

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1219

Accession Date: 1977.02.00 T# 1286 C# 1744 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
T

Collection "Wildfire Loose" P S V D D mfc_na1219_c1744_01,
V A mfc_na1219_c1744_02

Name: Oral History Project/
Joyce Butler

#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: J. Malcom Barter

/Depositor:

Description: 1219 J. Malcolm Barter, interviewed by Joyce Butler, February 7, 1977, Camden, Maine. Barter discusses the fires of October 1947, which he covered as a reporter; the scene at Cape Porpoise, Kennebunk; areas threatened by the fire; getting photographic plates to Boston; refugees from South Waterboro and the destruction there; the state pier in Portland on fire; process of reporting on the fires for the Boston Globe; economic cost of the fires to underinsured homeowners; Red Cross aid efforts; attitude of residents; and deaths resulting from the fires.

Text: 27 pp. transcript

Recording: C 1744 (original) / T 1286 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1220

Accession Date: 1977.07.00 **T#** 1287 **C#** 1745 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

P **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1220_c1745_01

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

Name: Joyce Butler

V **A**
**#**

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Earl Bibber

/Depositor:

Description: **1220 Earl Bibber**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, February 14, 1977, Kennebunk, Maine. Bibber talks about his experience during the fires of 1947 as a member of the Arundel Engine Company; community firefighting efforts; working on the line fighting the fire; the Kennebunkport village under threat; purchase of new equipment after the fire; feelings of firemen about their work; depletion of water supply; and towns helping neighboring towns.

Text: 15 pp. transcript

Recording: **C 1745** (original) / **T 1287** 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1221

Accession Date: 1977.07.00	T# 1287	C# 1746	P	D	CD
Collection MF 067			M	A	#
Number:			#	T	
	P	S	V	D	D mfc_na1221_c1746_01
Collection "Wildfire Loose" /	#	#	#	V	A
Name: Joyce Butler				#	#

Interviewer Joyce Butler
/Depositor:

Narrator: G. Robert Butler

Description: 1221 G. Robert Butler, interviewed by Joyce Butler, July 8, 1977, Kennebunk, Maine. Butler discusses the fires of 1947 in Biddeford, Maine; community effort to help those displaced by the fires; high school boys fighting the fires; locations he fought fire; firefighting in neighboring towns; preparations to leave; lack of awareness about fires in other parts of Maine; the woods after the fires had gone out; and learning to fight fire by experience.

Transcript: 11 pp.

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1222

Accession Date: 1977.03.00 **T#** 1288, 1289 **C#** 1747

Collection MF 067
Number:

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M	A	#
#	T	

Collection "Wildfire Loose" /	P	S	V	D	D mfc_na1222_c1747_01,
Name: Joyce Butler	#	#	#	V	A mfc_na1222_c1747_02
				#	#

Interviewer Joyce Butler
/Depositor:

Narrator: Esther W. Boynton

Description: 1222 Esther W. Boynton, interviewed by Joyce Butler, March 18, 1977, Brownfield, Maine. Boynton talks about the fires of 1947 in Brownfield; the beginning of the fire and its growth; making donuts for the firefighters; her home surrounded by fire; exploding houses; generosity towards burned-out families; few human fatalities due to fires; vandalism; buildings which survived; returning to Brownfield; aid from the Red Cross; tin houses; beginning to rebuild; salvaging timber; aid from various people and companies; impact of the fires into the early 1950s; Christmas boxes from the American Legion and Guy Gannet Publishing; and bedding and furniture she got from the Red Cross.

Text: 41 pp. transcript

Recording: **C 1747** (original) / **T 1288 – T 1289** 1 ½ hours

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1223

Accession Date: 1977.01.00 T# 1289 C# 1748 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
T

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / # P S V D D mfc_na1223_c1748_01
Name: Joyce Butler # # # V A
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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Carolyn Craig

/Depositor:

Description: 1223 Carolyn (Mrs. Frank) Craig, interviewed by Joyce Butler, January 24, 1977, Cape Porpoise, Maine. Craig talks about the fires of 1947 in Cape Porpoise; dry conditions that fall; approach of the fire; packing their belongings with aid from strangers; near-destruction of her home; firefighting efforts; keeping little fires from consuming homes; publicity the area received; improvements in Cape Porpoise's communication and firefighting equipment after the fires; and planting pine trees on burnt land.

Text: 17 pp. transcript

Recording: C 1748 (original) / T 1289 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1224

Accession Date: 1977.05.00 **T#** 1290 **C#** 1749 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1224_c1749_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1224_c1749_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Thelma Burrows

/Depositor:

Description: 1224 **Thelma (Mrs. Joseph) Burrows**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, May 3, 1977, Kennebunkport, Maine. Burrows discusses the fires of 1947 in Kennebunkport; the damage done to the town; dry conditions that fall and awareness of danger; suspected arson; making donuts for firefighters; help coming from as far as Boston; need for milk to settle firefighters' stomachs; group of women who worked to keep the firefighters fed; food donations; contributions made by local women; efforts of the Red Cross as not very helpful; minimal theft despite ample opportunity; monetary donations; aid for fire victims expecting babies; and distribution of donations after the fire.

Text: 25 pp. transcript

Recording: **C 1749** (original) / **T 1290** 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1225

Accession Date: 1977.12.00 **T#** 1291 **C#** 1250 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1225_c1750_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1225_c1750_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Lloyd Davis

/Depositor:

Description: 1225 Lloyd Davis, interviewed by Joyce Butler, December 10, 1977, Alfred, Maine. David discusses the fires of 1947 in western York County; path of the fire; lack of organization among those fighting the fires; the fire in Alfred; aid going to Bar Harbor due to media attention there; controversy over setting backfires; towns that were concerned about paying the firefighting bill; importance of the wind in stopping the fire; theft during the fire; the role of those who stayed behind to save their own homes; story of a man who burned to death; and the uselessness of land after the fire.

Text: 29 pp. transcript "only essential information transcribed," plus map

Recording: mfc_na1225_c1750_01, mfc_na1225_c1750_02 63 minutes

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1226

Accession Date: 1977.11.00 **T#** 1292 **C#** 1751 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1226_c1751_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1226_c1751_02
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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Kenneth Day

/Depositor:

Description: 1226 Kenneth Day, interviewed by Joyce Butler, November 12, 1977, East Parsonsfield, Maine. Day talks about the fires of 1947 in western York County; the day the fire started; path of the fire; how he was given authority to direct firefighting; use of backfires; a fire started by a cigarette butt; loss of wildlife; his previous firefighting experience in the northwest; importance of experience as opposed to theoretical knowledge about firefighting; white birch and poplar as first to grow after a fire; and the generosity of the community.

Text: 17 pp. transcript "only essential information transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1226_c1751_01, mfc_na1226_c1751_02 41 minutes

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1227

Accession Date: 1977.07.00 T# 1293, 1294 C# 1752, 1753 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
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D mfc_na1227_c1752_01,

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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V

A mfc_na1227_c1752_02,

Name: Joyce Butler

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mfc_na1227_c1753_01,

mfc_na1227_c1753_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Lawrence T. Dolby

/Depositor:

Description: 1227 Lawrence T. Dolby, interviewed by Joyce Butler, July 14, 1977, Saco, Maine. Dolby discusses the fires of 1947; his duties as State Fire Inspector; the dry conditions that fall; lack of public understanding of the situation and danger; failure to fully extinguish fires when they died down at night; his duties in 1947, particularly dealing with cases of arson; force of the fire and hot air; destructive impact of the fires; fires pulling the community together; firefighters from Boston helping; emotional impact of the fires; crown fires; improvements in firefighting technology and organization that came out of the fires of 1947; fire jumping; areas prone to fire; and spontaneous combustion.

Text: 22 pp. transcript "only essential information transcribed"

Recording: C 1752 - C 1753 (original) / T 1293 – T 1294 1 hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1228

Accession Date: 1977.09.00 **T#** 1294 **C#** 1754 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

P **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1228_c1754_01

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

Name: Joyce Butler

V **A**
**#**

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Frank Handlen

/Depositor:

Description: 1228 Frank Handlen, interviewed by Joyce Butler, September 9, 1977, Kennebunkport, Maine. Handlen discusses his experience of the 1947 wildfires in the Biddeford – Kennebunkport area; sight of the smoke; fire coming through and description of it; a man who saved his house; lack of organized firefighting; fire lingering in a bog and loss of trees; how Goose Rocks burned; and a house that was spared.

Text: 9 pp. transcript

Recording: **C 1754** (original) / **T 1294** ½ hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1229

Accession Date: 1977.06.00 **T#** 1295

C# 1755, 2606* **P**

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Collection MF 067

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Number:

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D mfc_na1229_c1755_c26

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **#**

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A 06_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

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mfc_na1229_c1755_c26
06 02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Champ Gould, Elizabeth Gould

/Depositor:

Description: **1229 Champ and Elizabeth Gould**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, June 20, 1977, South Waterboro, Maine. The Goulds talk about the fires of 1947 in the Waterboro area; dry conditions that fall but lack of concern; initial response to the fire being curiosity; use of fuel trucks to carry water; options for dealing with livestock; saving their buildings; men who were unwilling to fight the fire; lack of organization; arsonists; burning of South Waterboro; resurgence of fire from underground; what Elizabeth chose to save if they had to flee; general lack of blame for the fires; salvaging lumber and the economic loss resulting from burned timber; and Red Cross assistance in temporary housing and rebuilding.

Text: 40 pp. transcript

Recording: **T 1295 / C 1755** (original), **C 2606** 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1230

Accession Date: 1977.12.00 **T#** 1296 **C#** 1756 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

P **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1230_c1756_01,

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **#** **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1230_c1756_02

Name: Joyce Butler

**#**

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Dr. John W. Kelly

/Depositor:

Description: 1230 Dr. John W. Kelley, monologue for Joyce Butler, December 13, 1976, Ithaca, New York. Kelley talks about the fires of 1947; missing two weeks of high school to work as a volunteer firefighter; firefighting in the Waterford [likely Waterboro] area; description of a crown fire; driving through fire; spending the night in a muddy pond; trying to save cottages around Little Ossipee Lake; firefighting equipment; attitude to firefighting and what it taught him about accomplishing goals; backfiring near Kezar Falls and getting food from the Salvation Army; physical endurance needed to fight fires; fires that burned underground; people working together and helping each other; and the situation seeming like the entire state was burning.

Text: 20 pp. transcript

Recording: **C 1756** (original) / **T 1296** 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1231

Accession Date: 1977.08.00 **T#** 1297 **C#** 1757 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

P **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1231_c1757_01

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

Name: Joyce Butler

V **A**
**#**

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Mabel Emery, Ruth Gobeil

/Depositor:

Description: 1231 Mabel Emery and Ruth Gobeil, interviewed by Joyce Butler, August 31, 1977, Kennebunk, Maine. Emery and daughter Gobeil discuss the fires of 1947 in the Biddeford-Kennebunk area; approach of the fire near their home; trying to save possessions; explosion of their house; fire at Goose Rocks and surviving it by staying in the ocean; inability to understand why their house burned when neighbors' homes did not; Ruth's work at a telephone switchboard during the fire; and rebuilding.

Text: 14 pp. transcript "only highlights transcribed"

Recording: **C 1757** (original) / **T 1297** ½ hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1232

Accession Date: 1977.11.00 T# 1297 C# 1758 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
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P S V D D mfc_na1232_c1758_01

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

Name: Joyce Butler

V A
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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Esther Smith

/Depositor:

Description: 1232 Esther Smith, interviewed by Joyce Butler, November 2, 1977, Waterboro, Maine. Smith talks about the fires of 1947 in Waterboro; reading of a paper she wrote for a local historical society; outbreak of fire; escape to Saco; her young daughters' reactions to the fire; reading of another paper she wrote; dry weather conditions that autumn; firefighters and feed stations; evacuation of Waterboro; buildings which were lost to the fire; and community and Red Cross relief efforts.

Text: 9 pp. transcript

Recording: C 1758 (original) / T 1297 ½ hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1233

Accession Date: 1977.04.00 T# 1298

C# 1759

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Collection MF 067

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Number:

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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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A 759_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

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mfc_na1233_na1234_c1

759_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Josephine Higgins

/Depositor:

Description: 1233 Josephine Higgins, interviewed by Joyce Butler, April 21, 1977, Bar Harbor, Maine. Higgins discusses the 1947 fires in Bar Harbor; delaying evacuation; evacuation routes; fear that gas tanks would explode; and the kindness of people and the Red Cross.

Text: 8 pp. transcript

Recording: C 1759 (original) / T 1298 ½ hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1234

Accession Date: 1977.12.00 T# 1298

C# 1759

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Collection MF 067

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Number:

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D mfc_na1233_na1234_c1

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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V

A 759_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

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mfc_na1233_na1234_c1

759_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Mrs. S. V. Morris

/Depositor:

Description: 1234 Joyce Butler, reading letter to the editor of *The Bar Harbor Times* from **Mrs. S.V. Morris** of Somesville, Maine, dated October 26, 1947. Morris wrote about the fires of 1947; description of her neighborhood during the fire; mutual aid in the community; evacuation of Bar Harbor; and description of a drive around the island.

Text: 5 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1233_na1234_c1759_01, mfc_na1233_na1234_c1759_02 22 minutes

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1235

Accession Date: 1977.12.00 **T#** 1298

C# 1760

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Collection MF 067

Number:

P	S	V	D	D mfc_na1235_c1760_01
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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: W. Charles Smith, Sr.

/Depositor:

Description: 1235 W. Charles Smith, Sr., interviewed by Joyce Butler, December 12, 1977, Saco, Maine. Smith talks about the fires of 1947 in York County; progression of the fire around Saco; attempts of homeowners to keep houses wet; fighting side fires; dead animals; areas and buildings that did not burn; talk of arson which he did not believe; and the community's fire consciousness afterwards.

Text: catalog

Recording: mfc_na1235_c1760_01 30 minutes

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1236

Accession Date: 1977.06.00 T# 1299, 1300 C# 1761, 1762 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
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	P	S	V	D	D mfc_na1236_c1761_01,
Collection "Wildfire Loose" /	#	#	#	V	A mfc_na1236_c1761_02,
Name: Joyce Butler				#	# mfc_na1236_c1762_01,
					mfc_na1236_c1762_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

/Depositor:

Narrator: Dr. Arthur Moulton and Mrs. Arthur Moulton

Description: 1236 Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Moulton, interviewed by Joyce Butler, June 22 – 23, 1977, Newfield, Maine. The Moultons discuss the fires of 1947; feeding the firefighters; people who gave false evacuation warnings; extent of destruction on Newfield; progression of the fire; firefighting mistakes; importance of short lawns in keeping the fire at bay; heat so intense metal melted; lack of organization; backfiring not allowed, though sometimes practiced; use of a plane for observation; a man who died of smoke inhalation; firefighters retreating due to lack of air; why trying to save furniture was a bad idea; losing their lumber; installation of a free phone line; calling the National Guard to keep order; curious sightseers; the difficulty of fighting small fires, particularly in a swamp; keeping men from getting bored; logistical challenges; need to have a firefighting plan for massive fires; Arthur Moulton's leadership role; role of the Red Cross in rebuilding; a man who chose to save his chopping block; Newfield's fire department in 1977; and recovering timber.

Text: 47 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1236_c1761_01, mfc_na1236_c1761_02, mfc_na1236_c1762_01, mfc_na1236_c1762_02 2 hours

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1238

Accession Date: 1977.08.00 **T#** 1302

C# 1765

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Collection MF 067

Number:

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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **#**

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Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Louise Russell and Raymond Russell

/Depositor:

Description: 1238 Louise and Raymond Russell, interviewed by Joyce Butler, August 8, 1977, Kennebunk, Maine. The Russells talk about the fires of 1947 in Kennebunk; distance traveled by the fire; moving their possessions out; progression of the second fire; saving Louise's home; sense that firefighters couldn't get ahead of the fire; and the building of farm ponds after 1947.

Text: 19 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1238_c1765_01 33 minutes

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1239

Accession Date: 1977.07.00 T# 1303

C# 1766

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Collection MF 067

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Number:

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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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A mfc_na1239_c1766_02

Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Coyle Meserve

/Depositor:

Description: 1239 Coyle Meserve, interviewed by Joyce Butler, July 16, 1977, Dayton, Maine. Meserve discusses the fires of 1947 in Dayton; progression of the fire; tally of lost buildings; burning of his family's barn and home; use of cider to save a house; aid given by the Red Cross; salvaging timber after the fire; how the town was different after rebuilding; why the forest in 1947 burned so easily; and improvements in firefighting by 1977.

Text: 27 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1239_c1766_01, mfc_na1239_c1766_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1240

Accession Date: 1977.07.00 T# 1304 C# 1767 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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A mfc_na1240_c1767_02

Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Desmond O'Hara, Carl "Dick"

/Depositor:

Schmaltz

Description: 1240 Desmond O'Hara and Carl "Dick" Schmaltz, interviewed by Joyce Butler, July 20, 1977, Goose Rocks, Kennebunkport, Maine. O'Hara and Schmaltz discuss the fire of 1947 in Kennebunkport, Maine; their work with Elliot O'Hara's (Desmond's father) art school and studio; awareness of the fire danger; learning about the fire while out of state; neighbors who escaped flames in the water; Eliot O'Hara's painting of Timber Island while it was still smoking; artwork lost in the fire; Elliot O'Hara's later career; how the fire changed Goose Rocks; and the chaos that immediately followed the fires.

Text: 18 pp. transcript "every word not transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1240_c1767_01, mfc_na1240_c1767_02 1 hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1241

Accession Date: 1977.02.00 **T#** 1305 **C#** 1768 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1241_c1768_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1241_c1768_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Bessie Ricker

/Depositor:

Description: 1241 Bessie Ricker, interviewed by Joyce Butler, February 24, 1978, Saco, Maine. Ricker talks about the fires of 1947 in the Saco-Waterboro area; her family's preparations as fire neared; fire approaching from multiple directions; her fear when the fire was approaching and the car went off the road and passersby did not stop; trying to move away from the fire; listening to radio reports; her home saved by National Guard backfiring; rebuilding after the fire; and how the fire changed Waterboro.

Text: 16 pp. transcript "just essential information transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1241_c1768_01, mfc_na1241_c1768_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1242

Accession Date: 1977.08.00 **T#** 1306

C# 1769

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Collection MF 067

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Number:

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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **#**

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V

A mfc_na1242_c1769_02

Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Betty Littlefield and Stanley Littlefield

/Depositor:

Description: 1242 Betty Littlefield and Stanley Littlefield, interviewed by Joyce Butler, August 2, 1977, Alfred, Maine. The Littlefields discuss the fire of 1947 in the Alfred area; Betty's efforts running a moving first aid station and handing out food to firefighters; Alfred threatened from multiple directions; Stanley's perspective as superintendent of the Water District; fleeing the fire in South Waterboro; what Betty treated at her first aid station; Stanley's confidence in the Alfred firefighters; desire to keep fire lines short; fighting fire into November; prevalence of smoke and ashes; Indian pumps; and problem with spectators.

Text: 16 pp. transcript "only essential information transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1242_c1769_01, mfc_na1242_c1769_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1243

Accession Date: 1977.07.00 **T#** 1307 **C#** 1770 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

P **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1243_c1770_01,

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / # # # **V** **A** mfc_na1243_c1770_02

Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Arthur Roberts

/Depositor:

Description: 1243 **Arthur Roberts**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, July 28, 1977, Saco, Maine. Roberts talks about the fires of 1947 in Lyman; his work putting out spot fires as a member of the volunteer fire department; evacuating his family; how the approaching fire looked; fire destroying a lumberyard; backfiring and a backfire that got out of control; improvements in firefighting that Roberts thinks would prevent a repeat of 1947; needing permission from the National Guard to travel freely in the fire zone; food donations; porcupines fleeing the fire; and how the fire changed Lyman.

Text: transcript 21 pp. "only essential information transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1243_c1770_01, mfc_na1243_c1770_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1244

Accession Date: 1977.04.00 **T#** 1308 **C#** 1771 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1244_c1771_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1244_c1771_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

/Depositor:

Narrator: Mr. Allen Salisbury and Mrs. Allen Salisbury

Description: 1244 **Mr. Allen Salisbury and Mrs. Allen Salisbury**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, April 19, 1977, Hull's Cove, Mt. Desert Island, Maine. The Salisburys discuss the burning of Bar Harbor's Jackson Lab during the fire of 1947; their duties at Jackson Lab; belief that Hull's Cove was in danger, not Bar Harbor; crown fire and ground fire; Mrs. Salisbury leaving the island with their daughter; complete loss of records and mice from the lab; returning the day after the fire; cleaning up after the fire; receiving household items from various sources; looters; how Bar Harbor changed to a tourist town after the fire; and a man who burned to death trying to rescue his cat.

Text: 24 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1244_c1771_01, mfc_na1244_c1771_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1245

Accession Date: 1977.01.00 **T#** 1309

C# 1772

P

D

CD

Collection MF 067

M

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Number:

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D mfc_na1245_c1772_01

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

#

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V

A

Name: Joyce Butler

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Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Dorothea Smith

/Depositor:

Description: 1245 Dorothea Smith, interviewed by Joyce Butler, January 13, 1977, Goose Rocks Beach, Maine. Smith talks about the fire of 1947 in Goose Rocks Beach; how the fire sounded; taking refuge in a neighbor's house; annoyance that effort was concentrated on saving a farm; thieves and looters; animals fleeing towards the water; fear that her daughter was lost when in fact she was safely asleep elsewhere; the neighbor reunited with his dog; Elliot O'Hara's art studio losses; National Guard trying to keep sightseers and looters away; what parts of Goose Rocks Beach burned; lack of awareness that such a disaster could happen; cases of arson; what her house looked like after it burned; and the trend of insufficient insurance.

Text: 23 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1245_c1772_01 34 minutes

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1246

Accession Date: 1977.09.00 **T#** 1310

C# 1773

P

D

CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

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D mfc_na1246_na1247_cl

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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V

A 773_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

#

mfc_na1246_na1247_cl

773_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Althea Beard

/Depositor:

Description: 1246 Althea Beard, interviewed by Joyce Butler, September 25, 1977, Kennebunkport, Maine. Beard talks about the fires of 1947 on Cape Porpoise; the sight and smell of smoke; scene from the top of Crow Hill; believing their summer home was destroyed; patrolling and trying to save their home; no water supply so they used buckets of ocean water; receiving sandwiches and coffee from the Salvation Army; fearing for their house again when a second fire was near; and houses being saved by people who stayed and defended their own homes.

Text: 13 pp. transcript "not every word transcribed"

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1247

Accession Date: 1977.09.00 **T#** 1310

C# 1773

P

D

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Collection MF 067

Number:

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D mfc_na1246_na1247_c1

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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V

A 773_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

#

mfc_na1246_na1247_c1

773_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Arnold Stinson

/Depositor:

Description: 1247 **Arnold Stinson**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, September 14, 1977, Cape Porpoise, Maine. Stinson, with comments from his wife, discusses the fires of 1947, when he was Cape Porpoise Fire Chief; how Timber Island caught on fire; a backfire that got out of control; path of the fire; what equipment they had; finding their furniture after the fire; Mrs. Stinson's mother dying of a heart attack from all the work; and how the Kitteredge family improved firefighting capabilities after the fire.

Text: 13 pp. transcript "only essential information transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1246_na1247_c1773_01, mfc_na1246_na1247_c1773_02 ½ hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1248

Accession Date: 1977.02.00 T# 1311 C# 1774 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
T

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / # P S V D D mfc_na1248_c1774_01,
Name: Joyce Butler # # # V A mfc_na1248_c1774_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler
/Depositor:

Narrator: Mr. Warren Walker and Mrs. Warren Walker

Description: 1248 Mr. Warren Walker and Mrs. Warren Walker, interviewed by Joyce Butler, February 16, 1977, Clark's Mills, Hollis, Maine. The Walkers talk about the fires of 1947 in Hollis; the assumption that fire departments would take care of the fires; what the fire department had for equipment; how the fire burned; National Guard brought in to prevent looting; crediting the Navy for saving Clark's Mills; Mr. Walker's work directing traffic and equipment; inability to use their own house because the National Guard was in it; importance of telephone operators; a smoking rabbit; limited damage in Clark's Mills; bills and reimbursement after the fire; problems with young men on patrol who started fires to keep warm; inaccurate media reporting; arson not as prevalent as believed; lumber mill failing due to glut of timber after fire; and the loss of timber.

Text: 21 pp. transcript, plus 2 pp. additional notes

Recording: mfc_na1248_c1774_01, mfc_na1248_c1774_02 1 hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1249

Accession Date: 1977.04.00 T# 1312 C# 1775 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
T

P S V D D mfc_na1249_c1775_01,

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / # # # V A mfc_na1249_c1775_02

Name: Joyce Butler

#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Charlotte Stewart

/Depositor:

Description: 1249 Charlotte Stewart, interviewed by Joyce Butler, April 20, 1977, Bar Harbor, Maine. Stewart discusses the fire of 1947 in Bar Harbor; reads something she wrote about the fire changing Bar Harbor; fire burning underground and reemerging; seeing the smoke from Hull's Harbor; her daughter leading a couple to a safe place; working as a telephone operator during the fire; receiving food from a local restaurant; people fleeing to the wharf to evacuate; what kinds of phone calls she took; death of a young girl in an automobile accident; an elderly man who died of a heart attack; calling boats to evacuate the island; the telephone company receiving the Vail Award for their work during the fire; how the Bar Harbor Club changed after the fire; Bar Harbor before the fire in social makeup and physical appearance; and the charitable contributions of the wealthy summer people.

Text: 24 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1249_c1775_01, mfc_na1249_c1775_02 1 hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1250

Accession Date: 1977.05.00 **T#** 1313 **C#** 1776 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067
Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / # **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1250_c1776_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1250_c1776_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler
/Depositor:

Narrator: Violette Wallace and Linwood Wallace

Description: 1250 Violette Wallace and Linwood Wallace, interviewed by Joyce Butler, May 4, 1977, Bar Mills, Maine. The Wallace siblings discuss the fires of 1947 in Bar Mills; the dry conditions that fall; Violette's work at the Bar Mills telephone exchange; evacuation and how unprepared they were to evacuate; falling leaves on fire; fire-related calls Violette took; theft of furniture; Linwood's first aid work, paid by his employer Saco Hospital; injuries related to the fire; how the fire changed the area; misinformation promulgated over the radio; difficulty of getting past the guard to go home; the fire as the most upsetting crisis to work through; how the telephone switchboard worked; community coming together during the crisis; and the problem of sightseers.

Text: 27 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1250_c1776_01, mfc_na1250_c1776_02 1 hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1251

Accession Date: 1977.06.00 **T#** 1314 **C#** 1777 **P** **D** **CD**

Collection MF 067

Number:

M **A** **#**
**T**

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / **P** **S** **V** **D** **D** mfc_na1251_c1777_01,
Name: Joyce Butler **#** **#** **V** **A** mfc_na1251_c1777_02
#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Clayton Weymouth

/Depositor:

Description: **1251 Clayton Weymouth**, interviewed by Joyce Butler, June 22, 1977, West Newfield, Maine. Weymouth, who in 1947 was Warden of Forestry Department District #1, talks about the fires of 1947; being loaned a Jeep for no cost; the Newfield fire coming from New Hampshire; fire losses in Newfield; two fatal accidents due to the fire; effectiveness of bulldozing fire breaks; making a fire truck after the fire; devaluation of land in Newfield; rebuilding after the fire; state-level improvements after the fire; men patrolling better if protecting their own property; developments in firefighting not guarantee that a similar fire will never happen; good natural reseeding of trees in Newfield area; and the equipment available in fire towers.

Text: 16 pp. transcript "every word not transcribed"

Recording: mfc_na1251_c1777_01, mfc_na1251_c1777_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1252

Accession Date: 1977.04.00 T# 1315 C# 1778 P D CD

Collection MF 067

Number:

M A #
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P S V D D mfc_na1252_c1778_01,

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / # # # V A mfc_na1252_c1778_02

Name: Joyce Butler

#

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Martin V. B. Wildes

/Depositor:

Description: 1252 Martin V. B. Wildes, interviewed by Joyce Butler, April 3, 1977, Kennebunk, Maine. Wildes discusses the fire of 1947 in Kennebunkport; progression of the fire, particularly around Cape Porpoise; speed of the destruction; description of fire as all flames and no smoke; loss of equipment due to rapid approach of fire; fighting spot fires in Wildes Town; bulldozing a trench which stopped the fire; equipment used to fight the fire; lack of communication; changes in firefighting after 1947; cases of arson; description of a creek that looked like it was on fire; lack of water in pipes for homeowners because hydrants were drawing it all; how the Army bulldozers worked; a man who accidentally left with his goats and not his family; and disbelief that the fire could be so bad.

Text: 21 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1252_c1778_01, mfc_na1252_c1778_02 1 hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1253

Accession Date: 1977.04.00 **T#** 1316

C# 1779

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Collection MF 067

Number:

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D mfc_na1253_na1254_c1

Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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V

A 779_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

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mfc_na1253_na1254_c1
779_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler

Narrator: Bernard Hawkes

/Depositor:

Description: 1253 Bernard Hawkes, interviewed by Joyce Butler, April 19, 1977, Bar Harbor, Maine. Hawkes talks about the fire of 1947 in Bar Harbor; smoke from fire on other parts of Mt. Desert Island; destruction of a hotel; path of evacuation; returning to fight the fire; why there were no preparations to evacuate with possessions; rebuilding Bar Harbor; changes after the fire; notable people who used to visit Bar Harbor and their massive homes; and how value of the losses failed to consider the expensive, irreplaceable artifacts.

Text: 16 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1253_na1254_c1779_01, mfc_na1253_na1254_c1779_02 1 hour

**Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions**

ACCESSION SHEET
Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1254

Accession Date: 1979.01.00 T# 1316

C# 1779

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Collection MF 067
Number:

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Collection "Wildfire Loose" / #

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A 779_01,

Name: Joyce Butler

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mfc_na1253_na1254_c1
779_02

Interviewer Joyce Butler
/Depositor:

Narrator: Dorothy Stanley and Mrs. Frank Rowell

Description: 1254 Letters written by **Dorothy H. Stanley** and **Christine Baker Rowell** in 1947, read by Joyce Butler, January 1979, Bar Harbor, Maine. Stanley and Rowell wrote about the fire of 1947 in Bar Harbor; progression of the fire; wind shifts; college boys returning to fight fire; description of the fire's appearance; evacuation; embers spreading fire; the days immediately following the fire; the start of the fire and early attempts to control it; continuation of social life during early stages of the fire; preparing to evacuate; trying to save possessions; and fleeing the fire.

Text: 22 pp. transcript

Recording: mfc_na1253_na1254_c1779_01, mfc_na1253_na1254_c1779_02 62 minutes

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions

ACCESSION SHEET

Maine Folklife Center

Accession Number: 1422

Accession Date: 1980.12.00 **T#** 1550

Collection MF 067
Number:

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Collection "Wildfire Loose" /	#	#	#	V	A
Name: Joyce Butler				#	#

Interviewer Joyce Butler
/Depositor:

Narrator: Jane Cormier Obermeyer

Description: 1422 Jane Cormier Obermeyer, interviewed by Joyce Butler, October 11, 1980, Kennebunk, Maine. Obermeyer talks about the fire of 1947 in Bar Harbor, Maine; where her family's home was; the smell of the fire; waiting to be evacuated; leaving the island by Army truck; the accident during evacuation which killed her sister; attitude of those waiting to be evacuated; and her father saving the Catholic church.

Text: 19 pp. transcript

Recording: **T 1550** ½ hour

Related Collections
& Accessions
Restrictions