Eddie Burnshire interview conducted in home. Wife, Mrs. Burnshire, was also in attendance. Lee Harvey assisted the interviewer in asking questions while also supplying his own.

Interviewer: How electricity impacted Woodstock?

Eddie Burnshire: Daddy worked on the line in 1928, uh, I got a picture here that shows when they were blasting the dam out.

Mrs. Burnshire: Is that what you want to see about the dam?

Interviewer: Yes.

Mr. Harvey: And the history of electricity in the county.

Eddie Burnshire: Well get those pictures over there. It was, I got a picture there showing them blasting the dam in 1910.

Mrs. Burnshire: The first pictures there that you are coming to are when they redone it over. That was in 1968.

Eddie Burnshire: Now those pictures there are when he was redoing the dam in…

Mrs. Burnshire: ‘68

Eddie Burnshire: No, ’86.

Eddie Burnshire: That is the one where it shows the blasting in 1910. See that dam was called the Huddle Dam before they started making electricity.

Mrs. Burnshire: Some of these are of the flood of ’36?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. And everything washed out.

Interviewer: When did they rebuild the powerhouse? I know there is the old foundation over there next to the dam and then the newer one.

Eddie Burnshire: Alright, the water is what you call hydropower. Down there where you all are at, when was that? In 1910, 1915?

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh, Eddie I don’t know.

Eddie Burnshire: Because you all were the first ones to have lights.

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah, we were the first ones to ever have electric lights. My homeplace was the first one to ever have electric lights.

Mr. Harvey: Where was that at?

Mrs. Burnshire: Down over the hill. Over at my homeplace.

Eddie Burnshire: This is all a 65 acre farm that we built on.

Mrs. Burnshire: It runs from here on down the other road there.

Mr. Harvey: Where did the power come from?

Mrs. Burnshire: I guess it came from over there.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah, Woodstock Electric.

Mrs. Burnshire: I know they always said when the current went out.

Eddie Burnshire: Adam Burnshire had his foot in the water wheel.

Mrs. Burnshire: Had his foot in the waterwheel. Your granddaddy had his foot in the waterwheel.

Eddie Burnshire: That is what you call a turbine.

Mr. Harvey: So your grandfather operated?

Eddie Burnshire: My dad. His daddy did too. I am going to show you pictures where the house used to sit and where it washed away. Uh, I don’t know how to do that.

Mrs. Burnshire: Which one is it Eddie? They are the same ones as in the book only they are bigger?

[Readjust seating arrangements, interviewer moves closer towards Eddie Burnshire]

Eddie Burnshire: Are you the fellow who is putting the dam back?

Mr. Harvey: Trying to.

Eddie Burnshire: Elaine called out here some time ago.

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah and then he got sick and I forgot all about it. He has been in and out of the hospital about 6 and 8 times. He has had open heart surgery.

Eddie Burnshire: I have had all 9 yards.

Mrs. Burnshire: Is that the one Eddie, where the house used to stand?

Eddie Burnshire: No, I am going to show them where, uh you see right here. That is where the old powerhouse the turbines was in this part here. I don’t know when this was taken.

Mrs. Burnshire: None of these are marked.

Eddie Burnshire: The old turbines used to be down in here. They are back there now, back on the land. Britt Gilbert, he would be the one. He has looked up some history on this.

Mrs. Burnshire: That is Elaine’s husband.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah we have talked with him.

Mrs. Burnshire: Where is he at now?

Mr. Harvey: Uh, Covington.

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh he is in Covington? You know Peachy was talking about him.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah he lives in Covington. He has a hydroelectric thing down there going.

Mrs. Burnshire: These here are when he tore all that in ’86. He tore it all out and redone it.

Eddie Burnshire: What he put back in I can show you. Those old pictures, that’s the gate. The old powerhouse used to sit there. It washed away but the turbines were left in there. And when Britt Gilbert went to do this all over here and this too, the turbines were still down in there. And as far as I know they might still be back down there.

Mr. Harvey: No we have already taken them out and rebuilt them.

Interviewer: [Directed to Mr. Harvey] I think he is talking about the really old ones.

Eddie Burnshire: He said that is what he was going to do. Are the ones that are over there now, are they still in there?

Mr. Harvey: We pulled the turbines out of this one. So you say there are more turbines in here?

Eddie Burnshire: No that is the ones he has taken out. When he first come there. That is the ones that are laying back on the land. I don’t know, was you back there?

Mr. Harvey: We found the turbines in here, and we took those out.

Eddie Burnshire: In other words, you don’t have any there at all?

Mr. Harvey: We took them out and fixed them.

Mrs. Burnshire: He took them out had them redone over.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh that is what, okay.

Mr. Harvey: So this was all… Do you know when this photo was taken? All this land was clear, the forest was gone.

Eddie Burnshire: So now, you saw the photo. It is not too often that I wear glasses.

Mrs. Burnshire: This was from up at Pauley’s. Back in the flood of ’36.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah.

Mrs. Burnshire: Here is where it washed out.

Mr. Harvey: Oh my. [Directed to interviewer] Look Casey this is the one we have read about. So this is when the river came and took out

Interviewer: the channel

Mr. Harvey: No the old power house. That is the foundation. So this building is gone. So that is the foundation.

Eddie Burnshire: That is the one that is there now.

Mr. Harvey: So here is where the wall is that they had to build. So the new powerhouse is right here. And the walkway comes across.

Eddie Burnshire: No, no. I see what you are saying

Mrs. Burnshire: His whole family got copies of these. Yeah Billy got the originals but Pauley has a set and Peachy has a set.

Eddie Burnshire: No, that one right there. That is the men, some of the fellows that worked over there.

Mrs. Burnshire: This one was taken up on the hill across the river. Across from down at the river. That is when it was in ’36. That is how high the water was.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah because there is the river channel right there.

Mrs. Burnshire: Morrison Studio took all of these pictures. His grandson gave these to Eddie.

Eddie Burnshire: All the names of the guy is in the envelope.

Mr. Harvey: [Directed to interviewer] So Casey here it is with the wall when the wall continued all the way down. So that is what it used to look like. Oh this is really neat.

Mrs. Burnshire: Is that the wall down there where you used to dip?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah this is it. I imagine this wall here was put up here in 1930s maybe 1910. Now this is where the old powerhouse was. This is where he got those turbines out. Now whether those are still back here or not. You said, you took these out of here.

Mr. Harvey: I think he took them out of [the old powerhouse]. And put them in [the new power house].

Interviewer: No, no, no.

Eddie Burnshire: No.

Interviewer: [Directed at Mr. Harvey] He took these out and put them on the property. You took these out. There are two sets of turbines.

Mr. Harvey: So there are two sets of turbines?

Interviewer: There is supposed to be.

Mrs. Burnshire: There is supposed to be, right Eddie?

Eddie Burnshire: Right. Now whether they are still back there or not. I haven’t been back there for 10-15 years.

Mr. Harvey: Do you know where they are back there?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah, right uh, right here. They were. See he got that big crane in. He got everything out of here and put them back there. And you say you got those out. And this is what you call the hydro and this is what you call the diesel. You know what I mean, the two engines?

Mr. Harvey: They had the backup diesel generators.

Mr. Burnshire: Yeah. My dad was hydro guy and my Uncle Howard was the diesel. One would start one thing and one would start the other.

Mr. Harvey: As they needed more power that would turn the diesel on?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. They put the diesels on every day.

Mrs. Burnshire: Hey isn’t that picture of. This is the one of daddy back there.

Eddie Burnshire: Are they still back there?

Mr. Harvey: Yeah these are the ones that I got out. They look like it. No there is nothing like that back there now. I bet somebody scrapped it. Here’s the, that’s a different, that’s almost 6 feet tall. This turbine is 3 feet tall. We are having them painted. That is one that we pulled out. Here is one of the generators that we pulled out. That is when we took them out. That is one of the smallest ones right there.

Eddie Burnshire: How long ago did you do this?

Mr. Harvey: Uh. Well we have been working on it since February. This is in the summer I am sure.

Eddie Burnshire: Boy, I wish you could have met my daddy. He could tell you every size bolt that was down on those things without even looking.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah we had to rebuild all of that stuff. We made all new bolts out of stainless steel. All of it. All rusted and you can’t buy new stuff.

Eddie Burnshire: In other words you are going to be making electricity?

Mr. Harvey: We hope to. Trying to find other pictures I have.

Mrs. Burnshire: Remember when your step-mother had sale, you bought the old files that they used to file with over there. Your Uncle Howard told you about. I put them away.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah.

Mrs. Burnshire: I packed them away; I don’t know where they are at. And there for a while you didn’t know what those were for. And Uncle Howard told you they were files that they used down at the powerhouse.

Mr. Harvey: Are you collecting some of the tools from there?

Mrs. Burnshire: No he just bought them when his step-mother had sale over there.

Eddie Burnshire: I don’t know what those tools are.

Mr. Harvey: This is the work we have done lately. That’s the Hoover Dam.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh.

Mrs. Burnshire: You couldn’t prove it to me because I don’t go over there. He hasn’t been there for 4 or 5 years.

Eddie Burnshire: We don’t even drive by.

Mrs. Burnshire: No.

Eddie Burnshire: It has been 10 years since I had this other stuff going on.

Mr. Harvey: It is a mess over there right now with the mud but when it dries out you should come back and see it. The newer of the powerhouses we have already ripped everything out because all of the wood was rotted. You fall through the floor.

Mrs. Burnshire: Britt used to live down there.

Mr. Harvey: Right. Elaine still lives there.

Mrs. Burnshire: In the powerhouse?

Mr. Harvey: No right next to it.

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh she lives in your home place.

Eddie Burnshire: She lives in Uncle Howard’s. The little one.

Mrs. Burnshire: No Elaine lives in your home place. Because she told me.

Eddie Burnshire: Okay she lives in the upper one then.

Mr. Harvey: Well, yes and no. She lived in the upper one until this summer. Now she lives in the lower one. She owns both. They fixed up the lower house. Now she lives in the lower house. But she was living in the upper house.

Mrs. Burnshire: So they both were nursing homes.

Mr. Harvey: That is what I heard. And there was a walkway that went between them?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. That is gone now isn’t it?

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah they tore that down.

Mr. Harvey: So you lived in the lower house?

Mrs. Burnshire: No he lived in the upper house.

Mr. Harvey: Okay so your dad worked right next door.

Mrs. Burnshire: He was down there twenty four hours a day, right?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah he worked around the clock. Since he was what? Fourteen years old until when he retired.

Mr. Harvey: What was your dad’s name?

Eddie Burnshire: William, Bill. W E. William Edgar Burnshire.

Mr. Harvey: So when did he work there?

Eddie Burnshire: From 1910, when they started until they winded up with VEPCO in Harrisonburg, when they sold out over there.

Mr. Harvey: When did they decide to sell it? Was that 1956?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah because I was in high school.

Mrs. Burnshire: You graduated in 1954.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah so I am saying. Between 1952 and 1954. Because I remember when I was coming home from going out at night, he would be calling in the numbers to VEPCO. He had a certain amount of numbers. He would call from up at the house. I remember since I was home then. He would call numbers in. And that was before I met you.

Mrs. Burnshire: That wasn’t running when you and I were married 50 years ago.

Eddie Burnshire: No. Britt wasn’t around.

Mr. Harvey: It shut down in 1956… is that right? Is that when they stopped producing power? VEPCO had it and they shut it down.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. I am saying, roughly, ’54 was when I graduated and I remember all of this stuff was going on then.

Mr. Harvey: So it was operating in 1954?

Eddie Burnshire: I think it was on the last leg at that time, roughly. I would have to look at some other things to find out. Now, what else you want to know?

Mr. Harvey: Everything.

Eddie Burnshire: Well I know every rock belongs in the river, below and above. You name it, I have been there.

Mr. Harvey: So when they produced power there, when did they have to turn the diesel generator on?

Eddie Burnshire: The diesels, the generators mostly run all the time. In the mornings they would turn the diesels on. My Uncle Howard Burnshire, he was the diesel man.

Mr. Harvey: And the diesel generator was in the smaller building or the big big building?

Eddie Burnshire: Down there, in the big big building were the two… Okay so you walk in off the wall that comes from up there at the house. You come across that big walk. You follow me? Alright, you go to the door.

Mr. Harvey: That is the smaller of the buildings.

Eddie Burnshire: That is the small one. That was the small diesel. At the end, down there towards that way was the big one. That is the big building. That was the big diesel. That was water cooled. They used to have a pond there.

Mr. Harvey: We dug that out. The pond is back.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh you got the pond back?

Mr. Harvey: We dug it out. We don’t have water in it, yet. It leaks.

Eddie Burnshire: Hey you all are coming along.

Mr. Harvey: And it comes under the building.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. Are the sprayers still, the metal sprayers out over the pond?

Mr. Harvey: No.

Eddie Burnshire: That’s right. When they filled in, they took them down. There were sprayers that would spray water to cool off the diesel. You follow me? The water would come in from out at the pond, go in and cool the diesels off , and come back as a spray.

Mr. Harvey: So they would spray it in the air and it would fall back down to cool off?

Eddie Burnshire: Yes that’s right. And I remember one time when I was young, we had a bass. A pet bass in there. But it died because the water got too hot. You know what I mean? Okay.

Mr. Harvey: So, if this were the pond and this were the building. Where does the water go in, because we can’t find where the water goes in. We found where the water goes in the basement. But I don’t know where the water comes out of the pond. Do you know where that is at?

Eddie Burnshire: Have you been down in the engine room?

Mr. Harvey: Yes.

Eddie Burnshire: Well there should be some pipes there.

Mr. Harvey: There are. They come out right here and make a turn. But I can’t, they put brick up along there or something and we can’t find where the water goes out of the pond.

Eddie Burnshire: Well now, I have never been down. I imagine they would have done the short way. Right there at the corner.

Mr. Harvey: I would think so too. Was it just a concrete wall then? Because there is concrete walls and then somebody bricked on top, on the outside of it.

Eddie Burnshire: I don’t remember brick being there.

Mr. Harvey: Okay so somebody has put that up then. There is a brick line on the inside of it now. I can’t find where the pipes go in. So I might have to tear all the brick down to find it.

Eddie Burnshire: Let’s see there used to be a filter. Alright, let’s see, here is the pond, here is the powerhouse right down there halfway between the pond and the powerhouse, is there a hole still there where it runs down to the river?

Mr. Harvey: No.

Interviewer: [Directed to Mr. Harvey] That might be the ceramic pipe.

Eddie Burnshire: There is a pipe there called an overflow. You know what I am talking about? That has nothing do with the diesels though.

Mr. Harvey: Okay.

Eddie Burnshire: But what you want to, what you are asking me, I have no idea. I imagine, if you go down underneath on the ladder, boy that is a dungeon in there.

Mr. Harvey: It is a dungeon in there.

Eddie Burnshire: I have only been down there once and that was it. I went down without a flashlight; you can imagine what that was, about 60 years ago. Okay. If you go down there, you can see, you certainly ought to be able to see where they come in from the outside.

Mr. Harvey: Right, and I can look. No, they go in and they turn. They go in eight feet and then they turn to the left going towards the pond. If they go straight in, that’s fine, then I know exactly where they are at. But there is brick there. So I will have to tear the brick down to find it.

Eddie Burnshire: Jee, I don’t know anything about the brick.

Mr. Harvey: Okay. The brick had to have been added then.

Eddie Burnshire: No. Down in that… no. I don’t know where that is.

Mr. Harvey: Okay, but there was a filter before it went in underneath the building?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah.

Mr. Harvey: In the pond?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. That was located on the far side, toward the river. It was a screen there like. Now whether that was connected to that pipe that went out or not.

Mr. Harvey: [draws picture] The pond is shaped like. And the building is here. And so the pipes go out and they go this direction. But I don’t know where they.

Eddie Burnshire: It looks like they would make them as short as they could.

Mr. Harvey: I would think so. But on the inside they have this brick liner.

Eddie Burnshire: Would it be too much to dig up right here? Closest construction would be the best.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah but we put a patio over top of it. We put concrete over top of it. We didn’t know what was there. So you think they come in here? The river is over here.

Eddie Burnshire: They used to have a screen, I remember, used to have a screen over here at this corner. That’s at the far side. Alright, that would be it. Your pipe comes here. You don’t see any pipe? Are you down to the cement on the?

Mr. Harvey: I am down to the cement.

Eddie Burnshire: You got it cleaned out?

Mr. Harvey: The only part that I don’t have cleaned out is this corner right here.

Eddie Burnshire: That is where the barn sat. You follow me? There was a barn there. Uncle Howard had a cow and a horse called Bess. I can get personal now. Alright, that screen was there. I remember that is where they fed the bass. If you don’t have pipes in there, unless they are underneath of the pond, then they have to be along the sides.

Mr. Harvey: So there was a screen here?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah there was a screen here.

Mr. Harvey: So question whether they are here. So I can make a dig here and see if the pipes are here.

Eddie Burnshire: You can make a dig and see if you hit a pipe.

Mr. Harvey: Right, cause there is nothing there. And then over here is the big wall. And then the river is down… Yeah I can dig there.

Eddie Burnshire: Now, right here is where those sprinklers come out. And there were four of them I reckon. They shot the water out. And you could see them in the sun, they shot a rainbow. You know, that is nature. That is natural.

Mr. Harvey: They used those to cool the water then? So this cooling pond, it cooled the big generator? And then there was another smaller generator here?

Eddie Burnshire: Coming in here off the big walk. That is the smaller one.

Mr. Harvey: So they had both generators running at the same time?

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah.

Mr. Harvey: And the hydro?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah.

Interviewer: When did they add the generators?

Eddie Burnshire: What is that?

Interviewer: When did they add the generators?

Eddie Burnshire: When did they go in? There is one I don’t know. There is nothing down on the cement when they poured it that I know of. You know what I mean? Usually when you pour a lot of cement they put a date. What do you think would have been there first?

Mr. Harvey: Hydro was there first. And then the diesel came in because the hydro didn’t make enough power in the summertime. And they added the diesel around World War II.

Eddie Burnshire: Now which one they added first. Evidently it was the little one.

Mr. Harvey: This is the oldest building. This is the newer building.

Eddie Burnshire: Now Britt lived down in this one and this one.

Mr. Harvey: Right, when he got flooded in 1986.

Mrs. Burnshire: We helped him carry his furniture out. We carried it up onto the second story.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. We was in on that.

Mr. Harvey: So the diesel generators were gone then.

Eddie Burnshire: They went out to Al Folley of Mount Jackson, a scrap dealer. Hey where is that book on daddy?

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh Eddie.

Eddie Burnshire: I bet I know where it is at.

Mrs. Burnshire: I don’t know where that is at. I got so much stuff from down home and your home. I don’t know where it got.

Eddie Burnshire: You got Al Folley. I was in high school or out. Between ’52 and ’56. He got all of the metal.

Mr. Harvey: So they just scrapped the diesel generators then?

Eddie Burnshire: They were doing that when I was a sophomore. So that would have been ’52. That is pretty close to what you wanted. Alright, what else?

Mr. Harvey: So when your dad operated the hydro, there were big wheels that he would adjust the flow with. He had to turn the gates. The gates on the turbines. The shaft.

Eddie Burnshire: Did you show him where the gates was? Get my spectacles, this is all something new to me. Alright here we go.

Mr. Harvey: Those were the gates to open and close, there are gates on the turbines that he would have to adjust.

Eddie Burnshire: On the outside, right here. They aren’t here now, I am sure. There were big wheels, two of them. One of them, there are just two turbines down in there?

Mr. Harvey: Three.

Eddie Burnshire: That’s right. There was the little one, the medium, and the big one. And each one had right up here. That’s not a very good picture of that. There is not much light here. Alright this one is better. This is where they would work the gates. Now he had his big machine in here, and he would lift them that way. You know what I am talking about? The big crane. Now there was wheels. Three of them. And you couldn’t turn them. You had to have about three or four men to turn them to let them down or bring them up. Nothing hydraulic.

Mr. Harvey: To open or close these. Now inside the building, then the drive shaft comes up and turns the generator. And then there is another drive shaft comes up to adjust how much water goes through.

Eddie Burnshire: They didn’t adjust these by any other way than raising and lowering the gates?

Mr. Harvey: Not these. They would adjust these with little gates that are on the turbines.

Eddie Burnshire: When they would get that stuff a going over there.

Mr. Harvey: No, here are the gates right here. Here are the little gates right here. These gates would open or close. This is the turbine. Here is the drive coming up. And they would open and close these little gates somehow.

Eddie Burnshire: I always thought they run them full blast.

Mr. Harvey: Did they run them all the time? Wide open.

Eddie Burnshire: Well a lot of times I reckon. Depends on what they need.

Mr. Harvey: Because two of the shafts are gone. I think you are right. I think they did just open it up and send it out.

Eddie Burnshire: The more current, the more money you made. So why wouldn’t they keep them going.

Mr. Harvey: Well when they open and close the gates, it speeds up the generator. The generator has to go a certain speed. So somebody had to control that.

Eddie Burnshire: They had that thing, well I don’t have to tell you, that they would push in at a certain time and that thing would go around up there. And you would go push them in. And that would throw the load right in.

Mr. Harvey: So they sped up the generator until it was ready and then they would close the contact?

Eddie Burnshire: I never watched that part.

Mr. Harvey: But your dad, he had to be there all the time with that?

Eddie Burnshire: Yep.

Mr. Harvey: Did he have to make adjustments or did it just run?

Eddie Burnshire: He could be sitting up there at the house, at the upper house, eating his supper. He would get up from the table. He could hear the way the sound, when it made a different sound he would go.

Mr. Harvey: He knew something had to change?

Eddie Burnshire: Right. He worked around the clock. From the time he was fourteen, I am saying that roughly. I will find out. I will find that book from when he started. But he was…

Mr. Harvey: So he was age fourteen?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah when he helped his daddy. He worked down there until he retired. He worked on the line with them. Shorty Falls, and I think Monk Sager, Paul Sager was in on it. And all these poles out here had dug by Woodstock Electric Power. W-E-P. And some of them still down there with the numbers on them. The one down there at your house. I think it has got that, number and everything. Daddy was out here before he died. He said, I remember putting that pole in.

Mr. Harvey: I put that pole in.

Mrs. Burnshire: Which pole would that be Eddie?

Eddie Burnshire: That one there, at the gate. Over their by the barn.

Mrs. Burnshire: That one with the patch?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. Between the patch and the barn. And those that go on down to the barn, that might be one of the old ones too.

Mr. Harvey: So your grandfather worked there also then?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah, Adam. His name was Adam.

Mr. Harvey: Adam Burnshire. Now, he worked on the powerhouse that washed away?

Eddie Burnshire: Now wait a minute, I don’t remember my granddaddy. This is the deal on the floods, 1918, 1924, 1936.

Mr. Harvey: That is the one that washed the power house away, 1936?

Interviewer: [Directed to Mr. Harvey] No.

Eddie Burnshire: ’36. Yeah. According to what I got.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah it is.

Interviewer: [Directed to Mr. Harvey] That cut a new channel, not washed away the powerhouse.

Mr. Harvey: Okay.

Mrs. Burnshire: Here it is Eddie, “A One-Man Dam.”

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah. There it is. Does it have a picture of him?

Mrs. Burnshire: It has a picture of Britt on the other side. Now there is Eddie’s dad and one of Britt. Turn that over.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah I want you to read that.

Mr. Harvey: Oh that’s that truck! We have got that truck.

Eddie Burnshire: Is that right?

Mr. Harvey: Yeah what was that truck used for? It was back in the woods, we dug it out.

Eddie Burnshire: That must have been one of Britt’s. Yeah that is my dad. Son of a gun. Boy I wish you could have talked to him. He would have told you every board, every nail, every fuse down there. I want you to take that and read it and bring it back.

Mr. Harvey: Oh we will bring everything back. So this is your dad?

Eddie Burnshire: Yes.

Mr. Harvey: He is down there when Britt was working on it?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah that’s right.

Mrs. Burnshire: But your daddy didn’t work for Britt.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh, no, no. He wasn’t able. Britt would come up and ask him questions.

Mr. Harvey: So your dad was living in the houses when Britt was living in the dam?

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah your daddy lived down there.

Mr. Harvey: These, uh, wooden bearings, they are still there. We took those out. The wood is still intact. We took those out. We are trying to save it all.

Eddie Burnshire: Barbara, let me see that.

Mrs. Burnshire: It is the same thing as what that is.

Eddie Burnshire: There might be more though.

Mrs. Burnshire: No it just the two pages and that is it.

Eddie Burnshire: Am I helping you all out?

Mr. Harvey: Yes! Immensely.

Interviewer: Oh yes.

Mr. Harvey: This had all, this gate was still there.

Eddie Burnshire: Now these aren’t the originals.

Mr. Harvey: That is the wooden gate. We took that out. And we put a new steel gate in. And we found another one of these across the road in the farmer’s field. Well it must have washed out or something.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah well he probably took it when he had that there. Now there’s Britt.

Mr. Harvey: Now these pictures are when Britt was building it? Or when he was fixing it back.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. When Britt lowered the water to fix the dam…

Mrs. Burnshire: When he was redoing the dam. Oh man that was a mess over there. August of ’86. When all this was going on. See there is no water there at all.

Eddie Burnshire: Fixing some of the dam that washed out in ’42 and ’36. Alright now I want to show you, they don’t have a picture of. You know when a dam washed out they build cribbing around it. You follow me?

Mr. Harvey: Okay.

Eddie Burnshire: Cribbing would come out so far and so wide. And then they would take the cribbing, they would get, where is the picture that I can show you? That is all right. Where they cut the wood out of Milt Bowman’s farm. That is where they got the wood and the coals to build the cribbing. I remember this, I was 6 years old. They had a, my neighbor, Charlie Sheel had a tractor that had these metal spikes in. You know what I mean?

Mr. Harvey: Right, like a steel wheel?

Eddie Burnshire: You don’t see them often. Yeah. And they got the gravel below there to fill in the river.

Mr. Harvey: So they dredged the river below?

Eddie Burnshire: Wait a minute let me show you here. They had, go on back to the first page, over on the dam, on the other side, where they put the cribbing in. They got a railroad car. You know what I am talking about? Like when you go down in a cave in these movies, in these westerns.

Mr. Harvey: Right, okay.

Eddie Burnshire: They two tracks. And they had a box car on them. And it went from over here to the powerhouse that washed away. You follow me? Because I remember they used to put me in there and push me. That is when the Sine boys were in it. They said I was the little hellion.

Mr. Harvey: So they ran it back and forth across the river?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah, below.

Mrs. Burnshire: Below the dam.

Mr. Harvey: Okay. Did they just move the gravel back and forth?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. They got the gravel down below here and shoveled it, I reckon. And once they got that cribbing in there and got that built, they don’t have a picture of that. See that was washed away. Once you had your cribbing out there, it would leak, you know can’t get it all. So what they had done, Dad had a boat made that had a platform on it. And he would go back into here, back in the bend, and got gravel. Allen and Fragel, they would load up their load in a truck and take it down to the dam. Let’s see, we had boats there. And they would load it up and put it on a boat. It was a platform like and when they got over it, Daddy would scoop it all until it stopped the leaks. See this dam was the Huddle Dam before they blasted it in 1910. Which you got pictures of, okay? Did you read on the bottom of all of that, what it said about blasting the dam? Where did that picture go of them blasting the dam?

Mrs. Burnshire: Here it is.

Eddie Burnshire: Let’s see “dynamiting the Triplett”. See it came under J I Triplett. It was originally a board dam. They run boards.

Mrs. Burnshire: “In 1910.”

Eddie Burnshire: And that picture of the flood up there at Pauley’s. Yeah right there. Whoever was in charge of the dam backed the water up. There was a bridge way up here.

Mr. Harvey: This is your bend right?

Eddie Burnshire: No, no. This is Milt Bowman’s farm.

Mrs. Burnshire: Leisure point.

Eddie Burnshire: This was taken up where Pauley lives. Up on the hill. Right in there is a low water bridge. You know what I am talking about?

Mr. Harvey: Yeah, it is gone now.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah. Now, whoever owned this would have to keep that bridge up. And I don’t know how many umpteen times it washed out.

Mr. Harvey: So that was the rule, whoever owned the dam had to maintain the bridge?

Eddie Burnshire: They don’t use that bridge anymore because of what has happened.

Interviewer: [Directed to Mr. Harvey] Is that the bridge that is gone?

Mr. Harvey: Yeah it is gone, they blew it up.

Eddie Burnshire: Am I making sense to you all?

Mr. Harvey: Yes. But there is a piece that is still there.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah.

Mr. Harvey: You can see it when you come down through French’s Woods.

Mrs. Burnshire: That is where Tealin’s grandfather drowned.

Mr. Harvey: So this picture here is the side of the building?

Eddie Burnshire: Yes. That’s that little diesel right there. Yeah that is the little diesel. I don’t know if it is the one there now or not. Can you see that? Alright and another thing, while we are there, let me show you. Right here, do you see this? Well that is washed out which is this here. And right down here was my Daddy’s homeplace. It washed away in ’36.

Mr. Harvey: Okay.

Mrs. Burnshire: That is where they carried your grandmother out when the water got, they waited until the last beam fell and they carried her out. And it was splashing up all over

Eddie Burnshire: Yep. I will tell you where it sat, roughly. You are here. You come up, there are a couple sycamore trees. That is where the house was, roughly within 20 or 40 feet.

Mr. Harvey: So that house got washed away and then they built the two houses up the hill.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah, Daddy built his up there in 1927. J I Triplett built that one, now whether they built it or J I Triplett built it I don’t know. I never got into that.

Mr. Harvey: So those two houses were never together?

Eddie Burnshire: No, no, no, no.

Mr. Harvey: They were to two separate families?

Mrs. Burnshire: Two separate families but they were all related.

Mr. Harvey: So they never built them at the same time?

Mrs. Burnshire: Your daddy built his house first, right?

Eddie Burnshire: Evidently. 1927, I think, roughly. When that other house was built, Uncle Howard’s, I don’t know.

Mrs. Burnshire: You would have to ask Ossie about that. He might know. I don’t know.

Eddie Burnshire: Well you could say roughly, pretty much the same time. Yeah I got all Dad’s stuff, what he spent on it and everything.

Mr. Harvey: Really? So you know how much the house cost to build and everything?

Eddie Burnshire: I think it was 27 hundred dollars. Of course, that was a hundred years ago.

Mr. Harvey: Almost a hundred years ago.

Eddie Burnshire: Alright, let’s see where we were at. Any more questions that you have?

Mr. Harvey: The two diesel generator buildings, they were there when you were born?

Eddie Burnshire: Oh they were there before. I remember going down there with knee boats on. That is when the Sine boys said I was a little hellion. You know how kids were, are.

Mr. Harvey: Right, maybe worse. So those buildings have been there since at least 1936?

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah. Boy they are built.

Mr. Harvey: Yeah the concrete is that thick on them. I have to drill through it. I know.

Eddie Burnshire: Am I helping you all out?

Mr. Harvey: Most definitely. So this is the side of…?

Eddie Burnshire: This is the lower side.

Mr. Harvey: This is the side of this?

Eddie Burnshire: This is, no. This part is up here. The way I get it. See the walkway, the walkway before they put the walkway up as high as it is now. You walk out of the diesel room to go over to the hydro. It is all level. It used to be when you come out of the diesel, there is a pair of steps and you got down to the ground and walked across. You follow me? They eliminated that in ’42. Because I remember them taking me down there. And I was born in ’35. That’s right. I am 78 years old today.

Mr. Harvey: Today?

Eddie Burnshire: Today, January 22nd.

Mr. Harvey: It’s your birthday? Happy Birthday.

Eddie Burnshire: Thank you.

Mr. Harvey: What you going to do with yourself?

Eddie Burnshire: What you see is what you get.

Mr. Harvey: Entertain us.

Mrs. Burnshire: He can’t even stand up without using that walker.

Eddie Burnshire: I can’t take two steps without that or the wheel chair.

Mrs. Burnshire: He can’t drive the car no more. Need a wheel chair to push him around in.

Eddie Burnshire: I wish I could be I like I used to be. You being over there, I would have been over there.

Mrs. Burnshire: You helped Britt sometimes.

Eddie Burnshire: Oh yeah I helped when I retired in ’84. Yeah I got my first paycheck from Woodstock Electric Power.

Mrs. Burnshire: You talking about those light poles being down there. I want to tell Scott about that. Since he is living down there, since his granddaddy put those poles in.

Mr. Harvey: That is important. Especially with the tags still on them.

Mrs. Burnshire: The next time I see him, don’t let me forget to tell him.

Mr. Harvey: Because if they ever go in there to replace those poles you ought to pull the tag off of it. They will just take that pole away and burn it.

Eddie Burnshire: I don’t know of anything else to tell you.

Interviewer: So what happened in the 1918 flood?

Eddie Burnshire: I don’t know.

Mrs. Burnshire: That is going back a little too far.

Eddie Burnshire: Everything was built in 1910. And they blasted it out. I don’t know what damage it had done.

Interviewer: So the dam was wood before 1910?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah I imagine. Because when they put that in to make electricity that was the Huddle Dam. So I don’t think they made electricity so I don’t know about that.

Interviewer: Did your dad, or grandfather, ever work at Stonewall Mill? Because I know J I Triplett owned two dams that did electricity. Did they ever go down there and help out?

Eddie Burnshire: J I Triplett owned the mill in Woodstock. You know what I mean? Up on the railroad tracks.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah my dad worked there too. He worked there during the day and then worked there at night doing the hydro.

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh your daddy worked there too.

Eddie Burnshire: I remember I was in grade school.

Mrs. Burnshire: How would he get in? Would he walk in, ride a horse, or what?

Eddie Burnshire: Who Dad? Oh I don’t know. When I was in high school, I mean grade school, I was six years old, they had a car.

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh yeah, Pauley always said about your mother driving.

Mr. Harvey: So who owned the Woodstock Power Company? Was it the Tripletts that owned it?

Eddie Burnshire: Triplett and Herbert Trotter. That should be in the thing you are going to go to read. Should be.

Mr. Harvey: They owned it, your dad and your granddad worked for them, and Triplett…

Eddie Burnshire: We didn’t own anything.

Mr. Harvey: Well you owned the second house. And the Tripletts sold the hydro to VEPCO?

Eddie Burnshire: J I Triplett sold it to Trotter. Herbert T Trotter. What the T is I don’t know. But that should be in the something. And then they sold it to VEPCO. You are talking about in the ‘50s then. That is when they started tearing, and making hydro and calling the numbers in at night. And it wasn’t long after that they tore the diesels out.

Mrs. Burnshire: Hey Eddie, “known as the Rush Dam during the mid-1800s.”

Eddie Burnshire: There you go. Rush Dam.

Mrs. Burnshire: “It was purchased by J I Triplett in 1873.”

Eddie Burnshire: Don’t have anything about the Huddle?

Mrs. Burnshire: No.

Eddie Burnshire: Well it seems to me Britt said something about the Huddle. Maybe he got confused on that. You read that. You get everything out of that.

Mr. Harvey: Right. What did your dad do when they sold to VEPCO and VEPCO shut it down?

Eddie Burnshire: He worked there at the hydro and called those numbers in. Then after that he went out on the line in Harrisonburg.

Mr. Harvey: So he worked for VEPCO then?

Eddie Burnshire: Yep. And Uncle Howard did too. Uncle Howard would read the meters and Daddy worked on the line.

Mr. Harvey: Okay.

Eddie Burnshire: You know what I mean? As a helper.

Mr. Harvey: Right.

Mrs. Burnshire: Hey. Here it is, “It was Triplett who hired Bill Burnshire’s father out of Dayton, near Rockingham County in 1891.” That is when your granddaddy started working.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. And Dad was born in ’92.

Mrs. Burnshire: “And Bill was born in ’95.”

Eddie Burnshire: And Dad was born in ’95?

Mrs. Burnshire: Says here in 1895.

Eddie Burnshire: I meant to ask you that the other night.

Mr. Harvey: So what did your grandfather do for Triplett in the 1890s?

Eddie Burnshire: In the 90s?

Mr. Harvey: In the 1890s. Did he just help build the...?

Eddie Burnshire: He was just a kid then. In 1895. He was just born in ’95. And after they got things going.

Mrs. Burnshire: Your daddy, “was just 9 years old when Triplett began generating electricity for the Woodstock community. Hired to help is father in 1910.”

Eddie Burnshire: See I am just a couple years off on some of this stuff.

Mr. Harvey: That is not bad though. We have learned three times as much in the last hour as we have in the last 6 months.

Mrs. Burnshire: “On the job 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. He received ten cents an hour.”

Mr. Harvey: Has anyone ever died down there?

Eddie Burnshire: Died?

Mr. Harvey: Drowned.

Mrs. Burnshire: Three boys about to.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah in the ‘60s.

Mrs. Burnshire: No it was in the ‘50s.

Interviewer: I think it was in 1955.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah ’55.

Interviewer: I found a picture of that on the internet.

Eddie Burnshire: Well I am that throwed the rope.

Interviewer: Oh yeah, they mentioned you.

Eddie Burnshire: You got a picture of that?

Interviewer: There is a picture of a bunch of guys standing in front with a truck and there is a picture with a rope and a person in the water.

Eddie Burnshire: That was Jackie Bauserman on the end of it. I was pulling him up.

Mr. Harvey: So you were one of the people with the truck?

Eddie Burnshire: No I am the guy with the rope.

Interviewer: The important one.

Eddie Burnshire: I was working at Safeway. I had just started and the river was up and the guys had said there was a life raft up the river, a couple turns up. They said, “Well they are going to Strasburg.” And I was coming home, however that had happened, and see it coming. And I run down to the powerhouse, right here where you are standing, and I could see them and the water going over the dam. Everything disintegrated. I mean barrels had, well you know.

Mrs. Burnshire: A raft.

Mr. Harvey: They tried to go over the dam in a raft?

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah the river was high. Oh my gosh, yeah.

Eddie Burnshire: It was about 28 feet high. And there wasn’t much drop from up above, down below. It was just

Mr. Harvey: Straight across.

Eddie Burnshire: It was enough to make those barrels disintegrate. And when they disintegrated, they were on their own. It was a forked tree that had come down before that and gotten hung up on the pillar of the bridge.

Mrs. Burnshire: Of the old bridge.

Eddie Burnshire: Of the old bridge. Now you don’t see that.

Mr. Harvey: Right. We see the abutments for it.

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah.

Mr. Harvey: The new bridge is 1984. That is when the new bridge went in.

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh okay, I didn’t know when that was. And that was the Bauserman boy that got that tree.

Eddie Burnshire: All three boys got on that tree. The log that was wedged in a pillar of the bridge. Of course, one fell off and another fell off. But as soon as I seen that happen, I ran and got rope. Down there at the powerhouse, they had rope that stretched from here out to the road. It was heavy. And I ran over there, and there was ten or fifteen, maybe twenty people standing, just like, standing around. Most of them was men, that was good because I needed them to help me hoist him up. I told him, I throwed the rope over, I knew the boy, I said, “Jackie, tie the rope around your chest, tie it real snug and reach up above to take the pressure off your chest. And hold on for dear life.” And when he got off that log he went down there way down and we started pulling him slowly. He weighed about 180 pounds. That was a lot of weight to pull with a rope. But we pulled him up. And the other two got in trees below the dam. Let’s see, I had to come back to work. I started working at Safeway.

Mrs. Burnshire: And the manager’s son was one of the guys. I said, Charlie Lineweaver was the guy working at Safeway and one of his sons nearly drowned.

Eddie Burnshire: Eugene Lineweaver. George Riley was the other one. And they got in trees down there. And they had, I don’t know how they got them out. They had people who were expert swimmers; they couldn’t get out. And I think somebody with a motor boat.

Mrs. Burnshire: Didn’t they get somebody from Winchester with a big ladder or something.

Eddie Burnshire: Something. But see I had to go back to work. And I told the guy, which is Charlie Grove, Randal’s granddaddy, be in charge of that rope. That nobody take it. Back then, nobody, I never thought about anybody taking anything. You could just leave, that is the trouble with me now, I got too much independence, you can’t leave nothing laying around now. It is gone. Follow me? You understand that? You are young and you will find out that we are right. Them good old days is gone.

Mrs. Burnshire: He used to trap over there since he was young. How old were you when you started trapping?

Eddie Burnshire: I was about like dad’s age, ten years old. Oh man. I am an outdoors man.

Mrs. Burnshire: Oh! You and Scott come home that one morning with what was it?

Eddie Burnshire: 24 muskrats and 10 coons.

Mr. Harvey: Just right around there?

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah. He would trap from over there, clear down to Stonewall.

Eddie Burnshire: Not quite there.

Mrs. Burnshire: But almost.

Eddie Burnshire: Hunt, fish and trap.

Mr. Harvey: So when this dam was running, Chapman dam was running also?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah.

Mr. Harvey: Did y’all have anything to do with that, or was that its own thing?

Eddie Burnshire: Did VEPCO have that?

Mr. Harvey: No, did your dad help out with Chapman? That was just another company?

Eddie Burnshire: No. That was another outfit. And there was one in Stonewall. Now, I don’t know much about that one. Whether VEPCO ever owned it or not. I don’t know if it was Woodstock Electric Power at the time, I don’t know. Questions?

Mr. Harvey: Can we come back?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah. You know where I am at. Hey, I am not going too far.

Mr. Harvey: Is it okay if we scan the pictures?

Mrs. Burnshire: Yeah.

Mr. Harvey: Is it okay if we put them on the internet?

Eddie Burnshire: Yeah, why wouldn’t it be?

Mr. Harvey: Well I didn’t know if you wanted to keep them secret or anything.