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(SNP024) Evidell Cave interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Evidell Cave

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D.S.: Where did you live Mrs. Cave?


D.S.: In Madison, but where? In Madison?

E.C.: Well they called it Dark Hollow. That's all I know.

D.S.: Okey, in Dark Hollow. Alright now, your home was it anywhere near Dark Hollow Falls?

E.C.: Yea. Pretty close to Dark Hollow Falls?

D.S.: It was.


D.S.: Oh, how beautiful. Where, how close?

E.C.: Oh, I reckon about a mile. Down the road.

D.S.: I have heard the water was very very pure and sweet.

E.C.: Yes. Yes.

D.S.: It was. Uh, now were there many families living in Dark Hollow?

E.C.: Oh, about ten, I think. About ten...all huddled together.

D.S.: Yea, they were all sort of in that same area.

E.C.: Pretty close together.

D.S.: What was your maiden name?

E.C.: I was a Cave in the beginning and still a Cave.

D.S.: That makes it fun. Was your husband, close kin to you?

E.C.: No, he was a little bit kin, but not...he wasn't no first cousin.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh, most of the people in there were Cave's.

E.C.: Yea, Cave's and all of them were close kin.

D.S.: Uhhuh, great. That made it so all of you were...uh...sort of like a big family.

E.C.: Yea...see we didn't get out nowhere...very much...just come down here to a store and all like that.

D.S.: Yea, what store did you use?

E.C.: Kiblingers...you know...
D.S.: You used Abe Kiblinger's Store.

E.C.: I thought I was in heaven when I walked down the mountain and come down here to the store.

D.S.: How far was that?

E.C.: Oh, about four or five miles I guess...maybe more than that.

D.S.: Four or five miles up the mountain and then back down.

E.C.: And you walked all the way. You didn't have nothing to ride.

D.S.: You had no horses or mules.

E.C.: My granddaddy had a horse and my uncle a mule and carriage. He had a horse and that was all.

D.S.: Are you any kin to Cave, the preacher?

E.C.: Yea. He was my uncle. My daddy and him was brothers.

D.S.: Uhhuh. I understand he was a wonderful preacher.

E.C.: Yes, he was.

D.S.: Alright now, your home, what was it like? Was it a log house?

E.C.: Yea, log house and it had shingles...weatherboarded with shingles all over it.

D.S.: Oh, it was. Okey.

E.C.: My daddy was a shingle maker.

D.S.: He was.

E.C.: Uhhuh, he made shingles and sold them.

D.S.: Okey, this was the chestnut shingle that he used.

E.D.: Yes. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Do you know how much he got for the shingles?

E.C.: Oh, I can't recall that to save my life.

D.S.: Where would he take the shingles?

E.C.: Oh haul them out to Stanley.

D.S.: He didn't carry those?
E.C.: No, I hauled them in the wagon.

D.S.: Uhhuh, Yea. You were near the Gordonsville Turnpike, weren't you?


D.S.: Yea. So he could use the Gordonsville Turnpike... and come down. Did the people that did the hauling charge your father?

E.C.: Yea, I think they did. Uhhuh, but I don't know how much?

D.S.: Yea. Okey, now how many...roughly...how many acres did you own?

E.C.: I don't think there was but about three acres in where we lived.

D.S.: Just three acres.

E.C.: I think...planted a little garden and a patch of land. 

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Your nearest neighbor was how far?

E.C.: Willie Judd, and my grandfather. We all lived close in there together. None of us very far. No more than that store there.

D.S.: That isn't even quite a mile.

E.C.: No huhuh. We lived close together.

D.S.: Great, great..

E.C.: We could visit one another through the night and come back. We used to go to people's houses and stay a while and come back.

D.S.: And when you went and visited did you...did people sometimes play music. or just sit around and talk?

E.C.: Just sit around and talk.

D.S.: Yea. Look at the pussy cat watching those go around. Don't you dare...

Now you had a patch of garden. What did you raise?

E.C.: Oh, corn, beans, potatoes, and tomatoes, we could raise radishes and everything up there.


E.C.: Cabbages.

D.S.: Uhhuh, did you have an orchard?
E.C.: Little orchard around the house with peaches.
D.S.: Oh, uhhuh.
E.C.: My Grandfather grew apples.
D.S.: Oh, great, then you could use his apples.
E.C.: Yea. We dried apples and sold them...
D.S.: Where...and sold them at Kiblingers.
D.S.: Did you have chickens?
E.C.: Yea, we had chickens.
D.S.: And did you sell the chickens and eggs?
D.S.: Hams. did you have hogs?
E.C.: Yea, we had hogs.
D.S.: And cows?
E.C.: No we didn't have no cows. My grandfather had a cow.
D.S.: And you used his milk.
E.C.: Uhhuh. And I used to go down there every morning...run down there to the springhouse to get milk to make gravy every morning.
D.S.: You used milk in your gravy.
D.S.: Great. Was it good?
E.C.: Yea, it was good. But I like water gravy the best.
D.S.: I have never heard of milk in gravy.
E.C.: You haven't?
D.S.: No.
E.C.: Yea, we would make milk gravy.
D.S.: Uh, did your mother make yeast...make her own yeast?
E.C.: Yes, she and my grandmother made more so than my mother. But both of them did.
We didn't know what store bread was then.

D.S.: Oh, no. No. There was no such thing. Did you sell your hams too? Or you didn't get enough of them.

E.C.: No, we'd generally eat the hams... We didn't sell any.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now when you took your eggs and chickens to Abe Kiblinger's did he give you credit for those or did he give you cash?

E.C.: He'd give us cash. We didn't hardly have to buy anything but like flour, and sugar and coffee and stuff like that. We raised everything else...

D.S.: Uhhuh, so you didn't raise any wheat?

E.C.: No, we didn't raise no wheat.

D.S.: You raised enough corn though to make cornmeal?

E.C.: Yea. You could get out in the mountains and clear you a patch and plant any where you wanted to. Wasn't nobody going to say it belonged to them.

D.S.: Yea. That's right. So you opened up new ground, occasionally.


D.S.: Was that a lot of work?

E.C.: Right smart work. Had a bush fence around it and all. Yea, right smart work.

D.S.: Uhhuh, now. Did you get up early let's say around seven o'clock in the morning, or earlier.

E.C.: Well I spect it was earlier. Because my daddy worked in the copper mine where down there then and that's he worked.

D.S.: He worked in the copper mine.


D.S.: He worked in the copper mine and he also made shingles?


D.S.: He didn't let any grass grow under his feet, did he?

E.C.: No, he was busy all the time.
D.S.: That copper mine... do you know how much they paid the people for that?
E.C.: No, I don't. That's one thing I don't know.

D.S.: Yea... well, he would work there and then come home and make shingles.

D.S.: Would he take his dinner with him? to the copper mine?
E.C.: Yea. Well he worked two full days but still he would take his dinner.

D.S.: Yea. How about school. Did you have a school?
E.C.: Well there weren't much schooling at that time. I didn't go to much school did if there'd been, I'd have went. It weren't no schoolhouse just had to go to people's houses. The teacher was Harry Hall and he'd teach and I went to him. And he lived down at the copper mine then. I had to walk clear down there.

D.S.: How far was that?
E.C.: Oh, I 'spect it was a mile or more.

D.S.: Was this in the winter or the...
E.C.: Yea.........both.............. I went in the winter.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.C.: I went when it was pouring down rain or great big snows sometimes my daddy would walk in front of me and I'd walk in his tracks.

D.S.: Sure, uhhuh. Were there many children around?

D.S.: Oh dear.

E.C.: I guess me, and uh, my neighbor, Tom Breeden he was... his children... and my husband's sister... she was...... we all went together.

D.S.: Oh good. So then you had company going to school. Yea. Uhhuh. You had warm clothes didn't you?

D.S.: Did your mother make them?
E.C.: Uhhuh. You couldn't keep me...when there was a big big snow. I liked to play in the snow.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Yea. Did your mother have a sewing machine?

E.C.: Yes, uhhuh,

D.S.: She did? Okey. Then she also had a wood stove?

E.C.: Yea, we had a wood stove. A wood stove for heating and a cooking.

D.S.: You didn't have a fireplace then.

E.C.: No, we didn't have no fireplace. Everybody else that lived up there did, but we didn't have none.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Okey. That kept you warm though didn't it?

E.C.: Oh, yea.

D.S.: How many rooms were in your house?

E.C.: Just one and a kitchen.

D.S.: I forgot to ask you, how many children were in your family?

E.C.: Oh, I had two brothers, but one died when he was five years old and one at nine months old.

D.S.: What of?

E.C.: One of them had some kind of croup and the other had pneumonia.

D.S.: Oh no.

E.C.: And see there weren't no doctors around up that place.

D.S.: Dr. Ross.

E.C.: Well we'd have to go after him with a horse and bring him up there. He didn't come only people send for him.

D.S.: I thought Doctor Ross had his own horse.

E.C.: No, you'd have to go after him. Yea, he was our doctor. I went to him a many a time. He wouldn't never come unless you send after him.

D.S.: So there were only three children and you are the only one that survived.

E.C.: Uhhuh. I was the only girl.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh dear. That's too bad isn't it? I'll bet then you had a lot of chores to do.

E.C.: Well, not too many. I carried water and filled up the kettle in the mornin' to wash the next morning. See we didn't have no electric...

D.S.: No.

E.C.: Didn't know what electric was.

D.S.: No, buhuh. But I thought most of the children had to do quite a bit of work.

E.C.: No, I didn't do too much. They didn't put nothing hard for me...

D.S.: I guess they were just spoiling you some...did you ever when your mother or your father said for you to do something did you ever dare say I won't do it.

E.C.: No indeed. I didn't dare to say that. No sir...I had to do everything that they said to do.

D.S.: Did you ever get spanked?

E.C.: Not much. My daddy never did touch me. My mother...she did a little but not much.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you recall what you were spanked for?

E.C.: No, I don't.

D.S.: I do. Um, when there was pneumonia a good number of people would make onion poltices...and they said it worked.

E.C.: Yes um...it did. I've done it many a times...for my children.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Now after...you were married while you were still in the mountains right?

E.C.: Yea. Uhhuh. I was married when I was 19.

D.S.: 19. How did your husband court you?

E.C.: We had to sneak around. They didn't want me to see nobody. We just sneaked around in different places. I thought that was more fun.
D.S.: How did you know where to sneak to?
E.C.: Oh, he'd always let me know........... he'd come around to see me or something, and I knew exactly where he was at.

D.S.: Did he live far away from you?
E.C.: No, huhuh. No. It was about a quarter of a mile I reckon.

D.S.: Uhhuh. When you got married, did you stay in your same house? Or did you move into... did you build another house?
E.C.: Oh we lived with our parents awhile and then we lived with his parents for a little while and then we went to ourselves.

D.S.: Did he build the house?
E.C.: Yeah. He built the house himself.

D.S.: What kind of a house did he build?

D.S.: Yeah, uhhuh. And the stove, how did he get the stove in?
E.C.: I reckon my daddy helped him get the stove in. The door was big enough to get the stove in, we had an old chick stand someone give us, and people give us lots of things.

D.S.: Right, yeah. And by then of course you knew how to cook and all...
E.C.: Yeah... see I cooked when I was little.

D.S.: And you said you didn't have to do much work. And yet here you say you cooked when you were little.
E.C.: Well they didn't have any real work. Now some people up there like the neighbor Tom Breeden he had his girls help do these and peel bark and carry clear to the road and I didn't have to do that.

D.S.: Uhhuh, that's Elzie Cave's wife. Wasn't it.
E.C.: Yeah. She was one of them.

D.S.: Oh, Ralph Cave.
E.C.: Uhhuh, she was one.
D.S.: You know your name is such a pretty one. And I have never heard it before.
E.C.: I don't know, but one person with a name like mine. And that was a "Miss girl.
D.S.: Uhhuh. I wonder where your family found it.
E.C.: I don't know.
D.S.: Because I have never heard it before and it is so pretty. Evey-Dell...Very lovely...yea. Alright so when you had your own home and then did you have chickens? Uhhuh...and hogs...cows by then.
E.C.: Uhhuh, Uhhuh...No, we never did own a cow.
D.S.: Uhhuh, a horse.
E.C.: No.
D.S.: Uhhuh, and you had a garden?
D.S.: By the way did you have flowers?
E.C.: I was not much of a flower person...I ain't got no green thumb. I've had flowers but they didn't do much.
D.S.: Yea, did other people have a lot of flowers.
E.C.: Right smart, yea.
D.S. Uhhuh, when you were all visiting back and forth, nobody played any music.
E.C.: Yea, they had fiddles and banjos..
D.S.: Uhhuh, did you ever have any dances?
E.C.: No,
D.S.: Uh, what church did you go to.
E.C.: Methodist.
D.S.: Was that Gert Cave's?
D.S.: How far away was that?
E.C.: Well we didn't have a real church...it was a big shed like and it
used to be all kinds of preachers come through here but the place where Bird preached was right near us.

D.S.: Oh, that was handy. Did you go every Sunday?
D.S.: Would you get all dressed up, to go to church?
E.C.: No, not particularly. No. Didn't have nothing to dress in then.
D.S.: You said your mother made your clothes.
E.C.: We didn't have many. Didn't have as many clothes as we have today. If I had had what I have now, I'd thought I was rich.
D.S.: Yea, you are right. Did you know of any people that raised sheep?
E.C.: Nobody up there didn't raise no sheep.
D.S.: Um, when you...oh, did you have any toys like dolls or anything of that kind.
E.C.: I had one doll that my mother made.
D.S.: A rag doll?
E.C.: Uhhuh. It was a sugar sack I think...
D.S.: Ooh, I bet you loved that doll.
E.C.: Uhhuh, it was mine. Yea I used to play with that old doll...dress it and dress it again and make like it was in bed, and lay there and all that stuff.
D.S.: Do you remember the name you gave the doll?
E.C.: No, I don't remember that. Had a great big chestnut tree that had a tire in, and I go back and sit in that and play it was Santa Claus
and went to another place and called it by name and say and play like somebody visiting you know... did it by my self, you didn't have nobody to play with.
D.S.: Oh, uhhuh, Yes. Uh, did you ... now Christmas how was Christmas celebrated.
E.C.: I always hung a ...I didn't have a stocking...but I had a cap you know...I thought I would watch for Santa Claus at night.
And Santa Claus — and I'd hear my mother and father
to get something. And he wouldn't and she did and I saw a
he did and I thought Santa Claus never
in my mouth
and I had to pull the cover up to keep from laughing.

D.S.: What did you get for Christmas?
E.C.: Oh, we'd get oranges and raisens, and candy and chestnuts and...

D.S.: Yea, sure. That was good candy. When the chestnut blight came along
what happened?
E.C.: Oh, it killed all the trees. Big ice come and broke all the trees up. That made the blight.

D.S.: Um, you would all use the chestnuts though...
E.C.: Yea, we take them and sell them. We carried bushels of them down the
mountain. So you lost your cash crop.

D.S.: Yea. So then how did you manage? How did you people manage then?
E.C.: Well we just got them some other way.

D.S.: There was a drought right after that too wasn't there?
E.C.: No, the drought didn't hurt nothing.

D.S.: Okey, I thought there was a bad drought around 1930.
E.C.: It didn't bother. I don't remember it bothering in no way.

D.S.: Okey, Good. Your husband what did he do. Did he work in the copper mine?
E.C.: No, he didn't work in the copper mine. He done different things. He
picked fruit all like that.

D.S.: Oh, Martinsville.

E.C.: Uhhuh........I went one time.
Ok.. couple years with him.

D.S.: Did you know.

E.C.: Uhhuh.. cooked...


E.C.: We went on a big ole bus.. big ole truck.. that come up. 

D.S.: Oh, that was better. Uhhuh. And would you stay there for the whole apple picking time.

E.C.: Uhhuh.. Yea

D.S.: When you had.. first of all tell me about your wedding. Where did you have your wedding?

E.C.: At home, right in the house.

D.S.: Uhhuh, by then your family knew you'd been sneaking around.

E.C.: Yea, I was married right in the house... here.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And a preacher came in?

E.C.: Uhhuh. Preacher salmon

D.S.: You didn't of course go anywhere on the honeymoon.

E.C.: No, huhuh, nowhere to go.

D.S.: No, huhuh. So your husband pealed bark, and where would he take the bark?

E.C.: He'd haul it to Stanley.

D.S.: Uhhuh, did he make railroad ties?

E.C.: Yes. He made ties too.

D.S.: Did the people come and pick those up?

E.C.: Uhhuh, or we'd haul them on wagons.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Elzie Cave said that they had two horses. Did they ever help you out?

E.C.: No, nobody ever helped. with no horses.
D.S.: I thought you people all helped each other.
E.C.: No, not too much.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, did you have your children while you were still in the mountain?
E.C.: I had three of them up there.
D.S.: Did you use Dr. Ross?
E.C.: When I lived up over the store... with my youngest one, I had a doctor then.
I never did have no doctor and didn't go to no hospital.
D.S.: Then who helped you?
E.C.: Uh... Ginny Thomas... was a midwife. And I had two weren't nobody with me.
D.S.: Okay. Oh my goodness. Umm... you are a strong person. You certainly are.
As far as money goes did you ever feel... oh dear... I wish we had more money?
E.C.: Um, no I don't recall ever thinking that. There was always enough. You
most of
grew everything you needed...
E.C.: Well I had a baby and the Depression and right at that time then I had one
to be born. But we got along okay.
D.S.: Sure.
E.C.: ...a difference.
D.S.: Uh, how did you keep your vegetables over the winter?
E.C.: Cabbage... we had a cellar and buried the cabbage in the ground.
D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Did you keep the same trench year after year.
D.S.: Yea. Cause those were hard to dig weren't they?
D.S.: It wasn't very rocky there?
D.S.: Did you ever go swimming?
E.C.: No, I can't swim.

D.S.: With that beautiful falls there didn't you ever have picnics there or anything of that kind?

E.C.: No. No we didn't pay much attention to things like that then.

D.S.: Did you ever look around and say what a lovely .. where we are living?

E.C.: Yes, I used to care birds and nature.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Speaking of hunting birds nests..did your father or your husband do any hunting?

E.C.: My uh..yea they used to right smart. My daddy used to kill pheasants and squirrel and all ..my husband too. I used to go with him..when we were first married I went with him..a hunting.

D.S. : Oh you could shoot too.

E.C.: No, I went with him..but I didn't shoot .. I just went. somebody else be standing off in a distance a singing and they could sneak up and get him. And that's what I'd do. I caused him to get three that way.

D.S.: You mean you'd distract the pheasant

E.C.: Uhhuh..I'd just sit a whistling and singing and my husband would sneak up and get it.

D.S.: Hey. Where were the pheasants? Were they anywhere near Camp Hoover?

E.C.: Yea. They was along through the woods everywhere.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Was that the area they call Stone Hill.

E.C.: I don't know what they called it. I didn't hear that.

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

E.C.: Yea, I've been there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever meet President Hoover?

E.C.: No, uh my husband was up there working and Roosevelt was here..he seen him up there. But I never.
D.S.: Wasn't the Hoover school somewhere near you.

E.C.: Uhhuh, but I done moved from up there then.

D.S.: Oh, you left the mountain...

E.C.: Uhhuh. We left before the park took over.

D.S.: Why?

E.C.: Well we just wanted to move out.

D.S.: Oh, you beat my question then. Why did you move out?

E.C.: Well, I don't know, we just got tired of living up there and we moved over the store up here.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Then you got no money for your property?

E.C.: Yea, he got paid for...somebody else...Ralph Cave down here bought the house.

D.S.: Oh, Uhhuh.

E.C.: He got the house. And the Park took it then.

D.S.: Oh, that's unusual. So what...your husband came here and then what did he do?

E.C.: Well he'd go off and work at places. Down the country and all around and different things. And then when it was apple picking time you go to apple picking, cherry picking...all such as that.

D.S.: You say he worked down the country...down in Washington.

E.C.: Yea...no it was the other way...West Virginia.

D.S.: Oh, I see. Uhhuh. Okey. He didn't help the farmers around here.


D.S.: How about applebutter boiling. Did you ever make applebutter?


D.S.: Was it a fun time?

E.C.: Uhhuh, yea. Sometimes you'd stay up all night long stirring. People don't do that no more.

D.S.: No, they don't. Um when you made the applebutter was it during the day or the evening?
E.C.: Well we'd put it on every morning and boil it all day and all night, til the next morning.

D.S.: Okey, so you were all very busy and how about food?

E.C.: Oh, we had plenty of food.

D.S.: Somebody always fixed food, right?


D.S.: Would anybody play music?

E.C.: Yea. Sometimes we'd play music and let the applebutter burn.

D.S.: Oh gosh. Did you do dancing then when you...

E.C.: No, huhuh, I didn't dance.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Would anybody drink any moonshine?

E.C.: Uh, yes sometimes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How about at Christmas. Did they drink moonshine then?

E.C.: Yes, indeed.

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

E.C.: No, I never.

D.S.: Did others?


D.S.: Uhhuh. Okey. Now did many people in that area make moonshine?

E.C.: Right many.

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh. Did you have anyway of notifying them when the revenue men would come up?

E.C.: No, I don't think so. Huhuh, No, I don't think so... remember if they did.

D.S.: Okey. Now you have...I am sure...your mother must have taught you and you must have used them... lots of herbs that you used...for different things.


D.S.: Do you recall any of them.

E.C.: Some kind of uh...catnip tea.
D.S.: What would you use that for?
E.C.: I don't know what it was for.
D.S.: Did it taste good?
E.C.: Yea, it tasted good. And uh, some kind of mint...
D.S.: Peppermint..horsemint..
E.C.: Yea, horsemint .. and rhubarb root tea was good for yellow jaundice.
D.S.: Rhubarb..Rhubarb root..
E.C.: Uhhuh...uhhhuh, the tea.
D.S.: Rhubarb root ... jaundice .. for jaundice..
E.C.: Uhhuh I had jaundice I that's what I took. cured me.
D.S.: Wow. How would you take that.
E.C.: Oh, take it every couple days. But nasty..some of the nastiest stuff you ever tasted.
D.S.: But it cured you.
E.C.: Oh, yea. I had a child that had it and I give it to him and it cured him too. My youngest son..
D.S.: ... Now see those are the things people are learning now everybody really needed. Have you any others that you could tell us?
E.C.: Well there was an old tea that was called Bone set.
D.S.: Yea, what did you use that for.
E.C.: Well, I never did use any myself...I've heard them tell different things to do. And I hear these little ants bite around my neck.
D.S.: Oh, yes. Oh yea. And uh, you say you did use the onion poultice.
D.S.: Yea. And uh, did you ever get turpentine and sugar?
D.S.: Terrible.
E.C.: Yes, indeed, the turpentine is, but I liked the coal oil.
D.S.: Really?
D.S.: Did it work?
E.C.: Uhhuh. When you'd go to your store you'd put gum candy on a coal oil can and I'd always eat that candy because it tasted good.
D.S.: Did it cure a sore throat really? Or a cold.
E.C.: No, I don't think it did. It might have helped it, but it didn't cure it.
E.C.: Um, yea, I've taken that too. That's good tea to drink just like a mint.
D.S.: That's right, yea. Um, persimmon bark, did you ever use persimmon bark.
E.C.: No, I don't think I've hear'd of that.
D.S.: By the way, nobody has ever mentioned eating persimmons. Did you used to eat persimmons?
E.C.: Yea, I've eat them.
D.S.; They are good.
E.C.: Yea but if they ain't chewed up good..they will draw your mouth up..pucker your mouth up.
D.S.: Yea, wait till first.
E.C.; When they turn real blue.
D.S.: Yea, have you ever made any jellies or anything out of them.
E.C.: No, I never did make no jelly out of it.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How about wild strawberries. Were there any wild strawberries?
E.C.: Oh, I've picked a many of them..wild strawberries and made preserves out of them.
D.S.: Sure, yea. Did you ever sell any?
E.C.: No, I never sold any of it.
D.S.: How about huckleberries?
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever dry your peaches?
E.C.: No, huhuh. We always canned them we never dried none.
D.S.: Uhhuh. When you dried you apples how would you do that.
E.C.: Well we'd slice them up and put them up on the roof of the house or on a rock or on anything you could get them on. I've had the house roof full many a time.
D.S.: What happened if it rained?
E.C.: Go up there and get them and get them off.
D.S.: Busy, busy, busy
E.C.; They wouldn't be good if it rained on them.
D.S.: No. uhhuh. Let's see. There are so many things I want to ask you...oh the furniture in your house, when you were a little girl. Was it handmade furniture.
E.C.: Well, they didn't have much furniture...we had what you call a bureau, and a wash stand, and a couple of beds and that's all the furniture we had. We didn't have much furniture.
D.S.: Speaking of beds.. did you use straw mattresses?
D.S.: Yea.
E.C.: Yea, filled that great big old tick with straw many a times. Didn't know what a mattress like you got now...
D.S.: They were comfortable weren't they?
E.C.: Yea. after you got them fixed down.
D.S.: Sure, right. Did your mother make quilts?
E.C.: Yes. She used to make quilts and sell them.
D.S.: Oh,
E.C.: Uhhuh. We used to make these here kind of rugs too.
D.S.: Really. Where would she sell them.
E.C.: Well there was a woman over at the Hoover place and she sold them there. I don't know what her name was. She's made a whole lot of quilts.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever use these feather ticks?

E.C.: Yea, I had one...my grandmother...she was the one that had the feather ticks. She had two. She laid on one and covered with one.

D.S.: Did they separate...the feathers separate?

E.C.: No, not much hubuh.

D.S.: I've heard people say that they separated.

E.C.: ....what I've laid on, I don't remember separating.

D.S.: Were they made out of goose?

E.C.: Yes.

D.S.: Okey, that's why. Goose feathers didn't...yea. So you were always nice and warm.

E.C.: ...yea, I don't remember being cold at night.

D.S.: Yea. Did any snow ever come into your house?

E.C.: Yea, that one time I was sleeping upstairs and it blowed through the shutters and when I went downstairs I stepped three lumps of snow.

D.S.: That must have been a surprise.

E.C.: A drift right in the floor, and I stepped over it.

D.S.: Well you'd get up early in the morning...I guess you went to bed early at night didn't you?

E.C.: Yes, uhhuh. If I didn't get up early...my mother would hollar for me. I'd think I would get up...but I'd drop back to sleep and I'd be a dreaming and first thing she'd hollar again...she'd do that about four times before I'd get up.

D.S.: You were tired. You'd worked hard all day. When you went to school, how far did you go through school.

E.C.: Well I didn't hardly go noplace. I didn't learn much...what little I
could write, and I could read. I didn't want to go to school. I learned at home. They never did set no one to make me go or nothing.

D.S.: Oh, really, you had to teach yourself?
D.S.: Couldn't have been a very good teacher.
E.C.: He was unpatient. Always hit you with something.
D.S.: Maybe you deserved it.
E.C.: I remember one time when he hit me... there were two people who decided they were going to spit and spit in the fireplace and I laughed...and that's when he hit me with the stick. That's all I done was laugh.
D.S.: Oh. Oh dear. Uh, did you ever tell, or have people tell you any ghost stories...as you would sit around of an evening.
D.S.: Do you remember any?
E.C.: I remember I used to go to my uncles and they'd tell ghost stories and they'd scare me so bad I just want to jump up in his lap and lay down.
D.S.: Can you remember any of them.
E.C.: No, No I can't remember...none of the ghost stories but I know they was scary things he'd tell.
D.S.: By the way did you ever do the Kris Kringle at Christmas?
E.C.: Uhhuh. That's what I thought was fun. Now it don't seem like Christmas is right...because you don't go Kris Kringle.
   Yea, I've done that many a time. Made my own face and all.
D.S.: Yea. What would you make it out of?
E.C.: Old cloth and sew cotton on it. Paint it and couldn't get it off.
D.S.: Oh gosh. Would you do that before Christmas or after.
E.C.: Yea, before.
D.S.: Uhuh. And did you do it after Christmas.
E.C.: No, I didn't bother with it after.
D.S.: Uhuh. Did you go outside of Dark Hollow.
E.C.: Uh, no. At that time mostly I was visiting in Elkton to my uncles. He had a whole lot of children, and that's where we went.
D.S.: How did you get there to Elkton?
E.C.: On the train.
D.S.: Walked down to Stanley
E.C.: Walked down the mountain to Stanley. Had to go early because the train came at 11:00 then. Yea...walk up the mountain. Well I thought it was fun to walk up the mountain.
D.S.: Sure; Elkton, uh..your uncle lived around Swift Run Gap.
E.C.: Um...someplace. I don't know what they called it. Red Brush.
D.S.: I don't know Red Brush. Where was that? Up above Elkton. Was it in the mountains?
E.C.: Yea, uhuh. Yea it was in the mountains.
D.S.: Was this your father's brother?
E.C.: It was my mother's brother.
D.S.: Your mother's brother. And you had a lot of cousins?
E.C.: Oh yea. There were 12 of them.
D.S.: Wow. No wonder you wanted to go
E.C.: That's where I liked to go...with granddad all the time. Because of them.
D.S.: Sure. Uhuh. Oh, I can well believe that. Yea. So you'd go and spend a
few days before Christmas Day and then take the train back?


D.S.: You did this all alone.

E.C.: No, my mother sometimes would go along. But I have went by myself.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. Great. Uh, do you remember any of the tunes that were played. what songs were played . . . the guitars and banjos...and fiddles.

E.C.: No. They played old stuff like they danced to like Turkey in the Straw and I can't think of the others . . . funny things.

E.C.: Yea. And yet you didn't dance. I had went to dances already, but I didn't at that time. After I got married and got grown I went to a dance, but I never when I was single.

D.S.: What have I missed asking you. Oh, I know what I wanted to ask you. Do you know of any stealing or if people did any stealing?

E.C.: Uh, no, I don't recall too much stealing...

D.S.: Did you have a lock on your door?

E.C.: No. Huhuh. No...I

D.S.: No spite fires.


D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, were there fires started because of uh making sure of having a huckleberry crop?

E.C.: Yea, there's been plenty of fires down in the huckleberries...up on the mountain.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Were you ever afraid that your house would get on fire? With some of these fires.

E.C.: No, I wasn't close to that. We didn't live close to that... where they...

D.S.: Yea. Okey. There were some bad fires around 1927...

E.C.: Oh, I know... but I didn't live close to any of them.

D.S.: Yea, okey. Yea they were mainly around Old Rag and that area.

E.C.: Yea. No they didn't bother me.

D.S.: Did you ever go to Skyland?

E.C.: Uhhuh, yea. We went across the drive this Sunday.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you go to any of Polluck's parties?

E.C.: No, I never was at none of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you sell any of your huckleberries up there?

E.C.: No, all canned them...

D.S.: Uhhuh. You never sold anything up there?

E.C.: No, huhuh, no.

D.S.: Would you see the people as they would be riding around up there on horseback?


D.S.: They looked as though they were having fun didn't they?

E.C.: I know... yea.

D.S.: Yea. Did Polluck have his angle?


D.S.: Did the people ever stop and talk with you? Just rode along.

E.C.: No, huhuh... just rode on.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. When you were visiting your uncle in Elkton, did any of them play any practical jokes that you know of?

E.C.: No, huhuh.

D.S.: You didn't either?

E.C.: No.
D.S.: You look as though you would. 
E.C.: No, I ain't never done nothing that day. I didn't play pranks on nobody.
D.S.: Did you ever play any April Fools Day jokes on that day?
E.C.: No, I ain't never done nothing. I didn't play pranks on nobody.
D.S.: Did you celebrate Thanksgiving?
D.S.: You did. How?
E.C.: Oh, I don't know how...I guess have a feast like... Uhhuh.
D.S.: You would. Great. Yea. Oh, this has been wonderful. You have opened up Dark Hollow. Is there anything that you can think of as you think back on that life there that I haven't asked about.
E.C.: No, I don't know of anything.
D.S.: Was it hard work working in the garden?
D.S.: Why didn't you all raise wheat?
E.C.: Well there weren't no place up there;no fields to raise wheat. All steep mountain you know...didn't have no fields you know. The field that are up there now, that was cattle in there...Didn't have nothing to do with that. But we was down in there..Dark Hollow.
D.S.: That's right. Yea. Okey. Well that makes sense too. But you did have corn so you were able to have some meal.
E.C.: Yea, had corn.
D.S.: What would be a typical breakfast?
D.S.: Milk.
E.C.: Yea, we had plenty of that.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever make sorghum?
E.C.: No we never did make any of that. But I've made plenty of preserves and...
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.C.: No, never did make none.
D.S.: There was a lot of work to that.
E.C.: I know there was.
D.S.: You never made peachbutter? Just applebutter?
D.S.: No. Pumpkinbutter?
E.C.: No, huhuh.
D.S.: Do you know of anybody who did?
E.C.: No, I don't.
D.S.: Okey. Did you grow pumpkins?
E.C.: Yea, we grewed them. Uhhuh. They grewed. Yea.
D.S.: Ummm! Yea. Well, I certainly thank you very very much. This has been a wonderful wonderful time. And you have told us a tremendous amount even all the way down to Elkton which we never expected to go to.