horse for Taylors in Riverton down to East Main St. Over Tarringford St.

Mrs. Mabel Hitchcock Cole passed away last week at about 92 years of age. Cole's had 2 sons, Walter, Jr. and Herb. Mrs. Cole mowed, raked and baled her own hay until she was more than 85 years old. She could pitch hay with a pitchfork better than most men. Her husband was an electrician and carpenter. They are still using a 1948 Jeep that Walt, Jr. bought after he got out of the service. He drew some logs out of Ralph Meggison's for Ifflands for his first job. They had a 1928 Chevrolet truck and later a 1939 Ford truck.

I used to go to Hartland and draw a cord of 4-foot wood for Walter Stewart for a dollar a cord.

The CCC Campers cut a lot of wood in East Hartland during the Depression. They used to have from 5-10 acres of 4-foot and you could buy any amount at \$4.00 per cord. I drew 5 cords of wood from W. Hartland to Wallens Hill for \$5.00.

Working for the W.P.A. during the Depression, pay was \$1.00 a day. We had some pretty hard winters; frost was between 3 and 4 feet deep as the water froze up at the Gilbert School. We got .30¢ an hour for digging frozen ground. William Barrett was the plumber. He had a shop near Park Place Hardware.

Letter #5, Sept. 22, 1989

“Thank you very much for the book (Colebrook Stories by Alan DeLarm) and for the very nice letter. Hope I have not repeated many times.

Charles Everett”

“Taking care of the old trucks and tractors and sawmill motors was not an easy job in the winter, because all the oil was pretty heavy and there was no anti-freeze. If you got the motor started, you always had to put hot water (in the radiator) or it would freeze from the cold air from the fan. About the first job you had when you got to the sawmill was to build a fire and heat up some water. Most all of the motors had to be cranked by hand and there were no batteries. Almost everything ran on magnetos, even the Model T Fords.

The Buick cars and Dodges came out with starters in the early 20s. The Dodge cars and trucks had a 12-volt system up until 1928, when they changed to 6 volts. Almost all cars and trucks are 12-volt systems now. Some of the tractors have 24-volt systems.

The Oliver tractor diesel that I used at Ruth Rebillard's cost \$10,000, and now it would be about \$25,000. The first corn wagon that she bought was \$1,800, and the last one she bought was \$6,500. A Ford 8-N tractor in 1948 was about \$1,400, and a Farmall was about \$1,700. Rebillards also have an Oliver gas tractor, a Farmall and a White tractor with a bucket loader.

A side-delivery rake used to be about \$300.00, and now they are nearly \$3,000. The Oliver tractors have a high and low range transmission, 8 speeds ahead and 2

reverse, with a hydromatic direct drive, an overdrive and an underdrive and also power steering and a live-power take-off. All of these have been great improvements.

The old Fordsons had steel wheels and lugs, and the John Deere had 2 cylinders and steel wheels. John Lossin had a 2 cycle John Deere with steel wheels.

I took an old Fordson tractor to Torrington to the Hendey Machine Shop for the McClaves to get the block welded, because it had frozen up. They still had the tractor, the last I knew.

The old trucks had no headlights until they used acetylene tanks, and you lit them with a match. You were out of luck unless you carried matches; also had hand operated windshield wipers. It was not much fun coming home with a load of lumber in the dark. Sometimes we would carry a lantern. Some of the wagons and sleighs had a bracket to hold a lantern.

My folks used to hitch up the horse and wagon and drive downtown and leave the horse and wagon under the Methodist Church sheds and then walk to the old theater near the corner of Main and Elm Streets. [It was] A three-deck movie house, silent pictures. Used to see Charlie Chaplin before the Strand was built.

All we had for lights at the house and barn were 3 lanterns and 3 lamps. Did the milking with 2 lanterns and did our schoolwork by lamplight until we got our own carbide lights; then we had a light in every room and 2 lights in the barn.

The first radio we had was a little Atwater Kent and then we bought a Silvertone, used, from Homer Hale in Tolland, Mass about 1930, when we used to deliver grain there for Leonard Grain Co. I used to listen to Amos and Andy and One Man's Family.

Kenneth Hale still has an apple orchard and makes a little maple syrup. His brother went to Gilbert School when I did. Harold Morton, Roy Johnson and Kenneth Hurlbut from Winchester also went to Gilbert School with me.

Fred Wilber worked at Skilton's fishing & tackle shop when he went to Gilbert, later he worked at Fitzgerald's shop on Meadow Street. (Son Chief) Art Wilber, his father, was millwright at the shop.

I sold fireplace wood to the Skiltons on Hinsdale Ave., also sold fireplace wood to Ted Vaill for quite a few years. He wrote the "Tee Vee Column" in the *Winsted Evening Citizen* for a good many years. I think it is his son who lives on Old North Road. [Yes, Ted (Deedo) and Ruth live at 51 Old North Road.] I used to cut wood for Mrs. Cad Brown [across the road from Deedo's].

Ted Vaill's father was Dudley Vaill, and he lived on Coe St. He also owned the old Tannery Farm where Cannavo Flower Shop is. [Christine's] Earl Griswold ran the farm and peddled milk in Winsted. The Vaills had quite a large family. Also knew the Vaills in Goshen. Derwin Vaill drew the logs at the Skinner place with a big pair of horses. He drew them back and forth from Goshen every day in a horse van.

Gordon Vaill cut and drew the logs on the Swartz Farm (Avery's). Gordon also cut logs on Harvey Deming's place and also cut and drew logs on my place for Scott Maier from Manchester Center, Vermont. They used 2 skidders. They had a Tree Farmer and a big John Deere. A John Deere skidder costs about \$75,000. He had 6 men and 2 skidders and they cut over 100,000 feet of pine on Deming's place in one month, on 10 acres of land. Some of the pines had 1,000 board feet

I had some pretty good pine, hemlock, some black birch and other hardwood. Later I sold some timber to Franklyn Fredsall of Colebrook, who has a mill on Pinney

Street. [He does] Mostly hemlock and some hardwood. Frank had a Timberjack skidder and he had to have 2 new tires put on the front of his skidder. The tires were \$1,000 each and were put on by Toce Bros. of Torrington. It is not an easy job to change wheels or tires on these machines. Ruth Rebillard just had 2 new tires put on the back of their Oliver tractor for \$800.00.

Also knew Ed Case and his sons. It takes a good man to cut more logs than Fredsall and Ed Case; they can really work and they know how to do it. I would never try to compete against them. Remember when Ed Case cut timber on Campbell's place [4 Campbell Rd.], he had a crawler tractor at that time.

Remember when Ray Bell cut the timber on Waterman's place. [159 Sandy Brook Rd.] I used to sell fireplace wood to some people by the name of [Arthur] Slothower that lived near there. Ed Case and son cut a lot of logs for Hinman's of Burlington on the Losaw Road. I think he cuts for Tallon Lumber Co. now of Norfolk.

Also remember when Ray Bell cut timber on the William Mather Lewis place. [434 Smith Hill Rd.] My brother and I drew sawdust from there with a 1947 Federal dump truck. I think Ray had horses at that time. Bell also cut timber on the Mason Hale place [3 Stillman Hill Rd.] and also on the Gene Twining place.

Furnished wood and slabs to the Charles Mattsons for a good many years when they lived over by the Lily Pond. [81 Rockwell Rd.] The town Garage was near there at that time. [Where the Colebrook Center Fire House is now.] Mattsons had 2 daughters, one married Kenneth Millard and the other [Mildred], married Harry Marshall. I think Marshall built the house where Williams lived on Bunnell St., near the Rock School. [Yes, 189 Bunnell St.]

Also knew Frank Johnson and his wife. His father, Joe, ran a gas station in Winsted where English's Station is now. Also remember Bob Whiting and the Hurd place, in North Colebrook. [952 Colebrook Rd. (Actually, it is in Norfolk.)]

Clifford Vogellus used to keep horses at the Hurd place, and I used to draw shavings there for his horses. Clifford married Emily Clark, and they bought Mountain Song Farm in New Boston, the old Strickland farm. I think Charles Mattson had a brother who lived on Sandy Brook Rd. [Yes – Bill, who lived across the private bridge at 148 Sandy Brook Rd.] Used to draw sawdust from George Dirgo's, and I think he carried mail at one time.

Mrs. Clifford Palmer carried mail from Winsted to Riverton, Colebrook River, New Boston, Sandisfield Center, South Sandisfield and back to Colebrook. Clifford Palmer drove truck for Gilbert Clock Shop. Mrs. Palmer also ran Silver Brook Grill in West New Boston.

Used to go to square dances in the town hall in West New Boston when Walt Machowski called for the square dances. The Vremko brothers played for dancing with an electric guitar. Walt had a cottage in South Sandisfield.

Paul Murray runs the New Boston Store and Post Office. Steve Competti used to run them before. Max Nager ran them when I delivered grain there. Max Nager opened the Highland Hardware in Winsted.

I knew the Competti family, as I also took grain there. They own the New Boston Nursing Home, and Jimmie Deming is the cook there. He is the boyfriend of Mary Ann Miller of Sandy Brook.

Beverly Farnam, who stays with Mrs. Woodward on Smith Hill, lived in Colebrook River. Her father fired boilers on the steam sawmills. Harry Beach of Riverton also was a fireman on the mills. Also know Doug and Janet Roberts. The Roberts and the Woodwards and the Lovells and the Everetts are related way back.

Al [and Anna] Zalinka lived on Beech Hill at one time and also the Harwoods. I bought my last car from Harwood.

The Booths also lived on Beech Hill. They had 2 sons, Emory and Jack. Jack carried the mail on RFD 1 for a while after Oscar Riiska. Jack married Ann Riiska. Oscar Riiska had 2 other sons who live in Winsted. Oscar and John used to run a taxi business. Later the boys ran the school buses. They have some other relatives who used to farm in Sandisfield.

Booths used to live on North Main St. and were one of our milk customers. Bill Sturm carried mail on RFD 1 before Oscar Riiska. His wife lives on Meadow St. Albert Sturm was a well driller. Bob Phelps is also a well driller. Bob drilled the well at Nelson's for Helen and Fred [120 Smith Hill Rd.] They really hit water there, right in the front lawn; they got 50 gallons of water a minute. Mrs. Nelson White was there and said: "That's the man I want to drill a well!" They had a well drilled before, but never had much water. Bob drilled 2 or 3 other ones on Smith Hill and drilled about 6 wells in Riverton. I think he also drilled Proske's.

Herb Proske and Beatrice and daughter, Cindy and 2 other girls and I went to an outdoor square dance in front of the Otis, Mass. Hotel.

James Pettit and I used to go to Otis Inn quite often for supper. Also went to the dances in front of the new firehouse in Otis. They also built a new bank.

The doctor in Otis was Dr. Erbe. He is the doctor that advised Ray Bell to get his hip replacements. Some doctors told Ray he would never walk again, but he had them replaced and drove truck and loader quite a while after that. My brother had to have 2 hip replacements.

I had my setback too, when I was 65 years old. I went to Dr. Ragland and he put me in the hospital. I was in Winsted Hospital for 2 weeks, and had every test they had in Winsted, so I was sent to Hartford Hospital by ambulance and had to stay there for 3 weeks. I had Milonova and enlarged liver, and went down to 116 pounds. Finally got out of there and stayed with Don and Ruth until I was able to go back home.

I was in the Winsted Hospital when the Godenzi boy smashed up his car on the Old Colebrook Rd. near Mrs. McGill's. [48 Old Colebrook Rd.] That was a wild night at the hospital with the sirens going and all the people. He was very seriously injured. He was put in my room for a day or two, but was later taken to Hartford Hospital. Elton and his wife came in to see him almost every night. Elton also came to see me too, because I was in the Hartford Hospital on the 12th floor. The boy was laid up for a long time. I guess he is pretty good now. The Godenzi boys worked for Ray Bell at one time.

I used to buy my pullets at the Otis Poultry Farm, run by Max Pyenson and son. Also cut some white birch logs in Beckett for John Newth.

R.N. Harrison Lumber Co. bought a big stand of timber by Cobble Mtn. Dam. I did not work on that job, but I was there several times. There was supposed to be a million feet, but they only got 450,000, because the hemlock turned out to be shaky and rotten.

John Passini and his wife and children, Jack and Joan, used to go to the Otis dances. I think Jack met his wife, Barbara, at the Riverton dances. Jack used to work for Fred Wilber when I did. We cut the hay on the Fred Thompson Farm on Millbrook Road. Jack built the house on Smith Hill where Rujo and Shirley Moore live. I suppose Jack and Barbara live in Arizona now. [Jack died shortly after this was written.]

Am enjoying the many stories that are in the book you sent me. (Colebrook Stories)

I certainly remember the traffic jam at the ski jump. I had to walk half way there on account of the traffic jam. Anton Lekang was one of the jumpers.

I knew Ralph Strand [who built the ski jump] because his son, Ralph, graduated with me from the First School. Our graduation present was a trip to Lake Compounce. Ralph Strand furnished a car for the trip, a Hudson Super 6 sedan, so Ralph, Jr. and I rode with him.

That certainly was some hill in Colebrook river. I walked up the stairs one day to the top. How anyone could ski down that hill was unbelievable. We used to slide down the landing with our sleds and believe me, you had tears in your eyes, you went so fast.

There was an old road by the (Colebrook River) Hotel that used to go to Tolland up by the Clifford Moore Farm. [Harvey Mountain Road] Other people who lived on the West side of the river were the Jules Prevos, the Churchs, the Peases, Harriet Bell, Mrs. Harrington, Billy and Charles Pease; Mrs. Wickes also lived there and walked to work in Winsted.

The Gene Bourquins were the last to move out. The Nugents also lived there. We used to deliver grain to Ed Seymour, who was the first one to sell on that side of the river. The Grange moved down to Robertsville. Used to have square dances at Victory Grange with Orville "Pop" Smith calling for the dances. Used to have a midnight dance for New Years.

Have walked across the old footbridge in Colebrook River. Often stopped at the top of Woodruff Hill to eat my lunch by the foundation of the old Billy Woodruff house.

We had some pretty hard winters and a lot of ice in the rivers. Remember when the Colebrook River Road was closed at the bottom of Woodruff Hill, also the Robertsville Road below Adams and the Riverton Road above the Inn and also Phelps Flat Road in North Colebrook.

The George Palmers, Sr. also lived in Colebrook River, as well as the Byron Bells, Ray's father. Ray Bell's wife was Leila Oakes, and they lived on the Norfolk Road. Mary Oakes went to Gilbert School. Mrs. Bell's brother and Alfred Spring worked on the old stone crusher on the New Hartford Road.

The Verchots were the last house in Connecticut at the state line. [The Verchots were originally from France; their name was pronounced "Ver-shaw".] Dr. Ward married a Verchot, and so did Benny Poole. Jules Verchot and Bill Osborn worked at the DuBois farm near the state line. The Pete Verchots had 2 daughters. They moved down to Williams Ave. The Pooles and Verchots had a cottage in New Boston and used to have a lot of softball games there. Mary Tucker Russell of Winsted is a relative of Verchots.

Used to eat at Pinecrest sometimes. Kenneth Lord had 2 sons besides Carol (Lord) Radocchio. Edward Lord lived on Millbrook Road at the corner of Pinney Street. He married a Schoonmaker girl, sister to the girl that married Calabrese that used to come

to Mrs. Howard's. I worked part time for Mrs. Howard for 12 years. Harold Lord lived on Torrington Street.

The Roudis live on Millbrook Road. She was a teacher, and I think he was a music teacher. They used to come and see Mrs. Lufkin.

I painted the Lufkin house, and that is really a big house. Had to put 60 storm windows on. Had 2 General Electric furnaces. She had a new fireplace built in the kitchen, also had a couple of other fireplaces.

Remember the Keith Wallaces that lived near there. [305 Smith Hill Rd.] Also knew Bill Nelson, the carpenter. His folks still live in West Hartland. Joe Pfaefflin's wife is Lareen Nelson from Hartland.

R.N. Harrison Lumber Co. used to cut oyster poles on Nelson's property. They were hemlock, about a foot through, 40 feet long and they drew them to the shore near Branford. R.N. Harrison Lumber Co. was from Branford.

The John Harrison Lumber Co. was from Plainville. The old Harrison place is in Bantam and got hit by the tornado.

My father's birthday was October 26th. He knew the Calhouns who owned the Cathedral Pines. [They were destroyed by the tornado.]

My cousins, Ralph and Francis Dunbar lived on Dunbar Road and owned the land now known as Ellsworth Farm, right near the Grange Hall and firehouse in Ellsworth.

One of my cousins came over with his motorcycle and gave Don and me a ride to Colebrook River. We went over Woodruff Hill at 60 miles an hour in the side car.

One of my uncles was general agent for the Santa Fe Railroad, working in Boston. [He] lived in Arlington. Another uncle, Ed Lovell, owned the land where the Fairfield State Hospital is, near Newtown. Had a cousin who had a large farm below Sharon, Howard Loper, and he has a son, Ralph, who still lives in Sharon on West Woods Road.

I used to take some wood to John Lugg when Harold Phillips lived there. [667 Colebrook Rd.] Used to play cards with Mr. & Mrs. Harold Phillips and Ralph and Bessie Deming, also Spencer Deming when Jim Allen was around; also used to take wood to a Mrs. Hall on Millbrook Road, near the Rebillard place. Knew James and Dorothy Otto.

Mrs. Proske had a brother who lived in Houston, Texas, Clayton Gilman. I built a new gravel driveway for the Proskes. Dug the old driveway out with a pick and shovel and wheelbarrow, about a foot deep and got two 4-yard loads of inch stone and spread in the bottom and then 8 yards of processed gravel from O'Connor Bros. Had it drawn by John Lossin with his 2 International trucks. Also had John Lossin do some harrowing for us when he had the steel wheeled, 3 cylinder John Deere tractor.

Also try to know what the wood choppers and sawers are doing, such as Mike Sullivan and Jim Colbert. Mike used to stop at my house and do a little chopping when the log cutters were there.

We used to have some pretty good milk customers, as there were some pretty large families at that time. One of our customers was the Kittredge family, with 5 boys and 5 girls. Used to be 12 of them at the table Sunday mornings. Took 4 or 5 quarts of milk every day.

Also, the Martin Sullivan family who had at least 12 children. They used to buy about the same amount. The Johnson family had 7 boys and 2 girls. The H. Parks

Holcombs had 5 or 6 boys and 2 or 3 girls. The Ernest Clarks in Tolland, Mass. had at least 9 boys. They had enough for their own baseball team!

I think the Rebillard family had 5 boys and 5 girls, and also the Taylor family. The William Fanchers had 5 boys and 5 girls, William Fancher was one of the first R.F.D. mail carriers on Smith Hill. He first peddled with a horse and then with a motorcycle and then with Model T Fords. Other, later carriers on Smith Hill were Roland Atkins, Paul Vreeland, Judy Odell and now, Mary Dyer, who lives in New Hartford.

Some of the old cars and trucks had pretty high wheels, but could go through some snow and mud. The Model T Fords had 30 x 3½ clincher rims; you had to change them right on the car. Always had to carry a couple of irons and a hand pump.

The 1924 Dodge cars were 32 x 4½ with a 24 in. rim. The Model A Ford came out with a 4.50 x 21 in. rim. The old tires were made of real rubber and they had a lot of traction.

The 1928 Reo had a 32 x 6 with a 20 in. rim and Goodyear diamond tread. The 1935 Oldsmobile had a 5.50 – 17 in. rim.

They kept making the wheels smaller most every year. The 1948 Dodge cars had a 6.00 x 16 in. rim. Most everything now is from 15 in. down.

I had a tire home from Bill Funk's 1936 Brockway that was 12 plies. Also had 2 900 x 20 that came off John Nelson's 1928 White. I think Dave Geddes still has his 1931 Model A Ford roadster.

Bill Funk used to do trucking in Winsted. He has a son, Delbert, still living in Winsted. Also, Jimmie Funk and Norma who used to go square dancing. They live on E. Wakefield Blvd.

Chevrolet cars came out in about 1934 with a knee-action front end. Burt Mills and Fred Nelson each had one. My brother had a 1933 Ford V-8.

John Stocker lives on the Old Colebrook Road near where Harold Pfaefflin, Sr., lived. Harold and Isabel (Waters) have a son who lives on Bricklemaier Road. He worked for C.L. & P.

Met the Squinobal family a couple of times. He works for O & G and she is an interior decorator. They bought their place from Ed and Cindy (Proske) Maestro, near Nichols Happy Home [77 Old Colebrook Rd.] Was there for Herb Proske's memorial service.

The famous horse, Secretariat, has been put to sleep at age 19 years, due to a hoof disease. Was owned by the C. T. Chenery family of Hildene Farm in Colebrook, [28 McClave Rd.] but now of Kentucky.

Paul Willis lived in Colebrook at one time and also the Wills. [458 Smith Hill Rd.]

Remember when Tom Glennon used to mow lawn for Jack Kenney. I think Joe Ratigan still takes care of the place. I did some work for Tom Glennon when he bought his place in Norfolk. Also did some work for Wallace Clark in Southfield, Mass., cutting some trees.

Remember when the 1955 flood took out the road in North Colebrook and they dug out the river and put in the new road. York Lake gave way and washed out the road pretty badly. Was drawing slabs from the Fox Road in Sandisfield and had to go 'way around by the Riiska farms. [The Old New Hartford Road.] Used to stop and get water

at the old watering tub by Dr. Luch's old place. [897 Colebrook Rd.] Will Sage lived up near York Lake.

Read in the paper Chester Rebillard of Granby died. He went to Wallens Hill School with me. He used to have a big ripper that used to slide down Wallens Hill, by Roberts' Chicken Farm. We had a lot of snow then, and did a lot of sliding and skating and skiing. I moved Chester and his tractor and plow and harrow and woodsaw to Granby with my 1939 Chevrolet truck. Chester married Georgiana Foley of Hartland.

Have been reading about the 100th Anniversary of the *Citizen Register*. Harry Osborn used to deliver the *Winsted Evening Citizen* when it was .03¢. He used to make .01¢ each paper and delivered North Main Street as far as Hemlock Cemetery by walking or bicycle. He also did Harvey Deming's and the Everetts. Harry used to help us doing the haying in the summer.

Used to see Ted Vaill almost every morning as we delivered milk to Desci's Drug Store, which was right next door (to the *Evening Citizen* office). Freda DeMars worked at Desci's and also Mrs. Holmes. Jim Dudley also worked at Desci's. Ted was a dedicated newsman and also dedicated to the Winsted Fire Department. Mrs. [Claire] Vreeland used to write for the *Citizen* and also her sister, who wrote [the column] "P.V. Birder".

Pete Boyko was pressman there for a good many years. He still lives in Winsted and is 90 years old. Dave Russell worked at the *Citizen* and I think he had a brother. They used to eat at the Winsted Diner. Tom Haggerty was also a member of the *Evening Citizen* as well as Bob McCarthy.

Ralph Nader was a paperboy. His father had a bakeshop and restaurant near there.

Mr. & Mrs. W.P. Davidson used to walk to work from Wetmore Ave.; they ran the Boston Store.

Some of the policemen in Winsted were John Slocum, Frank White, Leo Lachat, Ted Dautrich and Waldo Heath, motorcycle patrolman.

Bill Stewart used to peddle *Citizen* papers clear through Colebrook River on a bicycle when they were .06¢ apiece.

Some of the old bicycles were the Ranger, Columbia, Hawthorn and Capitol.

Letter # 6, October 28, 1989

Dear Folks,

Am enclosing some money for another book (Colebrook Stories, by Alan DeLarm), but I would like it mailed to Mrs. George Vogellus, R.F.D. 4, Smith Hill Road, Winsted, Conn. 06098.

George Vogellus was married to Eleanor Blanchette at the Colebrook Store in about 1950, when Mr. & Mrs. Stotts were there. Eleanor worked in the Gilbert Clock Shop office, and George drove truck for the Clock Shop. Eleanor is about 80 years old. George's birthday was pretty easy to remember: born on January 1, 1900. He lived to be 80 years old. He worked at the Leonard Grain Co. back in 1926. Later he worked for Standard Cycle and Auto Supply Co. (SCASCO).

Remember when Scasco started with 2 pumps of Tydol gas at the corner of Main and Rowley. [Where the Dairy Queen is now.] Later George went west and worked on

the ranches for a few years, but came back to Winsted. He was working at Morton's Esso station when it was held up one night and he got hit with a tire iron, but escaped other injuries. Hold-ups were not very common at that time.

George was a big man, over 200 lbs. and 6 foot. Eleanor worked at the Clock Shop office along with Charles Arnold, Stanley Ransom from West Hartland and Herman Cleaveland of Wallens Hill.

I helped George cut the logs for his house on his land, also 1,000 feet of oak for flooring with a cross-cut saw. We drew the logs down on the old Route 8 to Wilson, Howard and Wilson and drew the lumber back with a 1948 Ford truck. George built most of his own house, as did Bob and Marge Pfaefflin. Marge still drives one of the school buses in Colebrook that covers Beech Hill and McClave Road. (The bus is) owned by Bob Stoecker of West River Rd. in Pleasant Valley.

There are several Eleanors besides Mrs. Vogellus; there is Eleanor (Osborn) Clark, wife of Wallace Clark on Spencer Hill, also Eleanor DiMartino, wife of Michael DiMartino of Smith Hill and also Eleanor (Burns) Mills, wife of Edwin of Colebrook Center. E.B.M. is her license plate.

There was also an Eleanor Thomas who lived with Al Thomas (at Wright's Pond). She married one of the Durst boys from Eno Hill and they moved up Sheffield way.

I used to remember most everybody's license plate number. I had C-995 for a long time and Harvey Deming used to have Z 912.

Used to see Eddie Mills going home from work most every afternoon. Also Harry Williams, Jr. George and Clifford Vogellus used to go coon hunting with Harry Williams, Sr.

The DiMartinos also had a daughter named Eleanor. They had another daughter Noreen, who married Tom Lampognana, and they ran the 5 Star Travel bureau. The DiMartinos also had a daughter Michele who was an airline stewardess and now lives in Denver. They had a son, Brian, who works for the airlines in Denver. Tom and Noreen live on the Colebrook Road and their house was built by Ray Bell.

Heard on the Bob Steele birthdays this morning that one of my relatives, Mildred Lovell of Newtown was 90 years old today.

Mrs. Beatrice (Gilman) Proske is 90 years old this weekend and Helen and Mary Nelson are going to Ardsley, N.Y. to the birthday party.

Mrs. Nelson White still lives on Smith Hill at the age of 95, but I still have the record of living on Smith Hill the longest; 76 years at the same place.

The registration fees were quite high on old cars; about \$21.00 at the first of January, but they were cheaper after the first of April. Lots of people put up their cars in the winter and spring on account of the snow and mud.

George Stenman married and bought a farm near Sheffield, Mass. and farmed it for quite a few years.

G. Vogellus brought me a pipe from Tombstone, Arizona. John Stockes and Frankie Holt have just spent a week in Arizona.

Mrs. Vogellus will be going to Vermont after election. If you cannot mail the book before then, please let me know. If this is not enough money, let me know.

Charles Everett

Letter # 7, January 2, 1990

Hi, Folks,

Thought I would write and see if you are still in the book business. I think I would like a book sent to the Bilecks. (Colebrook Stories)

The address would be Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Bileck, R.F.D. 4, Ruth Cross Road, Winsted, Conn. 06098 They live on the Ruth Cross place, which used to be the old Pfaefflin place.

John Spring rented that house one year when he was in the lumber business, for \$5.00 a month, house and barn. But the barn is not there any more.

The Bilecks are a very interesting couple to talk with. He is an artist [with] whiskers, and just retired from teaching in N.Y. She was a writer at one time. If you should want to go there, go to the 4 corners on Riverton Road, Rt. 20, turn left at the sports shop, and then left again. Go by Rebillards Farm and the Keeleys. It is a little farther and the house is on the left. Just before you go down the steep hill by Ralph Hazen's.

I think O'Neil lived there at one time. The O'Neil that married Evelyn Howard. Mrs. Herman Cleveland lives in the caretaker's place. Her name was Neubauer, and she had a sister who married Ralph Smith. He was my Sunday School teacher at the First Congregational Church in Winsted.

If this can't be done, let me know.

Happy N. Year,
Charles Everett

[PS] Hope you are doing all right this winter. We were without heat 3 hours that coldest night, and water pipes froze twice. Have also been battling a cold

Mrs. Proske's water pipes froze, but they have them fixed now.

Still visit with Mark & Martha (Powell) Glynn on the telephone. [That sounds confusing; Mark and Martha were brother and sister.]

Letter #8, April 9, 1990

Dear Folks,

Would like a book of Colebrook Stories sent to James Pettit, East Wakefield Blvd., Winsted, Conn., 06098

Am hoping this book will eventually get to Helen (Bell) Dolby. Helen is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Bell and formerly lived in Colebrook River, but now lives near the Ratlum Road in Canton Center, but don't know her address. She works at the real estate business for Henry Bahre, and she still has some of her meals at Birch Lane Dairy Bar. I did some work for her fixing fences, as she had a riding horse.

Ray Bell and his wife and 3 children lived in the old town hall in Barkhamsted when he cut the timber on Granville Road. Bob, Dorothy and Helen were small children and went to school wherever they lived, sometimes changing schools 2 or 3 times a year. Some of the birthdays lately are Jesse Williams, Colebrook, 90 years old, March 30, 1990. Jesse's brother, Ray "Punk" Williams, used to ride bicycle with Bob Steele. Also Beatrice Gilman Proske, 90 years old in 1989. Del Funk, 82 years old; Marion Duyser Manning, 83 years old 1/9/90 and Sadie Rebillard, 90, 1989 - The End