12-13-1979

(SNP007) Victor Baker interviewed by Barbara Maynes, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Victor Baker

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/snp

Recommended Citation
Victor Baker interviewed by Barbara Maynes, April 13, 1979, SdArch SNP-7, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the JMU Special Collections at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.
Corrected 7/25-81 B. Maynes

Note: Some portions of the taped conversation are incomprehensible due to the people interrupting one another.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mrs. Baker to Eddie Baker
Mr and Mrs. Victor Baker
Mrs. Alberta Showalker

INTERVIEWER: Barbara Manges
Barbara Manges

PLACE: Mt. Crawford
Mt. Crawford
(BlackRock Hotel)

DATE: April 13, 1979
April 13, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

April 28, 1980
In typing this I used

B.M.: Barbara Mynes
V.B.: Victor Baker

for all female voices, because it was so difficult to tell who was who. I tried to begin each new voice on a new line when it was a lot of different conversation and female voices.

Sharon

AS Alberta Shuvailer
EB Ebbie Baker
MB Marie Bowman

Marie Bowman is the daughter of Sadie Mundy, who is on another taped interview by A. Mundy
B.M.: Make sure this is all set up right and I have to introduce what's going on here first. My name is Barbara Maines and today is the thirteenth day of September 1979 and we're in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Baker in Port Republic, Va.

EB N: No! Not Port Republic.

B.M.; Oh, Mt. Crawford, Va.

EB N: Mt. Crawford is our Post Office.


EB N: Seven miles from there.

B.M: Okey...we've asked also today Mrs. Alberta Showalter and Mrs. Marie Bowman and we're gonna be talking a lot about Blackrock Springs Hotel. Okey now it's you folks who can talk. You both were at Black Rock Hotel right? You went up to the Springs.

A.S.N: We went to the springs...yes.

B.M.: Uhhum. You went one time. You went during the day did you say? Did you stay...

A.S.N: We stayed two weeks. We took our food and everything and whatever we needed to fix the bed up with you know. The spring was there.

B.M.: Uhhum. So you had to take your sheets and your food and all that?


B.M.: How about...well, who owned...who owned the cottage...you stayed in the cottage...

A.S.N: I don't know who owned it. Then. No I don't.

B.M.: You don't, Hum? Right, did you have to pay rent on it.

A.S.N: Yea. I don't know what tho.

B.M.: You were little when you were...you say.
A.S.: Yea...I don't know...I was seven years old when—I.... maybe.

B.M.: Uhhum. What do you remember doing when you were up there.

A.S.: whatcha call it...to see them dance.

B.M.: You went to see them dance?

A.S.: Yea.

B.M.: Where was that. Was that....?

A.S.: In the Black Rock Hotel.

B.M.: In the big hotel building?

A.S.: Yea

B.M.: Where did they have the dances. Did they have a ball room? in there or a ...?

A.S.: I don't know. I guess they had a dance hall. I don't know.

B.M.: Uhhum. What kind of dances were they?

A.S.: I don't know..I don't remember that. I just remember dancing. My half sister took me.

B.M.: Uhhum. hum? How old was she?

A.S.: She was twenty two years older than I am.

B.M.: Oh. Oh so did she do some of the dances?

A.S.: No, she didn't dance. I don't think she ever danced.

B.M.: Uhhuh, she just took you along to watch.

A.S.: That's right.

B.M.: Uhh...do you remember what kind of music it was? Was it like square dancing or

A.S.: Uh, yes I suppose. I don't know..banjo's and stuff like that.

You know things—like they used to have.

B.M.: You, you know..this picture of a fiddle player that was up
there. Did you know him?

**E0** As N: This uncle of mine.

**B.M.** Oh, it was your uncle...

**E0** As N: His...his wife was uh sickly as a girl growing up and she went up there for her health and grandma always went and uh, she met him up there in the ballroom. Cause I heard them talk about the ballroom. And uh, he was a school teacher and

**B.M.** And he went there on vacation?

**E0** As N: Uhhuh. I imagine uh, earned money to go to college. He went to Randolph Macon, and I imagine he was earning money to go to college. Cause he wasn't sickly.

**B.M.** Was his name?

**E0** As N: Uhhuh. B. B. Mitchell. And uh...people...he taught at Port Republic and he is well remembered now down there. By the older people...people from here...Albert's brother drove from down here to Port...just to go school there

**B.M.** During the summer before he started teaching...this was that he used to play the fiddle.

**E0** N: Yes. At Blackrock. Uhhuh.

**B.M.** Ah. Were there any other people that played with him or was it just him?

**E0** N: Well...I just...I have understanding of it. I would say maybe three or four...something like that. Somebody had a guitar or maybe a banjo. And he had a fiddle. And I imagine there was square dancing mostly.

**B.M.** When you were up there do you remember there being like a bandstand?
Some people told us that in the middle of the big lawn, there in front of the hotel or along side of the hotel there was a round house and I guess it kind of looked like a big bandstand. It was all open and things. Was there a band that played there or was that just like a little..?

Alberta do you remember that round building out there?

Uhhuh..I don't remember.

Do you remember seeing it?

No I was never inside the building very much.

Oh you weren't inside it? Uhhuh. You just went up for the weekend right?

Uhhuh..just one day.

One day. What did you do up there. Did you go up by horse and buggy with a lot of people?

Uh..lot of people around there. Had a bowling alley. Mostly men was in the bowling alley. The bar room.

Oh, they served liquor and stuff like that there. Oh.

Alberta, do you remember the bar room... bowling alley.

Yes I do..a little. I think there is a few of them right up here would go up on Sunday and go to and roll ducks and roll ten pins.

Oh. And how old were you when you went up there on that Sunday.

Oh, I don't know I was fifteen..sixteen years old..I reckon. Oh you was older than that I betcha.

You..and did you go up with a big group of friends..and then go up to..kinda..fool around in the bowling alley and stuff?

No. Hmmmm.

Did you go up to the uh..big rock..to the top of the mountain there.
They call Blackrock. And it's that big pile of rocks there.

**N:** I've been there. Did you...

**M.:** Did you.

**N:** We didn't go up that day.

**M.:** Uhhuh. How did you get up there. Did you go by horse and buggy.

**N:** Horseback and...

**M.:** Oh

**N:** It was road went clear across the mountain there.

**M.:** Yea, right. Uhhuh. But you.. did you take the same road. And the road was...

**N:** Yea, back to that big rock.. I believe it was off to the left.

**M.:** Uhhum. Right. So you rode a horse up there or?

**N:** Yea.

**M.:** You could? Did people walk up there too do you know?

**N:** Oh yea. Yea people then was just about as crazy then as they are now. If they decide to do something like that you know, they just do it.

**M.:** Yea. Oh lot of people now.. uh.. well I've done it.. just go climb up to the top of the rocks there and you get a nice view.. all around.

**N:** Yea. I remember the old trough there at the spring where they kept some of the food in.

**M.:** Oh yea. Down by the big spring? Where was that? Where was the biggest spring located? In relation to the hotel building?

**B.:** It was to the left of them buildings I reckon.

**M.:** Uhhum. How was it laid out.. there was a.. the cabins and every-thing?
They were on a circle kinda... wasn't there two rows of cottages there.

V.B.: I think so.

B.M.: Yea. And where was the spring? Was that... I've heard that it was in between, the two rows... is that the way you remember it?

V.B.: I remember they had water running through a trough... just something like this we got over here only about three times that big.

B.M.: And you say they kept food in that.

V.B.: Some of it. I imagine men got their beer... cool in there too.

V:B. That's the way they preserved their food.

B.M.: Right. Because the water was so cold.

B.M.: Uhhuh. Was that the spring that people drank out of.

V.B.: Uhhuh.

B.M.: What color was the water? Remember... was it..?

V.B.: Uhhuh.

B.M.: What color was the water? Remember... was it..?

V.B.: The real spring was clear wasn't it. The center spring was different from the real spring wasn't it?

B.M.: Uhhum, I...

B.M.: How did it taste?

V.B.: Like sulfur I guess.

B.M.: You remember that trough don't you. Go down and get your food.

AS: ... I don't know if I do or not. Put milk and butter down there.

B.M.: Put the milk and butter down there. That's where... down under the hill. You thinking about this over here. No, I know it wasn't over here. He was talking about our trough... our trough was about this wide. The old spring house, I mean old ice house
over here. Water running through it you know. Ice water, kept
the milk and butter...

B.M.: So that trough with the water running through it, would that be
where you would have kept your food when you went up there? Did
everybody

AS N: I don't know anything about that. I don't know what they did
there. I don't remember. My sisters and mama did that.
I just went to play.

B.M.: Went to play?

AS N: Yea.

V.B.: Had a cellar there somewhere.

B.M.: Yea. A cellar. Who was in charge of that? Was there?

V.B.: I don't know.

B.M.: But they...

V.B.: You tell her about the pig.

EB N: Oh well that was back in the mountain. That's what I want to
know. There was a company of them wasn't there? That owned it?

V.B.: Yeah

B.M.: Yea, the company that owned the Blackrock Hotel was the Blackrock

EB N: They got it any of the names of who they were.

B.M.: Well, there was a family...Mr. Blackwell who was...I think President
of it...the company. Does that sound right?

EB N: Yea, there was Blackwell's. I know they was connected.

B.M.: Was there something you were saying about a pig?

V.B.: She was telling me about some pigs last night. That were
gone back when it burnt.

EB N: Oh they had the fire?

B.M.: Yea. about when was that fire?
That's what I wonder. What year was it?

B.M.: I've heard of a big fire that came through and ruined the big hotel down...burned everything down in 1909.

V.B.: Along about that time sometime.

B.M.: Yea. Sound right?

Well this might have happened after...seems so clear in my mind. Some woman up there in the mountain...uh...flash fire came along and they had a dug out cellar and uh, she got her hogs...you know everybody raised hogs for their meat...had her hogs in there and her children and when the cellar door caught fire she had a big stick and pushed that out of the way. She saved herself and her children.

B.M.: By staying down in there?

Uuhuh. Have you ever heard that?

B.M.: I've never heard that story...huhhuh.

Miss Garrison, the way I heard it...remember it.

Where was...was that up on the by the hotel?

Well that was up in that area. Up there somewheres.

Huh. I've never heard that. That's an interesting story. It could have been the same fire that came through the hotel.

Well, I doubt if I could have remembered it if it had been...course I may have remembered older people telling about it. But, uh...well was there anybody around there when it burned? When the hotel burned?

Hum...I really don't know. Do you know?

No.

V.B.: Nobody never took water...it was shut up there for a good while.
B.M.: Oh, yea?

N: That happened after he died.
B.M.: And this fellow Bob Miller. When did he start...he began buying a lot of property. Right? when he...and after that when was that.
V.B.: I don't know.
B.M.: That was before the fire?
V.B.: He lived over here at Grottoes, one time.
B.M.: Oh yea. Uhhuh. Did he, once he bought his property up there, did he move up there and stay up there.
V.B.: Don't think so.
B.M.: Oh he still lived down at Grottoes? Did..do you know who he bought that land from? Did you ever hear any stories about that.

N: No I didn't. I don't know a thing about that.

B.M.: We've never been able to find it. I don't...I think somebody's been looking into it but I've never heard...

N: Well they ought to be able to find the deeds there. And it's Albermarle County isn't it...or is it Augusta?
V.B.: Augusta.
B.M.: Yea. It would be Augusta.

N: Well. It is. Staunton. It would be easy to find up there.
B.M.: Uhhum. I just have never heard...maybe somebody has. I don't know. I haven't heard.

N: And you oughta be able to tell uh when they built the Spring.
After they build the hotel, because the taxes went up.

B.M.: Yea. The first stock...the Blackrock Springs Company...the first stock they issued was back in 1887. So I know the hotel must have been built by then. Probably or at least the company was starting out.

EB N: Uhhuh. 1887. Well that's interesting.


EB N: And then it didn't burn until 1909. When did your mother say they cut that wire.

MB She was about 10 years old and she was born in '82.

EB That would be '92.

MB Umm, she was older than that wasn't she.

EB Yea, I imagine. Because she was waiting on tables up there.

And I imagine it was still because Uncle Willie started teaching school down Port in '91.

Would be '92 or '82?

EB Wait a minute. Did you say '87. That's when they was selling the stock?

B.M.: Right.

EB N: Well you see, they run it a while before they done that. I bet they didn't cut the stock til 1900's. Because they didn't cut that...but your mother would...

B.M.: What was that story...they cut a wire. Who was that; Miller cut a wire. No he pulled the, uh...Victor you tell it.

B.M.: Yea, you were talking about that a little earlier. Can't you tell us about that.
V.B.: I don't know if he cut the wire...

EB: He didn't cut the wire...no.

V.B.: He dug a hole on the other side of the fence...blasted there til he got water.

B.M.: He wanted the main spring line. Cause he didn't have any water on his property, was that it?

V.B.: Yea he got it. I reckon not.

MB: Well Mama told Mandy that Aunt Dora helped to cut the fence that night.

EB: Yes and then he wired it off with barbed wire wasn't it Marie...

MB: Yea...and Aunt Dora was one of them that helped to cut the fence.

EB: to keep them from getting the water. And three girls...were there three or just two of them?

MB: Yea there were three girls. Aunt Dora was one of them.

EB: Went down and cut that wire so they could get the water. They kept it a secret too didn't they?

MB: Uhhuh.

B.M.: And that...let's see. Somebody cut the wire. Now who's side were they on?

MB: Oh, they were on our side. Bob Miller was suppose to have had a bed made, but he really wasn't that bad. It was the other guy

EB: Now there's where the disagreement is, isn't it. The character now I remember them saying that uh...they cut the wire for whoever owned the hotel...so they could get down there. That's the way...my impression.
Was that Blackwell?

Huh?

V.B.: I think if anything was cut, Miller was, well he didn't have no flat place down there no bigger than this lot around here and then he went right up in the mountain. I never did know why he owned that lot. I reckon he pastured it, I don't know.

E B N: Alberta, why did Bob Miller want that water?

A S: I don't know. He wanted ever thing else he could get.

Huh?

He wanted everything else he could get a hold of.

Well, Marie that's why... just impression of uh... hear people talk about Bob Miller. That is my impression!

Now your mother has a different impression, doesn't she?

M B: Uhhuh.

E B: And somebody else you have talked too. What is the other side? Have you ever heard anybody else on Bob Miller's side?

B M.: No. The people I've heard... they were all... well, many have been against Miller because they thought he took the water away and all that. They blame Bob Miller for the shut down of the company itself.

E B: Uhhuh. Did they have a law suit?

B M.: No, not that I've Heard.

V B.: Yea. I think they had a law suit about it.

E B N: You could find that in the courts too.

B M.? Yea. True we could. Uh, what kind of buildings did Miller
have up there on his land?

V.B. Don't think he had any.

B.M.: Okey .. you don't .. you were there do you remember him having any buildings up there?

A.S.N: No. I don't except .. he probably had those cabins. And they were two story .. buildings.

B.M.: The little cabins were?

A.S.N: Yes sir. My two sisters .. half sisters, my half sister-in-law, and my mother and father were all there and they had an up stairs and room enough for beds upstairs

And we had a bed downstairs and they had a kitchen, and I guess the kitchen was the size of this room here.

B.M.: Uhhum. Do you remember where the cottage was .. whether it was up the hill or down the hill...

A.S.N: No, it was down below the uh ...

B.M.: Hotel.

A.S.N: Down below the uh spring. Along there .. when it was .. the hotel uh, was down this way from the cottages. And it twas a road that went up that way

I don't think went by the houses so much but .. further

B.M.: Yea. So your cottages were sort of up the hill from the hotel the main hotel building there ..?

A.S.N: No, I don't think .. I think it was up high .. it was built up anyway. B out the same maybe.

B.M.: Oh, I see. But you don't remember there being other buildings farther up the hill?

A.S.N: No. No, I don't think any further up .. the last one of them.
It was some more. Where were your people? Where did your people stay, the hotel?

No, no. Grandma stayed at a cottage and I think Grandpa Scott... I mean some of them owned one up there. Well I remember when we went up there and brought uh, some chairs out and some things from the cottage up there. And brought them down home, but I had to be small.

B.M.: Were you ever up at the Blackrock.

Oh, long time ago. Wasn't anything but brush there then. One Sunday and had a flat tire and that's what I remember about it.

B.M.: Was that after the hotel burned down?

Oh yes. That was in the early twenties.

B.M.: Uhhuh. Oh I see. You were talking about the bed before?

The bed in your cottage. When they made up the beds.

No. There wasn't anything on the beds. You took your bed-clothes. And they didn't have room enough for me so could sleep with them and poppa took some boards and made me a bed. Fastened it you know someway to the bed and then to the weatherboarding on the outside.

B.M.: So you just had a bed there.

I had a bed in there. Just one bed in that room.

I thought that was interesting. See they had there bed and then put some boards along the rail... kinda like slates you know...

Maybe a soft tick on it... I don't know

I don't think we were there that long. We just had a comfort I reckon.

B.M.: What did you do go out and play in the... was there a field around
it or was there woods or

N: The way I remember it was pretty well mountain area. You know. Pretty hilly. It was down below. And I don't remember quite much... somebody went with me... my sister...
She would go.

B.M.: Were there woods around the hotel?

AS N: What I can remember there were. Pretty much then.

B.M.: There is a stream... it's called Payne's Run that goes kinda near there. It goes just down the hill. Did you ever go there? And play in the stream?

AS N: No we didn't. Oh we'd go and look where the springs were up around the hotel... I don't uh... it's been a long time.

B.M.: Do you remember why you went with your family right? Do you remember why your family went. Just for vacation?

AS N: Just to be going. I don't think anybody was sick. Well let me see... Kate wasn't so well I expect and Marla had Edna up there because she was cross, and I...

B.M.: Who was Kate? She your sister?


Sickly
She was sickly but he had eight boys and two girls.

She's still living and celebrated her 60th anniversary,

AS Her 80th you mean.

EB Huh. No her 60th anniversary.

EN Oh yes. I thought you had meant her age.

EB And uh, when Alberta's brother... uh Edna and her mother came home over the weekend and then when they brought her back on Monday morning. What did Herbert say.
He run into Cora and said "We got them again". She cried nearly all the time. Edna did. She was cross and he was the same age. 

B: Said we got them again. He wasn't too pleased. He was telling these older people we got them again.

B.M.: When you were there there wasn't any buildings up on Miller's place. Was there just a fence?

V.B.: I don't much think there was. There could have been, I don't know. They must have been behind those other buildings or something.

B.M.: But there was a fence when you were there? That separated the two.

V.B.: Yea. It ran right along the spring. Wasn't two foot from the spring.

B.M.: Oh I see. And that's what the company put up. And your aunt you say...?

MB N: My mother's sister..Dora..they were Good's

B.M. Your mother's sister. They were Good's. Uhhuh. And they were the ones that cut the fence?

MB N: Mama told me who they were.

B: One was a Miller. Who was the other Marie?

MB: Mama said, but I don't remember. It's somewhere but I don't remember.

B.M.: But they cut the fence and then what happened? Was that before or after Miller..you say he dynamited..he blasted the spring.

V.B.: It must have been after he dynamited the spring. They wouldn't have been cutting the fence or needing water

E & N: Well I can't say they cut the fence to get water. I uh..uh that was just my impression.
B.M.: But after that...

EB N: And he most have been on Miller's side because Marie's mother just told lately who cut the...cause nobody knew who cut the fence. They cut it in the night.

B.N.: Uhhuh. That was before...well later on Miller blasted the spring right? He did that because he wanted the water?

EB N: Yea see. I reckon he wanted the water.

Marie do you remember how they mistreated Miller?

MB Yea they were ugly to him. But he really wasn't as much at fault...or at least mama said he wasn't as much at fault as the other guy. Mama said...grandpap liked Bob Miller. She said he was a nice man. And they were doing Bob Miller dirty. And anyway, so I think the reason things dwindled away up there after he blasted the spring...the water disappeared. More or less. And there just wasn't anything there to keep it going.

AS Is there water there now?

MB Oh yea. The springs are there. You can see them. You've been up there haven't you?

B.M.: Huhhuh! Yea you can see the springs.

MB N: Out in the foundation are there Miss Alberta. You can see lots of things.

B.M.: There are little trees...maybe four or five inches around that are grown up right in the middle of where the hotel foundations are. You can see the hotel foundation there, and there are trees coming up through it.

AS N: Yes sir, yes sir.... I never was up there but once.

That was when I was little. Pretty little.
B.M.: When you were up there did you go up to BlackRock to where all those rocks are?

AS: Oh yes, no we just went to the springs. Is that what you mean to the springs? We just went to the springs.

B.M.: No. uh..you just went to the springs. You didn't go up to that...

AS: No, I don't think any of us did. Poppa was kinda crippled.. getting kinda crippled. And my half sister..they didn't go.

B.M.: Uhhum. There was a church that was up there. It was called the Wayside Church. That was kind of near there. Do you remember going there?

AS: I don't remember about that. Don't remember anything about that. I don't think so.

B.M.: Do you know where it is?

V.B.: Don't remember anything about a church.

AS: That's the way with me.

EB: Out towards Grottoes?

B.M.: No I think it was out on the other side. I think it was down toward Sugar Hollow.

EB: Oh, on the other side of the mountain.

B.M.: Yea. I think that's where it was.

V.B.: I was just sitting here..we usta could cross there and there was this fellow that owned land just across the top of the mountain he come over here and bought a farm up here..Payne's Run and I think some of his people still up there. He's an older man than I am.

EB: Where was that?
V.B.: Oh Virginia knows got some of his land down at the foot of the mountain.

B.M.: Along Payne's Run did you say? When you went up there did you go...how did you go?

V.B.: Buggy.

B.M.: Um, was there a road that you went on? Is that the...there is an old road that goes along side Payne's Run, goes up the mountain like that...is that how you went up there?

V.B.: Oh, I don't know that. They might have changed the road now, I don't know.

B.M.: Uhhuh. Hum. How long did it take you to get up there? Were you living right around here?

V.B.: No I was born here so darn poor might not even get away. Just here. Well, that's as I'd any other.

B.M.: Might be pretty nice. Don't know that I would want it that way.

How long did it take you to get up there? Do you remember about?

V.B.: Oh a couple hours. After I was big enough, I could drive cattle, why I went across there lots of times. Brown's Gap.

B.M.: You drove cattle across there you say.

V.B.: Huh?

B.M.: You drove cattle across there?

V.B.: Brown's Gap, ya'll......never did go up Harrison's road to go up there to BlackRock did you?

V.B.: We went out right back of Grottoes went across BlackRock.

As & B: That's right, that's where it was.

V.B.: Oh, they did, well!

V.B.: Many times.
B.M.: Oh, and that's how you went there. That road that goes up in Grottoes, back of Land that's where you drove the cattle across. Did you drive the cattle across the same road as you went to get up to BlackRock?

V.B.: Yea.

B.M.: Uhhuh. Did you ever stop on the way back from driving the cattle...

V.B.: A few times, we'd ride back in there. Everything is gone now.

B.M.: Oh I see. Was that after the fire?

V.B.: Uhhuh. The first couple times it might have been the hotel. I expect it was all gone.

B.M.: Uhhum. You said before that it was boarded up for a while. The hotel buildings were boarded up? It was shut up for a while, nobody was there anymore?

V.B.: No, I don't remember anything about anything being there.

B.M.: Oh. I see. Then it was just bare land up in there. Is that what...do you think that's what put the hotel out of business was the...just nothing was rebuilt after the fire?

V.B.: No I think before that, when Miller ruined the water they shut up directly.

B.M.: Oh, they did.


B.M.: And that was before the fire right. So what happened? Did the buildings just start to fall down and things?

V.B.: Yea, I reckon.

B.M.: Do you remember anything about that?

**A.S. M.:** Oh yes. I guess I heard about it but it was gone, you know. I never was back in there.
B.M.: So after he dy...or ruined the water the place just kind of shut up.
V.B.: That's right. Just went to the dogs.
B.M.: Ah. What about Miller's place? He did have a something or other up there didn't he? A Bowling Alley. That's what I heard.
V.B.: I don't know.

AS N: I think they did.
Somebody did.
Maybe the bowling alley there at the hotel. Maybe that's where they was mistreating it.

AS Oh no.

B.M.: That's the way that I've heard it. There were two bowling alley's, there. The one that belonged to the company. Do you remember that one?

AS N: Yes I reckon. I think so. Down at the hotel closer wasn't it? His was closer...I don't know whether we was up there after they cut the fence or not. I uh..we never got over on his side.
Never went anywhere but there. I did taste the water one time.

B.M.: Did you see any of the people that were staying up on Miller's place?

AS N: No. I don't remember that I did. But I could have. I don't know.

M&D As old as I am, I remember going up there and watching them roll ten pin. I'm sixty three.

B.M.: You remember see...

M&N: I remember the Bowling Ally. One of them
B.M.: Which one? Do you...

MÔ: It was down below. Somewhere.

B.M.: Uhhuh. Then you went there. Did you go in the Bowling Alley the time that you went there?

V.B.: We were always in there. I remember doing no bowling. You know what I was just thinking. George Kemper... you know who just died.

MÔ: Yea.

Dr. Kemper, I think I went up there and stayed maybe all summer. I bet some of them could tell you more about that place than anybody else.

MÔ: Well all the Kemper girls are dead, though, just about aren't they?

V.B.: There is still one woman down there.

E.B. There's two. Margaret uh...

V.B.: They as old as I am ain't they... pretty near it.

MÔ: Miss Ebbie don't you remember when the place burned Mama said Teresa was little and she... you all lived right side by side you know.


MÔ: And mama said she remembered seeing the fire. And you was right there too.

E.B.: Yea, well Teresa was little and...

MÔ: Yea... well do you remember seeing the fire?

E.B.: No. No I don't remember seeing the fire.

MÔ: Well mama said she saw the fire and she was telling about somebody went up there and she was telling about the blankets... the buildings were so closed up that the blankets were floating
around in the buildings. Does that sound natural to you?

EB: No, no I don't remember that.

MBO: That's what she said.

EB: Well uh...did everything burn...did Miller's Bowling Alley burn when the other burned?

MBO: Well I don't think everything burned at one time. They got it out before some of his stuff burned.

B.M.: But the hotel had been shut up and everything so is that why it was so closed in that you said...

EB: It was getting so hot outside and that was the reason.

B.M.: Oh I see, uhhuh.

MBO: Evidently some of the beds were made or at least now that's what mama said. And Theresa is what...sixty five? So sixty five from seventy nine how many years ago has that been since...

EB: Fourteen, I was fourteen then. Nineteen fourteen. Nineteen thirteen. Theresa was born in 1914.

EB: Uhhuh.

Yea. And they left there in what...1916?

MBO: I don't know. Yea.

Uhhuh

B.M.: You know after the fire some people seem to say that there was another...some other buildings built after the fire, came through and destroyed everything. They say..I've heard anyway that there built were other buildings, a couple cabins maybe...and some people even said there was another hotel building built there that wasn't Miller's. The company just built another hotel there.
EB N: Why yea, this is not the same place, is it? One the back and one's the front or what?

B.M.: I thought that was all the same in those pictures. Do you remember hearing anything about that?

V.B.: I don't remember, but it might have. It's been so long ago so many things happen that I don't remember.

EB N: Well now look at this.

Yea, I see.

Could that be the same hotel?

Yes I think so, don't you? Let's see here. Yes that's the same.

EB N: We might go up there now and find the old spring. They dug it open and fixed it up and it still

N: (some conversation during the above and then)

Yea but there were two hotels. There was down below and one up above.

Oh there was

Well that's what mama said, that's all I know

(from 1033-1043 there is a lot of mixed conversations which I could not catch all of.)

EB N: You mean there were two hotels. Alberta do you remember the two hotels?

No, I don't remember but she would have cause she was old enough.

I just heard her telling the lady that...but they didn't call them hotel. What did they call them?

What did they call them?

B.M.: Miller's place you mean? What did Miller call them. I don't..

No what did they...did they call them hostels.

Something like that.
HOSTEL

Uhuh.

Hostel instead of hotel. Isn't it...you uh...read in books about
going along and about a hostel.

B.M.: Yea...I

EB: Have you always heard this called a hotel.

B.M.: Yea, I have uhhuh.

EB: And Sally remembers uh...Alberta you ought to go down and talk
to Sally. You all can refresh each other's memory.

AS: I don't know much about it. I just remember Sally was there.

MB: Well was she...who was with her...up there...her parents?

EB: Marie who was with your mother?

MB: Was she waiting on the tables then Miss Alberta? Was mama
waiting on the tables then?

AS: I don't know. She could have been and I wouldn't have known.

They...uh...lived...I thought stayed right below us.

MB: See mama went up there for a good many years. And then when she

got older she waited on the tables, in the dining room.

AS: Who did? Your mother?

MB: Yea

AS: Oh Your mother, yea.

EB: Did you and Sally play together?

AS: Huh?

EB: Did you and Sally play?

AS: Oh, I don't know that we played, she talked to me you know.

MB: She said that's where she met mama.

AS: Yea, that's right. that was uh...I remember seeing her cry...
when her...some parents comehome from over night or something...
or left her up there or maybe they had been to see her and
she...you know...missed them.

EB She was homesick.

AS I reckon.

EB Uhhuh.

B.M.: So you got to know...Did you know other people too? Who were staying there at the same time?

AS-N: Nobody but there family I don't think. I don't see. I don't remember that there was anybody much there. My half brother and his wife come. **Margaret** come to see us. And that was before they had any children. That was before they was married.

M\B (Craun's she's talking about.)

B.M.: Oh I see...C R A U N...Craun's all lived around here then.

EB \N: Well it was a big affair. They had two hotels. I wonder if the people came in from Grottoes. Or came in the other way across the mountain. Do you know?

V.B.: Two ways.

EB \N: Two ways? Oh well.

V.B.: I imagine. You know I took her to the mountain one time for chestnuts...spent the day bunch of us...come back and and I brought a whole sack of chestnuts put around the center of the house, and didn't give her the chestnuts.

AS-N: Well I thought poppa give you money to get chestnuts,

V.B.: Huh?

AS-N: I thought he was going to give you money to get chestnuts and you didn't do it. You said...

EB Kept the chestnuts, the money and all huh?

AS I don't know whether he give him money or not. But he said he was
gonna. And I'm sure he give you a sack, to get chestnuts in
and you... I never heard any more about it.

(VB): We was so bashful you know when she got out I was ashamed to ask... I wouldn't ask her if she wanted some chestnuts.

B.M.: Ah.

AS N: Well I guess I was. I wouldn't have told you that then. I wouldn't have said nothing about it then. Years later you'd have told him off, wouldn't you?!

(VB): Do you remember and his girl.

AS N: Yea.

(VB): Oh he worked in the store down here at the mill and oh he was particular. His old buggy... some of them had some

Jim Miller some of them, and they spilt it in

his buggy and I thought he was going to have a fit.

AS N: Uhhuh. He had a new one didn't he. A new buggy.

No

(VB): Oh just shiny. He kept it... all the time.

Yea before he died. Him and Her both got to where they'd get on floor crawl up to table to get their liquor.

EB N: Yea they were alcholics.

(VB): Yea, that's what they told on them.

EB N: Yea, I know. I didn't know about that but I know that both of them were alcholics.

(VB): But he was the particulariest thing all the time. Always was about his old buggy, and horses. He had nice horses. Everything just had to shine.

EB N: Do you remember that Marie?

MB N: HUhhuh.
He lived down at Goose's Mill. Mrs. Underwood.

I just barely remember him. I can remember seeing how tall he was.

Uhhuh.

He was tall wasn't he?

Yea.

Did they go to BlackRock?

No we went across Brown's Gap.

I know but did the Underwoods go to BlackRock?

Not that I know of. Keyser, had a farm over across there. Over there's where we went.

Did the Keyser's go to BlackRock?

Not that I know of. They might have.

Quite a few people from this area use to go up there right? from right around here?

I don't remember anybody but Alice Baker and Maggie Hartman, and some of her people.

That's just in this neighborhood.

Do you remember when you went there were there people from far away? Who were there, like from the cities or something?

Oh yea. City people used to go up there.

Oh yea. From where abouts. Do you know? Just city folks?

I imagine as many or more come from the other side of the mountain as come from this side.

Do you think so too Alberta?

Huh?

Do you think the people came in from the other side of the mountain?
They must have. I never did know about it. I just thought about it from this side but Uhuh, that's the way with me.

Oh, I imagine they came from Baltimore and Washington.

B.M.: Some people...from what I've heard anyway...seems like it was pretty famous...a lot of people knew about it...a lot of people came from all over.

It's real interesting. I didn't think BlackRock was that big.

Well there was three hotels up there at one time tho.

B.M.: That was pretty popular too right?

Yes. That's where Jane's parents always went.

What? Yes!

The Bowmans went up there. Uhuh...Mrs. Bowman telling about it.

B.M.: What kind of water was there? Was that healing water too?

Yes.

It was three. Iron, Sulfur,

Magnesium?

Was it Magnesium? It was three kinds.

B.M.: The springs up there at BlackRock...were they walled in or were they just bubbling out of the ground? Do you remember?

V.B.: They was walled up.

B.M.: How many springs were walled up like that. Was there just the main one?

V.B.: I don't know.

B.M.: Did you drink any water, while you were there?
V.B.: Yea, I have to drink water. You know just setting here looking now, all them places made big hotel down at uh Hopkins Spring. Down at the foot of the mountain where they put that works up there. A lot of people used to go down there.

A5 N: I heard Bess talking about going down there.

V.B.: Who?

A5 N: Bess Baker ... down to Hopkins Spring

I was never there. I don't reckon. They must have taken us pretty near everywhere.

B: Haven't been back in there yet?

M: You haven't heard that tape of mama's

E: Says live springs at BlackRock.

M: Yea.

E: Live springs...well sir.

V.B.: I knew there was a couple. I didn't know

M: When Mandy and us were there we found them

B.M.: Yea. When I've been up there, I've found more than just two. I've found the sulfur spring, there. Was that there then, do you remember.

A5 N: I don't remember.

B.M.: I remember finding that one and there was others. Five I believe we found too. Did the water taste...it just tasted like regular water, you say?

V.B.: I think so, well as I can remember.

B.M.: Uhhuh. And you remember that too.

A5 N: Huh

B.M.: The water tasted just normal besides the sulfur water?
Uhhuh, yes.

It didn't taste like this limestone out here.

V.B.: It tastes like... mountain water I reckon. Mountain water all tastes... got a little different taste.

N: It's free stone...

Mr. Victor, mama said all the stables were down at the back of the kitchens. The kitchens all of them were built on stilts... I mean the kitchens were built on stilts. And that's where their stables were down under the kitchens.

Oh my.

V.B.: I remember seeing them but I was thinking the same way... back down...

Then she said there was another stable... where they kept the riding horses back farther, but these must have been private horses where the buggys and things came up in there.

B.M.: Were... the stables you remember were down the hill?

Alright that belonged to Miller. Miller after the fire... am I right... Miller put a stable up there.

V.B.: Maybe so. I don't know.

B.M.: But the stable you remember seeing was down the hill?

Uhhuh. Yea.

B.M.: Were there any other animals up there that the company might have owned? Pigs or anything? You were talking about pigs.

V.B.: No, not that I...

Those two hogs just belonged to...,

B.M.: Do you remember seeing any stock up there? Like hogs or chickens like that?
Cows? No, I don't. Where we were, I reckon.

V.B.: Cross the mountain there is a lot of pasture land, over on that side. Usta be an apple orchard over there that belonged to some of these over here.

B.M.: Oh yea. But that was on the other side. On the east side.

V.B.: Uhhum. Well it was sort of on top of the mountain. Place up on that mountain there is must be thirty or fourty acres just flat as this floor almost. There's where the apple orchard was.

B.M.: Oh, was that where was that right up by BlackRock.

V.B.: Oh no. On top of the mountain. On the right hand side of the road I think.

B.M.: Oh..hum.

M.B. N: I've heard mama tell about the men would go out and pick huckleberries, and blackberries and bring them in and the women would can them...the berries there in the kitchen.

B.M.: In the hotel kitchen?

M.B. N: Uhhuh.

B.M.: Did you collect any..any berries when you were there?

M.B. N: No, I didn't.

Then this round building that you were telling about..she talked about that. Uhhum. She said that is where the people got up on and danced.

B.M.: Ah, hum. Did you do any dancing while you were up there?

Or you just sat there...

V.B.: I was too, too small to dance I reckon. Didn't know how.
I was down here to John Hopkins to a couple dances.

Oh did you say Sally said they danced in this round building?

They danced in the...yea..the round house. It was called the round house. She said they had benches all the way around in the building. And uh, that's where they sat and watched them dance.

Uhhuh, well they could have called that the ballroom.

Well, uh, mama called it the round house.

B.M. Uhhuh. Well you remember them dancing up in the hotel itself, though..right?

Well, I've been there, but I don't remember much about it. It was down from where we were..downhill I thought. The hotel was higher but uh I don't know..I can't tell you much.

B.M.: Um..do you know if anybody..were you allowed to eat at the hotel? Your mom waited tables so you didn't have to bring your own food did you?

We took ours. We didn't go to the hotel..cause that was gonna cost too much you know. We had stuff from home. I know the girls cooked and baked pies at home. At the house there..my half sister.

B.M.: But if you wanted to and you had the money you could eat at the hotel?

Oh I guess lots of people did. You know. at the hotel..well we didn't have to..didn't cost as much to go that way..rent the cabin for I don't know how long..two weeks. We were there two weeks.
B.M.: Did people stay in the hotel building too?

AS: Yea, I guess so.

B.M.: Uhhuh.

AS: Yes. They wouldn't have been camping...they just had small houses, you know.

B.M.: How was it? Was it well kept? Was it real tidy in there?

AS: It must have been. Yes. As far as I know. I don't suppose they went up there in cold weather. Much. Course they coulda at the hotel all right. But we didn't go... only in summer. People around home didn't go but one time.

B.M.: Hum. Well. Do you remember any other stories that were told about it.

EB: I remember them saying at home that uh...

Aunt Sally...she's the one that married the fiddle player...up there and uh Mollie...and they stayed at home and did the work and every week...on weekends they would have to take the buggy and go up there and take them food. Take the food from home.

B.M.: Oh...to the man...

EB: Uhhuh to the...Grandma and Aunt Sallie or whoever stayed up there in the cottage.

B.M.: And they...the man that played the fiddle...they took food to him?

EB: No, they just met up there.

B.M.: Oh, I see.

EB: No, huhhuh... He was from Stanardsville. I uh...course he had to stay up there I imagine. It was too far to drive from Stanardsville up there and he stayed there at the hotel. But,
uh, talking about waiting on tables why if people just had two hotels and people came from the cities why they stayed there and they had to be waited on. They had money...they had to be waited on.

B.M.: Yea, I imagine the people who had more money would be the ones who would stay in the hotel.

W: Uhhuh, uhhuh.

B.M.: Yea. Did you know anyone who owned a cabin up there?

V.B.: Uh, I don't...

B.M.: Did own one? Did they go?

W: I don't know.

V.B.: I don't remember...them having a cabin up there.

W: Huh?

was one of the names.

V.B.: Yea it seems to me like I heard ya'll talking about.

I don't think so.

V.B.: I don't think so. She mighta...

W: Well I......alright.

V.B.: But Mary Hartman used to go.

W: That was her neice.

I was looking at that thing a while ago. I picked it up to put it away. From the story...had the names of people that bought things there.

What up there.

V.B.: Yea. Well no, no. Down here at the store. At the store at Sunnyside.
And it was all the names and retaining's and Munday's and Hartman's Meredith Munday was he your granddaddy...great grandaddy?

She's talking to you.

I know. Was he?

V.B.: Who

Meredith Munday.

Meredith Munday was Mr. Arch Munday's daddy

Daddy. Arch is daddy

Sure.

Yea.

And they owned that place out there where

What about that uh...

V.B.: Arch Munday

And there was one that lived back at the foot of the mountain.

That's all I know about that place.

And Meredith was their father?

V.B.: I don't know.

Alberta thinks so.

Well that's interesting.

Well I know there name is in that book where they bought food there, at the store.

Uhhuh.

His names' in that book.

We're on local history now.

Well I just picked up the book while I was a waiting for you all.
V.B.: Did you get this on that thing?

B.M.: You will have to sort it all out and mark through it won't you.

B.M.: Well you all, before I shut it off is there anything else. Any other stories, you can think of.

V.B.: I don't know of any thing else.
B.M.: Well we've learned some stuff. I never knew that there were fiddle..for sure that there were fiddle..that there was a fiddle player there. That's very interesting. And what we'll do if ya'll don't mind we can just pass on the information that you've given us and tell it to visitors. If that's okey.

V.B.: What did you say his name was?
B.M.: Yea what was his name again?

B.M.: B.B. Mitchell

Benjamine Burress Mitchell

B.M.?: What was the name again.

Benjamine Burress Mitchell -- Burress
B.M.: And he was from...

Standardsville and he has a uh son, B.B. Jr. over at Culpeper

V.B.: Now just wait a minute. And his youngest son..the one sitting here on his lap in this picture was Treasurer of Culpeper County for forty years.

B.M.: And this B.B. Mitchell you say he is still living.

B.B. Jr. is still living. No Uncle Benny's been dead for some time.
B.M.: Oh, okey.

N: No he died in 1926 I believe. I don't know. About '32 I expect. And here's his..Mitchell's picture.

B.M.: Uhhum. Ah!

N: And I brought the other one to show you his wife. Look at the buttons on that dress how she has the buttons put on that dress.

AS: One right after the other.

N: Yea, they go across here.

Go across here.

N: Mama had one..a dress like that. I don't know what I did with that.

V.B.: That she's telling about

You'd think he was some kind of durn tramp.

To see him you'd think he was a tramp.

AS: He's what.

V.B.: he decides he's going across the road somewhere, he's liable to take his shoes off

N: Ah...

V.B.: Down on the river..along the river you see him fishing...

N: Ah, Victor he ain't that bad...

V.B.: Huh.

AS: Well that's all right.

N: He is uh..I mean..brainy..uh he works uh all kinds of puzzles to keep his brain going...and uh, he could tell you maybe BlackRock because he remembers what he heard when he was a child. Where you from?
B.M.: I'm from New Jersey. Far away.

You are from New Jersey.


V.B.: From Where?


V.B.: Don't you show her my money?

ED N: Now you just...step out a little bit here.

Show her what.

ends at 10:15