



The Weston Voices Oral History Project

A Conversation with



Robert P. Turner

*Interviewed by Arne de Keijzer and Neil Horner
on May 8, 2015 at Bob Turner's home on Katydid Lane*

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Weston Voices

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Arne de Keijzer: Good morning. I'm Arne de Keijzer, who along with my colleague Neil Horner, represent the Weston Voices Oral History Project, an initiative sponsored by the Weston Historical Society. Today is May 8, 2015. We are interviewing Robert P. Turner at his home on 16 Katydid Lane.

As we will learn, Bob has been a key figure in the planning and development of Weston as we know it today. Bob, thank you, and Hope as well, for inviting us into your home to have this conversation. I'll lead off by asking you when you moved to Weston, and what made you decide to do it? What was the town like in those days?

Bob Turner: We moved to Weston because I got a job at Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, which was then in Bridgeport. In looking around, we just happened to find a house in this town, which we liked. We moved here in June of '53, and lived on Weston Road.

It was a house that was just completed. We moved in even before the closing because the builder's wife took a cotton to Hope, who was quite pregnant at that time, and said, "That lady's going to have a home to bring her baby to." She talked her husband into allowing the law to be grossly violated, and we moved in. The lawyers were aghast at the thing, but we've never looked back since then.

Another question is, what was the town like then? One of the most dramatic differences between it then and today is the fact that there were very few trees compared to today. The whole of Connecticut has reforested. We don't realize how many of the trees that are here now only came along in the last half-century. I have a photograph of this property here looking south towards Steep Hill Road past the farm house across the road and you don't see a tree.

I think there's one tree, and any trees that there were at that time were usually along the wall line, where the farmer didn't cut it down. He left it for shade for the livestock, or whatever. But we don't realize how New England had been deforested, and Weston among it, because they had to provide for farms, crops, and livestock, and so forth.

Arne de Keijzer: Were there still operating farms at the time you moved here?

Bob Turner: There were a couple, but it was rare. Farming had largely disappeared, but the open farmlands were still in many parts of town. That's why this field next to our house, for example, and all of this property was just open field at the time we moved to town.

We used to be able to see this house from the road over in Wilton, as we came back from shopping on Route 7. We could look across the valley here -- you don't realize there is a valley here -- and see our house sitting on the side of this hill. That was about three miles away, four miles away. That's how open it was then. Everything has closed in since. You can't see any kind of view here because all the trees down the hill there are grown up. They're big, 60-100 foot trees now.

Arne: Tell us a little bit about your education. What was your profession? How did you end up working for Sikorsky? What did you do there?

Bob: I went to Hackley [*a college preparatory school in Tarrytown, NY—ed.*], Cornell, and then I started out in Bristol-Myers' Engineering Department after that. I did all kinds of work there.

I also worked at Anaconda Wire and Cable as a summer help guy, and that was very educational to me. I learned so much doing that. I worked for a rigger, which moved very, very heavy equipment with nothing more than a crowbar and a bunch of heavy wall pipe. I found out what you can do with just two men and a boy type of thing. I ran a jackhammer one summer, breaking up a concrete floor because the company was getting ready for World War II and wanted to get their World War I plant ready for that. That's the kind of background I had there. I did a lot of things that taught me so much, and the benefit has stayed with me my whole life.

Then, I went to Sikorsky in 1952 just because the job was offered. It was there. I liked the idea of getting out of New York City. I had a job there that was not satisfactory to me. I was at Sikorsky for 35 years.

Another difference [from today] is that when I commuted to Sikorsky in the 50s, there was no traffic. It was very easy. There was no parking problem. When I retired, in '86, the Merritt Parkway was becoming a moving traffic jam with lots of cars, all the time. The car population in the country has increased tremendously with all the downsides that go with that.

It was really very nice in the 50s to move around. Even in the 60s. I had an Alpha Romeo five-speed sports car because you could drive it around here and actually get into fifth gear once in a while. Today, you wouldn't have a chance.

Neil Horner: When you moved into Weston, who were your neighbors? Not specifically by name, but what kind of people were they? Were they veterans, were they farmers, or folks that had been here for some time? Can you describe them?

Bob: Mostly, they were locals. When we moved in there was still a good body of local people here. They were not necessarily farmers. A lot of them worked for the town, or were local tradesmen, people like that.

While we were here is when the influx came of all the new marrieds. They comprised most of our acquaintanceship during those years. They came in droves, and they were the ones who populated all these houses that were being built on the new roads that were being built in town, like Joanne Lane, Cardinal Lane, Greenlea Lane, Ravenwood Drive, Mountain View Drive. All of those were new roads.

As the houses went up, the people appeared. They were the ones who had children that went to school and that's what caused the great burgeoning of the population in the school system. They were a very vibrant, new element in town and they were the ones who largely displaced the good-old-boy type of government that the town had when we moved in.

When we moved in it was very sleepy, complacent. One town official would hire another town official to, I don't know, plow the streets, or something like that. It was casual. It wasn't necessarily corrupt, but it was very local. Again, it was sort of the good-old-boy system, and it worked for years. But with the advent of the influx of new population, these people were much too critical, live wire, and on to things to allow that to continue. That's when things began to change.

This was late 50s, early 60s, because [town government] changed from appointed Boards to elected Boards in the elections of '67. That's when I ran for Planning and Zoning, because I didn't think I would have a chance before then because for some reason the power structure in the town didn't feel they could count on me to [laughs] have a known viewpoint.

I was a little dangerous to them, but I ran for the P&Z, and I got elected. That would really change everything in the town, when all the Boards went to elected. We got a different mix.

Neil: What was the focus of P&Z when you were elected? Were there some major issues that needed to be dealt with right away, or were things were pretty well under control?

Bob: The major issue was maintaining two-acre zoning because the town wasn't nearly as densely packed as it is today. Today, it's almost an academic question because there's so few acres available anywhere. In those days, there was lots and lots of open land still remaining and there were commercial and other forces [at work]. The people who owned the property would have loved to have been able to get away with say one acre, and increase the value of their land.

There was a very strong attitude of the people who had moved into town to maintain the two-acre zoning, including the newcomers, because they said, "Part of the character of the town is the two-acre zoning because that gives us a separation, and the idea that we're not going to have somebody looking in our window from next door."

I think that issue and the growth of school population and financing the expansion. The budgets, like today, the budgets were always contentious because they were always too high. They were unconscionably high, and taxes were always too high. They should be cut back. Yet, we still had the realities of life we had to deal with.

Arne: What was the budget in those days?

Bob: Forty million, 30 million, something. I don't remember. I knew even then it was about 85 percent school. Today, I think it's about that, still around 88 percent school. [*It was a little over 70% in 2015 --ed.*]

Neil: What commercial enterprises were still in town, when that was taking place? Any of the old, the toy factories, or the wire mill in Georgetown? What was existing at that time?

Bob: The [Gilbert & Bennett] wire mill [in Georgetown] was [still] running. That was a going operation. Weston Center had just come into being because Peter Robinson built it in the dark of night, so to speak, because there was no zoning, and he [simply] put up the Center. The old timers were aghast, so the town instituted a lawsuit against him. And they hastily passed zoning regulations. The first ones were one acre, and they passed that, then they went, took Peter to court.

Fortunately, Peter won the case, so the Center could stay there. The fact that the Center is there was the most wonderful relief valve from further commercial development in the town that you can imagine. It was a godsend. We didn't know it at the time.

We looked it as a horror, but actually it was a godsend because if that center hadn't been there, we . . . would have probably expanded with a little store here, and a little store there. Weston Gardens down at the corner would have expanded. We would have had a strip zone of commercial, in my opinion, all the way up to Georgetown, if that Center had not been there first. It brought a focus to everybody's attention. "Never again! No more commercial in town!"

Arne: This was in 1952? [*Correction: it was 1951 –ed.*]

Bob: That was. He did a marvelous job. First of all, it looks nice. You figure that he did architecture. They're nice-looking brick buildings. The whole thing was done well. It was a class act from the beginning. He did want it to be local. All the stores in there have always been that way. . . . We had a clothing store. We had a few enterprises. We had a barber shop . . . for quite a long time. That was the nature of it and that was what kept it going The reason people go there is because it's a necessity.

Neil: You joined the Young Republicans, I understand. How was the politics in the late 50s and 60s? Was it contentious? Was there a majority in town that ran the town from a political party standpoint? Give me a little insight on that.

Bob: When we moved here in town it was a Republican town. There was an established Republican group. They were largely the old-timers. Some were like Willard Fanton. The Fantons had been in town for, I don't know, a hundred years or so. He was the First Selectman at the time, I believe. The others that were in there -- Herbie Gifford and so on -- they came along to serve as Second Selectman because the Second Selectman usually took care of the roads. That was sort of a given.

He [the Second Selectman], in turn, got his guys together to take care of the roads. Again, it was the spreading out of the duties of government through a rather... You could call it a patronage system, but it wasn't all that evil. It seemed to work pretty well when we were a sleepy little town. Then, when we began to get all this activity and new homes coming in and lots of need for school buses and all the rest, it took on a different character.

The old-timers began to be displaced. They didn't like it and they fought it, but the force was too great. The Young Republicans were in effect the junior members of the Republican Party who had just moved in. All the people like myself, who had moved in, were having families, and we were full of energy and ideas.

We formed this group that held monthly meetings and had agendas, sort of like the League of Women Voters does. You come up with an agenda and you present it to the town. It was very active. We met in the primary school there in the big room that had a kitchen and a stage. We had our meetings there. We brought our potluck suppers to the event. We had cocktail hour and all the rest of it. It was so simple and so inoffensive. Today, it would be totally unacceptable, but in those days it worked fine. We left the place spotless at the end of the day.

Arne: This was already at Hurlbutt Elementary School?

Bob: Yeah. I think it's the same building that the Senior Center is in now. I can't remember, but anyway that's what we did. [*It was the same building, now known as South House. –ed.*] It was unheard of that you had a citizens' group coming in. It's very much like the Kiwanis having, say, their breakfast in the school with all the appurtenances that go with it.

It worked fine, and we became a political force gradually. We brought some things to the attention of the town. When I was president of the Young GOP, we offered an audience to Lowell Weicker, who at that time was not favored by the Republican Party at all. [*1960 –ed.*] He was a maverick. He was an unknown quantity. We offered him a chance to speak. I think we offered the first platform for him to speak in Connecticut.

Subsequently we got hell for it because the senior party told us we had no business doing such a thing. They were probably right, from a political point of view, but I thought it was a great meeting. We packed the house. That's how Lowell launched his campaign.

But we were viewed with suspicion, because, normally, the president of the Young GOP would become a member of the Republican town committee when he resigned, and anybody from the Republican town committee left, he would take the place.

I was president of the YGOP for two years, and I was never invited to be on the Republican town committee. [*It was customary for the president of the YGOP to be "promoted" to the Board of the RTC at the end of his term. -ed.*] Again, if you're outspoken, it's not necessarily a favorable attribute among some political forces. They'd prefer to have something more predictable. I think that slowed me down a little, but the '67 change of the Charter so that people were elected rather than appointed was the window I needed to get into the mainstream.

Arne: You were outspoken politically, as well as outspoken in terms of the development of the town?

Bob: [laughs] Well, Hope [Turner's wife] is listening to this. I guess [I was outspoken] on all subjects. [laughter]

Hope: He was just very controversial all the time.

Bob: I just have my own views.

Arne: [laughs] Speaking of your own views, how did they develop in terms of land use and the development of town planning?

Bob: Well, that took care of itself. There's a certain logic to the idea of a suburban community. The die had largely been cast here because we were surrounded by adequate commercial services. There was no great imperative for us to have the same or replicate all of those things here. Also, the people here wanted a residential community, and I agreed with them. It made sense.

Later, when we began to look at aspects of it such as opening up the town to medical clinics, and so on, when I was chairman, we held two public hearings. We gave that issue a very fair hearing because the first time around, it was heard by the town, and some people said, "We don't think they got the message correct." I said, "OK. We'll have another public hearing." We had two of them on that.

The town spoke quite clearly there that they didn't want it because once you get into that... I mean, what's a clinic? All of a sudden, it becomes a pharmacy, it becomes this... We could see that [some people were] progressing into uncontrollable use of land unrelated to residential. We stuck by our guns and just said, "No. You can have a doctor's office in a house." That's what has been the case here in town ever since.

There were attempts to have various types of commercial operations in dwellings. We were pretty strict on that, mainly because of the uncontrollability of it once it starts. You have to be able to define limits. If you can't define the limits, then, as far as I'm concerned, there are no limits.

So we stuck pretty much by it. My philosophy was that. When I read today's *Weston Forum* about the need to update the plan and all of these horrible things that are happening in

town, we're not with it, and we've got to get up to speed, I say, "This is the same darn record that I heard back in the 70s." We came up with a plan, we published it, and it was there, the Town Plan.

[Technically, the first Town Plan of Conservation of Development was published in 1969, when Nils Kindwall was chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Turner is here referring to the "Weston Environmental Resources Manual," also known as "Dominski-Oakrock," which was completed in 1976 under his leadership as chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission. It was the first comprehensive survey of the natural environment as it relates to development and became foundational to all subsequent town plans. --ed.]

I think we issued it near the end of the 70s. [1976, --ed.] There was another one somewhere in the 80s. [1987 --ed.] There was another one just before 2000. Now, we're back to doing the same thing, but I don't really see any marked different in the issues that are involved there.

People say, "We need a bus system." You tell me where you can run a bus system in this town. Ask Gordon [Green], who runs a senior center bus. There is no focal point anywhere. Either it's door-to-door everywhere in town or you've got to set up focal points and maybe bus kiosks, and so on. Even then, it will never satisfy the people. It won't be used in the sense that we visualize it in our minds. It won't come out that way in reality.

There are a number of things that are just inherently character of the town that preclude a lot of the institutional answers, such as public transportation.

Arne: Tell me, how did someone who had a job as an engineer get interested in land use and got yourself actively involved? As we understand it, you developed the first Town Plan. Give us a sense of that transition into your becoming such an active force in land use planning in town.

Bob: Well, I'm interested in just about everything. [Laughter] Really, because everything is interesting. That's to start with. I became interested in land use because I got on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Then I became chairman and that forced me into a position of having to know what I was doing, and making sure that the Commission was on track and was addressing the issues, and that we were running a productive, responsive type of Commission. You can't do that if you don't have your ear open. I think it forced an openness and receptiveness on my part to all the ideas that relate to land use.

I did a lot of reading on it. We had a number of people come and speak on the issue. It's an interesting issue. It became my specialty, you might say, because of my being on the Planning and Zoning Commission. It trailed along after that, when I was on ZBA [Zoning Board of Appeals]. I was on it for about 16 years after I left P& Z before I went into the code enforcement. I was on the Building Committee for almost 10 years and that, too, during the time of the building of the schools and the library and so forth.

That was very interesting, too, and I think, probably, there again, [ordinary] citizen participation in that is good. You don't want all architects and builders on the Building Committee. You want a few alternate viewpoints to keep a balance on that thing. That was very interesting, and I think we were productive. It's a very essential group, and it's important. We always had that permanent Building Committee.

Neil: Bob, you are very passionate about development of the town throughout your time here. That's been the theme that's run through your residency in Weston. Was there any impetus that caused major changes, major issues?

It seems to me that you said things are about the same as they were back when you were running the town and doing the planning. Was there anything that happened? Any bubble of new residents, any overload of the schools that had to be addressed with some rapidity? Anything that really changed the gradual nature of development in the town?

Bob: About the only forces, really, that were a threat to what the town was, would, I think, be characterized as commercial. Glendinning [Place] wanted to open up. The reason they're on the [Saugatuck] river [*just south of the border of Weston along Weston Road. -ed.*], as you go down toward Westport, is because we would not let them in Weston because we could see the handwriting on the wall if they came in. Again, you let them in, you cannot keep the next person out. You are casting the die when you let that change come in.

I emphasized this through my tenure, that once you break the rule on this, you've got to be willing to face what the real consequences will be. The person who proposes it always sugarcoats it and makes it seem very simple and innocuous, but that's not where the fault lies. It's in the true nature of the change. I think, probably, my voice was consistent in the town, as to the nature of that threat, to be realistic about what you're doing if you go and change the rules.

Arne: How controversial was your position at the time? Did you feel like you were bucking a tide that was going a different way, or was there a lot of support for the kinds of restrictions that you proposed?

Bob: I think the balance of the town supported me. Yes. I think that's why I was re-elected. I was a popular candidate because I came close to leading the ticket in the elections [*i.e. getting the most votes of all candidates running no matter the office. -ed.*]. That was reflection, I think, of the position that I had about, let's say, the status quo.

For many people, the status quo is anathema. If you don't change things, you're not progressing. You're not with it. [laughs] It's like parenting. You've got to go into the new parenting system because the old parenting system is passé. I think the old parenting system worked very well, so I'm stuck with it. I know it's somewhat the same way with the town.

The character of the town began to change around the 80s. It began to change in the architecture, in the way wealth discovered the town and began to build these very large houses. This was a very big house, when we moved here, in '57.

I thought the house across from Norfield Church, where Richard Muzzy and his wife lived at one time, was a huge house. I look at it now, and it's a lot narrower, and the rooms are a lot smaller. [laughs]

Now I realize it wasn't so big but, for those times, it was very big. Now, a big house is a big house. There's one right near the Skaters' farm on Norfield Road that is about 10,000 feet ... that one just as you turn into that lane there. It's a huge house. I remember it, because that was built during when I was a code enforcement officer. I rather marveled at the floor area there, wondering, "By golly, how do you fill this thing up?" [laughs] What do you do with these rooms?

That has changed, and so any number of larger mansions [were built]. I won't call them mansions. They were just very, very big houses with all kinds of amenities, media rooms, indoor

pools, and so forth, that became the theme for new houses in town. One reason being that if you had the money to buy the land, you had the money to build a big house.

Neil: There have been a lot of very prominent folks that have moved to Weston, with names that we would recognize, in the arts and in literature. Can you mention a few that stand out in your memory as being very well-known and that have spent a good amount of time here and love living in this town?

Bob: When Hope and I moved here there were a lot of artists here because at one time it was very strongly [a mix of] an artist colony and the locals. That was it.

[For example] all of Stonybrook, down in the corner of the town toward Route 136, was an artist colony. [*The area south of the corner of Norfield Road and the Newtown Turnpike –ed.*] You look at the layout of the land and the type of buildings there and you can see it must have been something that artists designed because it is unusual. But there were a lot of them. Well, who was it? I think, [George] Balanchine, Alice DeLamar. I know [the illustrator] Euclid Shook. There were a number of illustrators in town.

This house here was bought by a Ben Stahl, who was a very well-known artist in the artist world. In his later years, he was doing murals and other major works in Catholic churches and he did huge panels for a church when he moved to Florida. He was well-known worldwide for what he did.

He's the one who built the studio there [*pointing to an out-building on his property –ed.*] that is now occupied by an artist, coincidentally, which pleases me greatly, because it was designed every inch of the way as an artists' studio with the north light and the big glass up on top and so on. That's the way it should be used.

There were a number like that. I took lessons from Euclid Shook, who was a pretty well-known illustrator in New York. There were a lot of them from the advertising business because at one time New York was the advertising center of the world, so people like that populated the town and were much a part of the mainstream of the community. Who was it? Alice Doherty? There were any number of people who did that. There were a lot of dabblers because they populated Silvermine [*the art district in Norwalk –ed.*] and so there were any number of them. Today there are probably more lawyers in town than there are artists. But in those days there were artists all over.

They weren't necessarily world famous, but they all lived in the area. People like Norman Rockwell and Hardie Gramatky, people like that lived in Westport and a lot of their confreres lived here because it was a community of artists as well as normal people.

Neil: There are a lot of wonderful towns around us on what is now the I-95 corridor, so that when people made their trek up from the city to find their next or new home they had all kinds of choices in those days, and today as well.

Bob: In the 1950s, yes. There was still some land left in Westport. It was higher priced. Weston was attractive because the land here was reasonable by the standards of that time. Redding was too far out. Easton was kind of in the middle. It wasn't anyplace. It was a no-man's land between Route 7 and the Housatonic River.

Weston was a natural focus. Its road system, arterially, was a direct shot to the railroad stations and so forth. We were destined to be a suburban community at that time because so many people worked in New York. Today, it's not nearly as much the focus.

Neil: Why would they choose Weston, say, over Wilton or Westport if they worked in New York? You said that there were a lot of people that worked in the city, and of course, they still do and they stop here and they say, "This is my spot." What do you think made them make that choice?

Bob: I think Westport had commercial. It had the Post Road. I think Wilton had Route 7 and you get the feeling that you're in a commercial town. In your first glance [of Wilton] you don't see all the back roads and the little cul-de-sacs, where it's just about like Weston.

I think Weston appeared to be a residential community that you could count on [remaining one]. They did not see the idea that tomorrow there was going to be a commercial establishment built next to you. I think there was a strong confidence that Weston was going to stay what it was and that if they bought here they would have a residential place to live in through their lifetime.

Neil: A real suburban personality.

Bob: Yeah, and established. It was not threatened [by development]. Because Westport's Post Road used to have residential homes on it. Then, when they began to develop it, their planning commission was appointed and it was half lawyers. They began to change the zoning of the Post Road. They go in 200 feet with a strip for commercial. Then, they change it to 400 feet. Then, it would lead to 600 feet. This happened from Wilton border to Fairfield border.

Then the question was, "How far up and down the various roads is it going to go?" Well, Riverside Avenue [in Westport] gradually began to pick up office buildings and so on. I had friends that lived on the river on Riverside Avenue. They would have been right smack in the middle between two large commercial establishments today. People didn't think that would happen in Weston.

Arne: In your decades here you must have also met some real local characters -- not only the celebrities and the famous people. I'd love to hear some of the most unforgettable characters that you've met over the years.

Bob: Now we're treading on dangerous ground.

Arne: Good.

Bob: But one I'll mention is Charlie Niewenhous, who came by way of the Merchant Marine and a photographer to being a developer, largely of Ravenwood and Treadwell area. He was a builder. He was the one who built Church Lane, where he would have loved to make a little community to offset the Weston Center.

He didn't quite have the fire to do it because he talked to me a number of times, "Gee, I wish we could do it." I said, "Chuck, go ahead, make your offer, see how it flies. Don't hold back. Maybe the town will accept it because they may want some kind of a mini-center over there. See how it flies." But he never did it. But he was a very thoughtful guy and he was very generous.

One of the things he gave me before he died was a sailing atlas of 1850 by Admiral Maury which is, I think, worth a lot of money. It's in rather poor condition because it's been battered. All of those albums are in bad condition because they were usually on the navigation table of a ship sliding this way and that way as it went through the water, so the back pages of all of them are gone. He gave me that, for example, because he wanted to be sure it had a home somewhere. Now, I'm charged with the idea of finding a home for it.

I remember John Bross, the building inspector. He had his own firm ideas about buildings and what was necessary and so forth. He felt, "If I don't think it's necessary, you don't have to do it." He was an independent thinker, when it came to the building code.

I knew a bunch of the people who took care of the roads in town. I remember two characters tended to rent their equipment to the town at a rather high price.

It was interesting. The Democrat on the Board of Selectmen was almost always from Georgetown and it was a token assignment. The Democrats would find somebody there who would serve and he was a go-along vote with the two Republicans, who ran the Selectmen's office and ran the town.

Well, the Democrats as all of this influx came in the 50s and 60s and so on, a parishioner friend of ours ran for the Democratic Party, Dick Voight, and he was a character in town. He ran. He was a very dynamic person, great big guy, and he ran for the Democratic Office, and even the Democrats didn't want him, but he prevailed anyway, and he became the Third Selectman. That's what he was called in those days, which is Third Selectman, Second Selectman, First Selectman.

But, he began to look at the books and he noticed that one of these people was renting a chainsaw to the town at about 100 bucks a day and the other one was renting his digger to the town, even though it was parked. It was an old digger, all rusty. It was parked in the corner, wherever he could park the darned thing. That was being rented to the town. Well, Dick broke this story.

I'll divert myself. Pat Heifetz, who I admired greatly, was a ball of fire, and I loved her husband, Paul Heifetz. He was a friend of mine all of my life. He and I talked a great many times on the whole matter of zoning and politics in general.

Neil: A good artist too.

Bob: Yeah. And Pat had started the *Weston Forum*, and she did it by dint of her own energy and the fact that she felt that this town needed a paper. It's almost like Patty Gay today [*The Forum's Assistant Editor*]. She was it, and she did most of the articles. She was at the meetings all of the time. She was a gadfly, and that wasn't bad.

She made a cartoon of me one time. I was sitting there on my throne with a crown on my head, because I made some decision she thought was exceedingly autocratic and uncalled for, [laughs] meaning she disagreed with it. [laughter] Anyway, she was a lifesaver. I have so much admiration to the hours she put in to that whole thing.

Well, anyway, Dick Voight released the findings he had to the *Forum*, and that is when it hit the fan. All of a sudden, the two gentlemen involved retired to Florida. At that point, the Selectmen said, "What are we going to do? How are we going to run the road system in town?" So, they appointed me and four other guys to a highway study commission. Well, [laughs] I

wasn't the chairman. They made me chairman mainly because I was the guy willing to put in the time.

So, I chaired that, and we came up with a highway study report, which I have a copy of, and I think the library has a copies of it, which was quite simple. It just recommended that the town come up with a minimal highway department. Don't staff for everything, such as sweeping the roads and trimming the trees and so on. Do it for the normal summer construction, clearing out the catch basins and so on and plowing snow in the winter, and subcontract for all of the peripheral duties where it required special equipment or special skills. Tree trimming is a specialty and so on.

That's the way it went through. We set it up. The town adopted that pretty much as the framework of our system. Well, typically the way all bureaucracies work, the Highway Department began to branch out and reach into the other areas and take on equipment. You take on the equipment. You take on the personnel. Now, it's a pretty big operation. It's a good operation. I think Joe Lametta runs a good shop there, but that's what happened there to take over from the very rural, good, old boy type of town functioning.

Arne: Bob, go back a little bit to your own role in this. You were an engineer at Sikorsky. And then you started spending more and more time in the planning area of town. Did you manage to keep both jobs at the same time? Did you transition from one to the other?

Bob: No. It was very convenient because, first of all, I could be reached on the telephone. Gertrude Walker was Town Clerk for about 25 years. She was central to the success of my tenure as Chairman of P&Z because we met [regularly] in the town hall, in the clerk's room. There was a big table there, and we met there. It wasn't nearly so crowded. We didn't have all the equipment, the copy machines, everything else. Gert had a typewriter in the corner, and that's about what she needed.

When we had meetings during the evening, she, as Town Clerk, was able to open the vault, and we had access to all the maps and everything else. It was so much easier. Today, you can't have access to that, and they meet in a different building.

For me, it was very easy. Gert Walker was there during all the meetings as the clerk of the P&Z. Then, when I went to work during the day, I might get a call from Gert, and [she might] say, "Hey, Bob. We got a question here," and I was able to resolve it that way. It worked out very well. It was serendipitous, the way it worked out. Without Gert it would have been much more tough. She was a lifesaver for me.

Arne: When did you retire?

Bob: I retired when I was 65, which was 1986.

Arne: You're how old now?

Bob: Ninety-four. Yeah, that's right.

Arne: That's a lot of contributions you've made to the town over these years. I wanted to follow up something earlier. You've indicated several times now, that you yourself were a character, that you yourself were somewhat controversial. I don't know whether you want to talk about some of those controversies that you were involved in?

Bob: I would say it more that I was outspoken. I don't feel my positions were controversial. I thought they were pretty darn reasonable, and I still do.

[laughter]

If the positions are not reasonable, I'm not going to hold for them. I was not in the mainstream often, because very often the mainstream is really the old stream just plowing ahead and not seeing where it's going.

Arne: What's reasonable to you?

Bob: I'm a born conservative in that I feel that you've got to pay for everything. That is not only money, but it's duty, it's care, it's all of those things. Stemming from that, when I look at it, that's probably the reason I've stayed a Republican most of my life because my Democratic friends would never tell me how you're going to pay for it. I thought that was kind of central to the question. Paul Krugman of *The New York Times* wouldn't worry about that, but it bothered me.

In that sense, I'm a conservative, and I think Hope is a born conservative. She's sort of Scottish. She minds a penny, and she's very sensible, so I think some of that sensibility also rubbed off on me.

There should be a sensibility to everything that you do. And don't cloud it, or pretend. So much of politics is pretense or fake argument.

Maybe I [just] didn't go along with that. I think the controversial aspect of it is a consequence -- not because I was controversial to start with. I was just taking a position that I thought was rational, and somebody else thought that I was controversial, because that was upsetting the apple cart.

Neil: If we had a bunch of your friends in this room and we put you in the kitchen so you couldn't hear, what do you think they'd say about your contributions, and what they remember that you did that will stay with this town for a long, long time? In other words, how would they describe Bob Turner's participation in Weston? What you've done?

Bob: If it was Paul Heifetz, he'd say nice things about me. He was a Democrat, and he and I saw pretty much eye-to-eye. He would say that I stuck to my last . . . [*unintelligible* -ed.], a steady contributor.

I think somebody like Nils [Kindwall] who is an old-timer in town, would say the same thing. I think Chuck Niewenhouw would say I ran a fair commission, and that's important because other people at times thought I was very dictatorial. I would say maybe I was, but I was also positive. In many cases on a Board, that's important. Not as chairman, but as an arguer for a point, I think it's very important that each member speak up and make their point. I think in that regard, there are probably some members of various Commissions that would say I did well.

Tom Aquila might say I did OK. I've known Tom for a long time. I have great respect for him. The way he handled the Hurlbutt fire [in 1963], they only lost three days of school. [*Aquila was schools superintendent in Weston from 1961 to until his retirement in 1982. -ed.*]

Arne: Tell us about the fire.

Bob: Hurlbutt Elementary at that time was a three-story building. You don't build schools with multiple floors. It wasn't done in those days. I grew up going to an elementary school that was four stories high. It worked beautifully. It was efficient use of space, and we didn't all fall downstairs, and have traumas, and everything else. It worked fine. It was kind of a carryover from the time when people were reasonable about what a school building could be. It was multiple stories. It was a great building.

For some reason, it caught on fire one time. It burned to the ground. It was way beyond the ability of the volunteer fire department in town to handle, and of course, Georgetown came down and I think the other towns responded, but it was a loss. There were probably 10 classes being held in there. There were more than 10 classrooms, but there were 10 classrooms that were homerooms for the kids.

That was a devastating thing for the school system because here they had no home. They had no equipment. They had nothing. It was quite remarkable. Tom [Aquila], he's a very capable person. He managed with a School Board, I don't know what the role of the School Board was, I'm sure they worked wonders, also. I can't name the names. I wish I could.

We got into Temple Israel [*in Westport –ed.*]. They opened their nursery school, or their primary school doors to us immediately. Some of our classes opened up down there. The only problem was how to get them there, that was a transportation problem. We had some others, and where did some of the others go, Hope?

Bob [after some back and forth with Hope]: I think a couple squeezed into the rest of the buildings. We only lost, it seems to me, two and a half to three days of school time for those classes because of the abilities of the school to respond. I give high marks to Tom for that.

Arne: What other major events like that were during your time in the town?

Bob: Another would be the Lomazzo & Sons gravel pit, which is where Crystal Lake is today. When Hope and I moved into town, there was a big, tall rock crusher sitting [next to] it. That's an aquifer on that side of Broad Street, from Broad Street in Weston, all the way down to the Saugatuck River. It is a beautiful aquifer. It's a huge aquifer, and out of that is drawn probably two million gallons a day to feed Bridgeport, Fairfield, and so on. That pumping station that you see on Weston Road going down [to Westport], is the pumping station that provides that through pipes to those other communities there.

The only reason the water is there is because of that aquifer. Well, Lomazzo, who was a contractor in the area here, bought the land, and started to mine the gravel. At that time, the Connecticut Turnpike [*now I-95 –ed.*] was being built, and they needed all kinds of fill and ballast for the roads. His rock crusher was going all the time because they needed crushed rock. They didn't want the boulders. They wanted crushed rock.

Trucks were going in and out all the time. The rock crusher was running all the time. It ran seven days a week for a while. We lived, Hope and I we lived on a hill on Weston Road there, just above Weston Gardens today. We heard it all the time. It became quite controversial in town.

Later, we had moved to here [Katydid Lane], but at the time I was still chairman of P&Z the town instituted a lawsuit with Mr. Lomazzo to make him stop the rock crushing operation. I don't know the details of the lawsuit but what it came down to is that it went to Stamford Superior

Court, and the judge said there, "I don't think you have the authority to stop Mr. Lomazzo, but he's willing to work out an agreement with you, because he wants to retire."

I was charged by the town, as its representative, to deal with Robert...What was his name, who was Chuck Niewenhous' lawyer? [*Bob Reuben –ed.*] He's still around. He's an old skinny guy, an impeccable lawyer. I always got along with him because he always was easy to deal with, very straightforward. I wish I could remember his name. It will come to me, and I'll mention it.

John Lomazzo, who was a nephew, I think, of the original Lomazzo, who is now the heir of the operation, and we worked on that for about a year under the court-stipulated agreement. We came up with a development plan for Crystal Lake that I'm very proud of because it met every requirement of the zoning regs. There was no need to make a concession.

The people, when the agreement was first set up, were sure I was going to give away the store. I could see their apprehension. It was reasonable because it looked like it would be very difficult to deal with these people. It turned out it wasn't. We worked out that Crystal Lake agreement. It wasn't Crystal Lake at that time. I guess it was Lake Lomazzo, [laughs] that's what I called it then, but we came up with the agreement. It went to the court, and it went to our own P&Z.

I think I stepped aside on that [*i.e. recused himself from the P&Z deliberations –ed.*] where it was adopted as a development plan for that whole area there. It worked out very well, because it's a good development.

The one flaw, the one thing I overlooked was that in the middle of the lake, the lots reached into the lake up to the 20 percent allowed for a lot to be water. It didn't cover the middle of the lake. Somebody about 10 years ago got concerned that somebody's going to come along and raise Cain by claiming that center part of the lake as unclaimed land, even though it was water. Just mischief, and so on. They all hurried to the law, and came up with an agreement. Now it is owned in 1/24th parts by all the people around, so all is serene now. Nobody can sneak in and buy up the center part of Crystal Lake for their own purposes, maybe they'd build something on stilts. [laughs]

Arne: We've got the fire, and now we've got Crystal Lake. What other major events, either in terms of building development, or even natural disasters, were there during your time here?

Bob: We, as a P&Z -- I don't like to characterize it as myself, because I was really P&Z at those times -- we were always fighting certain developers who wanted to...I just don't want to mention names, because there's still legal contention on some of these. They had to be dealt with what I think is just due respect for the law.

There's a strong tendency on the part of town Boards throughout any jurisdiction, any place in the country, to be a bit autocratic and dogmatic because they have the power. They tend to overlook the reach of the law, or let's say how much of the law is on the side of the applicant. Following the prudent course, and the legal course, sometimes is not a natural thing for Boards to do. I, several times, was under considerable pressure to go this way.

A case in point was Ruth Lockwood, who [appeared before us when] we had some strong-minded people on the P&Z at that time. She and her brother Gene owned all that parcel of land that is September Lane, October Drive, and November Trail. It's a lot of acres.

It was the Lockwood Farm at one time. Her brother went up to upstate somewhere to do his work and she came in to see us about developing her land there. She's in your list of people that you interviewed. Little lady, all hunched over, she presented her case, and these two people [on the P&Z] didn't want to deal with her because they felt she should get an attorney, and she'd have the engineers all lined up, that they should make a package presentation. This was a significant part of the town of Weston, right in the middle, and we want to be sure it's done right [they said].

That's where I disagreed with these gentlemen, and took the position that nobody had to have a lawyer to present an application to P&Z, that if the need for a lawyer came up, it would be apparent. We went with that. Ruth, bless her heart, very soft-spoken little lady, meek, and so on, but also quite purposeful. She did it all herself, that little peanut. It worked out fine.

I don't recall that we had any lawyers really involved it at all. If we needed a soil scientist, or a land development expert, she would get one. It was done. It worked fine. That was another way.

I think another case was where we needed a town engineer. So I and the chairman of the Board of Finance, Vic Reynolds, were appointed to see about hiring a town engineer for the town. Remember, he's a very strong-minded person, also a very good businessman. He wanted to get a person who was "fitting" for a town like Weston, which was a pretty high prestige type of town, and we wanted a good engineer. He had in mind somebody who probably would be pretty much be expert in anything.

It puzzled me who that person would be. He was envisioning at that time maybe pay them something like \$60,000 - \$70,000 a year. I thought it would be more prudent to have somebody who could just deal with the local problems at the local level. In the course of our interviewing people we ran across this man, Ray Cartelli, who was a retired Corps of Engineers engineer who'd done a lot of things in this country. He was retired. He was on his own Army pension, so he was willing to come cheap.

I prevailed upon the town to hire this guy, and he came in I think at about \$18,500. He was our engineer for, as I recall, about 22 years. When he retired, I think he was making \$21,000. He was a bargain. He was also a good engineer because when the floods took out the Godfrey Bridge [during the 1955 hurricane], he came in and said, "This is beyond my expertise. You want to get a bridge engineer to look at this," so we went out and hired engineers.

When it came to things like cell towers, he [Cartelli] said, "Hire people who are experts there," and it worked out beautifully, just the way it should be. It's sort of like the highway department. Keep the core competency at home and then when you have a need for a competency beyond your reach go out and hire it. Then you only hire it for when you need it, and it goes away. You don't want to put it on your permanent payroll.

Arne: The town is again talking about [issues related to] planning and development. Tell us a little bit about your role in developing the first Town Plan of Development [in 1969], because you were the pioneer in that. How did that come about, and how was it executed?

Bob: It came about I think because of a [State] statutory requirement. It had to be. The town had to come up with a Town Plan, so we did it. The big question was some people felt the town was completely inequitable in offering services to the world at large, that we should have public housing, that we should have all kinds of things, and that people shouldn't have to drive so far to get a loaf of bread.

There was much feeling like that. All of this reflected back in how the town was going to present in its Town Plan, arguments that might reject the idea that we want to revise our regulations for that. We had to be careful in our wording. We had to present a good case, and we did. It was a rational case. It was based upon the logic of the way the town is set up. That has been pretty much followed, and reiterated, in each of the successive town plans. The way I see the one today, I just say this is the same record going around again.

There are people who say, "Oh, we need this." "We've got to bring in that." I say, "Unless conditions have changed, go ahead, look into it. I think your reasoning, as you find out the facts, will lead you to the conclusion that it doesn't make much sense." It doesn't bother me too much that these ideas are presented. As a matter of fact, I think they should be reviewed with each iteration of the Town Plan, to make sure that we are staying current with current social needs of a Connecticut small town.

I think we should also keep in mind that these people aren't inventing anything. They're not having any ideas that the people didn't have back in the 50s. I have great respect, the more I read of history, a lot of the history of the 1800s in this country, as to how many intelligent people there were in those days. All the intelligence didn't suddenly accrue with the advent of Harvard and Yale coming to Weston.

[laughter]

Bob: If you follow the facts, you'll probably come up with an iteration of the Town Plan that will be remarkably similar to the ones we've put out in the past. I wouldn't expect big changes, but those people are going to have to follow through on it, and see where it leads them.

The [*Weston*] *Forum* has this concern about the town of Weston isn't growing. I don't know of any reason why it should grow. I don't know what the imperative is. Is there some imperative that says Weston should be 20,000 people in 10 years and 30,000 in another? What is the force behind it? It doesn't make sense, unless you wanted to completely change Weston and bring in a new type of town.

Again, I think that will take care of itself. Sure, Weston's slow on sales. It's an expensive town, and it takes a lot of money. If the hedge-fund people are all under the gun with the government, the IRS, and so forth, maybe they don't have all these billions to come into town and build a big house or buy a lot and clear-cut it.

Neil: When you were active on the various Boards, do you recall any period in your career working with the town where there was a fiscal problem, having trouble paying our bills, or was that never an issue in Weston as you were moving things ahead?

Bob: We had a chairman of the Board of Finance at one time that didn't want to approve any town budget where we didn't go back to reality.

He said, "The land prices in town are too high. Until we cannot raise the taxes to beat all these requirements, we've got to reduce expenses. I will not approve this budget until the price of land in town goes back to reasonable levels," meaning 1930 levels. Well, it's never going to go back, and land prices around the world are all going up because the population in the world's exploding. He would have said, "No, we can't afford it. We don't have enough money. This is asking too much."

I don't think the town has ever been in a position of lacking funds or going broke. I think it's been a very stable, financial town because it's got a good financial base. It's really more a matter of where you're going to allocate the money. It's no different with Congress. You've got the money, just be sure you spend it wisely.

Arne: I'd like to go back to the question that Neil raised earlier about people sitting in this room talking about you while you're in the kitchen. You talked about one dimension of it but I'd like to talk about another one, which is that you're known as a man of character. You have a strong character, an internal character. What would people say about that? I think one of the things could be that you had the personality in your view to deal with people, and that you feel that it's important to be nice to people. Could you talk a little bit about that?

Bob: Well, I think, one, I'm an optimist. I think I was given very good background training by my mother, [laughs] who was a staunch Christian lady, very quiet about it, but very Christian, and my father.

I was adopted, so both my parents are adoptive parents, but they were my parents, and they were both staunch Christian people. They gave me a very strong moral background to compare against, so that I always knew if I was shading the question. I think also that the people I knew were very much the same way. I think Hope is a balance wheel to anybody about what's proper in this world, so you might say...

Hope: Bob was adopted before his mother was married. He was adopted. She was a single parent.

Bob: The woman who adopted me was a Vassar graduate in 1918, who went out to Wyoming because she loved horses and wanted adventure.

While she was in Wyoming on a trail ride with another woman, she ran out of money, so she called up the bishop of Wyoming, who happened to be a friend of her father's and said, "I need a job to make some money." He said, "We've got an orphanage down in Laramie that is crowded, and we could use some help." She went down to the orphanage in Laramie for a while.

It was, while she was there, because of the crowding -- I have a family of five. I had one brother who died, and three sisters, who went with me to the orphanage -- I was one who got moved into the room with her, and you know how bonding takes place between people. You've got a small child, and you cannot just break that bond. So, when it came time for Mom to come back to the East to get married and lead a normal Eastern establishment life, she said, "I'm not coming back without this little boy." She wouldn't come back so she finally managed with the bishop of Wyoming to make arrangements for her to adopt me as a single woman. It was a very courageous act.

Neil: Did she bring you back with that cowboy hat, Bob? Is that how that...? [*Turner is known around Weston for almost always wearing his cowboy hat. -ed.*]

Bob: No, I was 14 when I got my first Stetson.

Neil: Can you expand on that? When I moved to Weston, a good friend of mine said, "You've got to meet some important people in town. One of them is this gentleman named Bob Turner." I said, "Who is he?" and he said, "You'll recognize him. He's the man with the hat." So, I'd love to hear the story.

Bob: [laughs] I think it really started, as I got older, I realized I didn't want the sun beating on my head all the time. I wasn't a beach bum any longer, who was trying to collect a good tan, and also as I wore glasses more and more outside, it kept the rain off my glasses. I liked the fact that it kept my head warm in the winter too. I wore that hat probably for the same reason that they wear them out West. I would say that you go out West [and] ask somebody why he's wearing a hat, you'll probably get the same answer that I give you.

Arne: Tell us a little bit about your family life. When did you meet Hope? Obviously, she's very important in your life. Tell us a little bit about that history.

Bob: I met Hope first because my adoptive mother knew her family in Irvington, New York. She took me to their house to meet Mom's friend. At that time, Hope, her sister and her brother were there. I was about 12 and she was 6.

I didn't pay any attention. A 12-year-old boy doesn't look at a six-year-old girl, but that's when I first met her. Then, what goes around comes around, so later on as I left the Army in World War II and came home to Irvington, we started to play baseball in a field there every Sunday. Hope would come to that. One thing led to another. I would take her to New York in the end because she worked in New York and I worked in New Jersey, so it was just one of those romances that crept up on you.

We got married in '52, and so I had known her a long time. My adoptive mother had known that family for a long time.

Hope: She and my aunt were best friends.

Bob: Yeah. That goes way back. We grew up in the same town. Our families stayed in the same town. The last member of my family just died, my brother. He died last summer. He lived in the same town. We had grown up in Irvington, which was very much like this town. It hasn't grown. It grew out to its limits and now, it's that way. You can't go piling more people in there without destroying it. Irvington has stayed that way for a long time. That was the origin of a lot of our thinking of an orderly stable community.

Hope: Bob had three brothers by the married family. His mother married after she brought him home.

Bob: From an explaining point of view, we always have trouble with the family tree because I have my three sisters and I have my three brothers. These are my natural sisters. These are my adopted brothers. But, they're all part of the family. They, in turn, have their own tentacles that reach out. Our family has many angles to it and it's very difficult to explain.

Arne: What year did you get married and then you had three children?

Bob: In 1952. Then we had the first '53, '54 and '56. We had the three kids and they all live nearby, Easton, Trumbull, and Armonk. It's the way to do it because that way, as grandparents, we get to see our grandchildren.

Arne: It's so nice that ... [the history of the] family long-term is that people seem to keep gathering around.

I think we're going to wind this up for today, but what question didn't we ask that we should be asking about Bob Turner?

Bob: I don't know of any. I'm thinking now that the Memorial Day Parade is coming up and I'll be marching in it. I think Nils [Nils Kindwall] is going to go out. He'll be marching next to me. He's Navy. I'm trying to think of who else might be in town from that era. There are Korean and Vietnam and of course, Afghanistan and the Iraq War. There are a lot of those.

But, I think we're winding down, not many of us left. I look at that and it gives me a reference point. It makes me realize how old I am, that I'm of another generation and another time, but I've been able to successfully traverse into this generation and be accepted here.

Neil: I did want to ask you one last question and we'll see where it fits. You attended Cornell...

Bob: Yeah.

Neil: ...and you in effect left Cornell during the war, World War II. Tell me what you did? I understand that you had an interesting assignment after you...

Bob: I never got in combat, but I think it's because I tended to get good grades in school. When I went into the service General Hap Arnold had talked the Selective Service Commission into diverting all of the raw recruits that came in to the Air Force if they scored higher than 110 on the GCT test. That's the General Classification Test. Well, I had spent two years in the ROTC field artillery. I'd been to Camp Drum, or Pine Camp at that time. We'd fired guns, and we had ridden around in the six-by-sixes, and all the rest of it, doing our various things.

When I went into the service, I enlisted in '42. I left Cornell and enlisted. I expected to go either to Camp Fort Bragg in Alabama, or Georgia, wherever it is [*North Carolina, ed.*], or Fort Sill in Oklahoma, because those are the training grounds for the armored division. I got on a troop train out of Camp Upton in Long Island and we started to wander around through the Pennsylvania hills, and so on. Well, I have a very good sense of direction, largely because I did a lot of navigating on my own as a boy. I learned it from my peers, and so forth, and so on.

As we were going to town, I said, "OK, we've gone too far west for Fort Bragg, we're going to Fort Sill." We started down the Mississippi River, and we kept going and going, and I said, "Hey, we've gone past where you turn for Fort Sill. Where the heck are we going?"

We ended up in Biloxi, Mississippi at Keesler Air Force Base, and it had just been a filled in swamp. It was nothing but tents and boards to walk on because it was a swamp. That's when I first found out that I was in the Army Air Corps. I went to radio gunnery school [*the radio operator doubled as a rear gunner in WWII bombers. -ed.*]

My eyes weren't good enough, so I couldn't fly. I got an appointment to go to Annapolis. As a boy, my father used his influence to get an appointment, but I couldn't see well enough. In those days, you had to have 20/20 or you didn't get into any of the academies. [*Turner's father was general counsel for Metropolitan Life and well connected in Washington. -ed.*]

I went into a radio operator gunner's school in Sioux Falls, in the winter, freezing cold. It's like Minnesota. I came in about second in a class of 800, so that meant I was noticed. They sent me to communications school. I scored well, so I was noticed. They sent me to radar school because radar was a big thing then. It was very developmental. There was no radar. You couldn't go out and get a radar set. They were all experimental, made by MIT and Bell Labs, and so on.

I ended up in a radar development unit that was trying to figure out how you could use radar in bombing missions. I ended up at Langley Field, flying in a B-17 that was radar equipped. We always got the latest. We'd fan out from Langley all over the country, taking pictures, and so forth, coming back and analyzing them, and seeing what you could do with this, and what you could do with that, to make a simulated bombing run. It was very interesting information.

I think that's why I ended up there, just because I was able to keep up with the technology, and so forth. I was probably in a good spot. I probably did as much as a member of the Armed Forces as I could have there. I don't think I would have made a good infantryman at all. I was too scared. [laughs]

Arne: Bob, thank you so much. It's been very educational. It's been fun, and intriguing. Thank you.

Bob: I've enjoyed it. I'm glad you guys came. I'm glad the words will get carried on, that's the main thing, because there's a lot about this town. I think there's another generation that will enjoy reading all this stuff, and drawing benefit from it.

Neil: Yes, that's what we're going to try to do. This is perpetuity in its best form. Thank you.

Bob: I'm for perpetuity.

Interviewed on behalf of the Weston Voices project by Arne de Keijzer and Neil Horner at Robert P. Turner's home, 16 Katydid Lane. The interview was made possible by the Weston Historical Society, with additional contributions from the Weston Education Foundation and the Friends of the Weston Senior Activities Center. It is archived at the Weston Public Library and the Weston Historical Society and available there and on their respective websites.