

Mac_McNeil_Fall_2011

This interview was conducted by Tom Edwards and Annemarie Harrod

Tom: Okay Mac we're back on. She wanted me to get a little bit more official. We've got your name in there to start with. Today's date is October 25th and it's just a little bit after lunch. I'm interviewing Mac McNeil and this is the first part of the interview. We're doing this in Kalispell at the McNeil house on – how do you say the name of your street?

Mac: Roofaknock.

Tom: Roofaknock. Do you understand what that means?

Mac: It's German for call after.

Tom: Call after. I knew you'd know that. And we're doing an oral history project and we've got your name and the fact that you were born in Chicago so we're kind of picking up from there. You picked up the questions and looked at them and you were right on the money, so can I get you to introduce yourself again?

Mac: Okay. I'm Edward McNeil and I was brought up in Whiting Indiana at the site of the world's largest oil refinery. There was all sorts of factories around. You could tell what direction the wind was by the smell. I would say I didn't realize until after I'd been through college, but we had a pretty good school system because the company paid so many taxes. I didn't realize it before but I was raised in an unfortunate fashion. All of the schools system – elementary, middle and high school was in sort of a 2-block stretch, playground and everything and just at the end of that was the Carnegie Library and we lived just across the street from that. And the result was I only went to school and came home and didn't go home with other kids and so forth, and so I really had a restricted life because of where we stayed. Where I went to college?

Tom: Yes, please.

Mac: I went to Miami University in Ohio and I was recruited into physics by the physics professor and I graduated with Cum Lada with honors in physics, and that honors was one of the toughest things they have. It's 9 hours of written exams and 3 hours of oral exam.

Tom: How many people were asking you questions on the oral exam?

Mac: One.

Tom: Just one? When did you first come to the North Fork? I know why. I think it was probably because of Cecily.

Mac: Because of allergies. While I was still in graduate school I realized I had troubles about nose and summer flu and so forth and I'd been tested for this, that and the other and the guy said 'well the only thing I can figure is it much be allergies.' We tried going up to northern Wisconsin out on the peninsula in Lake Superior but even that didn't get us away from the pollens, and so we tried coming out to Estes Park. What is that park? It has a more proper name.

Tom: It's in Colorado.

Mac: In Colorado, yeah. And found lo and behold no allergies while we were there, so Cecily started doing research to see if she could find some national forest land in the Rockies someplace where we could rent or something. And in the course of it she saw an ad for land inside the national park. Charlie Green had put that ad in. She jumped on a train and came out, looking at what he was showing and it was in Dutch Creek. The first place she saw she didn't like because there was [rot] in the logs. The second one was very nice and he didn't know if it was for sure for sale but it was, so she said right then and there we're going to buy it. And so from then on every summer we would come out to at first inside the park at Dutch Creek. And then we began to every weekend we would visit with the various people in North Fork because at that time they had square dances at the MacFarland... Do they call it a ranch or what?

Tom: Dude ranch is what it was called back then.

Mac: Sometimes in the hall alternating back and forth, and so a lot of people I remember, Adolf Alpaca was the ranger at Polebridge at that time. And I remember early on sitting on a log during a meeting and Adolf was telling me he says, "Now you don't want to go shooting a bear on your property because you will have about a ton of rotting meat or something. What you want to do is gut-load them so they'll go off in the woods and die someplace else." And I realized afterwards he was giving us permission go ahead and shoot whether anybody says you should or not. And I found another reason why is that they were actually dumping the bears they caught down in Dutch Creek at that time, and so they would turn up occasionally at our cabin. You will find that in the cookbook that Cecily has. My recipe was called Bear Stew but it was just because every time we cooked it a bear would come sniffing around the cabin.

Annemarie: Did it taste good?

Mac: Oh yes. The recipe was actually beef bourgenaine.

Annemarie: And so you just switched bear for beef bourgenaine?

Mac: Oh yeah, we did that frequently.

Annemarie: What did it taste like?

Mac: Beef bourguignon?

Annemarie: No, the bear stew.

Mac: It wasn't bear stew.

Annemarie: Oh.

Mac: It was because of bears attending.

Tom: They were guests, or they wanted to be guests.

Mac: I would have to go out and throw a chunk of wood at them or something. Cecily would be out with a gun.

Annemarie: Oh so you've never tasted bear meat?

Mac: No. And we lived at Dutch Creek in summers for a good many years. What was the year of the Huckleberry Fire? About 66?

Tom: It could have been 69 but I'm guessing.

Mac: Well whenever, that fire burned out very close to our cabin, but one of the guys from Dutch Creek was running a tractor and he dug a fire break which saved our cabin. But then the Hungry Horse News publicized the fact that that cabin survived and they had...before we got out there a bunch of vandals came in from – I don't know how many, well they jumped up and down on the car we had outside, broke windows and so forth. They broke in the cabin. They stole a lot of things, like we had antique planes, wooden planes leftover from the previous guy, fishing gear and so forth, and then they took a container of varnish and poured it all over the books in the bookcase. They tried to break up the refrigerator with an ax but it only dented it. It was sort of depressing.

The Edwards at Logging Creek said you better buy some land on the other side before it gets too expensive. At that point Cecily did another search going up and down the road and when she came to that section just before Moose Creek where you're going down the hill to Moose Creek you can see between the trees all the way up to Canada, and she was so struck by that view she asked does anybody have any property? And yes it turned out Stone Street had a lot right there on Moose Creek, and so she went in and saw that there was water besides a homestead cabin and she says, "We'll take it." After that we were there every summer. I take that back, I was at Harvard one summer but they were there.

We would buy a bit of lumber down in Columbia Falls. They would let us put it on the [00:09:48] so we could bathe during the year. And I worked on

building the first cabin, the tree house of the August Moon. Then after that was more or less finished then came the year of the floods that took out the bridges.

- Tom: That would have been in 1964 was the big flood that flooded half of Polebridge.
- Mac: Well on Dutch Creek it damaged the bridge so they took out the old bridge and just left the tree so the timber is lying on the ground there. And after about a year or so I somehow managed to use the VW bus to drag one by one up to our land and I was starting to build a garage next to the old cabin and Cecily vetoed that and this is what happens to me. I start to get something built and she says, "I don't like it." So I took them and put them in a...used them to build a foundation for a little cabin next to it, so that is the one that's called Pinewood and it's a little closer to the ground than the first cabin.
- Tom: Did you know the original homesteader of your Moose Creek property?
- Mac: No. They were dead. They were I think called Ingam and then Stone Street had bought from them and held onto it for a long time then finally sold it to us.
- Annemarie: How many acres did you acquire?
- Mac: 103-something. It's sort of an L-shaped plot right against the Meridian and the lower end just barely crosses Moose Creek. At the time the old-timers told us 'You got took. You paid \$40 an acre for that land' and God knows what it costs nowadays.
- Tom: Oh, quite a difference. So when you were up there in the summertime how was your life different than it was in Chicago?
- Mac: Well you couldn't go to the store [with] the milk.
- Tom: How often did you go to town?
- Mac: We went about once a week and stocked up. We had to think of everything and the kids had to help us chop wood and so forth so that they realized that if you wanted food on the table you had to do something besides just turn a switch. They would also sort of...because they could see cows and so forth that the milk didn't originate in a carton.
- Tom: Where did you shop?
- Mac: B&B.
- Tom: B&B. Do you know what stood for?
- Mac: No.

- Tom: Brown & Brown.
- Annemarie: And now it's gone through several iterations and it's Smith's Grocery.
- Mac: Yeah, so we go to Smith's, at least I do, or I mean I did.
- Tom: So do you have any interesting stories about transportation, your cars on the North Fork Road was that a [00:13:30]?
- Mac: The first thing I would say is something about manners. Back in those days you could be driving your car out, of course it was dirt road and a car would be approaching you would see from a distance. Make of making rooster [flukes] but in those days you both slowed down so you were going very slow when you passed and you wave so it didn't make so much dust in the other guy's face, and then you speeded up after that. I don't see that anymore. It looks to me like more Indianapolis Raceway or something. I can remember when I was building the cabin it was the 4th of July or something. We could hear the cars on the road down below and we got real excited because we heard 6 cars on that day and nowadays it's more like 6 an hour.
- Tom: So you've seen a lot of growth, or you heard a lot of growth.
- Mac: Yes, and we tried to fight it all the way.
- Annemarie: Do you have any memories of road adventures with your various vehicles, your cars, your VW? Did you have a Nash also?
- Mac: We didn't have a Nash out here, only the VW.
- Annemarie: Before we start again my question was what are your memories of adventures on the road with your vehicles? Did you run into trouble? Was the North Fork Road in...?
- Mac: The only thing is every once in a while we would get a flat tire and then you would just have to change it. Oh and then you did have to worry about logging trucks sometimes. There was a period when logging was going on up there and we got one of these CB radios in the VW and so we tried to call out we're at [mile] so and so to give a warning to the loggers too. I don't know that it did much good. We didn't have any trouble. I know some people ran their car off the road, turned over and say well there was a squirrel in the road or something, but I don't think anything very adventurous about the road.
- Annemarie: Did you make a road trip to...?
- Mac: The more adventurous things were right around the cabin, the animals. We actually did see a mountain lion a couple of times. The funniest one was when we finally had both cabins and the whole Christmas family was down to visit

and one of them saying, "I've always wanted to see a mountain lion." And at that time I guess it probably was Bruce who needed to have his diaper changed and Cecily went into the cabin and he was squalling and we looked up and a mountain lion came around looking. I remember he could walk under the other cabin and went right on past in front of 6 or 8 people, audience and they were amazed that when you bring up the topic you get a show. [Laughs]

Tom: They didn't think it was planned, it just happened huh?

Mac: Yeah. The other one I was lying trying to sun with the dog next to me and the dog got sort of fidgety and I was wondering why. Then I looked up and I could see just going behind a bush nearby was a long people of yellow rope about this high off the ground moving along, and I said whoops. What else could it be?

Tom: Did you instantly know that or did you have to ponder on it?

Mac: I had to ponder a bit because at first it's a levitation effect which is a little surprising and then you try to work back to what it might be. And see we've had people poaching there. Apparently no trespassing signs don't mean a damn thing.

Tom: Do you think that could be because the people don't have a clue where they're at? Do they think they're on Forest Service land as opposed to...?

Mac: No, these are North Forkers. They knew damn well where they...

Tom: So one of the questions we ask everybody and it may or may not affect you but those were early days but not necessarily homestead days. Did you have any different ways of communicating other than the CB radio?

Mac: Oh. The way we communicate is by voice and so either you could walk over to their place to talk to them or you would get in a car and go there and that was the only thing you [couldn't] do. Now for a while we also had a radio but that wasn't for talking to the local people, that was for... What I remember that one evening I looked out and I saw a little light over the park side and so I called in a fire warning on it and Joe Apalca was very happy because his fire truck [00:19:33] navigation. It was someplace where he could drive right into it and squirt it down.

Tom: Did you have any other wildfire experiences while you were on the North Fork?

Mac: The Red Meadow Fire was sort of west of us and coming towards us and we didn't know if it was going to split and go North or go South because as you watched you could see the direction of the smoke cloud just changing all kinds of directions. And we were worried about Ruth Sondreson. We were pretty

sure... We went down to see that she was all right and she was busy packing away photographs and stuff into her truck. And I can remember I think [00:20:30] going on while this was happening and I was watching the smoke cloud up above, and when it finally started going straight overhead I said, "We've got to go," and we went away to Apgar. I hear that let's see... The oldest Edwards boy, you? What was the one that was in the army?

Tom: Gary.

Mac: Gary.

Tom: The middle, the second one.

Mac: I heard that Gary stayed through the whole damn thing. Well he's lucky he didn't get burned up, that's all I can say.

Annemarie: Was this the 1988 fire?

Tom: Yes.

Annemarie: The Red Bench Fire, okay.

Mac: Now Huckleberry Fire for instance the Forest Service were in that thing that's now the Institute or something, and they had seen the fire and they called the department and said, "You want us to go across and spray that down?" And the department said, "No, no, that's our jurisdiction," and then they fiddled around for several hours and by that time the fire had spread all over towards the mountain. But after that... and maybe part of it because the...[local] thing that we persuaded to start that some subsequent fires that everybody cooperated, but it took a while to put out the...

Tom: Were you happy to see that in our local committee start so you could figure out what was going on?

Mac: Well we were the ones that were pushing for it, so yes I think, and I think that experience shows that it has helped because there wasn't much communication. The sort of things I remember, I remember some homesteader stories. You know the Holcolms next to their little house there was a big stump hollowed out inside and they put a smokehouse in the early days. Old Holcomb called me and in those days you could see mostly just the trees, underbrush with spacing between them. And to make his barn I think he said he cut down three trees to make the sides. He had a couple of horses to help him put it together and I remember as long as she was alive Ma Holcomb would get up in the morning and go down and fish for something for breakfast and then make bread and it was just surprising.

Tom: They pretty much lived off the land I believe weren't they?

Mac: Yeah.

Tom: That's what you're kind of alluding to.

Mac: Oh yes. You had to. Now as I understand it some of the other homesteaders part of the family would stay on the North Fork and another part would have to go work on the railroad in the summer to make money, because that's the only way they could survive. Can you remember the name of Ann Holcomb's brother? Ben Holcomb was it?

Annemarie: I don't know. Do you know Tom?

Tom: I don't know who that was. Ann Hanson maybe and Ben Hanson.

Mac: Yeah.

Tom: Not Holcomb. I think that's who you are...

Mac: Did I say Holcomb?

Tom: Yes you did.

Mac: I meant Hanson.

Tom: Okay. I thought that's who you might have meant.

Mac: He was telling a story about when he was a kid up there and they had horses and he was before breakfast told to go out and do something with the horses and he found no horses. He looked over across the river and there they were over in the MacFarland's meadow, and so he crossed the river, wandered over to the horses and tried to sneak up and stop one of them. We went together into the meadow, so he trotted down and he finally got there and tried to sneak up and catch somebody but they turned back and went to the first bend of the meadow. And this happened a couple of times, so one time it was down near the South end and I think it was Black Jack Rutter that had a cabin there and he came out and says, "You and Hanson's in trouble." He says, "You must be hungry, would you like some breakfast?" He says, "Well yes sir." So they went in this cabin where a little bed had been made into one corner and a table with a zinc top in another corner and in the third corner was a stove and in the middle there was a sack of something with the dog lying on it and Black Jack starts mixing up... He gets a bowl and he puts in I guess it was some flour or something and then says, "You eat some yeast..." and he reached into this jug and he pulled out this big mass...that was his sourdough and put it in and says, "Do you like oats in your cereal?" He says, "Well yes." And he went over and he kicked the dog and reached into that sack and took a handful of that and put it in and he then started cooking away. He had to make the table look nice

because the tin dishes were nailed to the surface. He took an old dirty dishrag and wiped them out and that was doing the dishes.

Annemarie: The plates were nailed to the surface of the table?

Mac: And served up pancakes and he actually had good maple syrup to put on them and the kid ate. He says, "Well now would you like some more?" And the kid thinking about the dog said, "No sir, I'm full up." He eventually managed to get the horses home.

Annemarie: What about Ralph Thayer did you know him?

Mac: Oh yes, he surveyed our property and you remember the government did what they call a [00:28:32] diaptic survey or something like that, something from satellites to help them lay out and they marked quarter section corners. And there's one of course on the corner of our land and I went up and looked and they had to pull out Ralph's peg to put their brass marker in there and so we sort of proud of Ralph. Many years later when it was in the old veteran's home we went to see him there because there was a sort of possible dispute about right away on our land and we saw that he said they didn't have one diagonally across the land, it was only a little strip of the very North edge that belonged to the national forest and then they were taking an option on it. Eventually that cleared out. Once we came in and at the bottom of the road where we were turning in there were two guys camping rather scruffy types and we told them it was private property and they shouldn't be camping there but they didn't take that nicely. And so we called the ranger I think it was to go and talk. He persuaded them to go down to the Ford Campground and later found out that they were convicts from the prison.

Tom: So you sized it up about right from the beginning.

Mac: Yeah. We treaded very carefully under those circumstances.

Annemarie: Did Ralph live in his homestead cabin while you and Cecily settled there on Moose Creek?

Mac: I've never been to his cabin, but he sometimes lived up there. I think... Who is the guy that moved and recently became...

Annemarie: In Theo's cabin?

Mac: Sort of took it over.

Annemarie: The Hubbles bought it from Johnny Matheson.

- Mac: I heard some of that stuff from a few of the people who were up at that end, but we were more likely to be thinking about the Sondresons. Who were the ones that were at the bottom of the hill?
- Tom: Wurtz.
- Mac: Wurtz, yes. Their cabin was stuff with paper I think it was. And then of course that later became the family with the German wife.
- Annemarie: Lawrence, Barbara.
- Tom: Barbara Lawrence.
- Mac: Yes. She would blow a whistle and if the kids weren't in the car by the 5 minutes she would drive off to town anyhow.
- Tom: Good recollection. Did you ever spend any Christmas holiday up to the North Fork or were you always teaching and carrying on like that?
- Mac: I never spent a Christmas holiday or anything like that. I was once in Kalispell during a Christmas season. That's after Allen had moved here. That's when I fell down in the restaurant, something with the knee which only got straightened out when I got back in Chicago. On the operating table and they did an arthroscopy and afterwards he says, "Well it wasn't much wrong. I cleaned out some mice, but if you ever need another knee why call me."
- Tom: [Laughs]
- Annemarie: What a character. Did you attend picnics and square dances on the North Fork?
- Mac: Oh yes, regularly.
- Tom: Tell us about them.
- Mac: Well mainly I remember we would have to cook something, bake a cake or something. I remember one in particular where there were comments about the icing and I had made it with sour whipped cream because that's all that was available. At the square dance we did square dancing and there was a fair collection of records there. Of course you get to talking about the meetings oh my God.
- Annemarie: The North Fork Improvement Association?
- Mac: Yeah. I was president one year and that was the year you probably helped work on the Memorial Privy in the backyard.
- Tom: No, your boys got it. I got out of that for some reason.

- Mac: Oh.
- Tom: That was Morgan Hart and Allen and Allen Chrisman I think were the ones I heard got volunteered for that job.
- Mac: [Laughs] [00:35:07] So I know at least something worthwhile was done once. Another thing that was important was in those days the cabin was leaning. At least I put some propping poles up against the side that was leaning and it was a year later or so that somebody took a tractor and helped pull it straight.
- Tom: They pulled it straight is what they did?
- Mac: Yeah.
- Annemarie: This was Sondreson Hall?
- Tom: Yes.
- Mac: Yeah.
- Tom: So was that year a good experience of being president? You must have known everybody then.
- Mac: You can't really say that I know people because I have something in my brain that puts a shutter down whenever I try to get somebody's name. And furthermore in my college teaching I would have 200 of these students every 8 weeks and eventually you get snowed under. I started out trying to memorize all the students with [00:36:31] but the classes were a lot smaller then too.
- Annemarie: What was your experience with the land use plan? Tell us about what that was and what you remember about it.
- Mac: Let me think. There was sort of fighting back and forth. It was sort of like chickens pecking about whether to pave or not pave the road that had gone on for years.
- Annemarie: About what decade is this?
- Mac: I don't know. It had been going on forever. And I think...well I can't remember who else, but several of us suggested why don't we get together and talk what we do want and see if there's anything we can agree on? My mind liked to get on the guy who works at the Hungry Horse news.
- Annemarie: Larry Wilson?
- Mac: Larry Wilson, yeah, I think he was very important in that too because that's where we met. [00:38:01] and there were a lot of things that we did agree on.

It was just mainly the road. And so we tried to write up the stuff we agreed on and I remember taking it down to a final draft and I was one and...

Annemarie: Harold, the Sweets?

Mac: Sweets, Harold Sweet, the two of us looked at that and gave it back for approval and then we submitted that to the county and [by damn 00:38:47] if the county didn't more or less approve it because nothing like that had been done before apparently. There were some attempts by other places to do something similar. That was something good and positive but the moral is you've got to keep fighting to keep it because carpetbaggers come along. They don't know the minutes of the previous meeting and they just decide we should do this. We'll run a Disneyland at the North Fork or that sort of stuff. So it never gets to be a [00:39:31] about that.

Tom: So you had a fairly long association with the North Fork from part-time to bigger part-time. What kind of changes could you capsulize or did you see from the beginning to the end or until now?

Mac: Well I think I would say at the beginning it was much more like the pioneers, much more neighborly. People would help each other, help them build a barn or whatever, help them... I'm going to town; can I buy stuff for you? That sort of stuff. Gradually that sort of wore away and I don't hear much about that anymore. What I hear is mainly through Allen now because neither Cecily or I feel too safe going up there anymore. I couldn't manage it at all. I'm sure she could but she would be worried about being alone up on the property, so Allen has to take care of it now.

Tom: Does he spend quite a bit of time up there in recent times?

Mac: Yes. It's not only the Landowners Improvement Association, there's...

Annemarie: The North Fork Preservation Association. He's on the board.

Mac: He's on the board of that and so he has to keep going for meetings for that, so he's spent a lot of weekends up there.

Tom: Did you envision that when he was 5 years old?

Mac: Not directly no, but we did hope that they would be involved with it somehow. We originally took the property simply because we wanted to keep one square of land more or less the way it always was and you can't find much of that anymore.

Tom: That's a good thing. Thank you.

Annemarie: One more question. Did you know Burt and Thelma Edwards?

Mac: Certainly.

Annemarie: Tom's parents?

Mac: Yes.

Annemarie: Tell us about that.

Mac: Well now were they logging originally?

Tom: Yes.

Mac: Okay, so from the beginning there were sort of our mentors and they had an old park sign left we picked up and so that made us sort of the ranger for the Dutch Creek for anybody that came on. But anyhow we were always going back and forth between logging because the kids would have somebody to play with, and I gather that went on quite a bit.

Tom: Yes.

Mac: I had one frightening episode I'm sure it was logging. The family had said oh the swimming is marvelous now, and they persuaded me to go in and I did get it and I...

Annemarie: Logging Lake?

Mac: Creek, right where it comes out in the river. Oh my reaction was immediate and I struggled when I finally got to shore and got on the ground on my hands and knees panting and I turned purple on my legs and arms like I always used to do, and that gave a scare to my wife because she could see afalactic shock.

Annemarie: We're talking about glacier fed water?

Mac: Yeah. They said, "Oh it's warm now." The hell it was for me. [Chuckles]

Tom: So could it have been hyperthermia as well?

Mac: It happens very rapidly. I remember in Chicago the Beach Grant Park out by the aquarium I was there one summer just for the sun and the water is very shallow way out. I said well that must be warmed up pretty well and so I started to wade out in it and I could feel the itching starting on my legs already so I turned around and came back, and it was probably a very funny sight because I had purples socks from here to here from the capillaries.

Tom: You mentioned earlier that you had made kind of a fancy cake for a picnic or a square dance or something. Did you do much cooking on the wood stove? I assume that was how you cooked.

Mac: Yes. That was one other thing we wanted the kids to know that there was a different kind of stove that was used. I don't think they had seen my grandmother's house at that time. She had a Franklin stove for heating and a music parlor and fireplaces [00:45:35], but I don't think they had seen that. But I thought they should see something of this nature. We had a wood stove in the old cabin. Well we had it at Dutch Creek and then we had it at Moose Creek too in the homestead cabin, but when we put in the new cabin it was a gas stove.

It was a funny thing that in preparing for going to Dutch Creek the first time I looked up the... I'm trying to remember the make. The refrigerator was gas-burning.

Tom: Survelle?

Mac: Survelle, yeah, and see if they had something that was used for the...you had no service and yes they had a gas-made version and I called and asked about buying it and they said, "But that's for [burning 00:46:44 and salon] and so forth." And I said, "But I can't buy one?" And they said, "If you promise not to demand repairs or anything we'll let it go at that," so we did get it. That was the one that got chopped up in the vandalism.

Tom: Did you notice any difference between living in the park as opposed to living on the outside or on the Forest Service land?

Mac: I think yes, it was more social when we were out. You see there was social going on all the time, which was sort of surprising but [sort of wildwoods] and so forth, but these things were happening.

Annemarie: And there were more people on the North Fork than in the park. That probably made a difference too.

Mac: Yeah. Cecily made a cartoon. You've seen the book of cartoons?

Tom: Yes.

Annemarie: The North Fork file?

Mac: Yeah. It sort of illustrated how it seemed to us that shows some cowboy hat and jeans characters standing around being introduced to each other, and this is Dr. so and so from here and this is Professor so and so from there. That's the way the title went. We had a theological enclave there with Funk and Hart.

Annemarie: Bob Funk and Ray Hart.

Mac: Hmm. Cecily remembers going past in the car and seeing Hart swearing at his wife because the car was stuck and she wasn't able to get out of the rut. She

thought she was very untheological. [Chuckles] Another story was Rachael Sweet was talking about coming out to visit Hart. He was stark naked. Well, the way she tells it he was sort of strutting out after her. And then later I heard from Hart said he was in his cubbyhole taking a shower and she barges right in there. And then she extrapolated from that.

Annemarie: He didn't take a towel out with him to his outside shower stall and so he had to streak from the shower stall back to the cabin.

Tom: Two sides to every story.

Annemarie: In those days there wasn't much traffic on the road so he could normally streak without anybody seeing him.

Mac: Yeah, I told you about the 6 cars on the 4th of July.

Tom: Yeah. Should we take a break?

Mac: Sure. And they all said yes, and I said, "Well, I just happen to have some in the trunk." I put it on dry ice and transported it for several days just for that occasion. And I remember on another occasion making crepe suzette.

Annemarie: On the North Fork?

Mac: I think that was still in national park or something... Oh I did that in the North Fork I'm sure.

Tom: Did you ever bake bread?

Mac: No. I did cakes, cookies and so forth.

Tom: Gourmet pastry chef and that was a reputation that is following you to this day.

Mac: Yeah, except now with my wife governing my diet my God – no salt and very sparse too. Of course she's managed to get me to lose a lot of weight.

Annemarie: Do you feel better?

Mac: I can't say that. At the time I went into the hospital I was 255 and the last time I checked at the doctor it was 220-something.

Tom: Oh good job.

Mac: Oh, this cup had the Transporter from Star Trek. When it gets hard the figures vanish.

Tom: Oh, you can tell it's not hot at the moment. A footnote – this is Tom Edwards and Annemarie Herrod and Mac McNeil, also known as Edward McNeil doing

a brief interview for the North Fork History Project in October of 2011, end of footnote.

00:52:51

[End of recording]