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(SNP003) Beulah Atkins interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Beulah Atkins

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR	Mrs. Beulah Atkins
INTERVIEWER	Dorothy Noble Smith
DATE	January 31, 1979
PLACE	Big Spring Area

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

January 24, 1981

D.S.: I am, interviewing..I am interviewing Mrs. Beulah Atkins who used to live on..well you were on the road toward the park. Right?

B.A.: Right, yea, we lived over in the field and the park was just right up above us you see.

D.S.: That's right.

B.A.: You know where the ^{Beulah} ~~Big~~ Spring Church is up there..did you ever notice that?

D.S.: Yes.

B.A.: Well, now we .. that's the way we used to go round that lane to where we used to live. The house was on over in the field. Oh of course now they've tore all those things down. The old house.

D.S.: Sure, that's right. Yes.

B.A.: But this house we lived in you see..this man's property weren't in the park. You see, but just right up above where we lived.

D.S.: Uhhum. You leased the property. You rented the property?

B.A.: Yes mam. We

D.S.: Who was the man who owned the property?

B.A.: ^{Eddie} ~~Abbott~~ Clark.

D.S.: Oh yea. Uhhuh. Yea. Right. Okey how big a piece of property was it?

B.A.: Well, now ours weren't..we just rented it..the house you see.

D.S.: Oh, just the house.

B.A.: And of course the garden and like that. Yea, that's all we...

D.S.: So, you had a few acres, there?

B.A.: Yea, but it weren't...course...now he would let you have cattle and everything like that, but I couldn't..wouldn't be any way..we just ^{I could have} rented the house, and we had a garden, but of course that was when I was a child growing up.

That was before I was ever married, or anything.

D.S.: Sure, that's what we wanted to talk about. Back when you were a child. Uh, were there many children in your family?

B.A.: Uh..twelve.

D.S.: Twelve. That was a big size family. Yea. Then the house must have been a fairly big house.

B.A.: Well you see now, no it weren't too big but you see they all didn't live there all the time. See all the children weren't born there.

D.S.: I get it.

B.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Well, then where did you move to from there?

B.A.: Well, now..I just don't...you see...well I reckon we stayed on there til I got married. And...

D.S.: Oh alright. Okey. Alright so the house that you were in..was ~~tht~~ a wood house or a stone...

B.A.: Wood.

D.S.: A wood house.

B.A.: And when it would snow..uh..the wind would blow..that..was shingles on houses then...we would have to get up and sweep the snow...

D.S.: Out of the house.

B.A.: Out of the house, before we could have much fire. Cause you see there were holes kinda...cause you see houses weren't fixed then like they are now ...

D.S.: That's right.

B.A.: And if you made much fire, the water would come down on your

floor *and*. We would have to get up and shake them beds off,
and sweep that snow down the steps and off the floor, **before**
could have
we ~~had~~ much fire.

D.S.: You know I heard that that snow helped keep you warm, in bed.

Did it?

B.A.: I don't know..Now I never slept up stairs you see. I don't know
what about. I just don't know. And of course they didn't too
much blow in, but anyway it blowed in when it would be real cold
and fine you see.

D.S.: Yea, right. Things are much better now aren't they?

B.A.: Some things is.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

B.A.: But Lord the bad things going on, these days..uh.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: People are killing people and carrying on just like...*that* I believe I
was a reading in the old paper last night where a boy killed his
mother and then taken *the* ~~the~~ car..but he finally decided you know..to
turn hisself in.

D.S.: Yea. Terrible.

B.A.: And you talk about hard times and things...you know I always cut
out all..and talk about lights, and just look at them things.

D.S.: Now tell me about...Were there any particular illnesses the child-
ren had. Did you have like croup or diptheria or things of that kind?

B.A.: I don't think so. Of course they would get the cold and the croup
like that.

D.S.: Sure. Uh, did your mother use any particular herbs when you got sick?

B.A.: Oh, we'd use this here ~~tick~~ ^{sick} salve or something like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Some of them made sort of a plaster out of corn meal

and onions, and put that on your chest. Did she ever do that.?

B.A.: I don't think so.

D.S.: No. Uh, did she use sassafras tea or any of those...

B.A.: Now, I don't think so.

D.S.: No. So you didn't use any herbs, of any kind?

B.A.: No, I don't think..you see..I don't think I did. But *now times*

kinda stuff I'd use for my children...

D.S.: Wait a minute let me move that...

B.A.: No you don't have to move that. I know my oldest son, he would

get all chocked up and I would take that and rub all over ~~him~~.

his back...

H.S.: Camphore ointment. Yea, that's good. Sure, yea.

B.A.: Well, that's what I'd use. That's what I use *myself* when I sort of get
chocked up..rub it on my throat.

D.S.: Okey, you know there were a lot of ~~useful~~ uses of herbs and now
the doctors are discovering that those were good.

B.A.: Yea.

D.S.: So we are trying to find out as much as we can about them.

B.A.: Sure.

D.S.: Did you ever hunt for gensing?

B.A.: No indeed, I never but now my ~~brothers~~ did. My brothers did.

D.S.: Did they sell it?

B.A.: I reckon they did.

D.S.: Do you know where they sold it?

B.A.: No, no indeed.

D.S.: And you don't know how much they got for it?

B.A.: ^{saw} No, indeed.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Okey, the furniture that you had in your house, was that pretty much bought furniture or did your father make it?

B.A.: No indeed. He didn't do nothing like that. He made barrels. We just bought the furniture.

D.S.: Oh, he made barrels?

B.A.: Well, I helped make barrels myself and my husband made barrels.

D.S.: Hey great. How much would you get for the barrels?

B.A.: Well, I just don't know..well you'd have to work by the day you see and he'd be making ^{barrels} ~~five~~ for this man he worked for.

D.S.: Who was that?

B.A.: Well old Mr. ^{Eddie} ~~Addie~~ Clark. We lived on his place.

D.S.: Oh uhhuh.

B.A.: But now, ^{course} after I got married and we moved to our ^{my} ~~new~~ home, my husband made for my uncle. Yea, like..you know talking about the old church, the old ^{Cooper shop} you know where the church is well the ^{Cooper} ~~shop~~ shop on the other side of the road. That's where them barrels was made at.

D.S.: Did you cut down your trees and made the staves yourself....or..

B.A.: No, they was all ready...

D.S.: Ready for you.

B.A.: Ready when they was brought, there.

D.S.: Okey. Did you ever do much with cutting down trees...^{and} ~~even~~ taking the bark off..to sell the bark?

B.A.: No. Never did do much of that.

D.S.: Okey. Now, this I am wondering about. With all of these children, your mother had to be very busy with the garden didn't she?

B.A.: I know *it*.

D.S.: So she planted tomatoes and..cabbages, and turnips, potatoes, onions.

B.A.: Oh, all kinds of stuff. Everything....beans, butterbeans, corn, ~~but~~ now.

D.S.: Did you use a plow? With a horse?

B.A.: Yep.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Was the ground very rocky?

B.A.: Uh, well at some places now up there it was.

D.S.: Uh..then what would you do with the rocks? Take them out or plow around them.

B.A.: Well sometimes they were so big you couldn't get them ^{but} you know, you'd have to go around them. Course now if there was any small rocks where we could pick them up..we always picked them up, but you couldn't do that..you couldn't pick them up.

D.S.: Sure. When winter came how did you keep the vegetables over the winter? Did you dig a trench in the ground?

B.A.: Put them in the ground. Put them in the ground.

D.S.: Uhhuh. With some straw? Leaves?

B.A.: Well, we would put dirt too you see. Dig the hole and put the dirt over them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

B.A.: I don't know now whether...I might not...after I got to burrying my own self...I would kinda put some old sack or something over mine. So they wouldn't get so dirty.

D.S.: Yea. And they came out fresh and crisp

B.A.: Sure..Potatoes..Yes mam..cabbage, turnips.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Cabbages were good weren't they?

B.A.: Yes'um. You would just pull them up you know by the root you know and just lay them down that away you know...

D.S.: Sure, and when you took them out, there they were crisp and *fresh*

B.A.: That 's right.

D.S.: With the canning of your vegetables..uh did you process them?

B.A.: No.

D.S.: How would you can them?

B.A.: Well now we would cold pack them sometimes. You know we used to just cook them and cook them before we put them in the cans and the beans you know, but now your other stuff you would cook that and everything.

D.S.: but the beans you would just cold pack?

B.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Okey. And they kept alright?

B.A.: Well sure. Well you'd have to cook them so long you see in the hot water, just like you do now.

D.S.: Yea. Did you..did you make sauerkraut?

B.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That was a job wasn't it?

B.A.: Not too much then. You had a great big barrel to put it in then. Have you a *MAUL* ~~bowl~~ and beat it down and then fix you another pan full and put you a little salt and beat that down.

D.S.: How long would that take..about two months before it was sauerkraut?

B.A.: Well, now I just couldn't tell you a thing..about how long it would

be. I never did take no notice.

D.S.: Just suddenly, it was there.

B.A.: Fixed it and put it there. I don't know.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: I reckon..it would be hot when you make kraut you see, and I don't know how long that would ever take you know.

D.S.: Yea. How about beans. Did you dry beans?

B.A.: Yes mam. Yes mam.

D.S.: How;did you string them up?

B.A.: Sometimes strung them up, yes'um. And sometimes we'd just put something down and put them up on the floor or something.

D.S.: Yea, uhhum. Yea. Did you ever sell any of your beans?

B.A.: Well, now when I lived down here on the road, I used to sell beans. But now, of course, you know when all of us children was home to eat and everything you know you weren't selling them.

D.S.: No, right. Um, your father had pigs?

B.A.: Yes mam. cows.

D.S.: How many cows?

B.A.: Well, I just don't know what about that.

D.S.: Uh, and you had one horse? Or two.

B.A.: Well, I don't know whether he had any horses or not. You see, he would go out and get a horse from somebody else when he'd want to plow his stuff. I don't remember, I don't believe he must not have had no horse.

D.S.: Okey.

B.A.: But anyway, I know they had cows. I know we'd get out and drive

them cows up and it would be cold and they'd be a laying down
and we'd to get ^{here to get} our feet warm.

D.S.: Sure, great, yea.

B.A.: And after we got up a little size we would do the milking ourself
you see, but when we wasn't big enough he would take his *lantern*
and goout and milk you see in the barn. Had the cows in the barn.
And feed the hogs before he would go to work.

D.S.: Uh, your mother made butter, I'm sure.

B.A.: Yes mam.

D.S.: Cottage cheese?

B.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Clabber?

B.A.: That's right. Sure.

D.S.: And you'd keep it in the Springhouse.

B.A.: That's right. ^{We} They had a springhouse...springbox..while we lived
there and I had a springbox up ^{the road} where I lived for a ling time.

D.S.: That kept the things good didn't it.

B.A.: I know it. I know. They didn't have no refri~~gerator~~ then..when
you'd kill ^{some} ~~the~~ chickens or something like on Saturday I'd
take them out to the springbox and put them..set them down in that
cold water til the next morning, when I'd cook them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea, great. Did you do your butchering of the hogs in the
fall?

B.A.: Sure.

D.S.: And then what would you do. Salt them down or..

B.A.: Sure, they'd cut them up and salt them down. Of course you know you

have to cut them up and *what meat* salt them, ^{for your} sausage and everything.

D.S.: Where was your nearest store?

B.A.: The *Jim Estes* store right over ~~here~~ above the road. You know where Pete *Estes* lives.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Well, that was the old store, right there.

D.S.: Okey. And then you used his mill? That mill too, right. For grinding the corn meal.

B.A.: No. he..Poppa never did grind no cornmeal for nothing. He would always get it, you know somewhere else where it would be ground. Um, buy flour by the barrel you know.

D.S.: Uhhum. When winter was coming on would he buy extra supplies ^{of} and things in case it was snowing..

B.A. :Well, I reckon he..well he was always kinda get a good supply.

D.S.: How would he carry these barrels of flour home?

B.A.: Well, I reckon somebody would have to take him up to *haul them home* just like they do now.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Well he was lucky. A lot of people had to carry them.

Yea.

B.A.: Oh yea.

D.S.: Uh, now how about your washing. Did you make the lye soap?

B.A.: Sometimes, yes mam. I made lye soap, but when I washed for that CC camp, you used so much soap you couldn't keep in soap.

I just quit making soap.

D.S.: You washed for the CC camp?

B.A.: Sure did ! Do you remember that?

D.S.: I sure do. Yea. Which one was this? Theone that was at the Pinnacles or where? Where was that CC camp?

B.A.: Well, it was at ~~Big~~ ^{Beach} Spring Church. The first place, and then they moved from there back on the mountain No. 12. Weren't that the name of ~~it~~ ^{it}?

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Uhhuh. So would you have to go up and get the wash?

B.A.: Yea, we'd have to go, and get them after they want back on the mountain.

D.S.: You walked it?

B.A.: Oh, no mam. We had a car. You know you couldn't walk

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Well you know a lot of walking ~~wasn't there?~~ ^{was done.}

B.A.: Oh sure yea. A lot of walking done these days, the way they say they get out and walk.

D.S.: Yea. Who..How far away was your nearest neighbor?

B.A.: Well, not no ways hardly. Where we lived where we talking about in the park. ~~away~~ ^{away} closest neighbor was just a few steps ~~away~~ ^{noways} from us.

D.S.: Oh really.

B.A.: We all lived kinda close together up there. ~~That there lady~~ Lee Atkins ~~We weren't far from~~ ^{where} she lived.

D.S.: Oh, okey. Then you did a lot of visiting, did you?

B.A.: Well you know ~~when you had to wash~~ ^{work}...course I visited some. But I had to work and had to go to school, you see. And we had to walk to school.

D.S.: Yea. Where was the school?

B.A.: Hmm! Clear up yonder..you know where ~~Big~~ ^{Beach} Springs..well you know

where *The* Turn Bridge is..just down below the *Turn*
bridge. You know where that's at don't you?

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Well.

D.S.: Yea. Now was that a one room schoolhouse?

B.A.: Yea, one room.

D.S.: How many months of the year was school?

B.A.: Well, I reckon it was nine months, just like it is today I have
an idea.

D.S.: Alright. And what did they teach.

B.A.: Well, they didn't teach this foolishness like they teaching now.

D.S.: You got reading and writing and 'rithmetic. Right. And Geography. ^v

B.A.: Oh yea, sure.

D.S.: How far up did the school go. Seventh grade, or eighth grade?

B.A.: Well, now I just don't know. I just don't know how...

D.S.: How long did you go?

B.A.: Well now I think, I don't know whether I went to the fifth..I
didn't go to fer. But anyways they still had school and
finally they built another schoolhouse..another one..over the
other way. But I never did go to that one.

D.S.: Okey. How far away was the school, Do you think? You say you
had to walk.

B.A.: Well, I told you around that lane ^{where} ~~and~~ we lived up there at the
church. We had to walk clear up yonder just below the *Turn*
bridge up there where you come off the mountain. ^{*That's how far*} ~~That there's~~
~~where~~ we had to walk.

D.S.: Oh boy. So all kinds of weather you would walk to school?

B.A.: Walk to school.

D.S.: Speaking of that. Did you wear shoes all year round? Or just in the winter?

B.A.: Oh, just in the winter, I have an idea.

D.S.: Because most of the people did. They were barefoot in the summer.

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Weren't you afraid of snakes?

B.A.: No indeed.

Course I always watched around and if I seen them, I'd stay out of the way...or try to kill them.

D.S.: Yea. They never bothered you?

B.A.: No indeed.

D.S.: Heck, see, there's another thing. Right.

B.A.: It just ain't no use to get so scared..just like *I say,*
well I always watched them and...

D.S.: By the way. What kind of a lock did you have on your house?

B.A.: Well, I..just kinda little ole lock or something. You know I never did ^{even} lock my house.

D.S.: That's what I wanted you to say. Because there was no stealing. Right?

B.A.: That's right. No indeed, I never did lock my house. But just like I say if anybody wants to come in they ain't going to pay no attention to locks.

D.S.: No, that's true.

B.A.: Knock out windows, or anything.

D.S.: But there was not ~~this feeling~~ *the stealing and*..people didn't lie.

B.A.: Oh, not not like they do these days.

D.S.: Tell me how your husband courted you.

B.A.: Hmm. Well, I reckon he just courted. Just like.

D.S.: Well, did he come like certain days, of the week or..

B.A.: Oh yea. And we'd go to church...sometimes together on Sunday.

D.S.: Um, were you chaperoned? When he came to your house.?

B.A.: No, indeed.

D.S.: They trusted ^{him} ~~you~~. Uhhum. What was the wedding like?

B.A.: Well, now we never fooled with no wedding, these days. We just got married at his parents. We never fooled with all ^{of} this doings. Well you never had the money to do it.

D.S.: Right. Okey. So you just got married...

B.A.: And went on. And after we got ~~a~~ married, he went in the service..

I don't know..the first child was six months old before he got home out of the service. ^{and then} ~~But now~~ he got killed in the service.

D.S.: Yea. Uh..you say that you went to church. Which church was that?

B.A.: Right there..you go all around to church, but you see them churches is gone now. We used to go up on the Hazel and they used to have preaching up there where I'm talking about where they use to have school. We'd have school in the week and preaching on Sunday.

D.S.: ~~And~~ you went regularly? to the church.

B.A.: Yea. And then there was another church..that was a ^{Dunker} ~~country~~ church over on the right hand side going up the road. But just like I say..all that's made away with and we'd go there and we'd have to take our lantern too. We'd have to walk.

D.S.: Now, when you..when a person died would you..they didn't do embalming did they?

B.A.: No and you see they mostly just kept them right at home, ^{spiced}
em up right at home.

D.S.: Yea. When they buried somebody would everybody stay right there
at the gravesite until it was completely covered?

B.A.: Well, now they used to.

D.S.: That's what I mean. That was nice, that showed respect.

B.A.: Sure, sure. But now they walk ^{want you to} away, don't they.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Sure they used to stay there.

D.S.: Did you use stones to mark it or did you have monuments made?

B.A.: Now I reckon they had stones...I just don't know.

D.S.: Uhhum, yea.

B.A.: You know, just little, but now of course you see some of them had
these great big ones you know. But of course when I got mine out
of Washington I got a family one you know. Course now, mine wasn't
too big.

D.S.: You know we started to talk about the store and then we got to
talking about something else.

B.A.: Yea.

D.S.: I wanted to ask you when you went to the store would you take
things like eggs...

B.A.: Butter.

D.S.: Butter.

B.A.: Chickens.

D.S.: Would they give you credit or would they give you money for them.

B.A.: Well you know you mostly would need something. We would buy some

thing...

D.S.: They would give you credit?

B.A.: Sure.

D.S.: Sure. Did you take hams at any time?

B.A.: No, now we never had many hams. Then, when your children was ...

D.S.: You needed it.

Uh, where did you buy shoes and clothes?

B.A.: Well now just right over here at this store. Where I'm kinda talking of. We'd buy...

D.S.: Okey. That same store.

B.A.: That same store.

D.S.: Okey, then it was a *good sized store*

B.A.: Course, it would be goods or something..you would have to make your..

D.S.: Yea..oh sure. I bet your mother did a lot of sewing didn't she?

B.A.: No, not too much. We'd get somebody else too...

She knitted, stockings and..

D.S.: Oh. That's hard when you *turn the heel* . I can't do that.

B.A.: Yea, I reckon so.

D.S.: What was the most frequent causes of death?

B.A.: Who, of uh...

D.S.: Any of the people.

B.A.: My people or anybody...

D.S.: Anybody's people.

B.A.: Well, some of them would just get old you see and die.

D.S.: Yea, uhhum.

~~The~~ The flu epidemic..how about that?

B.A.: Well, I just don't know. I just don't know, whether that was...

D.S.: That was 1917.

B.A.: I just don't

D.S.: Then it didn't bother your people?

B.A.: No, I don't think..course some of them might of had it, but any ways they got over it.

D.S.: Did your doctor come from Sperryville?

B.A.: Yea, he used to be..yea. He used to live there. Dr. Smith.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Dr. Smith. How would you get in touch with him?

B.A.: Well, I just don't know how we'd get..I don't know whether there was any phones then or what, but anyway you would get in touch with him someway. But I just don't..and of course there was a doctor down *Woodsville* too. Dr. Brown.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And they'd come by horse.

B.A.: Yes'um.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And when a baby was born would they have the doctor to come?

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: They didn't use midwives?

B.A.: Well now sometimes they would. But now there weren't many of them wives..you know..over here.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Yea. When you sat around of an evening before you went to bed, it would be wintertime..you'd sit in front of a fire.. did anybody tell any ghost stories?

B.A.: No, no I don't think so, we never did sit up very late.

D.S.: You didn't go to bed right after dinner did you?

B.A.: No, I mean after supper you see.

D.S.: Yea, yea..you'd go to bed right after supper.

B.A.: Well course we'd clean up the table, and course when we was washing for them CC's we had to fix their clothes so we could tell them apart.

D.S.: Yea. Oh yea.

B.A.: We always kept busy. We weren't into no foolishness you know. And when the girls come from school..mom would always have them old irons sitting on the stove..for Florine and Genevia to go to ironing the cloth and the boys to carrying some ~~water~~ and getting in some wood.

D.S.: Uhhum. You say you didn't have much fun. Now what about toys when you were a little girl.

B.A.: No toys. We would get one little old thing or something. No, indeed. Ain't no use talking about toys. Didn't fool with toys.

D.S.:Did the boys play marbles?

B.A.: Yea, I think they would play a little marbles, sometimes. But they wouldn't play much

D.S.: Yea. Did you shoot firecrackers at Christmas?

B.A.: I didn't. No indeed. But I reckon they would some.

D.S.: Um..music. How about music. Did anybody around play the fiddle or the *Jews* harp or *anything*

B.A.: Oh, no indeed.

D.S.: No music.

B.A.: Well, not..no indeed very much. Now I reckon they grandson before he went away he might have had something I believe..maybe he played a little.

D.S.: And nobody had dances?

B.A.: Well no, wasn't..if you was going to church and read a Bible
and try to do good .. well no indeed, dancing.

D.S.: Okey. How about applebutter boiling.

B.A.: Oh yes mam. Usta make applebutter boiling...

D.S.: Alright when you did your applebutter boilings would all the
neighbors get together at one time

B.A.: Yes mam they used to come and help. That's right. We'd peel
apples and everything.

D.S.:And while you were stirring the applebutter...

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Uh, if a fellow and girl were on the same..were working it together
and the paddle touched the side of the kettle..did he get a kiss?

B.A.: I don't know...but that's what I always heard. I might not have
been outside to have seen that you see.

D.S.: How about when you were shucking corn. Did everybody help with that.

B.A.: Well, now...we would..when we raised that corn ourselves..we never
had.....*no help much,* we just shuck our own. I'd go with my husband, help him
shuck it. And then when I was home with my father..I'd go with him
to help work corn and time come to shuck corn, I'd go with him
to help shuck there.

D.S.: Okey, now when you were making the applebutter..it took all day
didn't it, or all night?

B.A.: It took all day and right smart of the night.

D.S.: Would people bring food so you could keep eating

B.A.: Yea..we'd have food. I'don't know if we would fix it or how.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, and nobody played any music while you were making the
applebutter boil?

B.A.: Well they didn't have things to play music with then.

D.S.: Well some people made banjos out of possum, ^{the} heads..possum skins.

Yea..where there is a will there is a way.

B.A.: Oh sure.

D.S.: So you never had any songs that you sang. You never sang Leather Britches or Money Mush ?

B.A.: Well, no indeed. I sang these hymns some when you go to church.

D.S.: Okey, well Leather Britches and Money Mush were played a lot in the Northern section. That was why I was asking.

B.A.: I never did hear nothing about that you know. You see there is so much that has gone on and everything that I don't know...

D.S.: Did your brothers do much hunting?

B.A.: Mam?

D.S.: Did your brothers do much hunting?

B.A.: Well, I just don't..see I kinda..I was the oldest child and you see I kinda left home and I don't..but I don't think that they done too much hunting.

D.S.: So in other words your family didn't eat squirrel and ..

B.A.: Oh, yea they eat squirrel.

D.S.: Possum?

B.A.: Now I don't know what about possum.

D.S.: Doon?

B.A.: Well I don't know what about coon.

D.S.: Rabbit?

B.A.: Oh yea.

D.S.: So there was some hunting done?

B.A.: Oh yea, some people..yea of course there was some hunting done.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Now my husband..he ~~did~~ ^{used to hunt} ~~some~~..as long as he could see good you know.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Squirrel and rabbit and he'd fish and

D.S.: Yea. Do you know...what was your maiden name.?

B.A.: Atkins, and married an Atkins.

D.S.: Okey, do you know where your family came from originally?

B.A.: Well, just right around here, I think.

D.S.: Well, they had to come from Europe somewhere.

B.A.: From Europe?

B.S.: Yea. to get here.

B.A.: Well.

D.S.: You don't know.

B.A.: Don't know that.

D.S.: Nobody knows, darn it. Oh gosh, ^{alright, now} ~~now~~ ~~did~~..about your fruit. I know
there were a lot of huckleberries, on the mountain.

B.A.: Oh,yes indeed. Yes, we used to pick them. Did you

D.S.: Did you ever sell any?

B.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: How much would you get for them.?

B.A.: Well, you wouldn't get much for them then. Sell strawberries.

Get out up there on that hill and just pick the strawberries and
sell them but you wouldn't get much for stuff then.!

D.S.: No. Uh, did you have an orchard of any kind?

B.A.: No mam, we didn't have no orchard but we would you know, gother
places. And of course when we lived up on the hill there you see
up there, we'd go up the hill up there and pick. But that was
the place that we had rented, you know because we hadn't

rented. But course that was after we was married you see.

D.S.: Right. Right. Okey. Um, do you know of any people that used to start fires on purpose to make..so that they would have more huckleberries?

B.A.: No mam.

D.S.: There were a lot of fires that were started, ~~I'm~~ ^{on purpose} sure.

B.A.: Yea. They would burn the mountains out so huckleberries would grow.

D.S.: Right. But you never knew of any people that did this.

B.A.: No. I don't know nothing about that.

D.S.: No. Okey. Now your main means of transportation was..if you had to get any place you had to walk, right?

B.A.: That's right for a right smart while. Course you, after a while you got sure.

D.S.: That's right. When you moved away from the mountain or when your friends like Lee Atkins and Kinsy Atkins..when they moved away from the mountain did they..how did they adjust?Was it hard for them

B.A.: I don't know you see.

D.S.: They never talked to you about it.

B.A.: No indeed, because if they had you see I just forgot.

D.S.:Did you miss it when you moved out of the mountains?

B.A.: Well, but you know I liked it ever since I come out of the mountains.

Then I've been friends with people out of the mountains just like I was in the mountains. Just the same....same when I left, ^{I was} as when I went. I like to be friends with people, I don't like

D.S.: No way..your right.

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Um..when the CCC's came here how did you get the job of doing the laundry.

B.A.: Well you see my husband worked at it and...

D.S.: Oh your husband ^{was with} worked ~~at~~ the CCC

B.A.: Sure. And I reckon that you see..that..

D.S.: That was a great help for you then wasn't it?

B.A.: I know it.

D.S.: That was some money coming in.

B.A.: I know it. I know it.

D.S.: Yea. What did you think of the men that were working in the CC's were they nice fellows?

B.A.: Well I nver did meet..I never did meet many of them fellows. Cause you see, somebody else would go get them clothes and bring them.

D.S.: Yea, and would your husband work and come home at night?

B.A.: No, he'd have to stay at night, sometimes.

D.S.: Yea, uhhum, And then come home weekends. Is that it?

B.A.: Sometimes he'd have to stay on weekends.

D.S.: That made it hard on you, didn't it?

B.A.: Yea, but...

D.S.: Cause you had to do everything then. Oh, my!

B.A.: Well, I mostly had..went with him all my life ever since I was quit raising children. Went with him right to that apple orchard over yonder and picked up apples and went into the woods and get wood and corn fields and course that was the way I went to the corn wfield with my daddy, too, and...

D.S.: How old were you when you got married?

B.A.: I was married in August and I'd have been 17 in October.

D.S.: You were a little one. But you knew what you wanted didn't you?

B.A.: I reckon I must have.

D.S.: Is there anything that you can think of that I have not asked?

B.A.: I don't think so. I don't know.

Then in the fall if I want to put me out a bean patch or anything I'd take..get my old plow and take my children and go *up there and* plow me up a little patch to plant me a little late patch of beans or something.

D.S.: Oh boy. And then you'd have to go out there and weed it all too didn't you?

B.A.: Yea.

D.S.: We didn't have the bugs then that we have now.

B.A.: Oh no mam. Huhuh..no.

D.S.: I wonder why.

B.A.: I don't know.

D.S.: But things were a lot more clean...

B.A.: But you really have them now don't you.

D.S.: That's right. There was a saw mill somewhere up there wasn't there?

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Um, did any of your family work for that *saw-mill*

B.A.: I don't think so, I just don't know. I don't know whether pop ever..course that belonged to old Mr. *Addie* Clark too, I reckon. I believe it did. Maybe, I won't be for sure. But anyway I know there was an old sawmill up there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea, so you mainly were so busy you didn't have time to do much visiting at all?

B.A.: Not too much but course I'd visit some.

D.S.: Sunday's. You didn't take Sunday's ~~off~~, to do visiting?

B.A.: Well'I'd mostly go to church on Sunday.

D.S.: Yea. How about your meals..just give me a typical breakfast.
when you were a little girl. What would you have.

B.A.: Well, we'd fry..mostly fry meat then and make gravy and bake
your own bread then..make up your bread and bake it. And course
we'd have butter, applebutter and preserves..but that would be
mostly we'd make a big dish of gravy.

D.S.: And then at dinnertime what would you have for dinner.

B.A.: Hum...we'd have different things for dinner..if I was going out
to help ^{work} ~~make~~ corn, I had an old iron dinnerpot that I'd put it
full of beans on you know and cook it and then I would peel my
potatoes and put over top of them and I'd want enough for supper
and I'd take my old iron skillet and lay over the top you see so
that's how I done it. And it would take a right smart stuff you
know and I would want them to cook good and I wouldtake my old
iron skillet..it would be up high in the lid you see and I'd just
put my old skillet ^{over} on them beans + potatoes

D.;S: And those beans are better than you can buy.

B.A.: Oh sure.

D.S.: You can't buy beans like that now.

B.A. No, indeed.

D.S.: No, well the eating was very good, the work was very hard, but the
people were very honest.

B.A.: That's right. Sure was, yes mam and that's really the main thing
ain't it?

D.S.: It sure is.

B.A.: You talk about Mutt, they really was good to me. I used to wash
for them.

D.S.: Oh really.

B.A.: Really, really, when his mother and father was a living.

D.S.: How did he get that name Mutt..

B.A.: Now it's just a nickname..

D.S.: I know it.

B.A.: I couldn't tell you.

D.S.: He's a nice man.

B.A.: Yea, Yea. And I used to visit them when they was....., but you
see when you get to where you can't do much visiting..you can't
do it.

D.S.: Yea, Yea. Right.

B.A.: Yes indeed, *Mutt*, he used to run the store...^{*he & his*}~~Jimmy's~~
brother.

D.S.: Uhhum, Yea. Well you have just been a darling. And you don't
know how much you have helped.

B.A.: I have.⁷

D.S.: You sure have. This has been a real fun time, and I thank you..
thank you very very much..

B.A.: You are certainly welcome.