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### (SNP018) Weldon Burke interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith and Debbie McCormick, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Weldon Burke

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#### Recommended Citation

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. Weldon Burke

INTERVIEWERS: Mrs. Dorothy Smith  
Debbie McCormick

PLACE: *HAZEL MOUNTAIN*

DATE: December 16, 1978

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Peggy C. Bradley

COMPLETED DATE:

March 1, 1984

D.S.: We are interviewing Weldon Burke, with the assistance of Debbie McCormick. Now, Mr. Burke, where did you live in the mountain?

W.B.: Where did I live? I lived right on the top of it, all I can tell you. Right on top of the mountain.

D.S.: Near Panorama now, or.....

W.B.: Well, I lived right on top of Hazel Mountain.

D.S.: On top of Hazel Mountain?

W.B.: On top, that's where I was raised at, on top of Hazel Mountain.

D.S.: O.K.. How many <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ in your family, was it a big family?

W.B.: It was nine of us.

D.S.: Nine children?

W.B.: Five boys and four girls. Just two of us left, all gone.

D.S.: Oh, boy!

W.B.: My brother, he is seventy-eight, be seventy-nine in March. I am seventy-four, will be seventy-five if I live to see next October.

D.S.: You'll make it.

W.B.: I hope so! (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughed) Uh,..... with all these childrens, did you all have special jobs to do?

W.B.: No, we never had no special jobs, we all ..... we had something to do though.

D.S.: Oh, I know you had something to do.

W.B.: Had something to do and we had plenty to eat and we had .... My Mother use to sell <sup>These</sup> ~~winter~~ cabbages.

She'd sell them by the wagon loads. People would come up the mountain and take them off by the wagon loads. Now, that looked like that....it's not so, but .....

D.S.: Oh, I know that it is so.

W.B.: We had a garden.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: ....had a good garden.....raised lots of stuff.

D.S.: You all had to help with that garden, didn't you?

W.B.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: Did you use a horse?

W.B.: My Mother done the most of it.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Most of it.

D.S.: Did you use a horse to plow it or did you do it by hand?

W.B.: Done most of it by hand. We kept a horse.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Kept <sup>SEVERAL</sup> ~~a~~ horse.<sub>S</sub>

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: But, most of this was done by hand.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: With a ole hoe.

D.S.: Yea. You had more than one hog, didn't you?

W.B.: Huh?

D.S.: You had more than one hog, didn't you?

W.B.: HOE! HOE! HOE!

D.S.: HOE! HOE! Hoe, oh! O.K., ...yea.

W.B.: When we planted corn up thar, we moved the rocks and planted corn.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Cover the corn, find enough dirt to cover the corn up with.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: That was good corn though.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: Just plowed the land to raise the corn.

D.S.: Yea. Roughly, how much acreage did your father have?

W.B.: Well,..... I couldn't explain, I don't know, but it was right smart of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: We had one.. one field up thar on top of the mountain a airplne could light on it. That was the only place up thar that.

D.S.: Mmmmmum! Did you have a lot of woods on your property?

W.B.: More woods than there was... cleared land, as much.

D.S.: Yea. Did you bark.. peel the bark off the trees and sell it?

W.B.: Well, some of them did, you..but I didn't. That was before my time, I was the last one, I was the youngest one.

D.S.: Were you really?

W.B.: Yea. They use to peel bark.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Cut bark, cut wood.

D.S.: Yes. Did you cut wood for railroad ties or anything?

W.B.: No. Oh, no, just.....

D.S.: No?

W.B.: No.

D.S.: Just for yourself?

W.B.: Just for ourself.

D.S.: Back to when all of you were children, and I know you said you had no special jobs to do?

W.B.: No.

D.S.: Uh,.....if your mother said, you do such and such, would you have said, "I wouldn't do it?"

W.B.: Oh, no! You better not.

D.S.: (Laughing)

W.B.: No, we wasn't raised that away.

D.S.: No.

W.B.: No.

D.S.: You respected your parents, didn't you?

W.B.: That's right, that's right exactly.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Long as they lived, all of us did.

S.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. <sup>WERE</sup> Was there any particular childhood illness that you know of, like croop or something along that line?

W.B.: Well, I ... We all had something like that probably, or colds, or ... I never will forget ....., see I had..... What you call them in your throat, here?

D.S.: Mostoids?

W.B.: No. Had them taken out.

D.MC: Tonsils?

D.S.: Tonsils?

W.B.: Tonsils. Dr. Smith, up here at Sperryville, he was our doctor then. They told me that he was coming that day to take my tonsils out, up there. I said, to myself, "No, he not a'comin to take mine out." I went as fast as I could up on the mountain, up on top the hill. I stayed up there and watched him till he come and left. Then I went on back to the house. (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughing)

W.B.: Well, then I would have bled to death if they had took them out!

D.S.: I know it.

W.B.: I said it would, after I got older, I mean after we moved down here I went to Charlottesville. I had the things <sup>out</sup> after I got married.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Did you.... Uh,...with the garden, you <sup>WERE</sup> ~~was~~ talking about. You raised cabbages, turnips.....

W.B.: Oh, everything.

D.S.: ....potatoes?

W.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh,....how did you keep them over the winter?

W.B.: Well, we buried them mostly. Dug a pit in the ground, cover it up with straw or hay or something and throw dirt on it. Kept better then than you can keep them now.

D.S.: That's right.

W.B.: Use to be <sup>BURY</sup> ~~our~~ apples... take a ~~p~~en put our apples in it then throw some leaves or straw, something over them. Got apples in the fall, get apples anytime you want them.

D.S.: Sure. They kept real good, didn't they?

W.B.: Kept real good.

D.S.: Did your mother make sauerkraut?

W.B.: Lord, how<sup>l</sup> mercy! Use to make barrels, that tall. And, people use to come off the mountain up there to get their sauerkraut.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: It was goo, too then. It was made ...

D.S.: Did you know how she made that sauerkraut? Did she just use salt... and mash it....?

W.B.: That's right,....used salt ... Just taken,.... had a great long mall, about like that and do that... hit it....

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: ... until bruised it all,....keep it packed good.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Cut up more kraut... more cabbage and put in there and do the same thing.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Just keep on makin it that away. Make a barrel full.

D.S.: Yea. Did she do any canning?

W.B.: Oh, sure she done canning.

D.S.: Do you know ~~wha~~ether she processed the food after she put it in the cans or not?

W.B.: No.

D.S.: You wouldn't know, a boy wouldn't pay any attention to that! (Laughed) Did she dry apples?

W.B.: She always dried apples.

D.S.: Did she dry cherries?



W.B.: Well, I don't remember about the cherries. Now, I don't remember her drying cherries. She use to dry apples.

D.S.: Beans?

W.B.: Beans. Use to dry beans. That would be my first thing I'd ever <sup>for</sup> get ~~me~~ when we use to come from school. We had to have a big long pot, you know, we cooked them beans in there. I'd go to that pot and get my beans and they were worth eatin' then.

D.S.: Yea, they were good.

W.B.: Deed, yes it was good! I'd go to that pot and get my beans after I come from school. Take a little half gallon bucket and go to school and take my dinner with me.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: Set at that pot and eat my beans.

D.S.: Right. How ~~was~~ <sup>WERE</sup> the beans dried, was they hung up on a string?

W.B.: Well, most of them, I think was, and other dried them on boards, you know.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: I have dried beans since I have been here, right up those stairs.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Most of them <sup>hung</sup> here. I sell some of them.

D.S.: You know, those beans you dry yourself are much better than those you buy in the store.

W.B.: You can't buy beans like these.

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

W.B.: I know. See them, green in them.

(He was showing them dried beans)

D.MC: Uhhuh, they look great.

D.S.: Would your mother cook them with some side meat in ~~them~~<sup>it</sup>?

W.B.: Side meat, right.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: That's the way to do it. They ain't no good unless you put drippings in them.

D.S.: That's right. What was your typical breakfast?

W.B.: Oh,...we would have gravy, that was my main dish, gravy, eggs, just like everybody else would have. Ceral and most... That was one thing, those people had plenty to eat. Now, I know this, we had a church up there, too, a good church. And, they fed four or five tables around on Sundays. People would come to church and eat their dinner before they'd go back.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Use to be lines of them.

D.S.: Yea. Normally, would your family all sit down together at the same table?

W.B.: Well, if we all could get there, we would. Sometimes we all couldn't get there.

D.S.: But, the room was big enough to hold all of you?

W.B.: Oh, yes. Sure. We had a big house up there, a big house.

D.S.: What was it built like.

W.B.: It was built like a normal house. It was a good house.

D.S.: It was a clapped <sup>BOARD</sup> house?

W.B.: Huh?

D.S.: A board house?

W.B.: Weather boarded, framed and weatherboarded.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: I believe one part had logs, but we built on to it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Built on, built a new house.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you all keep a ladder up against your roof  
in case of fire?

W.B.: I don't remember that.

D.S.: The reason, I'm asking.....

W.B.: I don't think so. ... I wouldn't think so.

D.S.: .... there was quite a number of pictures of houses  
up there at Park Headquarters and they show a ladder.....

W.B.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: ....and we figured it must have been for fires.

W.B.: That's what they was for, sure.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Was there many fires? Was fire something  
you feared?

W.B.: No. Not many fires.

D.S.: No? If your house had caught on fire, what would  
have y'all done?

W.B.: Well, we'd do like <sup>we'd</sup> ~~they would~~ do now, go to someone  
else's home and stay until we could built.

D.S.: In other words, people helped each other out?

W.B.: Yes, sir. Helped,...the people went with each other,  
I mean they stuck with each other on that mountain.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

W.B.: That's right.

D.S.: You mentioned church, how far away was the church?

W.B.: Well, it was about a mile from where we lived. Had a good school up there, too. Had a good school.

D.S.: Was the school right there too?

W.B.: School, right on the ~~other~~ side of the church.

D.S.: Was school,..... what months of the year was it opened?

W.B.: I would say,..... about like it is here.

D.S.: Really?

W.B.: Heck, yes!

D.S.: September through May?

W.B.: Probably September,.... I don't know how..... Well, probably go on late in the Spring. We had teachers that would come up off the mountain to teach. Sometimes they would board with us. Boarded, stayed with us. We had teachers board with us.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Board with us and on the weekends they'd go home and come back on Monday.

D.S.: Sure. Well, weren't you fellers needed on the farm?

W.B.: We didn't do that much farming, I tell you. You couldn't do much farming.

D.S.: Oh! O.K.. What did they teach in school?

W.B.: Well, they teached just like they teached everywhere else. Just depend on.....

D.S.: They did?

W.B.: Well, sure they did, absolutely.

D.S.: Reading, writing, arithmetic.....

W.B.: Reading, writing, arithmetic.

D.S.: History?

W.B.: History.

D.S.: Geography?

W.B.: Geography.

D.S.: That was well rounded, wasn't it?

W.B.: Well, ~~sure~~. *It was so.*

D.S.: How far up did school go, how many grades?

W.B.: Seven.

D.S.: Seven? I be darn! You were one of the lucky ones.

W.B.: (Laughed) I was, wasn't I?

D.S.: You were,....you were! There ~~was~~ <sup>WERE</sup> some <sup>THAT WERE</sup> only taught spelling. There ~~was~~ <sup>WERE</sup> some area that only taught arithmetic....

W.B.: We taught it all,.....they taught it all there.

D.S.: What store did your family use?

W.B.: Store? Well, we had two stores. One they called Nethers Mill, that is over in Madison....

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: ...And, we had one down in Sperryville, Estes, that was their <sup>MAIN</sup> store's name.

D.S.: How far away was Este's store?

W.B.: Oh,.... See, the miles, I'll say seven or eight miles.

D.S.: How did you get there, walk?

W.B.: Horseback.

D.S.: Horseback, great!

W.B.: I've got behind my Mother and rode down horseback with her. When we was down ~~in~~ there, ole Mrs. Estes would make us eat our lunch before we would start back home.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Get all our stuff and packed it all in sacks and pack it on the horse and head back to the mountains.

D.S.: Right. And, Nethers was how far away?

W.B.: About the same.

D.S.: About the same?

W.B.: Both was about the same. One on one end of the mountain one on the other.

D.S.: Did your mother take dried beans, and eggs, and dried apples and.....to the store?

W.B.: Oh, no.....oh, no!

D.S.: No?

W.B.: She would take eggs if she had them, but she never dried beans, and apples, like that to sell. Made them for our own use, you know?

D.S.: Well, then how did you get money to buy things at the store then?

W.B.: Well, she sold cattle, just like they sold down here. Had cattle up there to sell. Sheep, well, she had a awful lot of sheep.

D.S.: Oooo. K! You had sheep, you sold the wool, too, didn't you?

W.B.: Sold the wool and lambs. And, had some of the best cattle grown up there, you don't see no~~x~~ cattle like that now.

D.S.: No.

W.B.: These were ole Blue Romans and *SHORT HORN* mixed together.

D.S.: Was they allowed to roam free or did you keep a fence up?

W.B.: Well, had a fence, had a fence so you could keep them. But, people didn't care for them if they did get out and they all went together. Most everybody had a few ~~milk~~ <sup>HEAD of</sup> cattle up there.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: Cattle done good up thar, good water, you know, and good grass for them.

D.S.: Sure. Right....right. Did your mother do any of the carding of the wool and weaving.

W.B.: Yes. She had a ole spinning wheel. I'll never forget, she made our socks.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Make our socks all the time out of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: And, she'd take after she made the yarn, she knitted it, you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: And, my sister was....., had some kind of a fever, you know? And, she had to stay in bed, so she'd sit and knitting it all the time.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Make them socks for us.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: And, they was warm too.

D.S.: Sure, they were. All that lanolin in them, yea.  
Uhhuh.

W.B.: You can't find a pair of socks like them now.

D.S.: Nooooo, you can't. Uh,....so you had cattle, you raised pigs and sheep.....

W.B.: Well, we didn't raise too many, just what they wanted *for*  
*OUR OWN* <sup>use</sup> ~~to buy on~~. They raised more hogs ever raised cattle  
and sheep.

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

W.B.: Well, I wouldn't know.

D.S.: Two, probably anyway.

W.B.: Huh?

D.S.: You had at least two, didn't you?

W.B.: Oh, we had more than any two cows, maybe a dozen.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Maybe more than that, I don't know. I just...

D.S.: Your mother would make the butter?

W.B.: Made butter. ... I never will forget, I use to like  
clabber, you know?

D.S.: I was going to ask you about that!

W.B.: And buttermilk.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Had a spring-box of cold water and sit it in that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

W.B.: Shoooo!, I could drink it like that.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Always liked my clabber. I don't care much ~~for~~  
sweet milk.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: And, we use to.... When butchering time would come...  
My Daddy would build a ~~fire~~. He would put rocks in  
it, you know? A layer of rocks, layer of wood, a  
layer of rocks and a layer of wood had a great big  
ole                    thar, get them rocks hot and take the rocks



out of that and put in the tub of water and get the water hot. That's the way he would heat his water.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Butcher after he got the water hot, he'd go kill the hogs.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Did you do that usually around Thanksgiving time?

W.B.: Well, we did it around a month when it got cold enough, you know?

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

W.B.: Mostly after or a little after. Mostly after Thanksgiving.

D.S.: You didn't have any troubles with bugs or anything of that kind?

W.B.: Not them days..... not them days.

D.S.: No. Nope.

W.B.: You didn't know what a bug or insect was then?

D.S.: No.

W.B.: Now they got spray for everything.

D.S.: (Laughing) Yea. Right. ... We killed off the birds that eat the bugs, now we have the bugs. Speaking of Thanksgiving,... how did you all celebrate Christmas?

W.B.: Well, just about like we do now.

D.S.: You did? You didn't have fire crackers?

W.B.: We probably had far<sup>e</sup>crackers too, I don't ....  
I don't know much about that.

D.S.: You don't remember? You didn't have a Christmas tree, did you?

W.B.: Well, some of them probably had a Christmas tree.  
I don't remember ~~wha~~ whether we did or not, but I don't believe we did. I don't beleieve we ever had one up thar at Christmas.

D.S.: No.

W.B.: Some up thar at Christmas.

D.S.: Would you ever get a toy?

W.B.: Oh, yes! We'd get toys, candy, and oranges. I had ..  
I had a rhouse,.....a room of my own up thar and everything I got, you know? I'd put it in that room and I kept it. I'd get these toy kits and all that stuff, you know? ~~I'd~~ <sup>if go AROUND TO SALES</sup> save and buy stuff and I'd bring it to my room, put it in thar and .....

D.S.: Gee! Fish!

W.B.: ....and, when I moved down here. .... Yea, when we moved down here, on out here. I had a room out here the same way. I put it in thar the same way. The house caught on fire and burnt to the ground.

D.S.: Oh! Huh!

W.B.: If I had some of that stuff now I'd be rich.

D.S.: (Laughed) That's right.

W.B.: That's right! That stuff was old!

D.S.: That's right. Did y'all play marbles?

W.B.: Played marbles, horse shoes. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Marbles, ... horse shoes. Marbles was a great game.

D.S.: Did you have much time to go fishing or hunting?

W.B.: I fox hunted. I never did much other hunting. We kept hounds too.

D.S.: You did?

W.B.: Fox hounds. I never done no other hunting much. Didn't care for it. My brothers, there was three of us. I was small and <sup>they</sup> use to start going hunting, they didn't want me to go. I keep slippin' on alone behind them until we got away from the house, you know? Then I'd go on alone with them, they didn't want me to go with them. I was small, you know?

D.S.: Sure. Is..... Did the dogs keep the rabbits and everything out of your gardens?

W.B.: We didn't have a bit of troubles with rabbits. No trouble what ever.

D.S.: Nobody seemed to have any trouble with rabbits in the gardens and you would think they would all be eaten up. My garden is. (Laughed)

W.B.: Never had no trouble. I got a garden right down here, way down over thar. I..... saw a deer or two in thar ever now and then, but I never had much..... A rabbit maybe go through bite off a little something, but nothing to hurt it.

D.S.: Oh, you're lucky. You was born under the right thing. O.K.. Uh,..... How about visiting. Did you do much visiting around?

W.B.: Oh, sure we visited. We visited. We visited more than we do now. We visited each other more than we do now, they don't care about visiting, you know that.

D.S.: Yea. You walked, didn't you, to your friends house?

W.B.: Oh, sure. We were all up thar together, you know?

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

W.B.: Oh, probably, ... a half a mile. Some right around, some down the road, some on up on the mountain.

D.S.: Yea. You know, winter, at night .... Would you set around and play music sometimes? Did anybody in your family play fiddle or banjo?

W.B.: I don't know, I don't remember. I don't think so. Had a orgon up thar, played orgon music.

D.S.: WOW!

W.B.: Oh, yea. Had a <sup>good</sup> orgon, played that.

D.S.: Did you lock your house ever?

W.B.: Lock it? No, I didn't have to lock it. Didn't have to lock it ~~in~~ them days.

D.S.: You're right!

W.B.: I lock mine over here. Now, it's different now days.

D.S.: Right.

W.B.: You go away and leave your house and went back, it's alright most time if someone is home, I reckon. But, we never thought about such a thing about locking the house, locking up.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Because it is nobody up thar but your own people, you know .....?

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: .... On the mountains.

D.S.: Was you all sort of kin to each othr?

W.B.: Well, not exactally.

D.S.: Did you ever know where your family came from?

W.B.: Deed, I don't.

D.S.: You don't know? You just know they were always there?

W.B.: Yes.

D.S.: Yes, right. Uhhuh. If .... Uh, ... for instance if you was still up there on the mountains and when you got married, would your father have given you a few acres, of his acres for your home?

W.B.: Uh, ... what he did ....., I think one of my brothers built a house, two of them built a house on the place. Two of them had homes on the place, older ones.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Older ones had homes on the place before we left from up thar, two of them. But, one of them died up thar, the other one moved on down here after we moved off.

D.S.: What did he die of?

W.B.: Well, I don't know exactly what it was. He was the oldest child, .... oldest brother. He was buried up thar.

D.S.: When you got a cold, what would your mother give you?

W.B.: Well, sir. She use to put a ole yarn sock around my neck and grease me. I use to have, I had that throattrouble, you know? I stayed in bed, maybe two or three weeks at a time. This ....

D.S.: Mmmmm!

W.B.: She greased me with somekind of grease, you know? Tied that ole yarn sock around my neck and .....

D.S.: Did she ever give you turpentine and sugar?

W.B.: I took it many-a'time.

D.S.: Did it work?

W.B.: Sure, it worked! Turpentine.... My Daddy *used that*  
*remedy* many a'time.

D.S.: Really? Uhhuh. What did Dr. Smith have to say  
about it?

W.B.: I don't know. Dr. Smith....., he was something,  
he was.

D.S.: (Laughing) Oh, boy! Uh, ... You don't know what  
the most frequent cause<sup>s</sup> *where* of death was, do you?

W.B.: No, I don't.

D.S.: No? Uh, .... But, the people were healthy and  
strong. They walked miles, miles, and miles....

W.B.: Yes, indeed.

D.S.: ....and they didn't think anything of it then.

W.B.: Not a thing.

D.S.: Your daddy's source of income was then selling  
the beef?

W.B.: Ma'am?

D.S.: Your daddy's source of income was selling the  
meat?

W.B.: Oh, sure. That's right.

D.S.: And, that would be enough to buy you, sugar, and  
kerosene, and coffee?

W.B.: Well, I imagine it would have been, that's the  
way we made it.

D.S.: And, how about shoes?

W.B.: A lot of them made moonshine, but we didn't.

D.S.: I was going to ask you about that.

W.B.: Yes, .... <sup>a lot of them</sup> they all made liquor. Yes, all made liquor.

D.S.: Did they make it out of apples or rye?

W.B.: Mostly made it out of sugar and ..... thar was some apple probably, .... brandy they called that, made.....

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: ...use to make that in the fall.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Not too much of that. Mostly was sugar and rye, .... meal.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Did they sell it out anywhere?

W.B.: Sell it? Sure, they'd sell it! Sure, they'd sell it.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: Sell it.

D.S.: Uh, .... statue of limination has passed (Laughed) they can't be .... How about fires, did anybody sit fires so they could have huckleberries?

W.B.: Well, now they might have. Thar use to be some ~~fires~~ <sup>FIRE</sup> and after that thar would be plenty of huckleberries. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing)

W.B.: They could have done it.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Well, I've heard those dried huckleberries was better than anything than anybody could eat.

W.B.: They didn't have to get dried. Berries was fresh.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: They'd just be in clusters.

D.S.: Mmmmmum!

W.B.: Just .... They was really good, too.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: You can't *get em now,*

D.S.: Yea. .... There was a lot of peaches up there too,  
*weren't*  
wasn't there?

W.B.: No, ... not way up on the mountains thar wasn't no  
peaches. Use to be apples, no peaches.

D.S.: What kind of apples, do you know?

W.B.: Oh well, mostly these ole time apples.

D.S.: Milams?

W.B.: Milams and Pickens.

D.S.: Yep. Yep.

W.B.: All, ... all kinds. You pick big yellow apples  
like that, and they'd just fall off on the ground.

D.S.: Yea. .... Uhhuh. You,....Your daddy didn't sell  
those apples?

W.B.: No, ... he didn't sell any.

D.S.: How could you all eat all those apples?

W.B.: Well, we didn't eat all of them. Cattle would eat  
them, hogs would eat them, something would eat them.  
We didn't have too big orchard up thar.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: A small orchard. We didn't have a big orchard like  
they have down here.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Right. With your funerals. You had a  
church just about a mile away. Would you hold



the funeral in the church or your home?

W.B.: Well, .... Uh, ... it would be held in the church or in the cementary one, I don't have that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. At the cementary, did you all stand and wait until the body was completely covered?

W.B.: No. ... We left, ... the people left just about like they do now. It ain't no different.

D.S.: Well, I'm sorry! It was different from most of the mountain did it.

W.B.: Well, could have.

D.S.: (Laughing) Yea. Uhhuh. O.K.. Did they use a monument or a headstone?

W.B.: Headstone, I believe.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. They'd pick the biggest stone they could fine, right?

W.B.: Yea, that's right.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Yea. And, you all had your own family plot?

W.B.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea. Did you know how the fellows went a'courting the girls?

W.B.: They courted like they do now, I reckon.

D.S.: Well, were they chaperoned?

W.B.: I wouldn't know nothin about that, because I wasn't old enough to remember that.

D.S.: Yea. You don't know if the girls were chaperoned or not? No. ... Uh ... Oh, right now, Uh....

Now, you said no<sup>p</sup>one in your family played the banjo or the fiddle. I'm sure someone around there did didn't they?

W.B.: Well, probably could ... have, I don't know anything about it if they did.

D.S.: Oh. So, you don't recall any of the songs? Did you ever hear a tune called, Fox Chase or Fox Hunt?

W.B.: No, not as I know of.

D.S.: How about Leather Britches?

W.B.: Don't know nothin' about that.

D.S.: Money Mush?

W.B.: No.

D.MC: What did y'all play, hymns ... on a organ?

D.S.: Amazing Grace?

W.B.: Now, your're comin! Hey, all them ole tunes.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Did you all stand around the organ and sing?

W.B.: Sometime, a group fo us.

D.S.: Yea. Did you have any dances?

W.B.: No dances.

D.S.: No dances?

W.B.: No dances. Church and dance<sup>pp</sup> don't go together.

D.S.: Oh! O.K..

W.B.: I don't believe if you live for the Lord you can't live for the devil. It's one of two things.

D.S.: Yea. Right. O.K... ... When you made your apple butter, which I'm sure you did.

W.B.: Yes, made apple butter.

D.S.: Uh, .... was that sort of a whole neighbor<sup>hood</sup> get together? Would the women cook things and you'd eat while this was being made?

W.B.: Well, sure. We'd have to eat, you know?

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Right. Would anybody play any music?

W.B.: Well, ... no.

D.S.: O.K.. Did you ever have the custom that a fellow would be on one side and a girl on the other and if the paddle touched the side of the kettle you got a kiss? (Laughed)

W.B.: I think she has been along that away. No, you both had to stand on one side, you couldn't one stand on one side and one on the other.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh, you ~~done~~<sup>did</sup> it with the one paddle?

W.B.: Yes. That's the way all them along the side done it. Just one stir stick, we called it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Two could stand on one side of it and one on the other side of the same stick.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: You know, had a piece across it. Had it, that the way you stir.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

W.B.: Yea, two could stir alright.

D.S.: (Laughing) Uhhuh.

W.B.: That use to be a great time, apple butter boilings.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Invite all the men and women, you know? Had a big time, I remember that much.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: Down around, back of Hayes, up here around back of Sperryville boil it all night, you know?

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Boil it all night.

D.S.: Right. Did you make sorghum?

W.B.: Make sorghum, yes ma'am.

D.S.: You know you can't buy sorghum like that anymore?

W.B.: Ssssh! I reckon you can't! No indeed, you can't.  
Can't buy it, nobody makes it no more.

D.S.: Not the right way.

W.B.: No. No, not the right way.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: No. We use to make a lot of it. Had whole barrels  
of it. Make a barrel full of it.

D.S.: Did your mother put those over flap jacks for you,  
or what did you eat it with?

W.B.: Well, that's the best way to eat them with.

D.S.: Oh, yea.

W.B.: Take some good ole cow butter and get it good and  
hot.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: That was something worth eatin'. Wish I had some of  
it now.

D.S.: That's right. That's right. Uhhuh.

W.B.: It's a job to make it, though. Put that cane out,...  
after you grow it, you got to strip it, grind it,  
and all. It's a lot of *WORK*. Use to have a  
horse to pull it, pull it around and grind it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

W.B.: It was good after you got it.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Now, I bet ... Well, you just can't buy it. If you could buy it, it would cost you five dollars a gallon.

D.S.: Oh, why sure! They make it over at Page County during the Heritage Festival.

W.B.: They make it now over there?

D.S.: Yea, the old way. I don't know how much they charge, but I know it would be a lot.

W.B.: I know it would be too.

D.S.: Mmmmm. Uhhuh. Uh,.... Your flour.... I forgot to ask you, where you had your flour and corn ground?

W.B.: Well, we would ~~already~~ buy it, already ground or take the corn down to the mill to have it ground.

D.S.: Which mill?

W.B.: Well, it's a mill over at Madison, one at each place you went to.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: A water mill up here at this ole place, called?

D.S.: Estes?

W.B.: Estes, yes. You can see it from right here.

D.S.: Yes.

W.B.: From thar.

D.S.: Is that the one you mostly used?

W.B.: That the one we mostly come to.

D.S.: Uhhuh. ... When you took the flour or the corn to *be* ground, ... did the miller keep a certain percentage?

W.B.: That's right, he'd keep this part out of it. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: You'd get the rest.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: For grinding it.

D.S.: Again you used the horse,...or a wagon? Which did you use?

W.B.: What?

D.S.: A horse or wagon? Did you ride the horse?

W.B.: Oh, sure. I rode the horse. Carry the corn down. Just throw the corn on behind and go on with it. Corn was most all we had ground because we never raised no wheat. Buy the flour, you know, already ground.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Take corn to the mill to have <sup>it</sup> ground.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: Make corn meal out of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And, the horse would carry it back?

W.B.: The horse carried it back.

D.S.: How about shoes? Where did you get your shoes?

W.B.: Well, we'd get them down at the store. At the store.

D.S.: Did you know how much they cost?

W.B.: Well, I'd say maybe they cost two or three dollars, I'd say no more than that. *Then.*

D.S.: Yea. Right.

W.B.: Now they cost you twenty-five or thirty dollars.

D.S.: Did you get one pair a year or how many pairs?

W.B.: Well, it just depended on how you was workin'. You was lucky if you got one pair, I reckon.

D.S.: Yea, you saved that for winter, didn't you?

W.B.: Well, we wore them some through summer, too when *I was* more than half grown.

D.S.: How old were you when you moved out of the mountain?

W.B.: Well, I think I was about in my teens.

D.S.: Still with your tonsils in side you. (Laughing)

W.B.: Still with my tonsils.

D.S.: (Laughing) O.K.

W.B.: Yea, I still had them when we moved out of the mountain.

D.S.: Yea. When you ... When you moved out, did the Park help you find a place?

W.B.: No, indeed! Help you find a place, I tell you *They* *bought it before you* left, you know? A man knew the Park was a 'comin', he was sharp. He kept after my people until they sold the land, you know, to him. He was the one that got the money out of the Park.

D.S.: OH!

W.B.: Yea, he got the money out of the Park.

D.S.: Boy! What a rip off! Shoooo. Did you ever go to Skyl~~and~~?

W.B.: Skyl~~and~~<sup>and</sup>?

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Aaaah. ... No, I did ... No. ... I, mostly,..... My Daddy use to walk from thar to Luray.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: He walked across that mountain. They had horses thar and he said, 'No, I'm goin' to walk, need to walk, the horses not fast enough.' He'd walk on across that mountain and walk back, too. Association over

thar. Had a association in Luray. He would walk to the association and walk back.

D.S.: Huh.

W.B.: Now, they wouldn't walk five or four foot away.

D.S.: No, they wouldn't. (Laughed)

W.B.: I like to walk. I get out now and walk.

D.S.: Sure.

W.B.: The doctor told me, 'Weldon, you've got the best blood vessels in your legs of anybody I ever saw.' He said, 'You'd must walked a lot.' I said, 'I do.' He said, ' It's good for you.'

D.S.: You...

W.B.: He said, ' You got more blood in your legs than anybody I ever saw.'

D.S.: Uhhuh.

W.B.: He told me that not long ago.

D.S.: Walking is the best excercise there is. Right.

W.B.: I got out yesterday. I set around here and bothered me, I bet I walked over two miles.

D.S.: With all that walking, I am surprised you never walked up to George Pollick's Skyl~~ind~~.

W.B.: No, I never did walk up there.

D.S.: Huh.

W.B.: Never was up there to it.

D.S.: Yea. He had a lot of jobs for people. For young people like you were.

W.B.: I know, he did. I wasn't lookin' for no jobs though. Not at my age.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever go down to Camp Hoover?



W.B.: No.

D.S.: WELL, GOOD GRIEF.....!

W.B.: I'VE NEVER BEEN ON THAT DRIVE. ... I NEVER BEEN ALL  
THE WAY THROUGH IT!

D.S.: GOOD GRIEF! THAT WAS RIGHT UP ABOVE NETHERS!

W.B.: I know it was! I know where it was at!

D.S.: It wasn't up on the drive.

W.B.: The drive, I said I never been across the drive  
since it had been built.

D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh.

W.B.: I been up part of the way. Not ... I never have  
been over it all the way.

D.S.: Yes. Well, then your daddy come down here and  
started to do what? What was his adjustment?  
What did he do after leaving the mountain?

W.B.: Well, we had a place out thar. We made hay, and corn,  
and just about..

D.S.: The same as you had been doing?

W.B.: Well, a little better because we had a easier job  
down here makin' it.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: Used plows and horses, of course we never had no  
tractors then.

D.S.: Yea. You started this store, right?

D.S.: This store was George W. Johnson's.

D.S.: Oh! Uhhuh.

W.B.: I was down here and Mr. Raymond Johnson, that after  
he died, you know? He was renting it. I was *raising up from*  
Washington,..... Baltimore, buying cattle, and some

any cattle, hogs, calves, and anything he sent me. I went down one morning, he said, *he called me Weldon,* He said, 'Weldon why don't you go up and buy Uncle John's property, sale your own.' ' I said, 'Well, Raymond what does he want for it and whos got the sale for it?' He said, 'He wants five thousand and Uncle ~~Cash~~ <sup>KERRY</sup>, his brother, 'got the sale.' I said, 'I'm goin' right now and buy it.' That's what I did. Mr. ~~Cash~~ <sup>KERRY</sup>, he lived right down below the church.

D.S.: Mmmmm.

W.B.: He said, ... I asked him, ' I heard that Mr. Johnson's property was for sale?' He said, "Yes.' I said, 'What do you want for it, Mr. ~~Cash~~ <sup>KERRY</sup>?' He said, 'five thousand dollars.' I said, 'Well, I'm going to give you a check right now for five hundred dollars.' I gave him a check for five hundred dollars and I had a time getting it ~~back~~ <sup>Then</sup>.

D.S.: Oh!

W.B.: But, I... I ... had no pull. I had no contract.

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: And he come here, I got Lynn Lucas in Luray, for my lawyer. He come over here one day and he said, 'Mr. Burke, come one let's you and me ride down and see Mr. Cash Johnson, and ~~the~~ lawyer I bought the land from.'

D.S.: Yea.

W.B.: He went in and .....

D.S.: In the mountain a man's word stood for something.

W.B.: That's right. That's right.

D.S.: His family, ... loved and respected each other, and this issomething that comes through with every single person I have interviewed. The respect they had, not only for not only their own family but for each other.

W.B.: Yes, <sup>RIGHT</sup> ~~SIP!~~

D.S.: They help they gave each other, If somebody was sick, MY GOODNESS! Everybody came to help, didn't they?

W.B.: Right. That's right.

D.S.: Oh, by the way. Did you or any of your family ever pick gingseng?

W.B.: Pick what?

D.S.: Gingseng?

W.B.: Gingseng? I have many a'time. Picked it since I have been down here. I went up this mountain right here and filled my pockets up... I pulled off my socks and filled them up.

D.S.: (Laughed) When you picked the gingseng, did you use it for any particular reason?

W.B.: Yea, I sold it. Sold it.

D.S.: Oh, you sold it? You didn't use it?

W.B.: No, didn't use it. Sold it.

D.S.: Did you ever make sassafras tea? Did your mother ...

W.B.: I know ... I never made it, my Mama might have, I don't remember.

D.S.: Did you ever drink any?

W.B.: I don't remember.....

D.S.: Oh!

W.B.: ...if I did.

D.S.: Did you ever pick for sale, sumac leaves?

W.B.: Huh?

D.S.: Sumac leaves?

W.B.: No.

D.S.: We just learned they used them for dyes.

D.MC: The leaves?

D.S.: Yea.

D.MC: Huh!

D.S.: And, a lot of the people made good money out picking the sumac leaves and selling them.

D.MC: Oh! What color did they make?

D.S.: I don't know, that's what I'm trying to find out.

(Laughing)

D.MC.: Oh! (Laughed)

W.B.: I picked up chestnuts. Picked them up and sell them.

D.S.: Oh, yes until the blite came.

W.B.: The blite came and killed them all.

D.S.: Yea, and that was terrible.

W.B.: Was so.

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

W.B.: No.

D.S.: No? Is there anything you can think of, Debbie?

W.B.: She knows nothing about the mountain, does she?

D.S.: (Laughed)

D.MC. Just what you tell me.

W.B.: (Laughing)

D.S.: Have you any stories to tell us?

W.B.: No.

D.S.: No? Well, I sure do appreciate your time. You don't know how I appreciate it.

W.B.: Did the best I could.

D.S.: Oh, you been wonderful. I really do Thank-You.

W.B. MOST OF THE PEOPLE GONE NOW.  
DS YOU SAY YOU FOUND GINSENG IN THE  
HOLLOWES?

WB: Yes, IN THE DARK PLACES WITH RICH  
GROUND. YOU'D FIND PLACES HALF AS  
BIG AS THIS ROOM, THEN YOU HAD  
SOMETHING.

DS DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH YOU GOT  
FOR THEM?

WB NO, I DON'T REMEMBER.