

HISTORY DAY AT THE NORTH FORK HOSTEL

June 11, 2025

Bonnie Hankey: Lois Walker couldn't be here today, so we have her daughter Betsy. She was here as a child and stayed at the hostel, many years ago. So, we'll start with the buildings. Then I'll talk about why [my brother] John Frederick came and how influential he was in the North Fork.

Betsy Walker: Good morning, everyone. It's nice to see such a good turnout. My name is Betsy Walker. I'm covering for my mother Lois. I'll be reading all of her notes, and if you have questions I can convey them back, because I may not have the answers. Although Oliver probably will know the answers.

Oliver Meister: Yes, please interrupt if you have questions. We love questions more than anything else.

Betsy: Out of curiosity, how many of you have stayed at this hostel at some point in time? [Hands raised] Just a couple.

Oliver: When was that, Rob? How long ago was it that you were here?

Rob Fisher: Oh, back in the 20s, probably [Laughter]. In the early 1980s.

Bonnie: Before you bought your cabin?

Rob: No, afterwards. Let me think about this. I never did stay here. I took showers here, and I came for different functions. I never stayed in the cabin, so I'll retract that. I haven't stayed here. But I've been here and showered here.

Betsy: Well, hopefully we'll have some information that will be new to everyone. Bonnie and Oliver and I are going to try to tell the story of this remarkable establishment, the North Fork Hostel, which has been in operation in Polebridge for 45 years this year.

My part of the presentation is to talk about the hostel building itself and how it came to be located here in Polebridge. As many of you know, the main part of the hostel was originally the lodge at the Quarter Circle MC Ranch on Big Prairie in Glacier National Park. It was owned by Jack and Mary McFarland. It was a large open building that served as the mess hall for the ranch and its guests. They also used it for meetings and weekly dances, especially during the summer. Jack McFarland passed away in 1957. Mary, with a lot of help, continued to run the ranch until the mid-1960s. It's a long and convoluted story, which their grandson Jack McFarland can tell you about in detail, but eventually Glacier Park pressured Mary into selling that property to the Park. Jack thinks the Park took possession about 1968. It would have been in 1969 or 1970, then, that the Park decided to auction off or sell the buildings on the ranch. That included the original two-story homestead cabin, a large barn, six guest cabins, and the lodge.

Meanwhile, Ted and Esther Ross, owners of the Polebridge Store, had two sons and two daughters. One of their daughters, Betty, was married to a man named Wally Nolan. Wally was a skilled tradesman who, among other things, specialized in moving log structures from one location to another. As Ted Ross was preparing to retire, he decided to subdivide the hay meadow south of the store, creating what we know as the Polebridge Townsite. He gifted double lots at

the end of each of the four streets to his children. Betty and Wally received this double lot at the end of Beaver Drive.

We don't know the exact details, but Wally evidently won the bid to buy the lodge and, according to Jack, the building was not moved intact. It was disassembled and then reassembled on this site. That explains how the building, which was originally a large open building with rafters, was reconstructed with a second floor and several interior rooms. According to local sources, the Nolans lived on the second floor.

What is today the kitchen in the hostel was a separate building that was likewise moved from Big Prairie and appended to the lodge. It was one of a series of cabins along the North Fork River built by railroad employees from Havre in eastern Montana. That area was commonly known to local North Forkers as Havreville. One of the cabins along the river became the kitchen for the hostel. We don't know exactly when the cabin was moved, but it was in place and in use by the time John Frederick bought the Nolan home in October 1978. Jerry Costello remembers helping Wally move the cabin, bringing it across the bridge from the Park and putting it into place. Ray Brown, who did various remodeling jobs for John, remembers putting a new parquet floor in the kitchen. He also helped remodel the main bathroom and the washroom across the hall, as well as many other projects.

On the outside wall of the hostel, at the far end of the building up high, you'll see a large version of the Quarter Circle MC ranch logo. That wasn't on the building originally. John asked Oliver (who is a real artist, by the way) to paint the logo on the building after he started coming to stay at the hostel in 1991.

Just so you know, there are no indoor facilities here at the hostel. So, during your visit be sure to avail yourselves of one of the two outhouses in the backyard. They are an integral part of visiting the hostel, and John's Ohio State University diploma adorns one of the walls.

Now, I'll turn this over to Bonnie Hankey, John's sister, who will tell you a little bit about John, his history, and his legacy in the North Fork.

Bonnie: Something I learned was that when Karen Feather bought the Northern Lights Saloon and the store, she was offered the meadow, but she turned it down. She just wanted the store and the Adair homestead cabin. That's why Ted Ross subdivided it. [Not true. The meadow was subdivided by (if not before) 1972. Karen didn't buy the store until late 1974 and opened in April 1, 1975. Ted Ross sold the store to Cal and Dottie Oien, who owned it from 1967-1969 and then subsequently sold it to Bob and Betty Olson, who owned it from 1969-1974.]

John and I grew up in Marion, Ohio, about an hour or so north of Columbus. He was always into nature. We were in town, but the street in back of us had all trees because none of those lots were developed. We spent a great deal of time in those trees, and since I followed the boys I knew what was going on. I was a tomboy. We climbed trees, we built things. John fell out of a tree one time and fractured his shoulder. Of course, I went running home and got him in trouble.

He was a Boy Scout; he was an Eagle Scout. He was in the Order of the Arrow, so he was already starting into that type of lifestyle. He went to college, and he started in what he thought was going to be forestry. Unfortunately, he found that it was just going to be a lot of book learning and not hands-on. Through his Boy Scout years, he had gone to Camp Mary Owens and helped rebuild the camp—log structures and all kinds of stuff.

He graduated from college, but then came the Vietnam War. He joined the Army, thinking he wouldn't get drafted and sent to Vietnam. He wanted to take languages, so he signed up to learn Russian, but he wasn't fast enough according to the Army. He was thorough, but he wasn't fast. So, they sent him to Alaska. He spent several years there, and when he got out he started the Klondike Kate Coffee House in Anchorage. Then he came back to the States with his green bus. There's a printout of his story of adventures with the green bus that he wrote, probably in 1969 when he came back.

Then he was an editor in Columbus, Ohio, and started a recycling newspaper. At the time he asked me, "Am I stupid?" I said, "No, this is needed, and you're good at it, so just keep at it." He got married [to Sue Kates] in 1975 or 1976. They went to Alaska before they got married, because he knew he didn't want to live in Ohio. In Alaska, he said, "I'd like to live here." Sue looked at him and said, "No, I don't think so."

On their way back in the green bus, which probably broke down four times, they stopped in the Northwest Territories and he learned about some land there. It was a way station, very remote—just up his alley. Sue said, "I don't think so, John." They came down through Montana, and Sue said, "Yeah, I could do this."

They got married, and they moved out here. They started out in Olney, where perhaps they rented for a few weeks, and then they bought a cabin on Rogers Lake. That was the first time I came out to visit, in 1977 I think. 1976 or 1977. I fell in love with Montana myself, but I lived in Ohio, so I was back and forth. They lived there, but it was Sue who wanted to start a hostel. They visited the North Fork and John looked at this building, which was empty at the time. It was pretty rough, and he said, "I don't think so." [They looked at other properties, as well, including what later became the Doug Barnes place.] They came by a little later, and John said, "Well, yes I think I could do something with this."

So, he purchased the Nolan cabin in October 1978. [They had some guests in 1979, but opened officially in the summer of 1980.]

Oliver: For \$35,000. Way too much money.

Bonnie: Yes. So, that's where it started. As I said, the first time I came out, I was at the other cabin. The second time I came out, he had opened the hostel. The only outbuilding I remember at that time was the Goat Chalet. My parents came out several times. My mother got caught in the outhouse a couple of times, with bears walking around. John just made this a very special place. He fell in love with the mountains, the forests, the Whitefish Range, and the community. There were some hippie-type elements, and there were the redneck elements, but they all kind of meshed. A few times there were heads that butted.

John joined the International Hostel Association. There is a bulletin board in the hallway that you'll see. That's Oliver's map now, I guess; the map from John's time has been taken down. But people from all over the world put stick pins in the map, representing where they came from [and examples of their currency]. You never knew who you were going to meet when you came here.

He and Sue eventually divorced, but in 1985 he married Sharon Costantino. In 1982, he founded the North Fork Preservation Association (NFPA). Before that, it was Friends of the North Fork, and I have a couple of t-shirts from that era. The first t-shirt I got had the hostel on the front, and on the back was a moose, the mountains, and the phrase "The only change we want is the seasons." We had all the predators, the beauty, and we didn't want big development.

John and the hostel hosted all kinds of celebrations. I know he had movie nights with VHS tapes.

Oliver: There are lots of VHS videotapes here.

Bonnie: There were Halloween parties, Christmas parties, and New Year's parties. I came out in October 1988, right after the Red Bench Fire, and we had a Halloween party. Some of you probably remember Bo and Debbie Tanner, who were there. Bo later became infamous and was the subject of an *Unsolved Mysteries* episode. The fire took out a lot of stuff in the Polebridge vicinity, including John's generator shed. Then we had the 1995 flood, and I was out helping to clean that up. John's propane tank floated away, but they got it back, and the water damaged the Green Zucchini pretty badly. Oliver spent a great deal of time scraping dirt out of the cracks in the hostel floor.

Oliver: The clothesline here kept Klondike Kate's in place so that it didn't float away. And there was a hammock strung between the tree and the Goat Chalet, which kept the cabin from floating away. The Green Zucchini was on its side and had trees sticking out through its windows. Yes, it was an exciting time for John.

Bonnie: When you go inside, you'll see that there's a long hallway. John used to have bookshelves there beneath the windows, and they were full of books—paperbacks, hardbacks, etc.—and he wanted me to save them. Which didn't happen. I may have saved one or two, but most of them were in the water too long and they couldn't be dried out.

Then we had floods in 2015 and 2017 or 2018, I think. In 2018 is when we had the memorial for John, who died in November 1917. That was a minor flood, but it inconvenienced Oliver.

Oliver: Usually when there's water in the yard it stays a while. Sometimes I'm able to paddle my canoe around the hostel. I enjoy that. It becomes island living, because the road gets flooded, too. I think the worst I've ever had was water when the cabin floors got wet. Nothing like 1995, but I'm sure it will come again at some point.

Bonnie: The ice skating rink. Who remembers that? John O'Hara was probably involved.

John O'Hara: Yes, I scored a few goals.

Bonnie: Did you help build the rink?

John: We went to the community hall, because the three lots across from the hostel are county property [designated as park property]. Roy Cooper had been murdered, and we decided to make a memorial to him. We asked the county if we could use that property. They didn't even know they owned it, so it was pretty easy to get. We recruited equipment from the community. Tom Ladenburg loaned his machinery and other things. Ray Brown had a lot to do with it. We flattened that whole area, and Ted Ross, who had tons of connections, had a well-drilling rig connected to an old dump truck that he owned. He drilled a bunch of wells on lots he sold in the meadow. He drilled a well over there—it's about 22 feet deep. We put up boards and flooded the area and skated there. We had night skates. We had cold skating and crummy skating conditions, but we all had something else to do. That's usually how things get done up here—it gets so bad that you have to recreate things.

We asked John if he had a problem with it. Of course, he didn't, but I don't remember him putting on any skates either. I'm not sure about that [he did skate on the river when it froze over]. But it was county land, and it still is. We named it Roy Cooper Field. It has a legal title and everything like that. We had gotten the hockey boards from Whitefish, after they bought new

ones, and somehow Ray got a deal. We went down and picked up the whole wooden rink, which was about 80' x 30'. We brought them up here and set them up. Then the 1988 fire came and burned them all down. The well is still over there, and the rink worked for quite a while, which is the North Fork way. Then we all just kind of disappeared into the woodwork.

Bonnie: John did a lot with the Fourth of July parade. He was the emcee. There are probably pictures in that photo album that we're passing around. When the Park was more participatory in the parade, and imaginative, one year John was on the stand talking when Regi Altop and Scott Emmerich took him down, put him on a stretcher, and stuffed him into the back of a huge, papier mache bear. [Scott said he'd always wanted to stuff John up a bear's butt.] Quite often he drove the Polebridge fire truck in the parade. I remember helping him put water in the fire truck. In 2018, we were going to drive the truck in his honor, but when we got it started we realized the brakes weren't working, and that wasn't a good idea. Now the truck sits over at Square Peg Ranch.

Oliver: Still no brakes.

Bonnie: John did a lot of hikes in the Park. He helped organize community floats on the river [usually the first Sunday in August each year]. He helped clear trails in the Whitefish Range, and helped work on fire lookouts. Oliver, you did a lot of that work with him.

Oliver: Clearing trails, yes.

Bonnie: And so did Bill Walker, who helped form and has maintained the North Fork Trails Association. Oliver, you arrived in 1991. When did all the other outbuildings come?

Oliver: Klondike Kate's and the Goat Chalet were here when I got here in 1991. John had just gotten the Green Zucchini from Frank Vitale and Ellen Horowitz. That was my first job working for John, actually, painting the Green Zucchini. I put a roof over it in the meantime, just because it was my first home in the North Fork. The little white trailer that is my home now came from Becky Braunig up on Trail Creek. I don't remember exactly when she donated that. [She and former husband Stanley Haag lived in that trailer for several years while they were building their cabin.] There are a couple of tepees I used to put up in the front yard. Now I'm just down to one tepee, and I haven't put it up yet this year. It might happen and might not—who knows.

Betsy: My first memories from when I came out [in 1987], I recall that the Goat Chalet got its name because Sharon would put her goats in the cabin at night to protect them. After the goats were gone, it was turned into a rental cabin. [My parents stayed there when they first came.]

Oliver: I met the guy who shoveled out the Goat Chalet, and he had a free night staying in there. That was the story. One goat got eaten by a mountain lion, so the other goat ended up living in John's living room. One visitor said that he came into the living room once and the goat was eating the couch. You can only imagine what the hostel looked like when John was here.

Bonnie: He had a lot of different vehicles over the years. But his license plate was NF Hostel. I still have his plate. I have a painting that was the first painting that Trish Walsh did, which was a painting of John's stock truck. There are lots of pictures of John under his green bus, because he was a tinkerer. And there were lots of stories at his memorial about all of his tinkering and how he would get people involved. He'd ask, "Can you help me do this?" And it would end up being an all-day affair.

He kept a guest book at the hostel, and he authored the weekly column in the *Hungry Horse News* from 1983-1985, when Larry Wilson took it over. And now Oliver is going to talk about all the goodies and improvements that he has done since he took over the hostel.

Oliver: I didn't change anything. Don't accuse me of that.

Bonnie: Improvements, additions, embellishments.

Oliver: The first thing I did was add the greenhouse. Just because it was kind of a funky backyard at that point. Then I had to replace the roof, because it was leaking. You're all familiar with that in the North Fork. Then I added the porch, and all the little things that needed to be done.

Bonnie: New floors upstairs.

Oliver: Yes. I hope you guys are going to take a tour and walk all through the place and check it out. We have the guest book going back to 1979, with all the things that people have written in it. There are pictures of the hostel, in the living room under the stairs, from when it was out at the McFarland dude ranch, all the way until now. Just be careful upstairs. All we have is steep stairs, which are more like ladders. You can still see the old beams with the log work, what the guys did when they built it, because they just kind of filled it in with the four walls. It was one big open place out at McFarland's. Yes, I might have done some improvements, but I definitely didn't try to change it. Don't accuse me of that. [He put in all new windows and a new front door and rebuilt the front porch.]

Betsy: Well, you've been doing repairs on this hostel since you first arrived. Didn't you spend a lot of time being here, bartering and doing repairs around the place. The stove being fixed. You've been involved in that for years.

Oliver: Yes. I didn't pay for a place to stay; I just did a work exchange with John. It's a typical thing probably most immigrants do. Totally illegal, but that's just the way it is. But now I'm here, an American citizen.

Betsy: You just kept coming back, over and over, every year, couldn't stay away.

Oliver: Well, you know, the North Fork is just like that. It attracts you and won't let you go.

Question from the audience: How many people can stay in the hostel?

Oliver: You've asked the most difficult question. People ask me that all the time. I would sit and count the beds.

Betsy: With the outbuildings, probably at least 20.

Oliver: And then other people set up tents and camp.

Jim Rittenburg: When John started it, did he serve food or anything, or was it just lodging?

Oliver: No, because we have the saloon and the store. There's really no need for that.

Betsy: There was always the one hostel frig that was his, and then there was the guest frig.

Oliver: Yes, guests had access to the kitchen, and there was the guest frig. People can make their own food.

Bonnie: Which is very typical in a hostel. You bring and cook your own food, and sometimes share.

Oliver: There used to be more sharing going on, where people would actually get together and cook meals and hang out. But Covid changed a lot of that. There's not as much of that, as I've noticed. But I also don't care as much. People don't want to stay in the dormitories as much because of that. The private cabins and private rooms still get quite a bit of business, but the dormitory rooms don't.

Betsy: It doesn't really run so much as a hostel anymore.

Oliver: Yes, the hostel part of it is kind of fading, I feel like.

Betsy: But it used to be that you'd come, and as a traditional hostel you'd come and stay the night, and yes it was less money, and yes you were staying in a dormitory-style place, but you were also asked to do chores as part of your payment. You were also contributing some time and effort toward its upkeep before you left.

Oliver: Yes, my guests don't do the chores anymore. I do them. But John used to have a chart, and he had all kinds of items where you could pick a chore—like sweep the kitchen floor or clean the bathroom or replace toilet paper in the outhouse—and that was your chore for the day. That was the way it was done.

Betsy: And his famous shower arrangement—I remember that from my childhood—there was a big water cistern on the second floor. Back when there was a radio phone. That was a big deal, and folks would come to the hostel to take showers.

Oliver: Yes, there was a gravity system, so your shower was more of a trickle than a shower. And there was no telephone, just the two-way radio, which people didn't understand because you never got the whole conversation but just half of it. The challenges of living remotely.

Bonnie: Do you still have the big bathtub that John loved so much? He would soak in it for hours.

Oliver: No. Sorry, John.

Bonnie: That bathtub could hold three people.

Oliver: John always said that I would regret getting rid of the bathtub, but I think it was the best thing I ever did.

Betsy: It used to be the tradition around here to have the Polebridge Prom every year, hosted by the Northern Lights Saloon, marking the end of the summer season. I have very distinct memories of the entire wardrobe of women's clothing [that Tom Riemer brought up from Hollywood.] Ladies would come and peruse the wardrobe and select a dress to wear to the Prom.

Oliver: Do we still have those dresses?

Joyce O'Hara: I think Janet Leigh has them now. They've gone around. Wendy Upton, and now Janet. We used to have fashion shows.

Bonnie: Yes, Tom Riemer knew people in the costuming world in Hollywood. Some of these were like 1950s prom dresses. I remember coming in 1985. I still have the dress that I wore in 1985, because it was my prom dress from 1964, altered a bit. It was strapless, but I added straps on it and took out the boning. I couldn't deal with that. But we had a lot of fun with those proms.

Joyce: Yes, we did.

John O'Hara: A lot of people probably won't know this, but there was a family that lived up where we live on Paradise Ridge. They were just scraping by; two steps forward and one step back, with three kids. This became a senior prom moment for their young daughter, Paula [Dziuk]. All the women in the community—Karen Reeves Chadwick actually had the first idea—that they were going to give Paula a prom, because she had no high school fun at all. It was a lark, but it just caught fire. Everybody got behind it. Joyce and I were running the saloon at the time. Tom Riemer came up with this wacky prom dress idea. The first one was good, but the second batch he brought all the way up from California, stuffed in his truck. He didn't even have room to sit in his truck, he had so many dresses. That's how that started. Just the whole community having fun. It lasted for many years.

Joyce: Is it going to be brought back? It's a lot of work.

Wallis Austin: We would love to hold the prom. I think I was on the committee for my high school prom. I've thrown a prom. Yes, if they'd like to come back to the saloon we'd be happy to host it.

Joyce: We used to have dance cards. I still have mine—it might be the very first dance card.

John: There's a real connection between the fabric of the community and this building. I can go way back. The core of this thing came from the McFarland ranch. When we ran into the guy up here who started our whole North Fork life—we drove up here, and the guy who hired me said, "I want you to put this building together." I didn't have remodeling experience. I had a lot of new construction experience. So, we drove down the road and got out of the car at the foot of the walkway here. There were just piles of logs—gray, some of them rotten. The guy turned to me and said, "Hey, look, we got this for free, and we're going to make a building out of it here. And you're gonna like it." I did—I actually did like it. It launched my career.

Joyce: This is part of what John O'Hara put together down in the meadow. It was a real hay meadow. There was nothing there at the time.

Bonnie: There was nothing in that meadow besides you guys.

Joyce: Yes, we were the first cabin in the meadow.

Bonnie: When I came here, you were the first people—you and your kids—that I got to meet.

John: We didn't really want the kids. They just showed up. [Laughter]

Joyce: But the house that came down with this building, he'll give you the history of that.

John: Bo Tanner burned that building [the Ben Bowerman cabin], and some of the logs in that building came from the McFarland Ranch in the Park, like this building. There were a lot of nebulous strings that connected. I'll give you another example, because I don't want to forget it. John declared himself the mayor of Polebridge one day.

Bonnie: I thought maybe you guys did that one day in the saloon. It was between him and Tom Ladenburg. And Tom didn't show up.

Joyce: Ladenburg was the first mayor, and John was the first king.

John: I can use that term without any kind of pejorative connotation. Tom was a redneck. He was horrific.

Bonnie: Ladenburg was an old-time rancher.

John: He really didn't like what was going on here, at all. I worked for Ladenburg for a while. One day we were talking and I asked him, "How come people call you Mayor? You weren't elected." He said, "What are you talking about?" I said, "Let's have an election, and let's figure it out, who's the mayor." I may have had aspirations of being mayor myself. I approached John Frederick. This was all a show to sell more hamburgers in the saloon, to be honest about it. He asked, "Who am I going to run against?" I told him he was going to run against Ladenburg. Ladenburg was like the Ben Cartwright of the North Fork—you didn't mess with him. I thought, "That's perfect. They don't like each other, so it's going to be a good vote." That's what happened. They campaigned and had speeches and got on platforms. The night of the election, John really got into it. He had his tuxedo on; he had his flower.

Joyce: He called it "getting campy."

John: He thought getting beat by Ladenburg was more important than winning. That's the truth. So, the night came and Ladenburg was a no-show. All of this build-up, and he didn't show up. Everybody was scratching their heads. I went to work for him the next day, and I asked, "Where the hell were you?" He said, "You think I'm going to risk losing to him? No." So, that was a chicken-out mayoral election, and John Frederick won. He won many of them after that, too. And he was king of the Prom two different times. And there are pictures.

Joyce: He became quite the pillar in the community. There's so much history between all the big things that John did for the community.

Bonnie: Yes, when he died I had a box of Cabin Creek dirt from the mine that he was fighting in Canada. When he died the Canadian environmental groups had a memorial for him, too. That's how much his influence spread.

Lorna Rittenburg: What's the story? How did he stop the mining?

Bonnie: Does anyone else have any questions, or things they want to add?

Joyce: He handed out petitions like gold. He used petitions for everything, and it worked. All you needed was a certain number of signatures on a petition, and that got you a place to talk in any kind of political scenario. We all drove up to Lethbridge, or wherever it was, to stop that mine.

Bonnie: Then Rio Algom was going to have a strip mine in British Columbia. John bought ten shares of stock in the company, which allowed him to go to the stockholders meeting in Toronto each year, to stand up and say, "You're going to destroy the Flathead watershed." He went every year. Of course, they'd vote him down, but they didn't do anything and eventually it went by the wayside. But on one of his trips, he stopped to see me in Ohio, and we went up to Toronto together. While he was in Ohio I introduced him to Bill and Lois Walker. John and Bill talked, and the next thing John invited Bill to come out for a visit. The family came out that next summer, and they ended up buying the property that they have now.

But yes, John spent a great deal of time with congressmen fighting such things. Frank Vitale, who's not up here anymore, was a good friend, and according to Frank the two of them were instrumental, with Senator Max Baucus from Montana, when they were trying to pass the Wilderness Act and to figure out how much of the Bob Marshall should be wilderness, etc. They would spend hours over maps, spread out on the table, and they'd just keep at it. He did what he could for the place that he loved.

Betsy: I'm just going to speak up and say one more thing. You were talking about the upstairs of the hostel, and we were talking about how that had been converted into living quarters, and how now it's not like the traditional hostel setting where you have rooms and bunk beds. It's more like family rooms. But I remember going up the stairs, and at the top of the stairs on the left was John and Sharon's room when I was a kid. They lived there and rented out the rest of the hostel. Oliver, I don't know if you moved in there or not.

Oliver: In the beginning I did.

Betsy: There was one big open room, and a smaller family room. For a while people were living here, and now there are just rooms you can rent.

Bonnie: I have stayed in every one of these buildings except Becky's trailer, all the rooms both upstairs and downstairs. John got to the point where he realized that maybe the mattresses weren't all that comfortable. So, he would spend a night on each mattress. And, of course, where did the mattresses go? They went over to the shop/garage at Square Peg, and Oliver had to get rid of them eventually.

Oliver: John was a packrat. He never threw anything away.

Bonnie: He was.

Joyce: He's got a couple of bikes that were probably over in our yard. He kept things forever.

Oliver: I'm sort of that way, but I got rid of a lot of John's stuff. Now I just keep my own.

Bonnie: Well, there's coffee and some things to eat.

Oliver: Yes, go and mingle and then tour the hostel and the cabins.