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(SNP054) Harold Garrison, transcribed by
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Harold Garrison

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Notes from Harold Garrison
Loft Mountain
August 1980

Mr. Garrison lived on the north side of Madison Run^{Road} East. See * on attached map.

His family's house was made of chestnut, had a shingled roof, and was lit by coal oil lamps. His grandfather built the house.

His family left in 1927, offered by the state \$1 acre.

There was an apple orchard immediately to the west of the house, and cornfields beyond. The latter were on both sides of the Brown's Gap road.

Mr. Garrison's aunt lived to the northeast, marked by * on the attached map.

On the north side of the road, after it crosses Doyle River, heading to the east there is a family cemetery. It has markers, but no formal tombstones.

The tombstones marking the graves of the Civil war soldiers did not appear until after the Park was established. (After 1926?, 1936?)

Big Flat Mountain was Herbert Patterson's cow pasture. Mr. Patterson owned the land, but lived in Harrisonburg.

There was a 10¢ toll on the Brown's Gap road. The money went to maintain the road. The road was levelled by a three horse drag. They would be driven down one side, the dirt being pushed into the middle, then driven down the other side, the dirt again being pushed to the middle. On the third trip, the horses would be driven down the center on the road; the dirt was spread evenly across the road.

The two horse wagon was his family's main form of transportation.

There were few bear, if any, and few deer. If deer did appear, they quickly ended up on someone's dinner table.

The local revenuer was from Harrisonburg. His name was pronounced "Dertin".

There were stills all around.

Dertin was real good at catching folks. Finishing a batch of moonshine, Garrison turned to his cohort and said, "Well, I guess we got away with it this time." Out from behind a rock popped Dertin, replying, "No, you didn't".

One fun activity was a corn shucking. Gather the neighbors to shuck a lot of corn and...if a red ear was found, the finder got to kiss the "prettiest girl" or to take a drink of moonshine. Garrison took the kiss because he made moonshine and could get it any time he wanted. Often the red ear was tossed back into the to be shucked pile, to be "found again".

Sold gutted rabbits for \$15.

here is a Model T in the woods after the road crosses the stream. Used RJ⁴ tobacco. 10¢ for a big bag of it.

HIKING TRAILS

LOFT MTN. AREA

0 1 mile

- Appalachian Trail —▲—
- Falls Trail ○○○○○○
- Big Run Trail →→→
- Fire Foot Trail -x-x-
- Connecting Trail - - - - -
- Dirt Road (foot travel only) ===
- Elevation in feet (3000')
- Spring S

