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(SNP041) Mamie Jenkins Dearing interviewed by
Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G.
Marston

Mamie V. Dearing

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mrs. Mamie Jenkins Dearing
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith
DATE:
PLACE: Top of Dark Hollow

COMPLETED DATE:

October 12, 1981

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

This is Dorothy Smith interviewing Mrs. name Clara who had

D.S.:lived in Dark Hollow. Is that right?

M.D.: No I lived up near the Skyland Drive.

D.S.: Well..oh, up near the Skyline Drive...on the...at the top of Dark Hollow.

M.D.: Well right above the **Thomas Graveyard**.

D.S.: Right above the Thomas Graveyard. What was your maiden name?

M.D.: Jenkins. We lived this side of the Thomas Graveyard.

(over) [SEE SUPPLEMENT]

D.S.: Alright..now you must have had some fun and toys. Did you have any toys of any kind?

M.D.: Very few.

D.S.: What were they?

M.D.: Well, I had two or three...we called them clay dolls. Had rag bodies but little clay heads and clay hands. My daddy bought them for us. At Christmas time. Then, it must sound dumb, but you know all the cans had these zink lids on them with *put in the plate* and when the can lid weren't no good we'd all beg mom, can I have the next one. Us girls, and we'd get that thing out and use it for plates for our dolls table.

D.S.: Oh, yea.

M.D.: There weren't no children's dishes then...if there was we didn't see none.

D.S.: No. No. So you had fun.

M.D.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you play any games..like the boys played marbles I know.

M.D.: You know I was never interested in playing cards...never played cards in my life...*never* playing checkers. Always wanting to be sewing..making something. The rest would sit back and be contented playing...but I don't know *why I was liked* I said when you got through playing you ain't got nothing to speak for it. ...when I went to school. Miss Hazel was my school teacher and she said you are silly. And they would play what they called *prisoner base & all* and I'd sit out there and read a book.

D.S.: Good. Speaking of school...where was your school?

M.D.: Down on Tanners Ridge. You know where Tanners Ridge Church is?

D.S.: Yea.

M.D.: Well right there's where I went to school.

D.S.: How far away was that?

M.D.: Oh two or three miles.

D.S.: Two or three miles..how about..when was it..in the winter or summer...

M.D.: Yea...well they didn't have none when I should have been going...when I was small...there weren't none. And then I had got up old enough to have been in the third or fourth or fifth grade and then they started the school up.. called the Missionary School. And Miss Hazel was one *of them principals* and they had the school up there then and they had..it wouldn't start til about I don't know..September or October...it would start after Labor Day. And it let out about the last of March. It was a six month school. *when I was there*

D.S.: Were there many children in the school?

M.D.: Yes. There was a lot of people lived ^{around} up there..the Offbackers and the Meadows on this side of the ridge. and the Thomas' and some ~~Cave's~~ there [^] Cave children didn't get no schooling.. there weren't none over at Dark Hollow and then what did get to go then after built Hoover they [^] the [^] schoolhouse .. that was on the other side.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Right.

M.D.: That was one thing that was a disadvantage to most of the mountain people. They didn't have no privilege for no schooling.

D.S.: No, they didn't. No.

M.D.: My mother said she didn't go to no school for but two or three days. And my grandpap said he never did go to school ^{day} nary a [^] and he could read anything.

D.S.: Taught himself.

M.D.: Yea. He said that when he was a little boy he went and stayed all night with some relatives and he was a preacher for 33 years and people would come to him *that was Uncle Obijah Dandley* and *to kind* recite different scriptures in the Bible, and he said when he was a

little boy .. grandpap has said a many a times .. he went and stayed all night with some of his mother's people and they went to Sunday School and you know you used to get little Sunday School cards...I reckon you saw them...with pictures on one side and Bible Verses on the back and they told him it had a whole lot of questions and answers^{down on them} and told him to study all that and come back the next Sunday and then they would call up each child and ask him those questions. Don't do all that in Sunday School no more. And he said he studied and studied that week a trying to get all that so he would know them thought maybe parents would let him go back where ever it was...a couple of miles to stay all night, but he said studying that Sunday School card got him interested in the Bible and interested in reading and he went on .. he made a preacher and he never did get to go to no school. *

D.S.: And yet he could read.

M.D.: Yea.

D.S.:How about arithmetic?

M.D.: Well they had one at the schoolhouse and we would...we had some school books..

I had some second cousins Nauman children...lived down at Stanley and of course they bought some books off of other children .. hand me downs .. and uh we had different kinds of books and I always liked the little geography books real good...but the ones^{we} didn't have we would borrow from each other and share.

D.S.: So you went through how far in school?

M.D.: Well I went through the fifth grade.

D.S.: And you can read good.

M.D.: Well I wouldn't say good but better than I could when I ~~quit~~ ^{quit} ~~kid~~, because I like to keep up on the news and the newspaper, and I've read all the New Testament a couple of times. I go to church every Sunday.

D.S.: Yea. So really not having the education you haven't done badly at all have you?

M.D.: No. Like I have a friend up here at Harrisonburg and his father tried to get

him to go to college when he was a boy so much. And he said well college is good but he says a lot of people comes out of college and still doesn't know nothing..

D.S.: That's right.

M.D.: And he said a little common sense goes a lot farther.

D.S.: Right. Did you ever get up to Skyland since you were so close to the top of the mountain?

M.D.: Oh, yea. I had an uncle that lived right on the other side of where they built the drive. And when they was working on that drive my daddy got work up there and worked all that summer and they took in three or four men to board and then I'd have to get up every morning to make breakfast and pack lunch. And uh so I was across that drive and I've seen them working on it. I was out at Grandma Cave's....when they started hauling that machinery in and unloading and people came and came a standing there looking at it and we stopped and seen them unloading all this machinery to start the drive. But the people hadn't never seen anything like it. Said one of them men...I didn't hear him...they said one of them men said people all gathered up here like they going to have a *Chapel* meeting.

D.S.: Yea. But did you get to Skyland itself to see Polluck?

M.D.: You mean back where it's at now?

M.D.: Yea..

D.S.: Yea. We were back there after the road was in..and after I was married. But uh, as I said we didn't get far from home when I was growing up.

D.S.: Alright now, tell me about applebutter boiling. I know that' you've made applebutter....while you were up there in the mountains.

M.D.: Yea, they would boil that pretty near every fall. Well if they *had apples*.

D.S.: Did you make a party out of it?

M.D.: Well I don't know if you called it a party or not..it was all hard work. Us kids enjoyed it because it would be a lot of company around and they cooked a

lot of extra things. But uh, we didn't have no apple peelers then and the neighbors would come in and they'd peel for two or three days. And if we had enough apples there at the house to boil..well they were awful scrawny and knotty for apples weren't taken care of like they are now and over at Grandma's..over at Dark Hollow where my great-grandmother..mama's grandmother lived, they would go up there sometimes and get a lot of real sour apples, but then Brumback got to giving Pop some apples and he would go down there and get some and we'd mostly keep a lot of them...they were a later made apple and were sweeter *like Stamen* but like I said the neighbors..some of Dick Offenbackers girls and Bill Thomas' girl and Aunt *Keet* ...we called her Aunt *Keet* her girls...Rhoda and Hazel...they would peel apples for say two or three days and she would have some little wooden barrels and she'd take an old white piece of sheet or something and put in there to line it and pour....and they'd get about three of those barrels full of cut apples and Pop would go up to June Weakley's ^{that was four or five miles} and get the applebutter kettle and we would get up..people would boil it different from what we do now..we'd get up at daylight and put the thing on and mom had a crippled brother..he had paralysis when he was small and he was on crutches..Uncle Will..and he ..all the time, with the butchering *and* applebutter making..he could do about anything even if he was kind of handicapped. And he would kind of stir the butter for them. And they'd keep putting in apples and putting in apples and get ^{putting in} down ^{down} apples, til it would be way after night getting the stuff off.

D.S.: Sure. That's right. Well didn't anybody play a fiddle or anything like that.

M.D.: Not there at our house..ever near *Waco* Meadows they'd have a lot...

D.S.: Didn't they have couples..one on each side stirring...

M.D.: Sometimes they did. But I don't know..my mother and daddy were awful strict about everything.

D.S.: So you didn't get a chance to get a kiss if you touched the side of the paddle?

M.D.: No, they were awful strict. Now over at Alex Meadows they would have parties

..probably drink..but Lord, my daddy would have a fit if he heard somebody cuss or play cards ...I never seen a deck of cards now til after I was married. think that's a story
Now you might ^{think that's a story} but I never did see one.

D.S.: No. So your father didn't make any moonshine?

M.D.: No. He..they was bitter agin everything that was like that. Well see mom, her father being a preacher and my daddy oldest brother .. Uncle Milt ...that died before I was born...I think he used to preach some. And they more or less .. people that was strict agin that didn't approve of it. But then their was some families that want all out for everything.

D.S.: Yea. At Christmas time..uh, what did you do at Christmas?

M.D.: Well mama always boiled a big old ham and she'd bake a lot of apple pies. And they would make them then, and they'd put them out on plates til they got cold ...now people today..pies stick together or mine would..but Aunt *Buck* mother could make the best apple pies I thought ever eat. And mom would make apple pies and make a whole lot..maybe twelve or fifteen and put maybe five or six in a sack on plates ^{after they cold} put them back in the room where there weren't no fire and she'd make four or five stacks of cake and be coconut cake and chocolate cake and caramel cake. But they'd make them from scratch..nobody had no cake mix. But I can remember Jessie Good she'd ~~take~~ a big old..dark brown milk crock and I had a lot of milk crocks and then after I moved here somebody broke up a lot of my stuff when I moved it, but she'd break about three eggs in that crock and take two cups of sugar and a half cup of lard..see they made lard when they butchered the hogs and she'd beat all that and put her flour and baking powder soda, and vanilla;she'd put vanilla..and what lemon..she'd put lemon and bake it in these cake pans and put it on a plate til it got cold and then they'd always put or three or four on a stack and now you only get two. But us kids were tickled to death...we'd ^{make} ~~back~~ another stack of cakes on the week-ends. We'd have lots of comp any..people would visit from house to house and we'd have a

lot of company the week-end. Cause we had a lot of uncles and aunts on both sides.

D.S.: Week-ends were your visiting times?

M.D.: Yea. Well any time of the week. We didn't have no special day. People found time to go but week-end..they would on Sunday.

D.S.: If for instance, you decided to go and visit a family and they were all busy out in the field what would you do?

M.D.: Well there was ^{always} some at the house making dinner..... . They would all sit at the house making dinner ..help fix the table..help wash the dishes.. help peel potatoes..whatever the people ^{was a din} at the house ~~would do~~...some stayed in and made dinner for the others to come to eat.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Did you .. you said you got your dolls sometimes atChristmas.. did you get firecrackers too.

M.D.: Yea. Well after my brother got electrocuted...got up right smart little boy.. my daddy got us a couple little packs..little biddy tiny ones..for him several times..I never did have none. But he did get some for Nathan a couple times. But when I got married..my two younger sisters Tricia and Pearl..one was six and one was..no Tricia was a little over six and Pearl was four..Pearl was a little over four and Tricia was a little over six and I had..I always called it my little chunky doll..little short..and one was slim and I wish I had a kept them...old timey dolls and they had the prettiest little old faces and I gave my two..one to Pearl and one to Tricia when I got married. Well I had kept them and put them all up in little boxes and after I give them to my little sisters..well they didn't have them anytime til..you know their head would break if you dropped it...but I don't know people didn't try to keep and take care of things then. Like they do..I mean..they don't now like they did then.

D.S.: That's right. They don't.

M.D.: Well after I was a right smart girl..I don't know 14 or 15 my daddy got one of these record players where you wind up. And that was when I was first starting to like boys and I know I would get back there in the corner..somebody would come ⁱⁿ and want to hear a record..now this Clarence Meadows they buried today..he had one a good while back..he ~~listen like us~~ ^{was my cousin}..and he'd buy one everytime he'd hear a new record. And he'd get tired of them he'd go up there and want to sell them to my daddy so he could buy some new ones. And he'd sell them for real cheap. And my daddy had a whole lot of old time records. I asked my sister the other day what went with them. She said I don't know, when mom was living over at Timberville..some of them got them. I said I would like to have had some of them. I never did know what went with them.

D.S.: They are valuable...now...

M.D.: Yea. But pop bought them...I bet he bought fifteen or twenty off of Clarence Meadows. And they was old time..we had some records..they called the Carter Family. We always liked them. But he probably bought ^{them} new "Diamonds in the Rough", and "Little Darling Pal of Mine", and "You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone." I can remember those Carter Family records..they kind of stood out..they was real good singing..but that was later on when I had gotten bigger. We didn't have no records ~~there~~ ^{player} when I was small. He had this little square ^{one} kinda suitcase snap it down here and then ^{yqu'd unsnap it and the lid go back} records go back, and put little needles in there. Buy them little packages of ^{gramophone} needles. I've still got a ^{record player} that plays but... .. ~~but~~ mine was about this high.

B.S.: Yea. Did anybody dance? Did anybody do any dancing?

M.D.: They would...we would hear about it at other people's houses. But that wasn't allowed at our house.

D.S.: Oh...

All we'd do was work..

M.D.:we'd go over to Uncle Jim's and stay all night sometimes that was ~~at~~ daddy and Uncle Jim and us kids be out in the yard and be playing..holding each

other..hand holding...different things..tag and *top hands* and *some boys* and *my* cousins...they would make a ball, take something and ball it up..keep wrapping it and wrapping it and wrapping it...it down...and wrapping it til they made it big enough to play with. But anyhow there would be some neighbor children over there to visit and sometimes there would be 8 or 10 all out in the yard a playing. And when it come a certain time of the evening *Uncle Jim come to the door* ~~be a couple there.~~ "It's time now to change that kind of game..ya'll get in here it's time to read the Bible." Everybody had to be quiet and go in and Uncle Jim would sit and read the Bible and have prayer. And he always said if I'm obedient to the Lord, the Lord has promised me a hundred years. *.....* And Uncle Jim lived to be 102.

D.S.: Oh, I'll be darn.

M.D.: Yea he did. It sounded strange, but he did.

D.S.: You know, I was just thinking..you said you all stopped playing and went into the house.

M.D.: Yes.

D.S.: The discipline..how did your parents discipline you?

M.D.: Well mom, if we done anything she thought we oughtn't..she'd always get a big old switch and get after us. Daddy wasn't for that. He was more easy going. My daddy..mom was the one that kind of took the lead on correcting us..But pop was strict on us seeing anything wrong didn't go on around. And uh, if we ..I reckon you call it lazy...not half a doing our work..pop plowed..he kept horses and plowed between the rows of whatever we planted..potatoes or corn.. we'd have to take hoes and go along...see you planted in hills then..and we'd take hoes and go along and clean out between the rows. And he'd get right fer ahead of us. Plowing *all weren't* .. catching us .. *he* would get out there and say ya'll get out there and get those rows caught up .. He'll be through plowing there in a minute and *he* ain't gonna come back there and do it. *But* mom was always pretty strict on making us .. but by me being the oldest one .. after I got up some-

thing like 10 or 12 years old .. I got a babysitting job .. while I did a whole lot of the jobs in the house..mom would get up and go with pop and a couple of the bigger children and I'd have to stay at the house and keep the little ones. I kept the little ones a lot while they would do things. Sometimes he'd be a fixing fence around the place and mom would .. well I' reckon it's nature you want to get off sometimes .. and I would keep the children and stay there and keep them. But they would always ^{afraid} ~~be~~ for me to have a fire. And when it was cold enough ~~for me~~ to have a fire, he didn't do that kind of work. But if it was summer and he was out and when the baby was right small.. she was ^{afraid one would} fall of the bed..didn't have no playpen. And she'd spread an old quilt down on the floor and put the baby on it so I wouldn't let it fall.After I got bigger she wasn't, but I've done it like ~~to~~ ^{that}.

D.S.: Yea. Did you mind having that as your job?

M.D.: No, as long as they weren't going to be gone too long and If I'd get the baby to go to sleep, then I thought I'd ^{have it made.} ~~take a nap~~. Sometimes you couldn't get them to go to sleep. But I'd want to cook dinner or something til they come and she'd say I can't have no fire. I know one time she said you can have some potatoes peeled til I come and don't you make no fire in that stove. She was afraid somebody would get burnt..that was nature. And I'd peel potatoes and of course she would always have other stuff cooked up and I didn't know what they were going to have .. ^{Well Aunt Nell} ~~Aunt~~ come along .. and she'd been to visit Aunt ^{Kells} and she said..I said Aunt ^{Nell} can I make a fire in the stove and you bake some bread for me. She said well Les might get after me. Mama's name was Leslie and she called her Les, might get after me. I know she won't care if I have a fire if you are here. She said well if you think Les won't care. And oh I was tickled to death..I thought ~~it~~ ^{give them a} would be a surprise. And Aunt ^{Nell} make up bread and bake hoe cake bread all the time. ^{Night and morning} But then after I got a little bigger, well I would always bake bread and ^{cook} potatoes or whatever was to be cooked. Have something ready to eat when they'd get there.

D.S.: Good.

M.D.: All the time. Every Saturday I would bake some pies or cake and we washed on a scrub board all the time.

D.S.: Oh yea.

M.D.: Carried water from the spring and put it in big iron kettle and we'd get up every morning and build a fire under it and...

D.S.: You made your own soap?

M.D.: Yea. Mom would make soap and then..I've made some a couple times but I've still got some homemade soap.

(I used to did)

D.S.: Do you...good!

M.D.: Yea. It looks like to me .. well I use

D.S.: Oh yea, well that's great. That's about the best soap there is.

M.D.: Oh, at butchering time you go so much old greasy stuff to wash up after.. that's real.

D.S.: Oh, yea. Right.

M.D.: I like to wash up my milk containers and all.. it don't leave a smell to them. This is good. But all that's got sort of a toilet soap smell to it and I don't like that on my strainers and milking containers. I enjoy all this new stuff and it makes it better..I don't know..it looked like to me, we enjoyed all that.

D.S.: You know you were mentioning the worry about fires. Uh, were there many mountain fires that you saw?

M.D.: No. No, there wasn't very many. Anybody ever had a fire.

D.S.: Well there is a story that has been told and I was wondering about it. Uh, that in order to assure the crop of huckleberries people would deliberately set fire to it.

M.D.: Yea, mountain fires out on the hillside..but I thought you meant in the homes.

D.S.: No, no no. No.

M.D.: Yea, there would be a lot of times a certain ~~amount~~ ^{mountain} they would burn off. But

they wasn't as strict about you know fire rangers and all like they are now.

D.S.: Yea. No. No. Did it assure huckleberries?

M.D.: Yea, about the second year after it burned off, they would put up new bushes and you see *it* grow up and get so thick there ain't no berries. That's the reason they ~~ain't hardly none now~~.... Cause I've picked huckleberries since I've been here. ~~Back~~ here where this old ^{*pine*} thicket is on Mark Hensley and after that became *open* we picked oh, I reckon I picked thirty or forty gallons one summer. My first husband was disabled, he was a diabetic and I let one of the boys stay with him and one go with me and we'd go pick huckleberries...I never did sell I don't think but about one or two buckets full of huckleberries. People would sell them..I think Grandma Cave got one gallon. But a lot of people would pick and pick and pick and sell them. They weren't worth much. But I always canned them and mama would make preserves and put them up and all. And I don't know, we saved things like that. Mama would can a lot of blackberries. Make a lot of blackberry jelly and jam in the summer and she'd can a lot of apples. Make a lot of apple preserves and jelly. And dry a lot of snap beans.

D.S.: Yea. Would you hang them up? The beans.

M.D.: No, she spread them out on clothes and...

D.S.: Oh.

M.D.: I have seen them strung up a little bit, but unless it was an emergency she didn't fool with that. And when they'd get dry she would break them up smaller and and keep spreading them out, and when they'd get real dry she'd put them in sacks then.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did she put any salt or anything like that...

M.D.: Well mom didn't..this day and time you can't hardly keep them. I dried..not this year but last year...I had plenty of beans..I dried 8 gallons s..when mine got good and dry I put them in...but you know what glass gallon jar..have your beans real good and dry and after you have dried and dried them, then I take them and put them in white sacks and hang them up on clothes line and let them hang there

but take them in every evening..when the sun gets good and down, the dew will make them...^{get damper}and then when they are real hot have my can real good and hot and dry..fill the can real good and full and tighten it real tight..well I put a piece of clear bread wrap over it..tighten it real tight and you can keep them for years in glass jars.

D.S.: Sure. Yea.

M.D.: And I would have had plenty for this year to dry but a couple of my sisters didn't get to put up none last year and at Christmas time they all want snap beans cooked. I divided up with them.

D.S.: Did your mother know any herbs? Or anything like that?

M.D.: Yes. Make tea, *Penny Royal and* horehound..

D.S.: Alright, now what did you do with the penny royal?

M.D.: Well some people said it was good for fever..I don't know..they thought it was I reckon.

D.S.: Uhhuh. For fever. And..

M.D.: She'd get this old bitter ^{*tansy*} ~~candy~~ and make tea out of that..said that was good for upset stomach. And she would get this sassafrass bark and make tea out of it..it was just her idea..horsemint. They would all gather a bunch of horsemint ...that grows up and has a good smell...I know what all of it is.

D.S.: Hum..those were good herbs to use though. If you had a cold what did she give you?

M.D.: Most of the time she'd give us castor oil. Sometimes two or three drops of turpentine though. I'd get so tired of taking that stinking stuff and she'd buy ^{*Frank's Warm*} ~~oil~~ ^{*it*} ..come in a little square bottle and you can't buy that no more..^{*then cut ruled that*} ~~rule about~~ children can't have that..the doctor gives prescription now. And that little bottle was square and You know..kind of like a steak sauce bottle, only it was small and ~~square~~...clear and it would settle down and about this much of it would get black and the rest was clear *& she'd get up*

in the morning I set that old bottle
setting on the fireplace, *Said I'd feel like going*
back to bed but she'd make

us take that
old warm
oil

yes she would..about two mornings every fall. And it would stink. Well it was a worm weed grew around in the yard, that's what it smelled like. And tasted like. And if you wouldn't take it willingly she would make you take it. Whether you wanted it or not. She'd get it and shake it all up, til it was one color and make you take it. But the last children, I don't think they had that stuff. I think just the first ones.

D.S.: I know, but somehow you all survived didn't you?

M.D.: Yea must think it's a story but mom had eight children and we never did have a doctor in our home and I was married and gone...the last one..my baby sister in Timberville..Frances..she had done moved out over in the Madison side when she was born and that's the only child out of eight children she had a doctor with. My two children never had a doctor when they were born. I never...

D.S.: You had a midwife?

M.D.: Yea, a neighbor woman come in. I had two children dead and three a living. And I've never spent nary a night in the hospital in my life.

D.S.: Wonderful.

M.D.: Yes it is. I've got a lot to be thankful for.

D.S.: I think it is, all the outdoor air.

M.D.: And I thank a whole lot of times people run to the doctor when they are just as well off keep on working.

D.S.: Yea. You are right.

M.D.: If I sit down and give up...I have a lot of problem with my back and hip but I think a lot of it is arthritis and well the doctor tells you there ain't no cure for it...arthritis..you can take a pain pill and ease it some..but some people gives in to everything and keeps on doctoring. Well I've doctored on cows and calfs..I've give cows and calfs shots a many a time. I give my husband..the boys daddy..insulin shots for diabetis every morning for ten years.

He had sugar diabetis and he was on a diet and I give him that every morning
...he went in Charlottesville to get his sugar down and had to give it to him.
And I've had calves get *scours* or *shipping* chicken fever and I've give them penicilin
or teramycin shots and I've had cows get overfed and get in the feed barrel,
and had to take linseed oil put in a big quart bottle ^{put a rope} over their head and tie it
up and pour that quart of linseed oil in them. But I couldn't do it now because
I'm not that strong. But I have. And I've put rings in pigs nose...I've got
scar s now where I've cut my hand ringing an old mother hog. Scar right through
there. And there..

D.S.: Ummm..Yea. Yea.

M.B.:I had three fingers cut at one time...Dr. Long put four or five
stitches through that one but that was my fault...Clyde had gone to school..that
I still lived over there..
is my youngest boy and I had a big old brood ~~mare~~ ^{cow} and she was just tearing up
the place. And I had a wire that we would catch on her snoot and uh when you
did it could draw on up..somebody hold her and you would put one of these
rings down here instead of *these little ones* and I've put both kind in a many a time and
I was a wrapping this wire around that post and getting that ring and where this
wire had been turned down to make this *loop where a stick was in there*
had a wire end stuck out of it and when I went to wrap it she made a *lunge*
on the other side and jerked that wire through my hand and it cut my finger
through there and there and cut this open but that was deep. And ~~all that~~ ^{it was}
Cold that morning my hand was a bleeding and they was numb to start with and I had to get
that wire unwrapped ^{and} .. loosen her and go to the house and get my hands wrapped
up and both bleeding so I couldn't bandage on it and I went up to the neighbors
house and got her to wrap some bandage around ~~it~~..my finger..and then another
neighbor came along..I didn't know they was coming and said you better go to
the doctor..I said oh it'd be alright..said I think you better go to the doctor
and they insisted on it and then he put some stitches through there.

D.S.: Sure.Right.

M.D.: Oh when you try to be man and woman it's just too much ~~work~~ *for you*.

D.S.: Right.

M.D.: But I wasn't afraid to try nothing in them days. That's the reason I ain't no good today.

D.S.: Oh, you are.

M.D.: Papered houses..painted..I painted this house on the outside twice..but the last time I got it done. I had to climb out the window on the porch ^{roof} and paint on that end and set a ladder up and climb up on the roof there and then set another ladder and painted the roof on top. But I couldn't do them things now.

D.S.: No.

M.D.: I can't hardly get up and down.

D.S.: How about the flu epidemic. Were you there during the flu epidemic?

M.D.: The ~~what~~ they called the influenza. Yea. Me and my older sister..just two and children. It done my daddy pretty bad but my mother ^{and} daddy..didn't none of their people die with it, and *Rola* was just a small baby and I don't know..if she got it .. didn't do her too bad. My sister said I wouldn't be still long enough for it to hurt me.

D.S.: Oh dear..but you didn't use any doctor again? During that time.

M.D.: Huhuh. My daddy it did him right bad, but he said he got up one night and was chocking to death and couldn't get no breath...they would raise a lot of onion in the summer and onions would keep then..they won't now..you can't keep them. And mom said she would bring in a couple onions from out in the out building.. it was really cold up on the mountain and she said she'd always bring in a couple onions and set them up on..we called it a mantle..shelf over the fireplace. And she said she'd set a couple up there and then when she wanted one..they'd eat onion cut up in their beans a lot..and she said she'd got a couple onions to sit up on the shelf so they wouldn't be frozen..course I don't know all about it..

I wasn't that big. But she said..he said he got up in the night and he just felt like he was chocking to death..he'd been real sick for a day or two but he said he was up..mom..the baby was in the bed with her.. wasn't..I don't know how old she was..but she weren't no year old. And he ..had to use a coal oil lamp and he ^{lit the lamp} .. wasn't a whole lot of medicine like there are today to take..and he said he happen to see that onion a sitting up there and he said he just reached up there and got that onion and peeled the skin back and went to gnawing on that onion like it was an apple and he said he started breathing. And he said from then on he started getting ^{on} ~~over~~ ^{the mend.} ~~the end.~~ And nobody hadn't told him..but old man..Dr. ^{Koontz} was the doctor at Stanley and there was a Dr. Smith but I didn't know them, but they'd tell us and they said that he said that was the best thing any family could do was eat a lot of onions. But pop said he just..it just struck him to take a bite of that onion when he couldn't get no breath. But people would roast onion then and give baby ^{meat} of the onion juice for the croup. And they'd take the rest of the onion and put it in a cloth and wrap it up and lay it on their chest for croup. I remember them doing that. And I reckon he thought ^{it} it would break the croup...anyway he said he just went to gnawing down in that raw onion. And then he got to breathing better. And he's told it a lot of time.. I don't believe I would have made it til morning if I hadn't gotten a couple bites of that onion.

D.S.: Umm..that's amazing isn't it?

M.D.: Yea. It twas to be I reckon or it wouldn't have happened that way...But us children never had diptheria and we never did have no shots for diptheria nor no kind of fever..we wasn't vaccinated for nothing. Some ^{children} ~~people~~ was..some people are scared of everything. But I..my boys never was until they was big.. but when they got out in high school..then they required it. Take them and give them all these baby shots they never had. But then Evelyn when she came

along .. my girl ... then you had to have all this done before you could get in school. But she never had none of these baby shots.

D.S.: Yea. This is a change of subject but I was wondering..now you said your family was very strict with you..but you must..you are a very alert person so I am sure you were watching other girls and boys...

M.D.: ...they would have their dresses up higher and mama would make us wear ours that much too long. And you know it makes you feel bad when they could hem their'n up like people started..well I was up right good size when people started wearing dresses up nearly to their knee...when you had to wearn your'n way down to your heel...just like ^{Mennonite do} today...you'd like to have them like their's.. make you feel bad..other kids at school would laugh at you..

D.S.: Sure..but how did the courtship go..how did a fellow court a girl. Did you watch any of that?

M.D.: Well they weren't allowed to go anywhere by themself. ~~Just~~ girls went..well their sisters or brothers went and they'd walk along and hold hands. And if they come to the house, they probably set over in a little corner from the others. But they weren't allowed to get up and go somewheres by themself. What I ^{believe} ~~mean~~ being strict, the family stayed together more than they do today.

D.S.: Oh they did...were the weddings quite?

M.D.: I don't believe many people ever had a wedding...just go to the preacher's house and he would marry them and come on back home. They didn't have big formal things like now.

D.S.: Well then the mother of the bride would she have a specially nice meal or something like...

M.D.: Yea. Usually fix a nice dinner or something. Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Uh, an unhappy subject. Funerals. Now uh, this was before the days of embalming...

M.D.: Yea.

D.S.: So they would keep the body in the home .right?

M.D.: Yea. But they'd keep them out in a room where there weren't no fire.

D.S.: Yea.

M.D.: And if it were in hot weather well you see they couldn't keep them over as many days as they would like to.

D.S.: Yea.

M.D.: And they would wet clothes ⁱⁿ with salt water and wring it out and put it over their face and then go every so often and wring the cloth out with salt water and put it over their face so the face wouldn't get to dark...I remember them doing that.

D.S.: Yea. Now would all the neighbors come.

M.D.: Yea. They all really helped out all they could during sickness, set up nights ...take turns..set up nights if people was sick. And then some of the neighbors washed and dressed people and laid them out. And they would go take the measurement of them and go get coffin but when my Grandma ~~le~~ died there was a Petefish and uh...from down near Stanley and him and ^{Jasper}. They come and .. they had a big old black..they called it a hurst..pulled by some black horses and brought the coffin up home. And I know Grandma ~~le~~ over in the back room laying out and that was the first time we'd ever had anything like that in our home and we thought that was awful..we were always awful close to our grandma.. Grandma would let me go with her to all my uncles and aunts houses..and that was just something I couldn't think about..grandma being gone. And yet she'd been bad off for six months. She had heart ^{drapay}. And had to sit up on a chair and sleep for a while. And I remember that big old black..pulled by these horses and brought that casket up there...coffin they called them..called them coffins..and the men had went up there to Thomas Graveyard and made the grave.! And they didn't have these steel vaults ^{nor cement vaults either} and the coffin was put down in there and these boards laid on..they'd leave a little edge around the grave then...

stuck out for to lay these boards all over that..and that's the way they fixed them then..and then June Weakley lived up there at Weakley field...I reckon more or less you called him a handy man...he would come..undertaker didn't come back in them days and he'd come with his..I reckon it was *a spring wagon + help out a lot* and all the family..most all close then was kin and wore long black dresses and black veils down on their faces. And they all would walk...well only way to go...behind them to the graveyard. I can't remember going to but a few funerals until I got up right big. Cause mom would get someone to stay home with the little ones and her and pop would go and leave us there. Pop always kept a buggy. He had a horse and if he had to ^{go} down to Stanley..well he'd go and he kept a wagon to to haul...See all the families not near all of them.. didn't have horses...but there was always some of them a borrowing my daddys horse.

D.S.: Did they use monuments there at the grave or rocks.

M.D.: Just plain rocks, now there is a lot of them with tombstones.

D.S.: Did they mark on the rocks.

M.D.: *Cast on* Some of them at the Thomas Graveyard..I don't know if you ever been..if you can find them..I reckon it's still there.

D.S.: Yes it is.

M.D.: And course my uncles and aunts is buried their ain't none..cause if they were there they got knocked down. Cattle running, and that wasn't fenced up. And then my daddy and a couple cousins put a *wire* fence around there. And then later on those post rotted out. *Now they're took away cause there ain't no stock* But they got gone, but they said they had rock stones put up at every grave, but I don't remember just where my grandpap and grandmother Jenkins was..now we put a stone up..the children..wasn't there..a double one..says Walter Jenkins and *Lessie* . That's there, if you ever go you can see that. And Uncle Jenkins tombstone is there and Aunt Becky and Uncle Jim Thomas tombstone..All

these later ones..got out of the mountain and children had something to do with
...we put up stones. But back then I don't know there weren't too much stones
bought and they put up rocks but Joe Thomas and some of them people had got..I
know John had til it got knocked down and broke..a big..it weren't very thick,
but a big tall rock and they...I don't know how they ever cut in that rock but
some kind of chisel thing and got dates and initials cut in some of them rocks.
And ~~we~~ ^{down where we} lived back of the Offenbacker graveyard right behind our orchard. Uncle
Bessie got a little boy Lester buried there ^{and Aunt Daisy}..she was a Cave... and I remem-
ber them two were buried..but there weren't many buried out there because that
old time settlement...said some of the Offenbackers had built this house in time
past. See this was kindly not used to much...this graveyard but by Aunt Daisy
and clear back in the Offenbackers family and that little boy died with the
whopping cough. He was younger than I was. His name was Lester. And I rem-
ember when they buried Lester and it was cold and what I can remember most
about it..I was you know children wanted to see something and I wasn't too
big to remember and pop or somebody lifted..was trying to take me out..trying
to lift me up and I got scared..because he handed me to somebody, but most what
I was scared about was all these old women a standing around with these black
things on. Yea. I couldn't get over that. And all of them was a crying and
screaming and carrying on..you know how they..well maybe you didn't. But they
did then. There was Aunt Daisy and her sister and her mother..really if a child
never seen nothing like that, they didn't know what to make of it. But I found
out later from John Offenbacker..the man that lifted me over there...a wire
fence went around our lot and the graveyard right on the other side and then
come on back to the house to keep me out of the cold and they said that Lester
died of whopping cough. Took pneumonia. I often..you know as I got bigger,
it weren't nothing to be scared, but what got me scared was some people stand-
ing there had these long black things on..

D.S.: Yes. And the crying, going on.

M.D.: *It would scare*any child..and I don't imagine I was but five or six years old. Yea..

commotion..what was going on. When I got back to the house Aunt *Neet* was making custard pie and they brought me on back to the house cause it was cold, and they went on and buried the child..but I remember they was making custard pie and fixing meal so the folks could come down and eat. And uh, that was about the first time I'd ever been anywhere someone was dead too..you know a child doesn't know what to make of that..

D.S.: You know what I think is so beautiful is the neighborliness of all the people.

M.D.: Right.

D.S.: Uh, there was no spitefulness .. it seemed to more of a helpful kind of neighbor...

M.D.: Right. And if you were in trouble or somebody had a child sick or something.. well all went on and helped out. If somebody got sick and and his corn needed getting in or potatoes needed ...everybody helped with it. And pop sometimes would have what he called a log rolling. And he would go clean up the new ground...^{to plant out} that was something..well mom's kin people and his people would come together and help him and they'd roll off a whole lot of these old logs together and they'd saw them up that would do for wood later on and what was fence they could build a fence around the field...keep cattle out.

D.S.: Sure, yea.

M.D.: And *pull up* all these old stumps they'd have a big ole log fire...I thought I got all the flies but they keep coming in.

D.S.: Oh, they are bad this year.

M.D.: Bad this fall.

D.S.: We even have a couple of wasps that we've adopted *us*.

M.D.: Uh, they bad too. And they would go around the mountain Uncle Will, *Pop*, Clete Cave in the summer when they had spare time and hunt bee trees.

D.S.: Yea. Did they use *Bee Bait*.

M.D.: Well they made sugar water & put put a couple
of drops on ~~it~~ ^{some of that} so make a bee stand to that weren't no ~~work~~ stick it somewheres in
~~had~~
else a little ole glass and sometimes they had a little ole bee catcher

the guard a little board thing made up with a little glass in the side where they could &
with a sometimes they had a little bee catcher a little ~~board~~
put this little ole glass ^{on the side} ~~thing~~..oh, I don't know down on there

so the bee wouldn't get out and take him and carry him and put him on the way it went.

stand watch to see which ^{Us} kids would get interested in watching pop and Uncle *Walter*, and Uncle Will when they'd have a little spare time and when they'd see which they'd go then they'd take us down a little further that way and they'd find the tree and they'd cut knots in it and then if somebody else found it..it wasn't very seldom anybody bothered your bee tree. They'd find it but if it was already marked but this day and time..if you marked it somebody would

D.S.: How about that. What kind of lock did you have on your door? steal it.

M.D.: Didn't have none. We might have an old lock on the out building where we put the meat, but not on the house...but on the out building where we put the meat and all, just had one them ^{turn} church keys where you *locked it*.

D.S.: You didn't have anybody with long fingers?

M.D.: Well we never did get bothered at our house. Probably...I don't know, people more trustable then than they are now. We didn't have none of the boys running around with long hair and half naked and all like they are today.

D.S.: Isn't that awful? Gosh.

M.D.: I said one thing I'm glad to see spring come but I hate to see boys and girls run around naked. I really do and then they go anywhere..they take their dungerees and fade them all up and *fringe* them all up..you never see boys & girls *they* want to dress their best them days when they could.

D.S.: That's right.

M.D.: And keep their hair cut nice and neat..whereas now..they go out to see a girl and take girls out and why they look like ~~trash~~ ^{tramps}. I can't get over that.

D.S.: Yea. What did your father look like?

M.D.: Well he was..I don't know probably about..close to six foot tall..well he had

been right heavy in his younger days. Kinda big..kinda raw bone man..had blue eyes and blond looking hair. And my daddy never did get gray..never did.. And he had all his own teeth but one when he died.

D.S.: Wowie..did he have a mustache? Or a beard?

M.D.: At times he wore a mustache and sometimes he'd shave it off.

D.S.: Cutting hair ~~is~~ like..did your mother cut his hair?

M.D.: Yea. I cut my husband's hair pretty near all the time. And my boy's hair. I shaved my husband after he got disabled for a long time.

D.S.: Sure. Yea. Uhhuh.

M.D.: I still cut hair.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Mine needs it.

M.D.: Oh, I don't think I could cut a woman's. I never was no expert with it but you know kept it from being..*ragged*

D.S.: Sure. Yea.

M.D.: I got ~~to be~~ *a whipping one time* and that was all uncalled for I didn't need to cut her hair. My sister was a couple years old and you know how a baby's little hair be ~~something~~ *long*..some short..some frizzing down and I wanted it all cut ^{around} off even, and she was a pretty little biddy girl. I got the scissors and cut her hair right straight around and mam said who in the world cut that baby's hair like that. And she wanted..you know for it to be like it was. And she really give me a whipping...for cutting her hair off. I shouldn't have bothered her. Cause it weren't something nobody told me to do. But I thought I was making her pretty.

D.S.: Golly. Those switching didn't hurt much did they?

M.D.: Well sometimes they got pretty rough..

D.S.: Really.

M.D.: But uh, I shouldnt[!] have bothered her because that would have been mom's job... she never would cut none of our hair. I never did have my hair cut til I was

grown. And my first cousin named Virginia..I begged and begged and begged the other girls to get a hair cut..^{people were}wearing bobbed hair...mom ^{was} and I always plaited it here in two or back in one or ^{wear it} hanging down. And I was begging and begging can I get my hair cut...no indeed you ain't getting your hair cut .. she wouldn't let none of us have no bobbed hair. And uh, so after I had gotten up .. oh liking the boys and the other girls getting their hair cut, I kept begging mom can I get my hair cut and she said no and I just kept on worrying her to death and I kept asking pop and he said whatever your mother says ^{now} ~~Mom~~ and I..that's up to her. And then she come through..she said I don't know, ^{your Pop would} *give you anything. and I keep asking* so I went home with my cousin and stayed all night and she said you reckon Uncle Walter and Aun Leslie be mad if I cut your hair..and I said well ^{thick hair} never told me I could...I had an awful...I got right smart hair yet.

D.S.: You have naturally wavy hair.

M.D.: Well if I wash my hair right now and don't put it up..let it hang down..in a couple hours my hair is so nappy..it's that way all over..my hair isn't but about this long..^{hair}so curly...I don't ~~let~~ it get too long. And when I got back home she trimmed my hair..didn't cut it only about this much..I got back home and mom really give me a switching..but that didn't put the hair back.

D.S.: In other words you weren't quite the good little girl....

M.D.: I hadn't done anything but get my hair cut off...I know I had a red striped dress I thought was so pretty *it was like this kinda stuff* and it had a purple sash and a red sash and I basted the hem up about that much in that dress and I really got a licking for that.. had to take the hem out. But you know, she wanted..just like she had ^{the way} grew up. She couldn't accept the change over. She meant it all right. But like today.. like I was talking about the boys and girls running around like they do..I still like to see them like they was when I was growing up..mom liked the way

when she grew up. And peop^{le} just..different generations..can't get their minds to adjust..accept the changeover. They mean well and all and that's what it was. It's just the different way they living. She meant well and she did her best to see we had ^{and} she was strict on us .. and see we had and take care of us right. It was all meant for our own good.

D.S.: That's right. Yea. Sure. And it was for your own good.

M.D.: That's right. If it hadn't been that way with us well where would the generation of been yet today. That's why the world is like it is today. Parents just leave children anywhere and runs around and ~~it's not right.~~ ^{they're not raised.} We wouldn't have all these ~~crimes~~ today if people did take care of their children, and correct them. That's exactly why we got all these jails and places filled up with people today is because ~~it's not right.~~ ^{they weren't raised.}

D.S.: That's right.

M.D.: Now I ain't a bragging on mine...I raised two boys and a girl, but I've never had to pay a fine for them and none of them ever been in jail and I never had to pay a fine...I don't say they are perfect but they were raised decent and they were raised honest and they were raised to know what was right and they go to church. And if I just went on and ignored them....when my boys were small! there were people just begging to let them keep them when their daddy was disabled, but shoot if I could wash for people or sew for people or cut down other clothes, make them clothes to keep them in school well I wasn't going to let somebody else take care of my kids.

D.S.: That's right.

M.D.: And I worked at Grottoes some, ^{Silk} Mill, and I worked at the Canning Factory at Timberville some, and I worked....^{in an old sewing room} back when they were small, when they started this WPA work for men back through the mountains..my husband was not able to do that and uh, they had a sewing room for the ladies if their

husband was disabled and I worked the sewing room. But you didn't make nothing hardly. I worked at the McGaheysville School two winters and cooked. And buying his insulin and getting my boys through school and if you tried there is always a way.

D.S.: Sure there is. Yea.

M.D.: Some people don't put forth an effort or got no confidence in themself. Then after he got ^{totaled} where I had to be home with him why I would raise some brewder house chickens and a couple old mother hogs with some pigs..weren't worth much but if you get three or four dollars a piece or..four dollars ~~then is~~ ^{went further than} fifteen now. ^{than}

D.S.: Sure. Yea, Right.

D.S.: Uh, change of subject. What did you do of an evening. You'd sit around...

M.D.: You mean after supper?

D.S.: Yea.

M.D.: Well if it was winter I sometimes would piece quilts or sew or patch or make the children some clothes is what I would do.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Nobody played any instruments?

M.D.: No, not in our family.

D.S.: Oh, so you didn't ever sing, songs..

M.D.: Yea. mom sometimes would read the Bible and she would get a hymn book and mom would sing right good. Yea, she would a whole lot of times when it was winter. Didn't ~~sing~~ ^{see} ever day..she would sometimes and in the winter we would be getting going to school and so we would read them old books at home and draw little pittures..seems like the kids always played with each other and had a good time.

D.S.: Yea. Did anybody tell ghost stories?

M.D.: Daddy would tell a whole lot of ^{old dumb} jokes and things he would hear when he was a child~~ren~~..we would get interested in that.

D.S.: Oh, can you remember any of them?

M.D.: Oh, he would sing all kind of dumb songs to us...I don't know he would tell

about the frog went courting. My daddy could play a French Harp. And he could play an Autoharp. He played a little like that and he could play a **banjo** a little bit. But not a whole lot, but and he would tell us about something about.. I can't remember it all now. *Some said a muggor and I caught " won't steal"* ..in my corn field...and us kids would gather around and oh pop tell us about that. And mom wasn't nothing for no foolishness but pop would tell all kinds of old foolish things to us. And things like that it was interesting to children. And after we had some old school books that had some..all kinds of .. did you ever see a lassie..a lassie..

Play around the mulberry tree and we'd get neighbors to come in when we were little to read them things to children til we learned how to read..

but it was interesting to children. Cause we had never been out to go nowhere to see nothing. I was..I don't know..but I imagine I was 12 years old before I was ever at Stanley. I wouldn't doubt it..I remember the first time I was ever at Stanley and I'd been sick .. had a cold and it was better and I kept getting a toothache and it was suppose to *be some teeth to* come out but I kept getting a toothache and they'd taken me..pop had a brother...taken me down to Stanley..Grandma kept the others.. and had a tooth pulled. That was the first time I was ever down there. But after we got big enough .. me and my oldest sister would walk down in Pine Grove Hollow from up there..didn't get the mail but once a week...walk down there and she'd send me to get a few things and when it weren't very cold that was alright but *I'd* she'd send for some sugar and two or th ree things..you'd think you'd never get back up that mountain *with those things on your back.*

D.S.: Right. That's a long way to go.

M.D.: We'd go what we called Frog's Path... a little path went up the mountain..didn't go around Tanners Ridge Road..when you walked..pop would usually with the buggy. But mom would send down there to get a few little things from the store *and pop* in Pine Grove and Everett Weakley run that store...a while and Dave Gray did and his wife did years ago. His wife's name was Rachel. We used to walk down there

but ^{she} he usually *got from an old Bill Bailey who couldn't*
and he couldn't talk good and he couldn't hear good..but he would help *& do work*
around and all .. partly retired .. say Will you want to go with them down to
Pine Grove today and he was short and sandy headed and blue eyes..oh yes..yes,
yes,yes, I go, I go, and he would go with us. She wasn't afraid for us kids to
go if there was some olderperson to go along. She'd send us down to ~~Kite~~ ^{Fed} Hol-
low *with Bill Bailey*
somebody..an older person you know she would..something like that..wasn't afraid
for us to be out...

D.S.: You are determined to get that fly...he sees that you have a fly swat so he'd
going to disappear...

M.D.: I believe he's seen his last ^{Trip} that time. They are aggravating.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, Pine Grove..did you know Deaconess Hutton?

M.D.: Well, uh, no I don't think I did. There was a John Hutton that lived at the foot
of the mountain. And Tom Bailey when we were children. That's the one that killed
himself ain't it.

D.S.: Hum..

M.D.: I was wondering..you know his great-parents on back, I might have knew but there
was so many people grew up down there I don't know...that was terrible..wonder
why he did that.

M.D.:

D.S.: You didn't know Deaconess Hutton there in Pine Grove. ¹ I don't think so.

D.S.: Oh beautiful woman. Very beautiful. I mean personally. A beautiful person.

M.D.: It's been 48 years since *I moved out* and so many grew up that I don't know
about.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Well she was there...

M.D.: It was in 32 when I married the first time. That's quite a long time. As they
say..carried a lot of water down over the bridge.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Well I am wondering is there anything that you can think of that I

haven't asked? We've covered most of the questions that I usually ask..um,
is there anything you can think of?

M.D.: Uh, you mean about how we lived? Well as I said we raised our corn ^{we fatten our} and hogs
and when butchering time come..that was a great big excitement for us..because
pop would get out a day or two before and split up a lot of dry wood and build
a kiln then and we'd all go carry wood and carry it up..put down about four
or five or six foot square of this dry wood and then laid these huge rocks
all over it and put more wood and put more wock and more wood and keep building
it up about...didn't have salting pans then..them days..get up ^aevery morning
about 3 or 4 o'clock and they'd set the kiln a fire and well you could see the
smoke and light from neighbors houses every morning and you knew who was going
to butcher, and directly you could see the kiln was a burning. But then they
had a lot of men come in and would help them. And when this kiln would start
burning on down..that was what heated the water..they had a big wooden tub
with ^{hooks} around..and they called it hog ^{head} ~~head~~ ^{with} a log setting on one
side ^{ava kind of tilt} you know what I mean..

D?S.: Yea, I know. Yea. Uhhuh.

M.D.: And so then they would have a sled to haul fopper and wood and things on..and
make wooden sleds to pull with horses..it was essier putting things on and off
than it was up on that wagon. And he put ^{the sled} up on the side of this hog
and put some heavy boards on it which there was several sawmills around and
the we'd have to keep on ^{pouring} ~~pulling~~ water and pouring water because those ^{logs} ~~logs~~
hadn't been used for a year to get it swelled up so it wouldn't leak. And some-
times have to get a ^{kiln with hot water in it} and then he wouldn't
put rocks ^{on} it til he was almost ready to kill the hogs. And then he'd take
a shovel and take the rocks out and oh they would pop and crack and roar and
you could hear the awfulest noise until ^{that water got} ~~they got~~ it as hot as they wanted it
and now people go over to the hog pen and they shoot the hog and stick them

no excitement about it..

but then.....sometimes would shoot them but anyway they would stick the hog and get him killed and drag him over there and they scalded him in this water and it took all the manpower to get that hog out of there and clean him off...

D.S.: Sure.

M.D.:...then they had a pole put in the ground like this .. a fork .. and a big pole laying across it .. the hog hanger .. and what they called gathering sticks... about three or feet long and sharp on each end *they cut those hump legs* & pull leader loose, and they all had to lift to get that hog up and over that thing

D.S.: And they weren't light hogs...

M.D.: Oh my Lord and they would almost lift theirself to death...if they were to let one fall..all washed off in that mess and these men...well they couldn't hardly lift them up to. *get them hanged.*

D.S.: How heavy were those hogs?

M.D.: Well anywhere from two to three hundred, but some of them be five to six hundred. And that was all...well people today...*work* how easy..well I got three sets of hog hangers...me and Willie made them ourselves and all you do is get you three huge poles and pitch a bolt through them and *down* put the bolt up here and they set out like that. And you can keep on *raising* that nut and that nut and make a hook in each side and *that would* raise that pole and go to raising your hog up. Hang a big one now...but see they didn't know anything about it. I said them days pour people worked awful hard because they didn't have no other way of doing.

D.S.: But once the hog was hanging there, then you had to start taking it apart?

M.D.: Well we taken water *real hot* see they had scraped him off with these scrapers and dried and got him pretty clean...we take water and soap and wash him all over and rinse him down with clean water and then whoever was there butchering.. the head one..well he opened him up and they'd pull these interals out in a tub or pan and carried them in and some of the women went over all these and

pulled the *skin* off. And put it in a crock and put salt over it and carried it out..people wanted to make stuffed sausage we'd cut the little ones up in six or eight yard lengths and *pull* all this mess out of them and wash them and then they scraped them on a board til all that flesh come out of it and soaked it in some salt water and the sausage mill had a stuffer on it and you put that casing up on that thing and we'd stuff tubs full of stuffed sausage. And mom would can a lot of sausage. And we'd have a lot laying up in the meathouse on the meat and me and pop would get up the next morning after butchering day and put this meat..they salted it down then in a big old salt box..it was about four or five feet square and so many..six or seven maybe fifteen feet deep and they put down a layer of meat and cover it with salt and put more and cover it with salt until you got all the meat salted down...and then put a white sheet over..a cloth or whatever...^{7/11/11}she'd make it out of a feed bag. And uh, then she would can a lot spare rib and a lot of sausage..pudding..taken all that pudding and fried it up and canned it. Saved it for a later time.

D.S.: Wowee..what a busy busy time. Now was this usually after Thanksgiving? When it was cold.

M.D.: Yea..well some people I don't think butchered on Thanksgiving Day..It was usually on the 20th or 15th..or 20th..some people would butcher early because they got to running out of feed. Mom never did like to butcher til after the 20th of November...anywhere from there up to the 5th or 10th of December. Depends on the weather. If they would have a good cold time along there..then..cause you like to have three or four good cold nights...on it..then you had better luck with your meat.

D.S.: Yea. Oh! You were mentioning making bread, You mentioned it over and over and I didn't ask ^{if} you raised wheat?

M.D.: No my daddy never would sow wheat...he raised corn and...

D.S.: Well what would you make the bread outof?

M.D.: Well he'd always get about six barrels of flour from Brumback every fall. It come in hundred pound bags..and he would get five or six barrels..that would be a hundred pound bag and you'd bring it up there and over in this..we always called it the back room. There wasn't no way to make a fire in there but it stayed awfully cold back in there in the wintertime and we used it for a spare room...had several beds, but in the corner there pop would always put that flour and he would put it..not together, but he would lay ^{I don't know..he had some kind of} these boards .. he had when ^{shuff} he built the room..he said I'll ^{couple of them} leave a ¹ .he was afraid of mice getting in *the flour* that was the idea..he would lay these sacks of flour on these *boards* and then he'd lay some this way and some this way, and put all that flour in that corner..and mom would put out poison for mice...kept a lot of cats and we'd open the door and let a cat in there occasionally and we weren't bothered with them cutting up anything to amount to anything. But she'd bake..we never did use very much cornbread...my daddy liked cornbread but he'd take a bushel of corn to the mill and have that ground sometime to make cornbread.

D.S.: Yea. Did your mother make her own yeast?

M.D.: Well after she'd buy a little package..she called magic yeast..five little cakes right hard in an envelope in a little package and she'd crumble them up into warm water and make a start...that was to make light bread..now she would make her own yeast in the winter to..when we didn't have no sour milk she bake up a warm bread with sour milk all the time.

D.S.: She used sour milk as yeast.

M.D.: She used sour milk to make the hot bread .. people make biscuit now .. she'd make it in hoecakes.

D.S.: Oh, I see, I see.

M.D.: And there weren't .. she'd take soda and sour milk and salt .. and all she had then was lard, and she could make awful good warm bread. ^{Just plain} ¹ hoecake bread. Now *no one* can really make good hoecake bread.

D.S.: Really?

M.D.: Yea. Just like Aunt *Heek* and mom did. She can really make good hoecake bread.

D.S.: She didn't tell me she could do it.

M.D.: She can. She'd make it up here..I can make it but I don't know..this ^{*new*} ~~new~~ flour doesn't come out like..plain flour it was then. It's *sifted* too much now ..took out something..too fine. But anyhow mom would take this soda and sour milk and that would really make it raise good. But then, in the winter when you didn't have milk..sour milk..now she would start by putting a little *yeast* down in a crock and letting it sour and and then she'd stir ~~flour~~ and warm water in it and it would be foaming up...she'd make up a bread with that every morning, and I don't know how many times she said..don't forget to stir the yeast up and put the yeast pot back away. So I'd have to put about a pint of lukewarm water in there and stir flour with it...see she'd leave part of it in there for a starter. Didn't pour it all out and then sit it back on a shelf..

D.S.: Wait a minute now..she'd start it with corn..

M.D.:Just a little cake of corn dough..water and lay it in there and about the second day that would be soured and molded..

D.S.: I get it. And then warm water

M.D.: Uhhuh. And your flour and it would start foaming on up. And then she'd make.. that was yeast for warm bread, and then when she made that up..she'd pour that out til it was probably a pint left in the pot and I've did that..that was my job to fill the yeast pot..

D.S.: About equal water and flour...

M.D.: Batter about like you make pancakes. And then set it back on the corner. And the next morning everybody would say .. uh, that was just young people..Kids say alright you didn't love us..your yeast didn't raise. But if it got cold, it wouldn't raise. Mom would..if she didn't forget it in cold weather..she'd bring it and sit

it in next to the fireplace where it was warm. But it would be clear up full and it would be a lot of nights that yeast thing would be running over. That made awful good warm bread. Yea. People then had..

D.S.: Well that sounds better than using the cakes.

M.D.: Well them you made light bread to use that kind. That's it..she'd get this.. it had a picture of a *WAMAN* on the outside of the paper and it'd be about that square and that big. And be five of them in a little package..

D.S.: I remember that.

M.D.: Can you..that' ain't nothing but hard corn...

D.S.: I think so.

M.D.: And she would bake them all up and about..she'd take one and a half and break it up in a pint and a half or a quart of luke warm water and she'd stir it and let it set til it melted and got soft and then she'd put a handful of sugar and a couple spoons of salt and whatever she wanted, and she'd make this big bunch of dough and when we kept them boarders she'd make it right often because it *was better than* bakers bread and then she'd make about six loaves of light bread. She'd make that up and let it raise and work it down and let it raise and I make light bread a lot of times, but I use little dry envelope stuff *now*.

D.S.: That's what I use too.

M.D.: It weren't as good as you can make it today..I mean not as fancy and light but in other words it was good bread.

D.S.: It sure was.

M.D.: In other words when it was fresh and hot buttered, it was real good. And then make fried apples and she'd make all kinds of jellys and preserves. And she'd make this applebutter in the fall..sometimes fifteen and twenty gallons and it would *keep good* in fruit jars like we can ours...put it in these milk crocks and then the next morning we'd tie it all up with papers

over it..but it would cook down til it was soft enough on top and it kept.
They knowed how to fix stuff ^{so} it didn't spoil them days...without refridgerators
Now everybody got to put everything in the deep freeze ^

D.S.: Oh, this has been wonderful..just simply marvelous...you have told us so much.

You don't know how we appreciate *your help* ~~when I get home~~ *yea.*

D.S.: That Thomas Graceryard is quite a landmark, isn't it

M.D.: Well I had many uncles & aunts buried there, on the Jenkins side. Now there's a Dark Hollow Graceryard and on my kin people on the Cave side are buried there. I was born and raised on Hazel Top on Gooseberry Top Rock, I don't know why they got it mixed up. Right below the Drive is where my parents were born, my daddy I mean, my mother was from Dark Hollow. Daddy lived in an old log house and his parents had lived there - they had lost 3 kids with diphtheria in 2 wks. That was before my Daddy was born.

D.S.: What was your mother's maiden name?

M.D.: Elsie Cave, Elzie Cave was my mother's brother. My great granddaddy was Indra Cave, he was a preacher; Gird Cave, a cousin, was a preacher. Grandpap was Asbury Cave & his son was Thomas Cave - both were preachers, old time Methodist preachers. Joe Thomas, a cousin preached and Joe Swacker preached - he got to know Pres. Hoover & that's how we

got Haver School. All the preachers went anywhere like to a schoolhouse or a home, just to have a place to preach.

D.S.: The Thomas family?

M.D.: My grandma on my Jenkins side was a Thomas.

D.S.: Okay, then you are kin to Vallie Cove Thomas.

M.D.: Her daddy and my daddy was cousins but then he married my aunt Jenkins.

D.S.: You were saying that you lived in the house your grandfather had built.

M.D.: I don't believe my granddaddy built it, I think they moved into it. My grandmother was not quite a grown girl when the Civil War started but my grandpa Jenkins was in that war all the way through it. He said he was in the first battle at Gettysburg and he said he never would forget. You know the north and the south fit and he said he would go see my grandmother. He was in the battle that they was getting closer & closer to each other cause my daddy told us all what grandpa told him about it. And he was a Captain but men would ride up & down between the lines. They was cooking beef in old iron kettles hung on poles to feed the soldiers
(over)

He said the man riding said, "Boys,
you all cook fast and eat fast. We're
going to have some fun directly. And
sure enough it started in one hour
and the man in charge got killed.

My grandpap laughed all through
that war and they surrendered at
Appomattox. After the surrender, my
grandpap and 2 others were so worn
out and tired and gave without food -
not like soldiers get it today - they
told the men to get back home. My
grandpap and 2 others laid down on the
ground to rest a little. These old cannon
balls were lying around & one went
off and a piece went into grandpap's
leg. He was then a cripple all his life.
Daddy said that as he got older that leg
began giving him trouble. It never did get well.
Grandma was a nervous wreck what with
losing her sons to diphtheria and her husband
hurtin' all the time but she lived to be in the
80's. — That diphtheria was bad, people
didn't dare go help each other for fear of
getting it. While they were burying 2 boys

they went back to the house and the 3rd was dead. I don't know how she lived through it.

DS: How much land did your family have?

MD: We was born and raised on the E. T. Brumback place, anyone can tell you about the Brumbacks. Daddy worked on his farm, took care of his cattle and fixed fences.

DS: you were tenant farmers? But you were allowed to do your own farming.

MD: We raised potatoes, cabbages, kept cattle & hogs - Brumback was good to us.

D.S: Did you have any apple orchards?

MD: Very few but he had some nice apples down where he lived and he gave my Daddy lots in the fall. My Daddy always kept horses & a morgan, in the winter he would cut lumber for railroad ties - hued em with an eye and the Baker boy or some of Mom's brothers would help with the cross-cut saw & he hauled em to the Valley. Sometimes they made tan bark and split em up off a log and took em to the Tannery's old bark. Anything like that, say he had

different fields and fences like he took care of calts for some people and he took in pasture. Then Mr. Brumback had a herd of sheep. one lot was for the heifers (sp?) and another lot for 200 cattle on the mountain side. Pop had to keep the fences up good to keep the cattle out of the corn. But the kids helped Pop pull the corn into shocks and he put it in the barn so we could shuck corn in the barn. He always kept a few hogs so we'd butcher hogs.

DS: Did you allow the hogs to run loose?

MD: yes they run around - they didn't go too far. They stayed in about 50 acres of field. In the winter Brumback took all his cattle down and we had nothing to do but tend our own stuff. We had our own milk and rather than waste any he poured some out for our hogs.

DS: Did you have a spring house?

MD: yes. I had five sisters, all are still living and I had 2 brothers; the oldest got electrocuted working on electric line. 27 years ago he got killed. He had fought overseas in World War II, he came home and worked 2 years before he was killed.

I still have one brother.

DS: Did you all help on the farm?

MD: yes, but my youngest brother & sister was born when I was 17 and I had run off and got married.

DS: How did you meet your husband?

MD: Everybody lived a mile or two apart up in there, they was going to Elkton Field Day. Back then parents didn't let their children go nowhere, they were strict. My cousins kept trying to get me to go with them, Aunts said they could go if others went so they kept after Mammy & Daddy to let me go. I wanted to go cause I'd never been to Elkton in all them years. Finally they let me go. I stayed the night with my cousins then in the morning we walked down the mt. to Jalletts then there was a man with an old timey truck & for \$5.00 he drove us to Elkton. My husband had been married and had children, his wife had been dead sometime and some people was playing hymns & singing and he walked up & started talkin' & he said he knew I was someone he had ^{known} _{over}

met and we got to talking and then he came on the mat to see me. In one month & six days we was married.

We got along fine, lived together 19 years, he was a lot older than I was. We had 3 children and I lost 2. After he died I was living next to a man who had never been married. We started going together - about 3 months I reckon - & we got married.

DS: How large was your father's house?

MD: We had a back room, living room, kitchen - upstairs were no partitions but had 3 beds up there. & this long room my daddy built was frame and log with a big rock chimney. I can remember when I was quite big they closed up that fireplace & put in a stove. But my grandparents had casked by that rock fireplace. out at grandma's cave they had a big fireplace, they never did put no heater stove in the living room. Most mat. houses had big old porches you'd cross to get into the kitchen - that was so unhandy when it was cold but no one

seemed to think about cold like you do today. No body had no trucks or cars or chain saws but they helped each other with cross-cut saws to cut wood. Everybody was happy. No one had telephone or TV but were happy. You had more time to sit down and be sociable, today they get flying and you can scarcely speak to people or enjoy each other. I don't like it. I'm still old timey.

D.S: Did you have any special jobs you had to do.

MD: Mom + Pop usually got up first but Pop had to cut hash. Then Mom would call us and we'd set the table. But in the summer, when you didn't put out feed + fodder, some of us had to go get the cows. After I got big enough I helped with the milking, Mom usually did it all until we got bigger. Pop carried the slap to the hop but when he had to go to work, we done them things. All of us was girls, my Daddy didn't approve of us helping with the cross-cut saw. But we'd carry wood into the ^{cows}

house & have to carry water from the spring - right down below the house, good water and never dried up. a little building was there with coal water about this deep on the floor and she'd set her cracks of milk & things in there to keep. the wooden boards holding the cracks of milk were slick and black. Then she'd skim the milk for the cream to make butter in a big old wooden tub with a handle going around. I've still got one. Then she'd take some to make clabber, that she hung on a clothes line to get all the drip out - put cream in it and it's real good. I love cottage cheese. Another thing, if we was pickin' berries until it got too dark, she'd fill pats with water ~~and~~ over the berries so they didn't get moldy. We didn't have no refrigerators.

DS: How about shoes, did you wear them ^{your} ^{room?}

MD: After I got good size we did, but when we was children we couldn't hardly wait for may to come; we wanted to go barefoot so bad. Then when we worked in the cornfield we'd have to put on old shoes. Suck when I was smaller my oldest sister and me and daddy

would gather chestnuts, there used to be a lot
 of them. When they come in we'd gather
 all that popped open when he took a
 pole & thrashed the tree. The popped open
 ones we cracked out, and we put all the
 nuts together. He'd get ²/₁ - ³/₈ a bushel, that
 was a lot of money, sometimes he'd get
 several bushels & take 'em down to Stanley -
 that was a long way but he'd sell 'em there.
 We raised right many cabbage & he'd sell
 them there, and sometimes potatoes if he'd had
 a good year - all down to Stanley to sell. He
 didn't get much maybe 2 or 3 cents a lb
 for cabbage but it all helped cause the
 stuff you'd buy wasn't high either. He'd
 buy material and I always wanted something
 pretty but mama say 'get something real dark
 don't show dirt. The material was like
 what they call today 'cotton flannel'. Work
 gray, dark brown, underwear and dresses
 with long sleeves and way down there (down)

butchered up the back. Then in the spring she made percale dresses. 12^d - 14^d a yard for material. Then when the Park started coming in everyone was afraid to do much so Mama said to Mr. Brumbach 'I don't know how in the world I'll get material for clothes for this winter.' Well he offered to help and Mamma said she wanted dark material. Now kids like something bright, but he came with this dark stuff - it was warm clothes.

DS: Did you ever use any of the wool from the sheep or was that the Brumbach's?

MD: He'd take 'em home & shorn 'em before bringing them up there. Once or twice he let Daddy butcher a sheep or two in the fall. Mamma didn't like mutton but we did, he butchered a cow one time, then a crippled ~~sheep~~ steer Brumbach let him have. Of course it was cold so you could hang up a half of beef in the corn house. Let it cook awhile ^{& after it had aged} then Mamma cooked it in a big iron pot and can it.

We was raised poor but we always had plenty to eat.

We always had chickens & Pop would sell

a ham once in awhile, one time I went over to Tanners Ridge and got a setting of duck eggs, I loved to fool with them - I like all livestock, I sold my own milk until 1977, milked by hand. I was milking 7 cows during that dry summer a few years ago, I sold my last heifer last summer, she weighed 182 lbs. I sold a bull weighed 700 in the Spring. I've raised pigs and chickens to get money, I reckon I could have done some down but I'm not used to that.