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(SNP008) Joseph J. Baldwin interviewed by Smith, Dorothy Noble, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Joseph J. Baldwin

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Joseph J. Baldwin
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Noble Smith
PLACE: Mountain View Area-Five
miles north of Rileyville
DATE:

COMPLETED DATE:

March 17, 1981

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

This Dorothy Smith interviewing Mr.
D.S.: *Joseph* Baldwin, now where did you live Mr. Baldwin? When you
were a little boy.

J.B.: Well uh, I lived in the Mountain View area they called it. Mountain View area...near Rileyville...about five miles north of Rileyville.

D.S.: Okey, we are going to go back in time Mr. Baldwin to your boyhood days. How many...approximately how many acres did your family have?

J.B.: Well uh...now I tell you if you got no objections...I would like for this to be on there. I mean it won't take me but just a minute. But my personal experience *since I was* ~~I had~~ as a boy. It was the 14th of July in '74...I got born again...I asked the Lord to save me and save.. and praise the Lord for it. Now what was your question?

D.S.: I wanted to know roughly where you were born...what it looked like, how many acres you had and what the house looked like.

J.B.: Well, it was 63 acres *we had against the Blue Ridge* and uh, it was a two story house with five rooms. Awful open...I mean it wasn't sealed upstairs. Snow blowed in...I mean you could look out and see the snow on the ground. Cold then.

D.S.: Did you have fireplaces or..

J.B.: Wood stove...just had a wood stove.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How far was your nearest neighbor?

J.B.: Ah, about a mile and a half. About a mile and a half.

D.S.: Uh, the mountain *rose up* ~~was~~ just right beyond your property?

J.B.: That's right.

D.S.: Right. So you were *all* like one big community.

J.B.: That's right.

D.S.: Were there many that were ~~like~~ kin folk, that lived around you or,

any relations, or any relatives?

J.B.: Uh, well I had a brother and he moved away in I believe it was '35.. somewhere's along there. Let's see, no it was after that because the park took it over I believe in '36 wasn't it?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.B.: So it must have been in '36. He was uh, living on the park. But he was...wasn't any kin folks right around close.

D.S.: So there was kin folks around, like your mother's family were they close to you.

J.B.: Well I've been married 25 ...

D.S.: No, your mother. Your mother's maiden name was what?

J.B.: Pullen.

D.S.: Pullen. So was she from around there too?

J.B.: She was back on the Blue Ridge. She was back around...I think she was born and raised in there around the old ~~Neathers~~ ^{NAIL} place. Some-
around the Hoffman place.
where around in there, Someplace in there, I think.

D.S.: What is the Hoffman place?

J.B.: Well the Nail field, have you ever hear tell of the Nail Field place back where the CCC camp used to be?

D.S.: Yea.

J.B.: Well now there is where she was born and ~~w...~~ raised..back in there. Around close to that.

D.S.: Why was it called the Nail field.

J.B.: Well, really I don't know.

D.S.: Was there iron there or something of that kind?

J.B.: Well really I never...if I heard I don't remember it. Why they give it that name.

D.S.: Okey. Alright on your farm that you had. What did you do? What did you raise?

J.B.: Well we raised corn and potato es..sowed some oats you know and reaped them with the reaper. I've got a ^{SCAR}~~scar~~ there now where I went to the bone when I was reaping. It was a thing that was crooked. and from tip to tip it was I think it was about a foot and a half. It was real crooked you know. And uh, you'd just pull that around the grain you know and you know just cut it off, by hand. Yea. I've done that day after day.

D.S.: Okey so you would reap ^{it}~~with~~ ^{way} that. And then what would you do with it?

J.B.: Well you'd take some straw and tie it up you know and then you'd stand it up in a shop. And then later on when it cured out you see, you stack it.

D.S.: And you'd use that for...

J.B.: Feed for your cows, horses.

D.S.: Did you thrash it out at all?

J.B.: No, no we didn't thrash it out. It was right in straw....^{the rats, you}~~see.~~ ^{know}

D.S.: How many cattle did you have?

J.B.: We generally kept about 8 I think, it was.

D.S.: Then you had a big family?

J.B.: Yea, it was a right big family. Yea, there were 13 of us.

D.S.: Thirteen. Were you oldest or youngest or...middle or what?

J.B.: Yea. About the middle.

D.S.: About the middle. Okey. I imagine you had certain jobs you had to do didn't you?

J.B.: Well ^{really we didn't}~~we~~...the girls mostly milked you know...us boys we got the

wood, and done the rest of the chores, you know. But uh, we didn't have no power saw or nothing like that you know. We had cross cut saw and an ax..that's all we had.

D.S.: Right. Did you have a horse to help you plow?

J.B.: Yea we kept a horse.

D.S.: And you were ^{mentioning} the kind of a plow you had.

J.B.: Yea, it was a *single shovel* they called it. And it just had a 6 inch blade on it. But uh...

D.S.: Yea. Did it work good?

J.B.: It worked good yea, it really worked up the ground but you know there were so many rocks that you couldn't get through ^{the ground} with it in a lot of places.

D.S.: Yea. Did you make stone fences out of the rock?

J.B.: Well, there were plenty of stone fences made around, but we generally just piled them you know, and we used rails you know to fence the ground off...you know on the farm.

D.S.: Did the people in the mountains do it the same way??

J.B.: Yea, the same way. The same way.

D.S.: Did they all have cows and horses.

J.B.: Yes, they generally kept a couple cows.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they have large families like you?

J.B.: Well generally they did. They all had big families.

D.S.: Uh could you tell me roughly just above where you live ^d how many families were in there. We don't know how many families there were in the Northern section....I'll tell you that..frankly.

J.B.: Well, you take families scattered from here clear on into Rappahannock clean on across that Blue Ridge mountain. There used to be..course

there's a lot of them you know, that died out and moved out but Uh,
I can remember when there was people that lived clear on across it
you know. Clean over in Rappahannock next. ^{from here} ~~near~~ to Little Washington.

There was people living all across that mountain.

D.S.: Alright you've got the *horrible* rock and *Big Devil + Little Devil*
stairs
people couldn't live there.

J.B.: Well, uh, they farmed all over. Really, I've taken and carried dirt
you know to put on the corn..it wasn't enough dirt to cover it up
you see..you'd go over here maybe four or five steps you know *and* ~~it~~ *may be*
further ~~be covered~~ and get dirt enough to cover the corn up. But it would
take root..get roots on down in there. You had to make do with what
you had, you know.

D.S.: So you would say roughly how many families lived right straight across
into Rappahannock .. right about here?

J.B.: Well there was Bailey's there..I just don't know how many Bailey's.

D.S.: Was that Bob Bailey?

J.B.: His name..the old man was Bob Bailey..there was Jess Bailey, and Sam
Bailey, and alot of them Bailey's..Jim, Floyd Bailey..a lot of families.

D.S.: Did a Doctor *Kelly* . Did he live there? Or did he just own the
place and not live there?

J.B.: Well I can't remember when he lived there, but I can remember when he
owned land there. *That was back near the mill*
field.

D.S.: Were there many that owned land and didn't live there?

J.B.: Not to many. No. Not too many.

D.S.: Um, there were a lot of orchards up there and there were a lot of
saw mills
~~stones~~ up there weren't there?

J.B.: That's right.

Well now, you take Miller..John Miller, he didnt live back there, but of course he owned land back there, you know. There was a few that owned land and didn't live back there. Now you take *The* Hite they owned land next to where we lived....

D.S.: What did the Hite's do with it?

J.B.: Well they pastured it.

D.S.: Oh, well there was blue grass there.

J.B.: Yea, there was blue grass. Yea, I can remember when all that was Blue Grass back in there...*around the mountain*...all around back in there. I can remember when they pastured steers back in there. You can hear them old bells... you know go back up on top of the mountain there you know and hear thembells.. all over that mountain. Yea, them old cow bells.

D.S.: Do you *know* ~~remember~~ if towards Front Royal there were many families?

J.B.: Well, you take all across that Blue Ridge..I *guess this* ~~never did see~~ no difference...I mean there was people scattered around...all against.. and all in the Blue Ridge..they all lived the same way.

D.S.: So, for a store..what store did you use?

J.B.: Oh, we usually come out here to Rileyville or come to Compton.

D.S.: Would you walk or use your horse?

J.B.: We'd walk.

D.S.: Was there a mill anywhere near here?

J.B.: Well there use to be one out Rileyville, and then at Compton too.

D.S.: There was?

J.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Okey. Uh, with your..like you would take the corn to be ground...

J.B.: Yea..

D.S.: And did you raise *wheat* ~~sheep~~?

J.B.: No, we raised some buckwheat. But generally we depended on corn mostly.

D.S.: Did you carry that on your back?

J.B.: No we took that on the horse. No, we'd ^{put it} up in the saddle you know. And uh, take that to the mill. We'd generally about once ever six weeks something like that..maybe not be that long I don't know..we take about two bushels you know and have it ground. But you'd..you'd pay the *toll* whatever he charged..he'd take a little of it you know for the grinding, of it you know. Course there wasn't much money..cause they didn't have it.

D.S.: That's right. Like at the store you'd probably..take your eggs and..

J.B.: That's right.

D.S.: Chickens?

J.B.: That's right.

D.S.: Did you take hams there too?

J.B.: Hams yea. We never ate a ham..I didn't eat no ham til I *ground* ~~raised~~ it myself.

D.S.: Uh, did you do hunting and take the skins to the store?

J.B.: That's right. Yea. We'd coon hunt.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.B.: Set traps mostly...catch some skunks. I can remember when they was a pretty good price you know. I mean according to you know..everything else. I can remember when a skunk *brought* ~~got~~ seven dollars. Course you was lucky to get 50¢ or a dollar a day you know. So then if you'd catch a skunk you see you had seven days work out of that.

D.S.: Yea, That's right. But didn't they smell awful?

J.B.: Well, you didn't pay any attention to that. I didn't pay a bit of

attention because you see you had something that was valuable.

D.S.: Sure, that's right. Um, did you ever eat ^{like} the possum and ~~the~~ coon and ~~the~~ rabbit.

J.B.: Oh sure. Yes sir. Yes sir.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you do much fishing?

J.B.: Well ~~back in~~ ~~the~~ streams back in there..but never in the river, never come to the Shenandoah..we'd always fish in little streams
Jeremy's Run
Piney Run, ¹ you know back in there. Trout fishing.

D.S.: Sure. Right.

J.B.: Now that's a good fish. Tell you that.

D.S.: Yea. Um you never did any..how do I word this..um like if you got a groundhog uh did you ever use the hide yourself for anything.

J.B.: Oh yes. Yea, we made shoestrings out of them. We'd tan it you know, and make shoe strings. We'd use that for shoe strings all the time.

D.S.: Did you make banjos out of them?

J.B.: Well some folks did back then..course I think mostly what they used was sheep hide for that. But they used ^{for} ~~the~~ different things.

D.S.: Sheep. There were sheep up here?

J.B.: Huh? Yea, there were sheep, yea. John Miller, he had sheep.

D.S.: Then would he sell the lambs and the wool? Did you ever eat the mutten.

J.B.: Some, yea. ^{Sally Sowers} ~~John~~ now he kept sheep too. Yea, we'd get lamb sometimes ^{from him} ~~in the summer~~ and butcher.

D.S.: Did you ever do any peeling of bark?

J.B.: Well I..course I was pretty young at that time, but I've carried it out.

D.S.: So there was bark peeling?

J.B.: Oh yes. Yes sir. All over..I always said..like killing the steer for his hide you know..they'd cut the tree and just kill it just leave it to rot.

D.S.: Really.

J.B.: ^{They} I always said it was like killing the steer for his hide. That's just about what it amounted to. You could get a dollar or two for it you know, but the woods you know, they wasn't interested in that.

D.S.: ~~Now~~ *Not even for the wood stove?*

J.B.: Well, people had plenty of wood see.

D.S.: Did people work for the sawmills, that were up there?

J.B.: Oh yea. Yea.

D.S.: Have you any idea how much they got?

J.B.: Well they was lucky to get a dollar a day. Very lucky.

D.S.: Would they walk up to it everyday or would they stay all week and then come home on the weekends?

J.B.: *They had camps - shanties you know.*

D.S.: How about the orchards, there were good orchards up there, that I know.

J.B.: Yea. There were good orchards. People picked the apples you know ...got a little money that a way...you see...but that's only once a year.

D.S.: Nobody took care of the orchards...nobody got paid for taking care of the orchards.

J.B.: Well they did hire a little something done you know but there wasn't too much done because they didn't spray like they do now. And uh, just a little pruning.

D.S.: These cattle that you were mentioning that were all around Elk Wallow

and all in that area, uh, were there ^{Tenant} ~~any~~ farmers there to take care of the cattle and the fences?

J.B.: Well now my daddy used to salt the cattle for..he used to salt the cattle for Brumback and he used to salt the cattle for ^{Hites} ~~Kite~~ and uh Meadows..he used to do a lot of salting cattle..looking after them you know.

D.S.: Yes. Do you know how much he got? For that?

J.B.: Well, there was generally a little salary..not much..maybe..I believe he said maybe he would get 10 or 15 dollars a season for it something like that.

D.S.: Yea, from each one of them. Right. Sure. Well that helped to buy your winter clothes, then didn't it? or didn't it?)

How did you get your winter clothes?

J.B.: Well, just by catching the game and like that you know. And of course you pick a load of apples you see. Do different jobs ^{around} ~~like that~~ you know...anything....then raised a bunch of chickens you know and take them and sell them you see. Get our shoes

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you go barefoot in the summer?

J.B.: Well we only got one pair of shoes. One pair of shoes a year. And uh we was glad you know when the time come for us to get that pair of shoes you know cause we had to go barefoot from the time ^{it get} ~~it get~~ warm til it got too cold to go barefoot.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. How about the school? ^{J.B.} Well we had to walk you see about..that Mountain View School they called it where we went to, but that was about I expect two or two and a half miles we had to walk.

D.S.: Now did the mountain children come down to that school?

J.B.: That's right.

D.S.: And you'd walk up there.

J.B.: Well no, I come down here too because I lived back up on the mountain too, you see. Yea I was born about the highest up on the mountain you see. I was born and raised about the highest on the mountain when I come home..course Like I say all across the mountain there was families..I was born back in the mountains a right smart piece.

D.S.: Okey. Uh, so it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to walk to school..^{was it} in the winter er.. when was school?

J.B.: They had about nine months. Let's see...

D.S.: Through what grade?

J.B.: Well I went to the fourth. But I never did go through the fourth, I just went to it. You know..I had to work.

D.S.: Sure.

J.B.: It was about time I would get interested in school you know, then I would have to stay out, you see. And it was hard to get interested, you see.

D.S.: But, you've done alright.

J.B.: Well, I..I just thank the Lord I got good ^{knowledge} ~~mileage~~ you know. He give me good ^{knowledge} ~~mileage~~. I praise him for that.

D.S.: Yea, because with only three grades you have done very fine haven't you. Right. Did most of the children..did they go on through school or did they stop like you.

J.B.: Well most of them stopped like I did. Yea, because you see you had to

work from the time you got big enough. You see everybody worked..
everybody worked.

D.S.: Sure. Your church. Where was that?

J.B.: Well now my daddy went to church..but my mother ^{went} ~~would~~ once in a while
she generally stayed home taking care of us you know. But he'd
spend the night. He'd walk over to the church called Thornton's
Gap..that's over near Sperryville and he walked across the mountain
and he'd generally spend the night, over there. Then he'd walk back
you see the next evening.

D.S.: There wasn't a church near you?

J.B.: There was..well, there was a church in Rileyville and there was a
Penecostal near Compton but of course you know..I mean that was some-
thing..you see all churches don't have the same regulations..same
rules and uh, you kinda go to the one that you know you be-
lieve..in other words the one that you think would be nearer the one
you think you ought to do..that's the one you generally follow you
know.

D.S.: Was this church your father went to called the Beach Spring...

J.B.: No, now that's at the foot of the mountain before you get to Sperry-
ville. The other one's up around Piney Run you see..that church.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea.

J.B.: Our...

D.S.: And uh, with whom ~~would~~ he stay?

J.B.: Well, he'd stay with some of the members over there, you know that
lived around close you know.

D.S.: How, if there was no church ^{excepting} in Rileyville or Compton how did young

people get married up there?

J.B.: They did...Yea, they'd go *out* or you know. You take my brother-in-law and my sister was married at Hagerstown. They'd get on the train you know...they'd *go somewhere* ~~do something~~.

D.S.: Okey. Alright. Okey. Do you know how they courted?

J.B.: Uh, well when they courted they courted out in the open like you know they didn't have places like they have now...the movies and things... they courted generally around *where all the* ~~just was at~~ you know. Yea, that's right.

D.S.: Yea. They were pretty well chaperoned?

J.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Alright, so they would have to leave their homes to get married but how about when somebody died? Did they have a minister that would come up?

J.B.: Well, yea they would have a minister and uh, they carried my grand-daddy from up here where we lived over on the other side of Elk Wallow but, uh they had a preacher.

D.S.: Do you know if they bought the coffins or had them made? Or what?

J.B.: They generally had them made. Yea. Generally had them made. A pine box, they always called it you know. ~~Never~~...make them a pine box you know.

D.S.: I have heard...tell me if this is right...that when there was a funeral the women moaned and screamed...did you hear them doing that ever?

J.B.: Well..it wasn't too much different them days than there are now you know.

D.S.: Then they didn't.

J.B.: Well, uh some of them does it now. But you know it's really them that has no *hope*.....

~~more~~ hope after this life is completed. It's really ~~to~~ them, that does that you know...but the Bible has something to say about that you know.

D.S.: It sure does. Right. So some of them were not very religious people. Right?

J.B.: No, they didn't...I don't know..they just..well I guess if you take it as a whole average it would be about like it is today. Cause there are so many more people today you know. Be a thousand today, be about a thousand then...I mean because there are so many more thousands now you know.

D.S.: Yea. I know that they made moonshine up there.

J.B.: Oh yea, my brother used to make it and *just* a lot of people. That's how they got a part of their living you see.

D.S.: Sure, right. Where would he sell it?

J.B.: Well uh, now some of them would take it to Baltimore when they had an old car or something..you know..if they could get a car..if they could get it there. But generally around local..people would come in on horseback and get it you know. But sometimes they would take a load to Baltimore or ~~wherever~~ ^{there} they could take it you know and luggage or whatnot you know..they'd go on the train you know..one thing or another.

D.S.: Do you know how much they got for it.

J.B.: About a dollar a pint, I think them days.

D.S.: That was good money. Very good money. Yea, did they make it all year round or just in the winter.

J.B.: All year round.

D.S.: The sherriff never came up.

J.B.: Oh, sometimes yea. Yes sir. Yea, I got a brother-in-law now wears a ^{SCAR} ~~scarf~~ a revenue..hit him over the head with a pistol.

He's a wearing the ^{scar}~~scar~~ right now. He had a ^{little} on his back and he was trying to outrun him. But he had too much weight you know. But they made their living the best they could you know.

D.S.: They made the moonshine out of apples or barley or what?

J.B.: Well..both..yea.. barley and rye..apples, peaches sometime.

D.S.: Hmmm..Yea. I've heard that they didn't use sugar. Did they use sugar in it?

J.B.: As fer as I know they did. Yea. Yea, ^{all}~~as far~~ as I knew, ^{about}~~about~~ used sugar.

D.S.: Your mother..did she know any herbs to use medicinally?

J.B.: Well, now this here catnip here you see she used that all the time for uh..the kids when they get the upset stomach...you know, when they were small.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So she'd give them catnip tea.

J.B.: Indigestion

D.S.: You didn't get it when you got older?

J.B.: No, just when you were young. And uh, now for poison oak why we used wild cherries you know ^{the} bark. ^{did it}.

D.S.: Wild cherry bark. Wait a minute now..you'd boil the bark ^{up}~~up~~ and make sort of a syrup of it..is that it?

J.B.: That's right.

D.S.: And put that under the poison oak.

J.B.: Uhhuh. Just rub it good. You'd wash it and ~~soak~~ ^{soak} it good..get it sort of tender you know and ~~saak~~ ^{saak} it you know, and rub it good and put that on it you know. Some thing would cure it on me where it wouldn't cure it on you. Now it generally worked but, some it wouldn't cure, but like I say where it would cure on you it wouldn't cure on me.

D.S.: Uh, if somebody got a cut what did you use?

J.B.: Well, uh they had uh ^{they had} some salve they put on it.

D.S.: Did you ever use the rosin from the trees?

J.B.: Oh, many a time. Yea. I had a snake bite when I was..well that's been ^{close to} 50 years ago. And they used that on my finger. Yea, an old copperhead bit me on the finger there.

D.S.: And you used the rosin from a pine tree? For it.

J.B.: Yea, you know....after they used other stuff. After a while then, they used that too...you know.

D.S.: What other stuff? Can you remember?

J.B.: Well they used kerosene and honey...

D.S.: For a snake bite?

J.B.: And uh, I never will forget this though, because there was so much misery about that..they cut a black chicken open..alive and uh I stuck my finger in that black chicken you know..and that I'll never forget because it hurt so bad. I never will forget that. But that chicken was almost like ~~you~~..you could almost shake the feathers off him.

D.S.: Uhhuh. It did draw the poison...

J.B.: Yes sir it does. But you see I never did go to the doctor or nothing, with that..they just doctored on that..my mother doctored on it..she was a good doctor; course you know that..she raised thirteen. And uh I never seen a doctor til I was grown.

D.S.: Yea. How about dentist?

J.B.: Well, now I can remember my brother going to a dentist but I reckon he was 16 or 17 years old. He was the only one I remember going to a dentist. He was younger than I am.

D.S.: Um..what would your mother give you if you got a cold?

J.B.: Well, she'd use uh..I tell you she didn't have much to use. She had
Vicks then. Used a lot of Vicks.

D.S.: Did ~~she~~ ^{you} ever ~~use~~ ^{get} kerosene and sugar.

J.B.: Kerosene and sugar..yea, that's right. I've took that a many a time.

D.S.: Castor oil?

J.B.: Castor oil, and this here worstest dose I ever took..what they called
PRADE Worm medicine. That was the worstest dose that I ever took.

D.S.: *PRADE* Worm Medicine?

J.B.: That's right. But, uh, that's the worst dose I ever took. Castor oil
ain't nothing to that. *She had* ? in it. And I tell you
you had to fight to keep that down. But you see if it come back, then
you had to take some more.

D.S.: How often would you get that?

J.B.: Not very often. Maybe..oh I don't remember taking it over two or
three times while I was growing up.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Sassafras Tea..would you use that?

J.B.: Oh yea. *Spiciwood*

D.S.: Was that for what..pleasure or what.

J.B.: Well,make tea out of it.

D.S.: And that was just to drink.

J.B.: For breakfast, yea.

D.S.: At the store you would buy coffee, kerosene, sugar, salt..

J.B.: Pepper.

D.S.: Pepper, material? or did you buy clothes?

J.B.: Material.

D.S.: Your mother made your clothes?

J.B.: Yes.

D.S.: Made all the clothes, for all the children.

J.B.: Made them all. I got a shirt now that she made. All four of us boys wore that shirt. I had three **brothers** younger than I am and they wore it too. Wore that shirt..I still got it.

D.S.: That was good material.

J.B.: Good material.

D.S.: Did she ever get any wool so that she could do the spinning?

J.B.: No, now she didn't do no spinning. But there was some a going on around in there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you have a spring, or did you dig a well?

J.B.: Had a spring. And a springhouse you know that we kept our milk in.

The water running through that little springhouse we called it. Then we run some hogs in the mountain see. We'd ^{turn} ~~run~~ them out in the spring you know — turn them out back in the mountain..let them get the grass from the earth you know and the acorns, chestnuts..then we'd get them up in about a month or six weeks before we butchered them you know, we would feed them on the corn..then we would butcher.

D.S.: How would you know which was yours?

J.B.: We had them marked.

D.S.: How would you mark them?

J.B.: Our mark was ^{a cut} ~~cloth~~ on the right and ^{slit} in the left, ear. But now ^{Sally Sours} had the same mark..but he had a ^{split} in the end of the left ear. We had a ^{split} under the ear...see. That was the closest that I knew of to our mark was ^{Sally's} mark. Yea, his ^{slit} was on the end and ours was underneath.

D.S.: Where did ^{Sally} Sours live?

J.B.: Well he lived up what we called Keyser Hollow here..some of them called it the ~~Heiskell~~ ^{Heiskell} Hollow you know.

D.S.: Keyser Hollow.

J.H.: Uhhuh but we always called it ^{Keyser} Hollow.

D.S.: Did you know any of the Keyzers?

J.B.: Oh yes. Yes.

D.S.: Were they ^{mostly} local people?

J.B.: Well they ^{more than most around} you see Jim ^{run a store when I} and I were just kids ^{but} he died..he died back here just a few years ago, you know. ^{Jim run a store} a long time.

D.S.: Now. Were there many people in Keyser Hollow?

J.B.: They had Waters and Chrisman's there...moved up there in the later years you know. Waters lived up in there. And then Luther Weaver ..he lived up there. I remember when he lived up in there, next to Frazier you know. And uh Man Walker he used to live up there in that hollow. Different ones.

D.S.: Alright now. You were a little boy. What did you do for fun? You didn't work all the time. Now, you can't tell me you did.

J.B.: Well, whenever we got a chance to have some fun. .. We'd go to the mountains to hunt. Yea. That was our sport. And uh..course like other kids we'd built pens out of sticks..course we'd just run some. We didn't have much place to run ^{to tell you the truth} cause it was so rough you know. But uh..

D.S.: Chase the Fox..did you play chase the fox?

J.B.; Yea, that's right.

D.S.: Uh pitch horseshoes..

J.B.: Pitch horseshoes. Pitched a lot of shorseshoes.

D.S.: Did you play any marbles?

J.B.: Yea we played a lot of marbles.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So would you do this on Sunday or...

J.B.: Most on Sunday. After we got big enough to work..I tell you we wasn't idle too much. We always had something to do.

D.S.: No, ~~huhuh~~. Sure. Um..visiting..now would you do much visiting between all the neighbors? Like of an evening in the winter when you couldn't do anything else?

J.B.: Yea, they'd come in and we'd go visit them some right around you know. Generally the older ones. Now the kids didn't do much visiting. No. It was generally the older folks, you know and the younger ones would stay at home.

D.S.: Alright. Now when they visited..like if they came to your house.. would they play music.

J.B.: Yea. Sing, play music.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they dance?

J.B.: Nah, I can't remember them dancing. But they had dances around. But, uh of course in their homes they didn't generally dance when they come in the home visiting.

D.S.: Alright, but they did have dances. Alright let's have a dance on Saturday night or..

J.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: How about applebutter boiling.

J.B.: Oh yea. Yea. They wouldn't put it on til about dark. Then they would boil all night. They had a lot of applebutter boilings. Yea, we did too. We had applebutter boilings.

D.S.: Was music played then?

J.B.: Sometimes. Yea, sometimes,

D.S.: Uh, you'd play music, you'd uh..did they have any drinking?

J.B.: Well, uh, it wasn't around where you could see it, you know. Not
our family it wasn't. Now, there might have been some, but uh..

D.S.: At corn shuckings.

J.B.: Had corn shuckings, yea.

D.S.: What happened if you got a red ear?

J.B.: *ah they'd lay that aside.*

D.S.: Yea. Alright, now. If you..did you ever do any visiting during
the day?

J.B.: Well, if it was snowing or bad weather something like that, probably
we would, do visiting then.

D.S.: So if you visited somebody and they were busy doing something,

J.B.: Oh, they'd stop..I mean they didn't get too busy to stop and talk.

Yea, they'd talk. It didn't make no difference how long.

D.S.: Sure, uhuh. Yea. I've heard that the tune Leather Britches came
from dried snap beans. Have you heard that?

J.B.: No, I never did. I don't remember whether I did or
not, but, I've eat a lot of snap
beans.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Uh, you know down in the southern section they called
those hay beans...not snap beans. Uh, Christmas..how did you cele-
brate Christmas.

J.B.: Oh Christmas meant something then. Yea. Oh you'd just keep on doing
then, you know. Looking forward to Christmas. Seemed like everybody
really enjoyed themselves.

D.S.: How? What would they do?

J.B.: Well, they'd just talk about the things they was going to do. And uh,
people would visit you know more, and talk about Christ you know, and

all. Yea. I mean they really looked forward to Christmas.

D.S.: Did you shoot off any firecrackers?

J.B.: Ah, we had firecrackers. Yea.

D.S.: Did you hang up a stocking?

J.B.: Oh yea. Hang our stocking up..all of us. I tell you, that was something
them days. Christmas.

D.S.: Yea. What would you get in the stocking?

J.B.: Well, you'd get an orange, couple pieces of candy.

D.S.: Did you ever get any toys?

J.B.: I remember getting a harp one time..a french harp. One time.

D.S.: You did?

J.B.: Yea. That's all I ever remember getting in the way of a toy, you
know. That was along in the later years.

D.S.: Did you learn how to play it?

J.B.: Yea, I learned how to crack a tune on it. But you see, we all
~~used it~~
~~know music~~..and I don't know..went bad, I guess..too many using it.
You see there was four of us boys. Course we all used it, but I got
so I could play a tune on it alright.

D.S.: Did you ever know the word Kris Kringlers?

J.B.: Well, we heared talk about ^{'em} ~~it~~, you know. Now we had some of them
you know, come around.

D.S.: You did.

J.B.: Yea, oh yea.

D.S.: Did you ever do it?

J.B.: No, we never did do that.

D.S.: But some people did come..

J.B.: Oh yea.

D.S.: Would adults come as well as children?

J.B.: Yes, Yea. Oh yea.

D.S.: Did they start..when did they start? ~~About~~ The week before Christmas or two weeks before or..

J.B.: Well, generally around Christmas and New Year's somewhere in there.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. When they came to your house did you give them something to eat.

J.B.: Oh we'd *generally have* ~~give them~~ an apple you know, that's about all we had. Oh, we generally had apples...the way we kept them, we'd just rake up a pile of leaves see, and put our apples in there and rake leaves over them and pile brush over that to keep the leaves on them. We generally had apples all the winter.

D.S.: Is that how you kept your apples?

J.B.: Yea. Apples is something you bury, they don't keep well. But uh, we always buried our potatoes you know..we'd just dig them and bury them.

D.S.: Yea, ;and your cabbages, too.

J.B.: Yea.

D.S.: And turnips.

J.B.: Yea. But uh the apples they didn't keep too well burying them, so we generally just raked up a pile of leaves you know and just dumped our apples in those leaves and piled leaves over top and put brush over them. And we'd have apples all winter.

D.S.: Do you still do that?

J.B.: No, we generally just keep around a few you know. I don't know, you can buy them when you want them now you know.

endside 1
I'm doing all the
D.S.:asking questions and I'm sure you have a lot of things you

can tell me. Do you know where the Baldwin's came from originally?

J.B.: Well, they claim they are German.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And you don't know how long they have been here.

J.B.: I don't know...^{don't} I know much about the history on the Baldwins. I don't know much about the history but uh the Baldwin's lived across this Blue Ridge a long time.

D.S.: One question I forgot to ask you .. about fires.

J.B.: We used to have fires . I can remember when the mountains used to burn all the way around.

D.S.: Were those set deliberately do you know?

J.B.: Well I think they was. Most of the time..see they would pick a lot of huckleberries ^{all the} ~~for the family~~ and to sell and things and you had to burn the mountain over once in a while in order to have huckleberries. And uh, I think most of the time it was set deliberately.

D.S.: Yea. Were you ever afraid of your home getting on fire or anything of that kind.

J.B.: Yea, because you see the woods weren't ~~fer from~~ the house you see back in there you see. Yea, that was dangerous. It was dangerous.

D.S.: Yea. Sure it was. ^{J.B.} Your feed for your cattle or something was in the barn you know..sparks flying on it you know, it was dangerous. Because like I say the mountains wasn't fer...it wasn't much opening, not a very big opening..you see like there are now.

D.S.: Yea. How did you fight the fire?

J.B.: Well, just rake a ^{ring} you know and carry water. Yea, I've helped to fight them.

D.S.: Did you pick huckleberries?

J.B.: Oh, I've carried them off of Hog Back and I've carried them off of

Naked Mountain day after day.

D.S.: Really?

J.B.: Yes.

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

J.B.: Generally about 20¢ a gallon, or a quarter..something like that.

But it would be a pretty good price if you got a quarter. Generally get about 20¢ a gallon.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What would you carry them in?

J.B.: A basket. Yea, put them on your shoulder or carry them on your arm, once in a while. You know you pick four or five gallon and that's a long ways to carry them from back at *Hog Back*

D.S.: Hog Back..my gosh..how far away was that? That's a long distance..

J.B.: I spect five miles, anyway..maybe better.

D.S.: Sure it is. Were there many people living round ^{at} Hog Back?

J.B.: Yea, them Bailey's was living back there at that time. Some of them.

Yea. A lot of huckleberries back there. Sam Bailey he was living back there and Sam and Jess and Floyd and I reckon...that's about all I can remember. Living back there you know. Close to Hog Back.

D.S.: Huh. This is absolutely fascinating. You are telling us so much that we didn't know. You never worked for any of the ^{saw mills} farmers. You were too young, weren't you?

J.B.: Yea. I never worked for none of them. But uh, there was saw milling around there. And I can remember when there was saw milling.

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh. Were there always plenty of trees?

J.B.: Oh, plenty of trees.

D.S.: Do you remember the chestnut blight?

J.B.: Well I can remember when there was plenty of chestnuts but the blight

was ahead of it. You see the blight come down from the top you see. It didn't come up from the root. It came down from the top. I can remember when it was half of the tree living. Sometimes a little better than half. I can remember you see..that's been a right good while since that blight first hit, but I can remember going back there picking them up *& bringing them back on a horse* I've been back there and picked them up.

D.S.: The drought..when the drought hit, there was a bad drought in 1930.

J.B.: '30..yea, I remember that.

D.S.: How did you all manage?

J.B.: Well we had a little bit of money saved up. And I never will forget it that my older brother *wanted* ~~went to~~ my father .. to buy a car .. he said he could get one..a brand new one for \$800. Yea. But my daddy, he wouldn't hear to it. But huh, it happened we had a little saved up and I remember buying flour that year. And after..you take flour, that was something unusual..I mean you bake wheat bread..that was something unusual..that was really something, *we* you know. ~~You~~ had corn bread right often..bout all the time..that's about all we had. And uh really that year I mean it was better because see we didn't have the corn.

D.S.: Didn't have the corn.

J.B.: That's right, didn't have the corn. Had wheat bread most of the time. Had a little money saved up, ~~most of the time~~. But that's how we made it. I can remember corn never got bout..oh two or three feet high.

D.S.: Yea. At least you could feed that to the hogs couldn't you. Or the cattle?

J.B.: Oh, very little *for* the hogs..we cut *Pokes* I mean you cut *over* things..

brush, you know..everything we could to put in the barn you know.

And everything we could get ahold of we put in the barn for the cows

~~that~~ after winter you know. And the little old fatter. And we put a lot

of ~~po~~ ^{you made it.} I remember..and brush you know. Put in there. *Pulled through.*

D.S.: ~~Maybe.~~ Did your spring run dry?

J.B.: Well we had water on up in the mountain area just about a half a mile from the house..that one right at the house was just about gone. Just a very little..we carried water mostly from up there at that upper stream that was a better stream. About a half mile we had to carry water.

D.S.: How did the depression hit you all?

J.B.: Well, it was hard. But people was used to doing without you know.

D.S.: So it really didn't effect you all as much as if you had lived in the city.

J.B.: Oh, no..no..even if it hit ^{now}..people was more use to doing without then, than they are now you know. If it hit now, I ~~don't~~ know what people would do. A lot of them would just panic you know..but then they were ^{sort of} ~~so~~ used to doing without..like I say..people had nothing.

D.S.: Oh! I forgot to ask you..during 1917 and 1918 there was a terrible flu epidemic. Did you remember that at all.

J.B.: Yea I can remember..No I don't remember..but I can remember them talking about it. They said it killed more than the war did.

D.S.: Did a doctor come up there? Do you know?

J.B.: Yea, there was a doctor..A Dr. Brumback. Now he done a lot of horse-back riding. He come up there..all across in them mountains. Yea, uhhum, Dr. Brumback. But there wasn't many doctors see. There wasn't many doctors.

D.S.: Did anybody in your family die from it?

J.B.: No. Nobody in our family didn't die. But my mother was an unusual doctor..I mean..but she said she ~~done~~ a lot of praying.....
So uh I just think that is the answer to everything..myself.

D.S.: When the people were moved out of the mountain, do you know how they adjusted to that?

J.B.: *I had some that* moved into Culpeper..my uncle John Baldwin and then I had some *Pullins* ~~cousins~~ on my mother's side, they moved to Culpeper. And uh..that was poor land down in there then..wasn't hardly nothing but broomsage..)
I can remember when Culpeper was nothing but *very poor* country..very poor country..very poor land..broomsage mostly, but uh..they had a right smart battle down there too you know. People had..they didn't go down there Really, I don't know what you would call it..go down there to better themselves or just what..I don't know but it was poor land then..it was hard down there too.

D.S.: Yea. So they continued being farmers?

J.B.: Yes, that's right.

D.S.: Okey. So that makes sense to keep on doing what you knew how to do.

J.B.: Although they didn't have as many rocks to contend with.

D.S.: Yea. I bet they missed them didn't they. Oh can you think of anything.
You have told us so very much. It's been wonderful..can you think of anything else?

J.B.: Well uh, that's about how they lived...

D.S.: You got up early in the morning?

J.B.: That's right. Early in the morning.

D.S.: Did you ever go into Luray?

J.B.: No. No, I didn't go to Luray til after I was grown. I went on the train the first time I went. I walked to Rileyville see and caught

the train.

D.S.: Yea. That was a big experience then wasn't it?

J.B.: Yea, boy. But uh..people looked like that everybody enjoyed themselves them days more than they do now. I don't know..I can't understand it. They got so much now. Yet it seems like they aren't as happy. Well I guess it's just like a child..you know used to you didn't get much for Christmas and seemed like they really took care of it and enjoyed it and now they get so much you know they just ~~run~~ *wade* through it you know and it looks like they don't enjoy nothing. They get so much they don't enjoy nothing.

D.S.: That's right. That's the truth. Well I certainly thank you very very much

end 12:35