

**Terry Files Oral History Interview, 04/07/2015**  
**Administrative Information**

**Narrator:** Terry Files

**Interviewer:** Anthony Macro

**Date of Interview:** April 7, 2015

**Place of Interview:** Files' house on Troy Road, South Windsor

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**Biographical Note and Abstract**

Terry Hull Files was born in Hartford, Connecticut, on 29 January, 1936, and raised in a farmhouse in the center of Wapping, South Windsor at the "Five Corners," on the site now occupied by the Santander Bank. Educated at Wapping Grammar School and Ellsworth High School, he took a number of jobs locally after graduation, eventually settling into a long career in heavy construction work, interrupted only by his national service in the US Army in Germany from 1958 to 1960, and in the Trade Union movement, in which he remains active. He had three children by his first wife – a daughter and two sons. He now lives in retirement with his second wife, Sandy, in a delightful house he built to his own specification, deep in the woods off Troy Road.

In this interview, Files discusses farming and husbandry in Wapping and working in tobacco as a youth. He also talks about the Second World War, including food rationing, watchtower, and anti-aircraft gun emplacements. Other topics include: travel by rail (from Manchester) and public bus; the Barnum & Bailey circus fire in Hartford; canning chickens and Sunday dinner, after boxing lessons, with 'Bat' Battalino; shopping in Manchester; musical entertainment in Hartford; dances and auctions at Hill's Grove; friends and companions on the Collins' school bus; activities at Ellsworth High School; life with the US Army in Idar-Oberstein in Germany, in the late 1950s; building Interstate 95 in southern Connecticut; and the Trade Union movement.

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**Transcript of Oral History Interview**

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Terry Files  
Oral History Interview  
Interviewed by Tony Macro  
Sandra “Sandy” Files also speaks  
April 7, 2015

MACRO: **0:00:00.0** This is an interview of Terry Files conducted on behalf of the Wood Memorial Library’s oral history project by Tony Macro at Terry’s house on Troy Road, South Windsor, on the morning of Tuesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 2015. Good morning, Terry.

T. FILES: Good morning.

MACRO: Do I have your permission to conduct this interview?

T. FILES: Definitely.

MACRO: Thank you very much. We’re most grateful to you. Now, as I understand it, Terry, you were born and bred in South Windsor.

T. FILES: Yes. Well, I was born in Hartford Hospital, but I came home to South Windsor.

MACRO: Yes. And I believe that your parents lived in the center of town, the Wapping part of town.

T. FILES: **0:01:03.2** Yeah. They lived right where the five corners were. There was the community hall across the street, and on the Buckland Road side was the site of the memorial library [Sadd Memorial Library]. And then you had the church—the congregational church—and the parsonage. Those were the—let’s see—the four other buildings in the five corners.

MACRO: And which was your building, your family’s?

T. FILES: We were on the corner of—actually it was the main road between Boston and New York. Oakland Road starts there, and it was—I guess Route 15 or something. But we were on the Buckland Road corner.

MACRO: Mm-hm. And was it a farmhouse?

T. FILES: **0:02:01.0** No, it was a big—it was a large house. Originally it was a farmhouse, but we didn’t use it as a farm. We did have horses, we had—and my father—you know, I was

raised during the Second World War, and we had pigs, and we had chickens and ducks, and things like that. But we raised tobacco or anything there. My uncles did, my great-uncles, but we never—I never—my father never raised tobacco.

MACRO: Had there been tobacco raised there once upon a time?

T. FILES: Yes. Oh yeah. But all the tobacco sheds went down in the hurricane of 1938. So they were all removed as I—I was born in '36, so they would have been removed when I was old enough to realize they were removed, put it that way. I was a baby when that happened.

MACRO: **0:03:06.7** Right. So all the—where the Santander Bank is, and the parking lot for Stop & Shop—those were all fields?

T. FILES: Well, that's where our home was.

MACRO: But behind your house.

T. FILES: Behind the house, yeah. Yeah. Well, actually most of that land belonged to my father.

MACRO: Yes. And it's—how far down Buckland Road did it stretch? Where was the boundary?

T. FILES: Well, I know he sold the furthest piece down Buckland Road. He sold it to somebody named Lenny Barter. But it was—oh, probably—maybe a hundred yards before you reach the brook. But Clint Buckland owned the next piece, and he owned the house up on the top of the hill. I think that belongs to Woodcock now.

MACRO: **0:04:15.0** Woodcock, right. So yes, there's a brook there, isn't there.

T. FILES: Yeah, there's a brook.

MACRO: Halfway down towards the house that Woodcock owns.

T. FILES: Yeah.

MACRO: So that field, that part immediately behind your house had outbuildings for these pigs that you mentioned, animals and—

T. FILES: Yeah. Pretty—you know, right closer to the house. And then, like I said, there was fields. And my father had a garden down there on Buckland Road, down a ways. But it was open. And we had—it was a hayfield. 'Cause like I said, we didn't raise it. But we had horses,

and we could—the horses, you know, they graze out there. And my father had the hay cut for the horses for the winter, and things like that, you know?

MACRO: **0:05:09.7** Were these workhorses or were they—

T. FILES: Riding horses.

MACRO: So you had a stable there, attached to the house?

T. FILES: Well, we had a barn. We had a barn, not a—it was a pretty good-size barn, but not like a big cow barn or anything. It had two stalls and a box stall for the horses.

MACRO: So your earliest memories of growing up in the house had to do with the farming, with the animals?

T. FILES: Yeah, that and the—you know, at that time we knew everybody in the area. You know, it was a lot different than it is today. I mean, I don't know anybody that's—hardly my next-door neighbor. But we knew everybody, you know? We had the community hall across the street, which—and we had the grammar school [Wapping Grammar School] there where the church is now, and the town hall. And they had a YMCA that met over there in the community hall, and the Boy Scouts met there. It was a close community. It really was, you know? We had Snow's Store right next to the library, going up that way. And everybody knew everybody, and we all—it seemed like everybody got along, but you know.

MACRO: **0:06:54.0** Yeah, I'm sure. Did your grandparents live with you in the house, or some of the grandparents?

T. FILES: No. No, my grand—I can't remember my grandmother on my father's side at all. But my grandfather, he had a business in Boston. And he used to come every other weekend. Sometimes he drove, and sometimes he took the train down to North Manchester, where the train used to come in at North Manchester. And one weekend he'd go to Maine, to his other son. And then he came to my father's that weekend.

MACRO: Yeah. What business was he in, in Boston?

T. FILES: He had his own business, Files Steam Specialty. He ran a franchise for Armstrong steam traps. Of course steam was a big then back then days, you know? And that's what he did. He had his own business. He had a warehouse at 261 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass. I can always remember it.

MACRO: **0:08:11.2** Wow. Yeah. Did you go up there at all?

T. FILES: I've been up there quite a few times. Sometimes I would go—they'd put me on a train in North Manchester, and my grandfather would meet me at South Station. And then he'd take me up to Maine to be with my cousins for a week or so.

MACRO: And you got up there on the train, did you?

T. FILES: No, he'd drive from—he'd pick me up at the station, but then he'd get his car, and we'd drive up. Which was a thrill, 'cause he was a crazy driver. [both laughing]

MACRO: Tell me a little bit about the train. You remember the train from North Manchester yourself, do you?

T. FILES: Yeah. I can remember more when we'd go to pick my grandfather up, and it would come into North Manchester.

MACRO: **0:09:04.0** Yes.

T. FILES: I mean, it was a steam train. It was a big train, you know? And it's kind of scary when you're small, and it came rolling there.

MACRO: And did it—it ended in Hartford, or did it go on to New York, do you know?

T. FILES: I think it went to Hartford. Where from there, I have no idea.

MACRO: Yeah. So when was that discontinued? Do you remember—?

T. FILES: No, I don't.

MACRO: No.

T. FILES: I remember I used to get my—when I'd buy my fireworks, which you had to send off for, they'd come in to the railroad station. 'Cause they couldn't go through the mail, so they came through Railroad Express. And I was probably 14 or 15, and it was still operating there in North Manchester.

MACRO: Yes. Now, you say North Manchester. Where was that station? Was that behind the Agway, where the Agway is now in Manchester, by Tolland Turnpike there?

T. FILES: **0:10:11.1** Well, you know where the track are.

MACRO: Yes.

T. FILES: If you're coming from, say, the Buckland section, it was right before you took a right to go down North Main Street. It was right there.

MACRO: Oh, I see.

T. FILES: Yeah. It was on that side of like Farris. Farris is on the other side. The railroad station was right there.

MACRO: There's a big agricultural warehouse-cum-shop there by the railroad crossing today, isn't there?

T. FILES: Yeah.

MACRO: Just down from Farris.

T. FILES: It was right about where the drug store is, and that stuff.

MACRO: Yeah, yeah. I see. Well, those days are long gone, aren't they?

T. FILES: Definitely. [laughing] Yeah. It was—but like I say, we had—you know, where I went to grammar school was right almost across the street from me. There was eight grades in a building where—well, it's where the church—the church was there, but the other buildings they added onto the church weren't there, see? And like I said, we used to have the basketball team, played in the community hall. And they used to have lunch there. There was a couple women that ran the lunch program, and you'd—and like I said, you'd go to lunch, you went across the street, right across Sullivan Avenue to have your lunch, and then go back. A lot of times I went home for lunch. But you know, it was a lot different.

MACRO: **0:11:54.5** Yeah. Shirley Wayner was telling me about—Shirley Van Sicklen Wayner, she was telling me about the grammar school there. 'Course, there's no trace of it there now. All we have are photographs.

T. FILES: Yeah. I knew—Shirley's older than I am, but I knew Shirley and her brother, Ray. She had a brother, Raymond. Her father was—he used to run a camera in one of the theaters in Hartford. That's what he did. But like I said, everybody knew everybody's business there. Then of course I went to Ellsworth High School. It was like a different life, with my—you know, we all worked on tobacco. Everybody worked on tobacco. I mean, it's—I worked for Doug Grant, who was a farmer down—almost to the Manchester town line on Buckland Road. And then I worked for Kachunis Brothers, which was—they had a lot of farms, the four brothers. And I worked for them in the summer, irrigating tobacco and potatoes. And then when they started cotton, I drove tobacco rigging, and worked in a shed, and different things.

MACRO: **0:13:27.5** And you had a group of friends who worked with you at the—?

T. FILES: Oh yeah. Yeah. Almost every young person, when they got to be 12, 13, 14 years old, worked on tobacco. If you didn't work on tobacco or something, you didn't get new clothes at the school. With us, anyway. I know we saved the money for our school clothes. 'Cause my parents, they used to always buy our shoes and stuff, but we always—then you had a chance to pick the clothes you wanted to, if you had your own money.

MACRO: **0:14:07.0** Where would they buy the clothes? Where, typically, would you buy shoes in those days? Where did you go to buy the shoes and clothes?

T. FILES: Well, you could go into Manchester or Hartford. You had Brown Thompsons, and Sage-Allens, and Foxes. The bus from—there was a Stamford bus that came right by, and you could—I forget what—came three or four times a day, and you could take a bus into Hartford. I used to go all the time, sometimes on Saturday, and go in to watch two double features by myself. It was so different then, you know? Go in there and go to the movies and—but it's different today.

MACRO: **0:15:03.9** It's all changed, hasn't it? So Manchester was considered a fairly large place with a variety of stores, and somewhat closer than Hartford to go to for provisions and so on.

T. FILES: Well, when I was, say 19 or 20, I used to go to Manchester on Thursday night—because the stores were open on Thursday night in Manchester. And I used to—I had these LP records. I like jazz. And I'd go down and buy a record sometimes, on Thursday night. Because that was one of the few times you could go, except on Saturday. You know? And I did a lot of shopping in Manchester. When I was really young, we used to go to Hartford mostly, because you could take the bus. But of course, when I was older, I could drive to Manchester. I had a car. Used to go down on my motorcycle, and go up and down Main Street making noise on Thursday night. [both laughing] But yeah, it was—

MACRO: **0:16:25.6** Before the stop signs were put in.

T. FILES: Yeah, that's right. It was different, yeah.

MACRO: Now, you say you like jazz. What particular jazz did you like?

T. FILES: I have a good collection of Errol Garner.

MACRO: Do you really?

T. FILES: Yeah. But I—you know, I liked Chet Baker, Illinois Jacquet, Chris Connor—

MACRO: **0:17:06.0** Oh, Chris Connor. Yes, yes.



T. FILES: Yeah. You know, I liked them.

MACRO: When I first came to the United States, I went to see Chris Connor in New York. I came—I saw her there. She was a great singer.

T. FILES: Yeah. Beautiful voice.

MACRO: What about the big bands, Kenton and—

T. FILES: Yeah, Stan Kenton.

MACRO: Basie and Ellington.

T. FILES: Yeah. Followed a while the other—different ones, yeah.

MACRO: Yeah.

T. FILES: I haven't listened to them in forty years or more. I still got a lot of those records, but I don't listen to them anymore.

MACRO: Do you have any of Lester Young?

T. FILES: I don't think so.

MACRO: Oh. Basie—he played with Basie for many years, Lester, and was a side man for Billie Holiday.

T. FILES: I've got Billie Holiday's.

MACRO: **0:18:02.3** Yeah. Teddy Wilson—you know, Teddy Wilson spent his last days in New Britain, and he used to play every Friday night in Hartford at the—oh, I forget where.

T. FILES:  
Probably the State Theatre, maybe—well, not the—no, the State. I used to go to the State Theatre, 'cause they used to have all the latest—well, I guess you call them rock and roll. I saw Pat Boone there. I saw the Shirelles. I saw all those—I can't remember them all. But we used to go on Saturday night and watch them, and listen to them. Little Richard. You know, that was probably when I was around 21 or so. But then went into service, you know? Got married. [both laughing] Things change.

MACRO: **0:19:09.5** Things change.

T. FILES: Things change, you know?

MACRO: Yeah, yeah. Well, so your schooling, your grammar schooling was across the road, and then you went to Ellsworth for high school. Incidentally, in those days, how did you get to Ellsworth?

T. FILES: A bus.

MACRO: A bus? Now, a school bus—

T. FILES: Collins Bus.

MACRO: Collins Bus.

T. FILES: Collins Bus. Yeah, there was actually—of course, Collins Bus is over there, you know, off of Sullivan Avenue. But he used to come down, and he had to go out and pick up Shirley Delnicki, who—I think her—let's see. Yes, Delnicki. It's the mayor [Thomas A. Delnicki], or was the mayor—would be his mother. And the Forbes, they were on Felt Road, both of them on Felt Road. That's where he started, then he came back. He'd turn around, and he'd come back. And Petersons, who lived up—well, we called it Ellington Road, where Peterson lived, where Damali lives now. His father was the building inspector for the town, Teddy Peterson. The road's named after him now, the road—

MACRO: **0:20:40.7** Yes.

T. FILES: And he and his sisters used to get the bus, and then my brothers and I, and my cousin who lived next door, Barbara Sullivan—I think she went to Ellsworth for one year, but then her mother sent her up to Mary Burnham, so she didn't go to Ellsworth that long.

MACRO: **0:21:04.8** When you say her mother sent her up to Mary Burnham, what—?

T. FILES: It's a finishing school up in Massachusetts.

MACRO: Oh, I see.

T. FILES: Yeah. Her mother—we were on the corner, and the next house going east was my aunt's house, Ernestine Sullivan.

MACRO: Ernestine Sullivan?

T. FILES: And she taught at the Pleasant Valley School for a long time, till she retired. And she had one girl, Barbara. And—hello.

SANDRA FILES [marked after this as “S.FILES”]: Hi.

MACRO: I’ve—

T. FILES: And she—you know, Barbara is still active in a historical society.

MACRO: **0:22:04.9** That’s right. [both laughing]

T. FILES: I remember that, you know? It wasn’t my choice, but my cousin Barbara, who—  
[dog barking]

S. FILES: Off. Stay off. Off.

T. FILES: She’s active in that, because of her mother teaching at that Pleasant Valley School. And she’s well-to-do, and she wanted me to have a lifetime membership. So she bought me a lifetime membership.

Maggie, get down. Get down.

But she, you know. And then the bus went down, picked up Webster—I don’t know if—Dave Webster’s daughter. And I can’t remember.

MACRO: You said Ernestine Sullivan, was that—did the Sullivan family give their name to Sullivan Avenue? Is that the same Sullivan—?

T. FILES: **0:23:06.7** No, no. No. No, not at all. She was my father’s half-sister. See, that corner there originally was the Grant’s. And my grandmother was a Grant, and she had three daughters—Phyllis, Ernestine, and Dorothy. And then she married my grandfather, and she had my father and my uncle Harry, who—they’re the only real blood relations with me.

MACRO: Yes.

T. FILES: So Ernestine, you know, she married somebody named Sullivan, I guess. That’s where she got the name. ‘Cause my other aunt was an Arnold, and I can’t remember what my Aunt Dorothy was. She had died before I remember at all. I don’t remember. But of course I lived right next door to my Aunt Ernestine. And my Aunt Phyllis, she lived in Broad Brook. She married one of the Arnolds up there.

MACRO: **0:24:34.0** In your schooling, do you remember any particular teachers well?

T. FILES: I remember the Principal. [laughing]

MACRO: And who was he?

T. FILES: Henry Adams.

MACRO: Henry Adams.

T. FILES: Yeah. He knew me well too. He used to send me home for things I did. And I'd be on Sullivan Avenue, walking, and he'd come up with his car and want me to get in, because he was afraid I might—somebody might steal me or something. But no, I—he and I had many—

S. FILES: **0:25:16.0** Encounters.

T. FILES: Encounters. But I—you know, I remember the phys-ed teacher, Loeffler [Albert Loeffler].

S. FILES: Want me to take her?

T. FILES: Yeah, why don't you take her? Yeah.

S. FILES: Okay.

T. FILES: She's just a little—

S. FILES: Then she won't bother you.

T. FILES: Yeah. And Miss Caffrey, Miss Zender—

S. FILES: Kish. Miss Kish [Olga Kish].

T. FILES: Oh yeah, Miss Kish.

MACRO: Miss Kish?

T. FILES: Yeah. She was a typing teacher. Let's see. One of them I liked was the English teacher. I can't remember her name. She's still alive. What's her name? I don't know.

MACRO: **0:26:11.5** You'll recollect her name, I'm sure.

T. FILES: Yeah, it's hard to—

MACRO: So you remember your days with enjoyment at school, do you?

T. FILES: Oh, definitely. Yeah, definitely. I played basketball, and I played soccer. And they didn't have football or anything, but—I didn't play baseball for the baseball team, but I did

play—and when I was a junior, we won the championship in soccer. We won the state championship.

MACRO: That's good. Yeah.

T. FILES: Like I said, I played basketball too, but we weren't champions then. That was after Hugh Greer was there. When Hugh Greer was there.

MACRO: I've heard of him.

T. FILES: He was very well.

MACRO: **0:27:00.8** Yes.

T. FILES: He left Ellsworth and went to the University of Connecticut. But my father used to take me over there to basketball games, when I was—I was—God.

MACRO: Did you—your friends were mostly from the Wapping area, I assume. Your close friends. Did you find in those days, going to school, that you made friends over in the other part of town, on Main Street? Did you hang around with them at all?

T. FILES: Not until I went to high school.

MACRO: But when you went to high school?

T. FILES: When I went to high school, I—in the same respect, I made a lot of friends up in East Windsor and Warehouse Point, because all those kids came to Ellsworth. Yeah. We were all together. And then I went out with a lot of the girls that came from Broad Brook or Warehouse Point. Of course, I knew the Polls, but I didn't really know them until we went to high school. We were right here. You know, I was friendly with the Mellons. And there were—and down in Pleasant Valley, I knew everyone. Because the ones who went to Pleasant Valley School—I think they only had three grades in Pleasant Valley. And when they reached fourth grade, they came up to Wapping School. And then I was—you know, there was the Anderson brothers. We were friends. Till today, we're still friends, you know? And Mellons and, you know—knew them all. You knew every—there wasn't that many people. I think when I graduated from high school—now, East Windsor and South Windsor, I think the class was a little over 60 kids.

MACRO: **0:29:21.4** Really?

T. FILES: That's all the—East Windsor and South Windsor, they were so small. The town only had maybe, I don't know, 1000, 1200 people then. And look at it today.

MACRO: Yes. Yeah.

T. FILES: You don't know any—you don't see anybody you know. And it's not a lot of people that have stayed here, you know? Most of them moved, you know? I'm still here, like Shirley and Henry are here. Dave Moulton, he's still in South Windsor. A lot of them have—most of them have gone. My family, my brother—both my brothers have left the area.

MACRO: **0:30:08.4** You have two brothers?

T. FILES: Two brothers. One older, one younger.

MACRO: And they have left the area.

T. FILES: Yeah. Well, one of them—my younger brother and I—I got into running heavy equipment in 1956, and I got in the union. And I'm still in the union. I've been in the union for 59 years. And likewise, my younger brother—the following year, when he got out of high school, I got him in the union. And he's worked—you know. My older brother, he went to Tufts, and he and I have—we've had our problems, but because—actually, we married sisters. And he got divorced, and I don't know, things—you know, we've had our differences. But he lives down in Mystic. And my younger brother, he lives in Stafford Springs. But we've been close for a long time, because we worked different jobs together. He was a crane operator, and I run everything, you know? But I got really active in a union, and I was an officer in a union, and it's been a good life for me. It has been.

MACRO: **0:31:52.6** That's good. I'll make an observation here—I regret to see the decline of the unions in the country. They seem to be—certainly membership seems to be declining.

T. FILES: Yeah. It's tough because—you know, I don't understand why people don't back them, because—and I do a lot still. I go out and try to promote things, because it's—you know, I have a good retirement. I have excellent healthcare. I have friends that I worked with for twenty years, and then when we didn't have work for three or four years, they left the union and never got back in. They're in their 70s and that, and they're still working, because they can't retire. They don't have that—they just don't have the funds. And it's a shame, because the Operating Engineers here in Connecticut—it's been a wonderful organization. And they say a lot about, you know, there's a lot of nepotism and things like that. But there is in everything, you know? There is in everything. [laughing] And I just—like I said, I feel bad for people that, you know, they don't understand how good the union is. My wife, she's a schoolteacher—or she was a schoolteacher—and they have a union, and she's got a good pension. And some of these people that teach school, they don't teach in a town where they have a pension. She has one friend—I don't know where she taught. I guess she taught in a Catholic school or something for a few years. She lost all those years, because they didn't have a pension where she was teaching. But hey, that's—like you said, they're declining. [laughing]

**0:34:27.9** Big business is taking over, you know? I read in the paper here, a guy from Aetna makes \$13 million a year or something. And hey, I guess—I don't know what they do, but

I just wonder what they do with that kind of money. I mean, I have a good pension. You know, we live good, and we can do what we want. But if I had a million dollars—I don't need it, you know? I've got a cousin who's a multimillionaire, and they come and say, "Why don't you sell some land? Why don't you do this?" What for? I like my privacy. Hey. Well, gee, you know? I says, "What do you want to drink? What do you want to eat? I'll give you anything you want. What do you need a million dollars for?" It's just crazy to me. It's nice to be able to leave something to my children, but I'm not gonna leave them a million dollars, I can tell you that. But I hope I can leave them enough so that they'll have a little something. I've already done—my daughter [Wendy Files] lives next door. I've already built her a house. She has MS, so we built her a nice handicapped house. And she's been fortunate. She's still able to get around. I hope—you know, sometimes that stuff moves fast. It's been moving real slow with her.

MACRO: **0:36:14.3** Good.

T. FILES: But you know, it's the way it is.

MACRO: Yeah. Well, let's see. After school—after you finished high school—you mentioned you entered the service, but did you do that immediately after high school or—

T. FILES: No.

MACRO: What happened after high school?

T. FILES: After high school, my father had an engraving business where he—well, actually he had a business that made nameplates and things like that. My father did a lot of different things, you know? And he encouraged—I used to help him while I was in high school, nights and weekends, with these nameplates and things. And he encouraged me to become an engraver. So when I got out of high school, I went to Noble and Westbrook in East Hartford, which was a firm that did all types of engraving. Everything, you know? Actually, Warren Westbrook, he was my boss. His father Ed was the owner, but Warren was in charge of the engraving department. And I worked there for two years. And I just couldn't stand being inside. And I had a friend whose father had a mason business, and I went to work for him as a mason's apprentice. Ralph Dipietro. They lived on Pleasant Valley Road in South Windsor. And I worked there for a year, and I decided—I had another friend that was in heavy construction, Jarvis from Manchester. And when I got laid off in the winter for doing mason work, he said he could get me a job down in Stratford, when they were building 95. And so I went down there in 1956, and I've been there forever, you know, with the heavy construction. I worked for—of course, like I said, it was union work. I worked for a lot of different companies, you know? And about all over the state, 'cause we covered the whole state.

MACRO: **0:39:16.1** Now, when you were working on the building of I-95 down in Stratford, that's a distance to go. Did you live down there during the week?

T. FILES: Yes. I lived in Milford. I rented a room in Milford, just across the river from Stratford. 'Cause the job I was on then was right where **0:39:37.0** (???) (inaudible) was. And once I got in that, I'd work everywhere. I worked on mostly roadwork, but I did some—I wound up—my last job was in Killingly. I was a master mechanic on a powerhouse out there in the year 2000. I said it was time to quit. But I still stay active in the union, but I don't—well, they used to ask me to go down to fill in, if somebody wanted to take a couple days off. But I did quite a bit when they were doing the MGM down there at the casino—the MGM down there at Foxwoods. But that was twelve years ago or something. I don't do anything. I don't want to do anything.

MACRO: **0:40:47.2** When did your time in the service come in then?

T. FILES: I was in the service in '58, '59, and '60. But of course, I was in the union, and they gave me credit for those years.

MACRO: Yes. Now, what was your—which service, and what was your role?

T. FILES: **0:41:06.8** I was in the army, and I was in Germany. And my job there was I ran a club for teenage dependents. The base was a good-sized base. They had a big dependent housing area. And they'd fix up this warehouse, and it was really nice. We had a dance floor. We had ping-pong tables, pool tables, photo lab, and everything. And I was lucky. When I got there, to there, I was assigned to the legal office. And I was doing nothing. But a fellow came in, and he was talking with me, and I don't know, he must have liked me. 'Cause he said, "How would you like to work for me?" **0:42:14.3** And I said, "Well, what do you do?"

He said, "Well."

I said, "Is there extra money involved?"

He said, "I get \$150 a month, and I'll split it with you. I run this club for teenage dependents."

And so I said, "I'll try it." And I did. And I worked with him—actually, he didn't do anything. He was just glad he didn't have to go there every night and watch the kids. And then when he went back to the States, I had it all to myself. I got the whole buck and a half a month. So that's what I did when I was in the army. I hardly ever wore a uniform.

MACRO: **0:43:02.5** Really?

T. FILES: I hardly ever wore a uniform.

MACRO: Were you drafted then? Were you drafted?

T. FILES: Yes, I was drafted. Yeah.

MACRO: This is the late '50s.

T. FILES: Yeah. Yeah.



MACRO: Yeah. Yeah. So there were tensions in Europe, so the draft was still in place then.

T. FILES: Yeah. And I—you know, when I went there I lived out on the economy too. I lived with Germans. And I'm still friendly with the people.

MACRO: Where was it in Germany?

T. FILES: Idar-Oberstein.

MACRO: Ah.

T. FILES: Which at that time was the diamond-cutting center of the world. They had like 1500, 1600 diamond cutters. And actually Idar-Oberstein has like four concerns on the hills around the town, which—Idar and Oberstein are separate little towns. Anyway, the people I lived with, he was a diamond cutter. And I got friendly with them. I used to spend a lot of time drinking a lot of beer with him and everything. He had a daughter, and after I came home they had a son. And we've been back over there. We went over there. We've been over there four times to see him. And he came—when my daughter got married, he came over. But his sister—the sister's dead. She got cancer. But she had a good job. She worked for the US government. And she used to fly from Germany to Washington all the time. She was a beautiful girl, boy, I'll tell you. I got pictures of them and everything. We had a good time when Sandy and I went over there. They really treated us good. Yeah, and the son, he's been—like I said, he's been here three or four times. He works for the German army. He was in the army. And now he trains the tankers over there. He actually gave me a ride in a tank.

MACRO: **0:45:37.9** Did he?

T. FILES: Yeah. I'd never been near a tank. But they have a big tank—that's where they train the tankers. And they run them over to Baumholder.

MACRO: You could adapt your expertise at driving heavy equipment here, couldn't you, to driving a tank?

T. FILES: **0:46:01.5** Oh yeah, but they're—that's something. They're very precise, the Germans. I mean, when he took me for that ride in a tank, he told me exactly where to put my foot to get in, and do this, and do that. The last time we went, they'd got new tanks. And I couldn't take any pictures or anything. He wouldn't let me take any pictures. The first time we went up to the tank, I could take pictures and everything, but they've got new tanks now. I tell you, they're something else. When I saw them, which, I don't know—he didn't want me to take any pictures.

MACRO: Well, in the midst of all this—working back here, going to Germany, coming back—when did you get married?

T. FILES: **0:47:06.4** I got married between when I did my basic training and before I went to specialist training. I got married in August of 1958. And I got married—see, this is my second wife. I got married in August in 1958 in Denver, Colorado. She came to visit her sister, who was married to my older brother. And I don't know, we got together in that. And I went out—just before I went into the service, I went out and got engaged out in Denver, and flew back, went in for my basic training, then flew out my family. We all flew out to Denver, and I got married out there. And then we came back, and I went to Germany. And she came over in January of '59. She came over and lived there with me for over a year. And then after I got out of the service, we had my first child. I had a boy. Then I had my daughter, and then another one.

MACRO: **0:48:39.8** So you had three children.

T. FILES: Three. And I lost my—

MACRO: **0:49:04.0** Take your time, Terry.

T. FILES: I lost my son, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013. He had a massive heart attack. Just tough, you know?

MACRO: Yeah.

T. FILES: I had my hip replaced the 11<sup>th</sup>. Of course, I was in a hospital. I couldn't get out of the hospital, of course, for three days or anything. Sandy came and said, "Something's wrong with Dirk. They took him to the hospital." And I didn't think anything of it. But an hour later, she says—a couple hours, maybe. I don't know. I was still under the weather from the operation. She says, "He's dead." I couldn't do anything. I couldn't do anything, take any part in funeral arrangements or anything. It was a tough time.

MACRO: **0:50:52.7** A bad time. How old was he?

T. FILES: He was 50 years old. Just as healthy as—guys are big, both my boys are a lot bigger than me. And both of my boys worked with me, you know? They worked on construction with me. So it was—you know.

MACRO: **0:51:14.4** So you had two boys and two girls?

T. FILES: No. I had a boy, and a girl, and my youngest boy.

MACRO: I see. I see.

T. FILES: My daughter, like I said, she lives right here, next to—

MACRO: Yes.

T. FILES: We just had her—we had a birthday party. She just turned 50. We had thirty people down at a restaurant for her. ‘Cause she’s, like I said, she’s got that MS, but she works. She goes to work. She works for a group of doctors in Manchester, and she just—she gets up and goes every day. I don’t know how she does it, you know? But she does it.

MACRO: **0:52:04.0** Takes courage and drive.

T. FILES: Oh boy, I’ll tell you. She’s a tough one. She was married. She got married once. Didn’t work out. She’s hard to live with, I think. She’s had a lot of different boyfriends, but none of them has stayed. I don’t know whether she kicks them out or whether they want to leave. But you know, we do everything we can for her. And like I said, my other boy, he’s never been married. Neither of my boys were married. The one that I lost, he had a girl he lived with for seven years. And my youngest one [Aric Files] , he’s got a girlfriend.

MACRO: **0:53:02.6** Does he still work in construction?

T. FILES: Yeah. Oh yeah. He still works, yeah. He’s been working on that Amazon building up there in Windsor. He worked on that. Matter of fact, he’s looking to go somewhere else pretty quickly. I don’t know where he’s gonna go.

MACRO: And did you ever have any children by your second marriage?

T. FILES: No. No. She knew. I couldn’t have children after anyway, ‘cause I got fixed after I had my third one. And she knew, she knew all about it. Actually I met her—I was working on the school where she taught. And we met and—

MACRO: A local school here?

T. FILES: Yeah, Windsor. She taught at Windsor. And she was at the middle school over there. They were putting on an addition. So we—you know, I used to go in there and shoot baskets with her and stuff. She’s a PE teacher, so. And right, this came to that, and we wound up—that was forty years ago.

MACRO: **0:54:21.9** Forty years?

T. FILES: Forty years ago we’ve been married, yeah.

MACRO: Well, congratulations.

T. FILES: Yeah. So yeah, it's been a good life, you know? I'm slowing down now, though. I don't know what it is. I'll tell you, since I lost my son and had that hip replaced, I just—after I had the hip replaced, I had a back operation. And I'll tell you—just those things, I'll tell you, they slowed me down. Because you know, I had open heart surgery in 2006—no, 2002. And then 2006, I had my knees replaced. But it didn't slow me—I'll tell you, it didn't slow me down. I mean, I could still go, you know?

But this hip, bad hip, and losing my son, and then the back operation—I don't know. It was too long, recovering from the back. I laid around too long. And now it's—I work a couple hours and gotta sit down. I raise two or three little gardens here. I have a chair out by where I work, because I can work for ten minutes or so, and then I gotta sit down for a couple minutes. It's no fun, you know? It's no fun. But when you've been—like me, I've been a ball of fire for a long time. You just feel like you're worthless. For crying out loud, it's just tough. I don't like to sit around.

MACRO: **0:56:11.8** Yes. There's not much percentage to getting older. Looking back to your early time in South Windsor, it seems from what you told me—and what others told me, who had grown up in South Windsor and are of a certain age now—that for entertainment, unless you made it yourselves—which people did so much more in those days—you really had to go out of town. You went to Hartford. You went to Manchester. You went elsewhere for entertainment. Is that right?

T. FILES: To go to movies and things like that. There was nothing—but you know, they used to have card parties. They used to have set back parties, things like that which you went to. And then they had basketball—like the Grange had a basketball team. And then they had “the high Y,” they called it, the older Y. They had a basketball team. And they played—different towns had their own teams. We had—the YMCA, we used to play the Nickels News Boys. 'Cause Nickels—that was like a store over in North Manchester, and they had a group of young kids, and they played. They put them together. And they'd come up, and we'd play basketball against them. And we had—I don't know. The Mellons and—who the heck played? Buzz and D.D. Mellon, and Ray Chickie, and Bobby Hayes. They were all local kids. And Bobby Hayes, he still lives in South Windsor. And he married Beverly Erickson. And Beverly Erickson and Bobby's daughter is Bonnie Hayes, the one that's—she's got a dance studio here. Bonnie Hayes. And I went to school with them for twelve years, both Bobby and—they got married right out of high school. Well, after Bobby got in the Marine Corps. He went to the Marines.

MACRO: **0:58:40.4** After—you mentioned dancing. Did you go over to Snow's? Snow's? Wasn't it Snow's dance place behind the Priest farm there, where the Priest farm was?

T. FILES: Oh, yeah. Well, they used to have things over there. They called it Hills's Grove.

MACRO: Hills's Grove. Not Snow's. Hills's Grove. I was incorrect in saying Snow's. Hill's Grove.

T. FILES: Yeah. They used to have—the dances, I think, were pretty much done when I was old enough. But they used to have auctions over there. This fat guy we called Fat Thrasher—he was a thrasher from down in Buckland. And he held auctions. And Carly Peterson and I used to go with him in his truck, and help him load up furniture and different things to bring into that building over there. ‘Cause it was two or three buildings over there in Hills’s Grove, but he had the main building. That’s where he held his auctions. I’ve always thought about going over there with one of those detectors, to look for coins or something, ‘cause there was a lot of activity over there before me. A little bit when I was there, but mostly it was his auctions and stuff. Of course when we had the fair, they used to shut Sullivan Avenue off right there, up to where the Van Sicklins lived, right at the intersection. And cars had to go around in front of—so they shut the street right down for the Wapping Fair. Couldn’t very well do that today, you know?

MACRO: **1:00:51.6** Did the church play any part in your life?

T. FILES: I used to go to the church right across the street.

MACRO: Yeah. Was there a kind of youth league or anything like that attached to the church?

T. FILES: Not that I was involved in, no. Of course, when I was in high school, all of both St. Catherine’s in Broad Brook and St. Francis here, they had CYO. And I think even when I was in grammar school, St. Francis had a baseball team—a softball team. ‘Cause some of the guys that I went to school with played for the St. Francis baseball team—softball team. And they had a field right there where the church is. I think it’s a parking lot now, but they had a little field.

MACRO: **1:01:56.0** Did the different denominations—the Protestants and Catholics—was that recognized at all in your life growing up as a boy?

T. FILES: Not really. I went out with girls. It didn’t make any difference to me. I never was a deeply religious person anyway. I tried to live by the Golden Rule as much as I could, but I didn’t—you know. My wife today—my children were all baptized, but that was when I was married to my first wife. She was a little more religious. But she got into astrology, and that’s when we started to drift apart. It was when she told my son he couldn’t ride his motorcycle for two weeks because his moon was in the wrong place, and things like that. She was going to Boston one night a week to study under some astrologer. We didn’t—I couldn’t take a vacation, but she could take and go to California for the national astrology convention, and things like that. All these things came together, and that’s when we decided we weren’t gonna live together. And fortunately, like I said, I found Sandy. And believe me, I got one in a million. I got one in a million.

MACRO: **1:03:41.1** That’s great to hear.

T. FILES: Believe me, I'll tell you. 'Cause I'm not the easiest person in the world to live with. And I'll tell you, she thinks the world of me, and I think the world of her. We've done all right, you know? She's done everything. I always thought ever woman was just as bad as the other—and I still think that, except for her. And that's the truth, boy. That's the truth.

MACRO: **1:04:15.0** Well, you may not be the easiest person to live with—I don't know that—but you're a wonderful storyteller. This has been a wonderful interview.

T. FILES: Oh, I'm glad.

MACRO: I thank you very, very much indeed. Is there in particular that you'd like to add to what we've said? We can do some of that now, or you can add it in writing later.

T. FILES: I don't know whether anybody's—or maybe you can get this out of somebody else that you do—but I was at a party here last summer, and—what's his name. Peterson. Allen Peterson—not Al—is it Allen? No. Russell.

S. FILES: **1:05:08.3** Russell.

T. FILES: Russell Peterson, who's an old family in town. He was asking me questions about things, and I was telling him how on Deming Street there was an army camp during the Second World War. It was actually on Buckland's property. If you went up Buckland Road, and past Buckland's house on the hill, and took a right, and went down 300 feet, there was a barracks there. And they had an anti-aircraft gun. And they had a group of soldiers there. 'Cause I can remember my father and mother used to have—on Thanksgiving and Christmas, used to always invite two soldiers up for dinner. And he didn't know anything about it. But his father, I'm sure, did. They lived further up on Deming Street. But I've been thinking of who I could ask that would remember that.

MACRO: **1:06:27.0** Yeah. How long was it there?

T. FILES: Well, it was there probably a couple of years during the Second World War.

MACRO: During the Second World War.

T. FILES: Yeah.

MACRO: Yeah.

T. FILES: And like I said, the Hevenors, they lived in the first house on the left if you're going back down to where the post office is now. And they wouldn't know. The Waldrons—I know the Waldrons would, but both the brothers are gone now.

MACRO: Would the Wetherells have known? The Wetherells? Do you remember the Wetherell family?

T. FILES: **1:07:03.0** Yes, I know them. Yeah, I know them. Sure. The Wetherells were over on the Manchester town line. They raised—he raised chickens. He worked for a Dutch company, I think, that owned that farm. Ralph. Ralph Wetherell. Now, his—it was Henry Wayner's sister was married to him, wasn't she?

MACRO: Right. Yes.

T. FILES: Yeah. Henry Wayner's sister was married to him. And the Wetherells, they had—well, they had at least one daughter, but they had two or three sons, anyway. I know—what's his name?

S. FILES: This is a good test for you.

T. FILES: Yeah. Well, he's a heck of a nice guy. Big, handsome guy. He married McClatchy there. Ralph—was it Ralph?

S. FILES: It's Ralph.

T. FILES: Ralph. Ralph Wetherell. Yeah. But I don't think he'd remember it, 'cause he's my age. Ralph's my age. They were over on—right on the Manchester line. But I thought—but Peterson there, Russell, he's just too young to remember that. And all the other people are gone. The Sealys were right there. Tuttle—Tuttles lived right across the street from the barracks. Matter of fact, Pearl Tuttle got in trouble with one of those soldiers there, you know? That was the rumor. I mean, I was only a kid, but I can remember later on we would talk about Pearl. You know, she got in trouble. She's gone too. But that's the thing. But I don't know who you could ask that would remember that.

MACRO: **1:09:08.2** That hasn't come up in the interviews I've done. But I can explore that. There's someone who may know something about it, although he didn't grow up in South Windsor. Do you know the person we call "the General," over on—

S. FILES: Throwe.

MACRO: Not Thrall.

S. FILES: No?

MACRO: No. Give me a moment. Oh, I misheard you. Throwe. Yes.

S. FILES: Throwe, Throwe.

MACRO: Yes. T-H-R-O-W-E.

T. FILES: James Throwe?

S. FILES: Throwe, yes.

T. FILES: Jim Throwe. Okay, yeah.

MACRO: Jim Throwe. He knows something about the military background of the town. He might—

S. FILES: **1:10:01.4** He would.

T. FILES: Yeah, I think that Jim probably—

MACRO: But he grew up in Norwich, and he didn't come into town—

T. FILES: No, until later.

MACRO: Yeah.

T. FILES: Yeah. I know. I know him. I had him—I was in court one time, for about a week.

MACRO: Was he defending or—

S. FILES: Prosecuting him? [laughing]

T. FILES: No, I think he was defending. I was on the town's side. I was involved in an accident with a snowplow, and the girl—the two girls that were in the car that hit the snowplow were suing, and Jim was defending them. He had me as a witness there, 'cause I was—you know. And he told me after, he said, "You saved the town a lot of money." 'Cause I remembered a lot, and I knew what I was talking about. 'Cause they wanted the town to pay, I don't know 75%. And I think the town wound up paying 40% of the thing. But yeah, Jim.

**1:11:05.6** But there were two other army barracks. There were two of them over on Governor's Highway too, between Route 5 and Ellington Road. But that road is—they discontinued it. Now it goes straight. But if you're going down Ellington Road and you turn to go on Governor's Highway, just past where the Jewish church is, there was a road kind of to the left that angled off. And right there amongst the tobacco sheds—there were tobacco sheds there—there were two barracks.

MACRO: That road, when I first came to town, I think was still in place. And it was sand, it wasn't tarmac, was it?



T. FILES: No, I think it was.

MACRO: Was it?

T. FILES: I think it was. Maybe they dug it up after, but it was—yeah. There was an army base there too. I don't remember whether they had—I can remember the gun they had there. You could see it. But I never—I don't know if you could go by there when they had it. But there was one there too.

S. FILES: **1:12:14.5** Did you talk about your mother being on the rationing board?

T. FILES: No.

S. FILES: No, not at all?

T. FILES: No.

MACRO: Well, let's hear about your mother being on the rationing board.

T. FILES: Well, my mother was on—of course, during the Second World War they had rationing of gas and that. And she was—I don't know why they picked her, but she was on the rationing board. And Horace Porter, who had one of the best antique stores around out there, almost across from where Wetherells live, out on Oakland Road. He used to have to travel all around to get antiques. And his—I don't know whether it's his sister or his—own the egg farm, Cummings. And Cummings delivered eggs. And my mother used to—some people didn't want their tickets, so my mother used to give Horace Porter and Mr. Cummings some of these extra tickets so they could do their business. Because they'd be out of business if they couldn't travel, you know? She didn't steal them, but you know, people—they were entitled to 20 gallons of gas a month, and they didn't drive, so she'd give them to somebody else.

S. FILES: **1:13:41.5** Did you tell him that your mother was in the circus fire? Did you talk about the circus fire?

T. FILES: No.

S. FILES: Oh.

T. FILES: No. We were all in the circus fire.

MACRO: Yeah, down in Hartford?

T. FILES: Yeah, in Hartford. Yeah.

MACRO: How did you come to be involved in that?

T. FILES: We were there, at the fire.

MACRO: Oh!

S. FILES: You were in it.

T. FILES: Yeah. My brothers and my cousin, Barbara Sullivan—and there was another girl my mother took.

S. FILES: **1:14:07.1** Terry's mother took four—four kids?

T. FILES: She took—there was five of us.

S. FILES: Oh, five kids. That's right.

T. FILES: Five of us. And we all got out alive. My cousin Barbara—the one whose mother ran the Pleasant Valley School—she got a burn on her back. And I think she got \$1000 when they settled up, which was a lot of money then, you know? It was a long time ago.

MACRO: Yes, yes. The memory of that is vivid in your mind? Of the fire?

T. FILES: Not really. But because my mother, she remembered everything, and my mother was—she grabbed us to get us out of there.

S. FILES: She saw it happen, and she realized, and she said to them, “We have to get out of here very quietly.” Because she didn't want to be part of any panic. “We have to get out of here. Hold everybody's hand. We have to get out of here.” And she got outside with them, and he was missing. [laughing]

She got everybody out, and he was missing.

T. FILES: **1:15:18.0** Yeah. And I found my—she came up—then I can remember a little bit, but I can remember her coming up, and I went up to the car. She was up on a side street somewhere there. I must have remembered where it was. And she came up the street with them, and I was there. She was—I couldn't believe it. I mean, she's told this stuff to Sandy. I don't remember an awful lot of that.

S. FILES: But you remember—

T. FILES: I just kind of repress it.

S. FILES: You remember the part about coming across the Bissell Bridge and seeing your father.

T. FILES: Oh yeah. My father—

S. FILES: Had got wind of the fire.

MACRO: Ah.

T. FILES: **1:16:00.0** And he and Jim Sullivan, my cousin's father, were up at Church Corners, waiting for the light—or I don't know if there was a light there, or a stop light, or what. And here comes this car that—Jim had an old Chevy Coupe. And it came around the corner, it was just almost sliding, jump and down, it was going so fast. And my father and Jim were in it, trying to get over there. But of course they turned around and were so happy to see us. But my mother was a nurse, and she—once we got home, she went right into Hartford Hospital to work. She wasn't working or anything, but she went in to help. She was that type of person.

MACRO: She mentioned the Bissell Bridge—you being on the Bissell Bridge. Was that built then?

T. FILES: Oh no. No.

MACRO: The other bridge. The bridge downtown.

T. FILES: **1:17:01.0** Yeah. I worked on that Bissell Bridge. That Bissell was built in '50—'50—

S. FILES: I think I said Bissell because it's the only one I know of.

MACRO: It would be the other—Bulkeley Bridge, I think.

S. FILES: Bulkeley?

MACRO: Yeah.

T. FILES: Yeah. That was built in like 1957 or '56.

S. FILES: So it wasn't there for the fire?

T. FILES: No, it wasn't there then. No, 'cause I can remember—I can remember we were putting up guardrail or something just before I went in the service. In '57, I think they built that Bissell Bridge. They got a lot of the sand right out of Tudor Hill. Got a lot of gravel out of there.

MACRO: Well, you've jogged his memory on a number of things. Is there anything else you wanted—?

S. FILES: I remember—well, one of the things that I found interesting about his life and then—I remember him saying how his mother used to can chickens.

T. FILES: **1:18:15.6** Yeah.

S. FILES:  
That's how they made it through the winter. They would can chickens, put them through the canning process.

T. FILES: Yeah. 'Course, we always—

S. FILES: That always intrigued me. They always raised their own food, but—

T. FILES: We always raised two pigs too.

S. FILES: Canning chickens threw me.

T. FILES: Then we'd, you know—my father would have somebody come and take them, and butcher them. And he'd make sure we were in the house, 'cause the guy used to shoot them in the head. And then he'd—he didn't want—he didn't want us to see him butcher them or anything. And he used to take the—the guy would bring it all back, and he'd take the hams and bacon up to Broad Brook. And there was a smokehouse up there, and they'd smoke that. But we had always—that was another thing. We used to—like I said, he raised chickens, and he raised them right from babies. The babies would come in the post office, and he'd have a little brooder house and things. And when they got big enough to eat, he'd kill three of them for Sunday dinner. Broilers, they're called. They were little. And my father was friendly with Battalino, the boxer. I don't know whether he was a champion, but I think he fought for the championship. And Bat used to come up from Hartford for Sunday dinner, because he'd get the odd half a chicken. 'Cause there were five of us. And he used to put us together. We had boxing gloves, and we'd box. (laughing)

S. FILES: **1:20:11.2** I know that story. [laughing]

T. FILES: My older brother was bigger. My younger brother and I were about the same size, and we'd put on the gloves and fight. But my older brother was too big. He used to pound me up pretty bad. So my mother would put the gloves on with him, until one time he hit her and knocked her down. That was it. She didn't put them on. But we used to do a lot of that. Bat used to try to—wanted to make boxers out of us.

S. FILES: This is just pictures I put together of the old days. That's their old house, right in the center of Wapping.

MACRO: Yes, on the subject of the old house, I'd like to ask you some questions about that. Perhaps we could finish off with that. And maybe we could take copies of these eventually, but let's talk about that after we finish this. This house of yours—did the bus, and earlier the stagecoach, stop outside this house? Was this where the bus, the Stamford bus—?

T. FILES: **1:21:19.0** Supposedly it was. But that house—we always had a sign on it. "Gustavus Grant, 1711." And the house had a—actually the bedroom that we slept in.

S. FILES: Boys.

T. FILES: The boys, the three of us slept in. It was supposedly the dance hall upstairs, and it had an arched ceiling. Big arched ceiling. It was a big, big room, you know?

MACRO: Yeah. Yeah. And did it have all the original fireplaces and so on in it?

T. FILES: No.

MACRO: They'd all been taken out.

T. FILES: **1:22:00.5** They were taken out—they were there when my father was young and everything, but not when I was there. And then in 19—I think 1955, '54 or '55, we had a fire. And it did a lot of damage to the house. We had to have that all—you know, we had a lot of work done there.

MACRO: I think there was an attachment at the back. I'm not sure how the Wayners described it. But that was let out for another family to live in, at the back of the house. Is that right?

T. FILES: The side on Buckland Road, that side of the house.

MACRO: Yes.

T. FILES: There were three—there were six rooms, three down and three up. And that's what he rented. Well, actually that's what we lived in. Because my Aunt Ernestine lived in the rest of the house for a while, when I was really young. But then after she—my Aunt Dorothy owned the house next door, and when she died, she left it to Ernestine. And then Ernestine moved over to that house. And then my father used to—well, at first I think he only rented four or five rooms. I think my mother's bedroom was upstairs in there or something. But when Henry rented it, I think he only rented four rooms or something like that.

MACRO: **1:23:55.0** Yeah, yeah.

T. FILES: Yeah. He rented it—actually, the first person he rented it to was Elmer Hart. And Elmer Hart was a captain in the army. It was the Second World War. And he married a girl from New Zealand. Lois Cook was her name. And she came to live there. She lived for quite a while there with Elmer. And later on they moved. And she went back to New Zealand on vacation. She had one son. And she went back on vacation. And Elmer was at a cookout, and somebody put gas on a fire or something. He lived about three days. And so she came back with Ricky, and she married the nephew of the people that lived across the street, in the house right next to the library there. His name was Goodwin. And he moved back to New Zealand with her. And he was there for three or four years, and he couldn't take it. He came back. And she stayed there.

S. FILES: **1:25:33.0** Your father did rent that apartment though, to different people.

T. FILES: Oh yeah, he rented to other people, yeah. He rented to Henry and he rented to—he rented to quite a few—

MACRO: I found out the other day that Plummer rented it too, Daria Plummer and—

S. FILES: Daria Plummer.

MACRO: Peter. Peter Plummer.

T. FILES: Peter Plummer. Yeah.

MACRO: Yeah. They rented it for a while just after they got married.

T. FILES: Yeah. I remember them.

MACRO: **1:26:00.7** Well, this was a large, substantial house, wasn't it?

T. FILES: Yeah. It was—well, they used to say it was fourteen rooms, but a couple of rooms weren't very big.

MACRO: And it was torn down. Do you remember when it was torn down? You probably don't like to remember that, do you, when it was torn down.

T. FILES: Well—

S. FILES: Do you remember it being torn down—

T. FILES: No.

S. FILES: Or were you in the army then?

T. FILES: I don't know. I don't remember it being torn down. I remember I wanted to get some of those stone steps, but—who got the stone steps? Pandozzi. Marty Pandozzi got the two steps from—

MACRO: Are they outside his house now on Lake Street?

T. FILES: Yeah, they are. Yeah. Marty got them.

MACRO: For a while I noticed some beautiful red stone steps just cast aside by that eastern parking—on the eastern side of the parking lot at Stop & Shop, in among those bushes and swamp trees there. Up until about two or three years ago, there were some beautiful red stone—they're gone now. But I thought, my god, that's worth a lot of money. [laughing]

T. FILES: **1:27:23.8** I've got all kinds of stone now. But at that point, I didn't have any way of doing it or anything. But I've got tones of stone now. Red and granite and everything.

S. FILES: Now you just don't have any energy to do it. [laughing]

T. FILES: No. No.

MACRO: Well, Terry, look, I think we've done very well—particularly you have done very well. I'm very, very grateful and very, very—

T. FILES: I'm glad my wife came in and brought up some of those things, 'cause I don't know, I just—you know, everything—I like to answer questions. If you're gonna keep asking me questions, then I'll be only too glad to answer them. But I don't know just what you want to know, you know?

MACRO: Well, I asked you enough, and you gave us a very good account. And we're really most grateful, and I think we should end the interview now. But on behalf of Wood Memorial Library, I'd like to thank you very, very much.

T. FILES: You're welcome entirely.

**[1:28:37.6** End of Interview]

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