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(SNP065) E.L. Huffman interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Edgar L. Huffman

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

INTERVIEWER: Mr. E.L. Huffman
NARRATOR: MRS. Dorothy Smith
PLACE: Big Foltz Run
(4 miles east of Shenandoah)
DATE: February 23, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

January 9, 1982

D.S.: We are interviewing Mr. E.L. Huffman who presently lives in Ashby Hights in Harrisonburg. Mr. Huffman, you say you owned some land up in the Park.

E.H.: We owned fourteen hundred acres of land that was known as the Big Foltz Run.

D.S.: Big Foltz Run. Where was that exactly?

E.H.: It was located about four miles west of..east of Shenandoah, Virginia.

D.S.: Alright so you owned all this land. What did you do with the land?

E.H.: We grazed cattle there..we grazed cattle on it.

D.S.: You grazed cattle on it.

D.S.:

E.H.: Uhhuh. Were there many trees on the land?

E.H.: It was uh, unlimited number of chestnut trees on it.

D.S.: Yea, they were dead by then...

E.H.; They what.

D.S.: They were dead by that time.

E.H.: No, no, no. They was alive.

D.S.: They were alive.

E.H.: I was born in 1909 and uh, I helped to drive the cattle backwards and forwards to the mountain. And my job, as a small boy now was to stop them from going in lanes and roads on the way to the mountain you know. And then when we didn't have no lanes nor nothing my brother would take me by the arm and pull me up on the horse behind him you know, until we come to another place. And it was about eight miles we had to drive them.

E.H.:

D.S.: Right. Now you drove them, up from the valley, up in to the mountains.

D.S.: Now was this area of yours near Big Meadows? Or where was it?

E.H.: Yes. It was between Shenandoah and Stanley...

D.S.: Oh, yea. Uhhuh. Right.

E.H.: It was fourteen hundred acres of it.

D.S.: Great. And the park took that over.

E.H.: It took all but 155 acres and the reason why they didn't take that..it extended down like the state of Florida. And they wanted a straight line.

D.S.: Yes. Right.

E.H.: So we still own that. And on that is an unlimited amount of chestnut trees dead..or were dead. And we uh, sold locus ^{POSTS} ~~poles~~ off of it up until my locus mother died. They gathered quite a few ¹¹posts and she made as much money off of the locus posts as she did *to pay for* the place.

D.S.: Is that right.

E.H.: And uh, my job was in the fall...we'd always wait until after a frost..a hard frost so we could gather the chestnuts and we'd go to get the cattle in the fall and uh, the boys had made a rake and one side of it you could rake with and the other side you could shovel with...and my job was to rake the leaves ~~up~~ and shovel the chestnuts up while they repaired the fence. And they just opened the gates up to it and the cattle would go home..they knew they was going home then..you never had to watch them going home. They would just take off right home. Never had to guide them at all. And we would get bags upon bags upon bags upon bags of chestnuts.

D.S.: What would you do with the chestnuts.

E.H.: Well we sold them to the local store.

D.S.: How much would you get? For those.

E.H.: Ah, I was just trying to think what we did get, but I believe it was three cents a pint. Average. Yea, 3¢ a pint. Which would be around about..I'd say around about a dollar a hundred...pounds. Boy that operated the store by the name of Leo Jett..and he was on the road home and the boys would always put these in bags and instead of tying one bag together, they'd tie two so it would hang down across the horse you know.

D.S.: Oh, yes.

E.H.: And uh, they would fill these bags full and the ones they'd sell the stores,

they would uh, clean..you know pick up and clean.

D.S.: Right.

E.H.: But the others, they would pick up leaves, or whatever raked up with them, because my daddy used the leaves for his chicken nests.

D.S.: Oh sure, right.

E.H.: And, uh, he, we would bring them home and I can remember well when he would hold them until there was a hard wind and he would pick them up and let them fall and the leaves would blow out of them. And my mother used to have a basement...a good size basement and she spread them out on the ground in the basement and we had chestnuts all the year round, even into the spring. They would sprout even in there. And she make lard tanks full of cookies out of them. Grind them up and make lard tanks out of them.

D.S.: This store that you mentioned was that a mountain store?

E.H.: It was right at the edge of the mountains yes.

D.S.: Did the people from the mountain come down to the store?

E.H.: Yea. This store..a lot of mountain people come to this store. Because they bought huckleberries, blackberries all that kind of stuff you know this store did. And they had New York people and Baltimore people that bought that stuff. Eggs, all that kind of stuff you know.

D.S.: Where was the store located?

E.H.: It was located just about three miles..two miles south of the Alma bridge.

D.S.: Okey. Alright. Uhhuh.

E.H.: And it was called Leo, Jett.

D.S.: Leo, Jett.

E.H.: He bought dried apple snits..all that kind of stuff. My family sold lots of dried apple snits. My father owned the largest apple orchard of anybody around. My grandfather made government liquor. He had a regular distillery. And it was four large tanks....where my father furnished him peach ^{for the peach} brandy and

apples for the apple brandy and my job..mine and my brother's job was to stir this every so often like you would applebutter. And we'd go and I was just a small boy...it was up on a platform about..I'd say six inches..the tubs were so they could get a container under it to draw it off of you know. And my job was to get up on there and then get up on a block, *His stirrer was made* all four was hooked together and when you stirred one, it stirred them all..

D.S.: Oh, great, that was clever. You did.

E.H.: Uhhuh. You didn't have to go from barrel to barrel.

D.S.: Speaking of that, did you know of any of the mountain people that made any moonshine?

E.H.: I knew them all.

D.S.: You did.

E.H.: In other words, I was the only person that could weld copper and I had a torch that I could weld copper in those days and you know if you put it over a fire or sauter..it would melt off... and *SOLDER* they'd always call it applebutter kettles...never was known as a still...I didn't do it as a still. And I've made a many and a many and a many one.

D.S.: Yea. Where did they get the copper from?

E.H.: Uh, they had outlets from these people that was building dams at that day and time...put copper between the sections of the dam you know so it wouldn't rust..so the river wouldn't seep through it. And they had outlets...some of the guys that done the purchasing for the people that was building the dam, well they knew the different people and they could buy it. And that's mostly where they got it. And there sugar they had the same way. They knew people that uh, they could buy a ton of sugar from just as easy as they could a pound. And uh, I've seen a many a gallon run.

D.S.: That made good...

E.H.: They made good whiskey. No doubt about it. They made good whiskey.

D.S.: Yea, right.

E.H.: But uh...I remember they made it long before the prohibition. And uh...

D.S.: Yea. Did you have much contact with the mountain people?

E.H.: I had ~~more~~ contact with the mountain people, than any other man that I know of.

D.S.: Okey. Start telling..

E.H.: I don't know of any other man that had more contact with them.

D.S.: You know one of the best ways to know the mountain people is somebody as an outsider like you, because you weren't one of them, you **could** look at them objectively. Okey what were they like?

E.H.: There was no finer ^{people} that ever lived than what the mountain people, were. I've been in nearly every hollow from Waynesboro to Front Royal. Now that takes in a lot of territory. But the reason for this is because I had a welding torch and they had to use these hillside plows. You plowed one way with it and then you flopped it over and then you plowed back...otherwise you'd have had to run around. And I had to weld these plows. And that's the ~~the~~ reason I was called to so many places in the mountain was to weld this equipment for them.

D.S.: Then in other words...I had not heard of this plow that you are telling about. Now they..was it one that they sort of conceived themselves?

E.H.: NO. This was a factory made plow. If I'm not mistaken it was made by *Pete Bradley* Company. But you could plow along the hillside and then when you got to the other end you just switched it over. And you'd come back and it had a double *mahard* and it would throw the dirt the same way you see. Otherwise you'd have to go all the way around a piece of land. And they ~~was~~ a good plow. But you had one piece that would **break** if it would hit something solid. And I can weld cast iron, and nobody else that I knew of could weld it. It was just a little *slight* to weld. And uh, they have called me numbers and numbers and numbers of times to come and weld different things..axils and

and pieces for their wagons.

D.S.: How would you get there?

E.H.: Either horseback, bicycle, or walk. And sled...I have went on flat sled. To haul rock out and stuff.

D.S.: We know very little about the Southern Section, and yet you say you have been in every one of those hollows...

E.H.: I wouldn't say everyone, but I'd say the best part of them.

D.S.: Uh, the people in there uh would you say their customs were sort of like those in the central...

E.H.: No, no. The people's customs is exactly like chestnut trees. There is not just one kind of chestnut tree...native chestnut tree.

D.S.: Right.

E.H.: There are eight different kinds. And they all have the same nuts and the same leaves and the same bark, but they are all different. Now if you go to West Virginia you got a different kind of chestnut tree from the native chestnut from what you got over here. If you go South in the Shenandoah mountain you got a different one if you go North you got a different one. And the people was the same way.

D.S.: In what way were their customs different?

E.^H.: Well the way that I figured they was different, they had different *employes* One would uh saw lumber and haul out and the other would work for them, the other would furnish produce and they would work for them and then that made a change in people see. In the different sections.

D.S.: Did they, in the southern section...I know *there was Bacon & Snake Hollow where they made a lot of manshine* were there many feuds or battles or fights among them. Did they get a little more boisterous than *most others*

E.H.: Uh, the only time that I would ever see, that I remember a fight anywhere close close to the mountain was when some outsider would come in and they would get

a little smart with them or maybe buy some of their liquor and get maybe half drunk or something like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh, I see. Did they have the utter..well I shouldn't say it this way... but if a negro came into the central section, he was driven out.

E.H.: No, no. In, in...at one time they were, now I can remember back when my uh.. *in a place called Ingham they*

didn't allow no niggers through there. They'd throw them off a train or anything. And my daddy was called numbers of times when there was trouble with the niggers you know..and if he didn't go they done damage to your farm some way or another...something you know...maybe kill a cow for you or something like that. But the Hilliards' was the head people of that.

D.S.; Uhhuh, okey, now what main names that were down there. There were Fraziers,

E.H.: There was Fraziers, Hilliards, ^{LAMS} ~~Lams~~, Comers,

D.S.: Comers?

E.H.: Comers..C O M E R S...oh, I know many *Rev. Boag*. Oh I knew him personally. I knew him from the day he come here. He was a Reverend.

D.S.: Oh, . Yes. I know Rev. *Rev. Boag* Oh, sure, I interviewed him.

E.H.: Did you!

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.H.: I knew him from the day he come in here.

D.S.: Did they...the people in the Southern section...was their family tie very close?

E.H.: Uh, yes. The southern people...they visited...well all the mountain people visited one another. If they needed a little lard or they needed a little sugar .. they got it and they replaced it. They didn't do like the people around here, they really replaced it. And uh, they always carried all their money on them. I never did know one of them to have a bank account. I never took a check off of one that I know of. And they would come in with...they had money. They had thousands of dollars. They wasn't poor persons. Because

they sold cabbage...there was no expense to them. They raised everything that they eat...except sugar and coffee...something like that. And they.. very seldom you ever got coffee there. You know what you got. You got sassafrass tea and stuff like that. I've seen them make it a many a time. Now a lot of the people I have heard made it out of the bark, but they made it out of the roots. They'd take a root up and dry them and they'd take the bark off and that was their main drink.

D.S.: Sure. Uh;huh, Right.

E.H.: And uh, as far as their money was concerned. I've had numbers of the mountain people that wanted me to take their money and keep it for them for their burying expenses. I wouldn't do it, because you never know what can happen...but I had numbers of them that did...they had confidence enough in me to take it and keep it for them. I've seen them come out a many a time... that they would have these old big dollar bills and gold backs and a lot of gold...they was bad about gold...theyloved their gold. I'd say most of the head people..like the ones that sold lumber...the ones that sold bark to the tannery and different things like that..they..mostly did that in gold. It was no trouble to get gold at that time.

D.S.: Uh, were the men protective of their wives. *Yes they uh*

E.H.: They what...

D.S.: Protective of their wives?

E.H.: Yes they uh..there was a very few men that really stepped out on their wives. They mainly was a close family bunch. But the ones that mostly went with the women was different men that uh has business out. Not the local people.

D.S.: Yea, right.

E.H.: I don't believe that I ever heard...I might have...but I don't believe that I've ever heard of a fight at a house caused from it.

D.S.: Yea, right. Were the children obedient?

E.H.: Yes, they was uh...some children they was uh, very shy...they would peek around the house at me when I would go in you know and finally they would get where they would know me you know and just as friendly and come jump up on my lap and talk to me and all that kind of stuff.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were they ~~the~~ homes..were they solid homes...did snow come into them occasionally or what?

E.H.: Uh, there was some very nice homes, but mostly all of them was just two room homes. The main bedroom, and a kitchen and a place to...^{eat}and they mostly all had fireplaces in them. I never will forget one time when I was in there on business...I was a doing a welding job at the time and my car broke down. I had an old chevrolet ~~...~~ baby grand about a 1915 or 16...

D.S.: Oh yea.. uhhuh.

E.H.: And uh, it twisted an ^{AXLE} axil off. And I had to stay all night in there that night, but I had stayed all night before. And uh, in this room was a man and his wife and it was four or five children and myself...and my helper. And we all had to sleep right in front of the fireplace..it was cold that night too...don't you think it wasn't. It was cold. But they had no other place for us to sleep, but right in there. And just numbers and numbers of times that I would be in there that they would beg me to stay all night with them or something like that you know...and I had plenty of time to get out, I wasn't bothered about staying all night with them.

D.S.: Sure, how about their meals. What would you have when you stayed there?

E.H.: Uh, did you know...they was right smart on hominy...just corn hominy. That and gravy was two main meals that they had. Course they'd have eggs, they'd have ham meat. But I never did like that ham meat very much because it tasted too much like mash. They fed their ~~hogs~~ hogs off the mash you know where they made the whiskey and it had a kind of musty taste ~~taste~~ to it.

D.S.: Oh yea. Of course, yea. It would.

E.H.: And uh, but I've eat uh most anything that growed in there. And my favorite of all the mountain was the mylan apple. Every house had a tree of the mylan apple. Did you ever see any?

D.S.: I have two on my property.

E.H.: Save me a couple..I want.. *to get a start on one.*

D.S.: Alright, alright...

E.H.: I want to plant the seed and get us some started.

D.S.: Okey, I'll be very happy to, but I knew where just numbers of the trees were and in the wintertime..in the fall, I'd go there and then they had a peach tree...they called it the fall peach...they got ripe along in September or October you know..late.,and uh I've gathered a lot of them, but my main thing in there was chestnuts. And the tree...

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Yea.

E.H.: Now I'm going to start a little story with you on how I started with the chestnut tree. My father owned this here apple orchard and he had peach orchard and he had plums, he had cherries, he had kerns...do you know what kerns are?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.H.: Quinces..all that kind of stuff...in his orchard. He furnished my grandfather the fruit for his distillary and on Sunday, my father was one of the leading farmers, and on Sundays there would be a large crowd of people..every Sunday.. and I hated it because they'd set the table and what we'd eat was the old lower part of the chicken leg and cold chicken...and after the dinner was over he would take this crowd to the orchard and he would show them these spots on them that occured after the chestnuts died and he said if there ain't something done about these here..in a hundred years life will be gone. He said because the trees put out hydrogen oxygen and all that kind of stuff, and the trees are badly ~~bearing~~ *depleting* today. You can go anywhere you want to, and it's

got where you can't raise no fruit trees now without treating them. So that's what caused me to start work with ~~the~~ them. And uh, I've went many a time before the Skyline Drive was opened to some big chestnut trees that I knew close to where we was at and uh they would be all dead but one limb. Well I learned from that that a tree was ~~dead~~ ^{dead} from individual *sap lines*. If it wasn't the whole tree would have died. So I wrote all that down and I've kept a diary all through life. I have a diary that uh, it's amazing to just look at it. There's people that knowed me for years and years and years that has never knowed nothing about it. But uh, I kept trying everything on these chestnuts trees...I'll never forget my main chestnut tree was right on top of the mountain..right on the tip top of Foltz Mountain. And it was a nice one and you could get all you could carry...course I would be on my bicycle you know..just throw them across my bicycle, but the main thing that made the interest to me on the chestnut trees was uh, the blacksmith..had a blacksmith across the road from where I was at...probably fifty yards and we used to get his chestnuts logs for to make his different things out of...he made rims for wheels..he made the hubs for wheels...he made all kinds of handles out of it and he made us a cart and put two buggy wheels on it. And my brother and I used to go to the mountains ...four miles to the mountain...and we'd cut..hed¹ give us an order for what he wanted you know and we would cut these logs as long as he wanted and put on what we thought we could haul. And it was a couple of hills between the mountain andhis shop that we couldn't get up. If we'd unload part of it and take it up and then go back and get the other part and bring it up and then we'd load it all. And when we got into the shop we would generally make about three loads a day. And boy we got a quarter for three loads and I thought that was something.

D.S.: Yea. Well then the mountain people must have got about that amount of money to for hauling the....when they..

E.H.: Their cabbage head..they sold cabbage head as big as you ever see up there

for three cents. They sold potatoes for fifty cents a bushel...all in the world that you wanted. I tell you another little story about the potatoes ...my mother bought them..for she run a boarding house...twenty three boarders. And she bought this stuff..there's a man we bought off of year after year you know. And he brought them in a burlap bag and I said to him. I said Mr. Meadows uh you got a bushel in that bag. He said you got a bushel basket. I said yea ...he said get it. So I got it and he put everyone that he could have on it, and there was about four that he couldn't get on it and he throw'd them back up on his car. I said them mine. He said no, you got your bushel.

D.S.: Never doubt him again.

E.H.: He was our main supply for my mother's boarding house. For the reason was, he was kindly overseer of the other mountain people...he knowed where to get this stuff.

D.S.: I see. Now did he live in Naked Creek?

E.H.: He lived about two miles from *Blue Basin*.

D.S.: Yea. In the Naked Creek area.

E.H.: Right.

D.S.: Right. Which Meadows was he?

E.H.: Uh, he had four or five brothers that all lived around up in there.

D.S.: Yea. There are a lot of Meadows. Yea.

E.H.: Yea, and he was one of the finest men that I ever met in my life.

D.S.: In what way?

E.H.: Any way you want to. He was 100% honest. That's one thing about those mountain people. I never had one to beat me out of a dollar in all the time that I ever dealt with them. If they said they was going to pay me on Saturday...they paid on Saturday....if they had to walk to pay me. Now another reason, I had a nice great big bench in my garage, and they would gather around

there in the wintertime to uh, to uh, see what..you know to talk and different things like that and this was the front entrance here on it...this front entrance and uh, I had different things here you know and uh, I had a nice great big long bench right along here and uh, they would gather there and uh I inspected automobiles too ~~in~~ the state of Virginia and you know that drew a lot of it...that drew some that I wouldn't have got no other way. And uh, they would get in there talking and nearly everyone of them would have a bottle with them and they'd say to me have a drink out of my bottle and you couldn't turn them down...

D.S.: No.

E.H.: And I'd put it up to my mouth and boy just make like I was drinking away..put my tongue over it you know but wouldn't drink none. But to be socialable with them, that's the way I did because I never did care nothing about it. I have drank a little bit of it but I never did care a thing in the world about it. But if you didn't drink with them well some of them would say well you didn't drink none. I'd say oh, I drank enough. And I always tried to get the ones that had already been a drinking first you know and then they couldn't tell how much I drank. But they was very socialable and uh, they was nice to talk with. We would get the subject up about chestnut trees and you know they would talk a whole lot. And I had a mind eye you know, and I would keep all that in my mind..my testing and all .. worked out just exactly to what they would say. Now there was one man up in there that had..uh by the name of Luther Kite...he was the best known chestnutman in the mountain. But he would tell nobody nothing. But he'd come out to my garage to get his car inspected you know, and while the boys was looking around over it, I'd sit on the bench you know and bring up a subject and every once in a while bounce in on the chestnuts you know and he'd let out a little bit about where he wouldn't know he was a letting out and I had a powerful ~~also~~ memory and I

could remember what he said and so each time he would come in well you know I'd get a little bit more and a little bit more and finally I knew what he knew.

D.S.: How did he learn all this about chestnuts?

E.H.: Well he sawed lumber and he furnished the tannery bark and stuff like that there. He was telling about where the worms *pitted* under the bark you know and sucked the bark as it went up and he said the lava goes through the bark into the nuts and into apples and all all that kind of stuff and spraying the outside don't do nothing but .. what little enters the tree is all that does anygood. But he says you have got to get down to the ground, and work on a tree. Says every worm and bug and disease starts from the ground. So then I started working on it from the ground point. Instead of up in the tree. So that's why I knew so much about the trees because he had let out a lot of it and different ones.

D.S.: Say by the way, how about shoes..did all the people have shoes or not?

E.H.: Uh, most of them went barefooted. Most of them went barefooted. I have seen many of them with *burlap bags* ~~rag~~-tied around their feet if they had anywhere to go. You know just to keep the stickers and rocks and all from bruising their feet. But I have seen the children a many a time uh, barefooted when their was snow on the ground. Go on through it.

D.S.: ^Do you know anything about their schooling?

E.H.: My daughter taught school in there?

D.S.: She did. Where did she teach?

E.H.: She taught at Sandy *Battam* ~~Hollow~~. You know where Sanday *Battam* ~~Hollow~~ is?

D.S.: That's near Elkton.

E.H.: Right.

D.S.: Right.

E.H.: Yea, she taught in a one room school up there for years. You will have to

see her. She can tell you a lot of stuff.

D.S.: What's her name?

D.S.:

E.H.: Ann Monahan. Where does she live?

E.H.: Alright she lives right across in front of Bonanza in a permastone house as you go into Harrisonburg on the right hand side.

D.S.: Okay. What..do you know her telephone number?

E.H.: 434-4550. She teaches over at Turner Ashby now.

D.S.: She does.

E.H.: She's taught there ever since..no she taught at Elkton when they closed the school up. But she could tell you a lot about those mountain people...because she taught the m.

D.S.: Sure, right.

E.H.: Right in the mountain too.

D.S.: Yea, great..ah ha..now the people you say were honest...um...

E.H.: As far as I'm concerned.

D.S.: That's right. Uh, you listen to my series on WSVB. You heard the statement that I made that I never knew...I always asked them..what kind of a lock did you have on your door. Most of them....never had one....

E.H.: I dont ever remember seeing a lock. Yes I take that back. I seen some wooden locks that they had made. Yes I seen those. Now what it was..it was a long bar went across and it had a staple that went through it and they made a wooden pin that was split like this see and when that went down in hthere it sprung apart and you had to have a pair of pliers to get it back up out of there. No key..

D.S.: Uhhuh. No key.

E.H.: Now I have seen those. But mostly where they kept those..I don't know as they ever kept them on food or anything like that but mostly when they began to getting automobiles...course when automobiles come out you had to have a

garage first or you didn't buy a car. They never *know* set them out. And uh, mostly on a car or on a buggy or something like that. There was a few buggy's around through there. We called them buckboards. Instead of buggy.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did the people work hard?

E.H.: They was the hardest working people you ever seen. They would get up at four o'clock in the morning and have their horses sticking their heads out the shed door by daylight.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So they all had horses?

E.H.: Well no, not all of them, now. But uh..you understand now that if I worked for one *like around lumber* it wouldn't really pay for me to have a horse. But if he was a lumber man or drug logs for a living or something like that, now he had a horse...or two. But not everybody had a horse no.

D.S.: Did they use the horses to pull the logs down into town...or or..

E.H.: The way they did it was this. They'd load a load of bark for the tannery and they used the tanning out of the bark to tan leather with and they would load the wagon up full and they'd have steep mountains to come down and they would tie logs behind it to hold the wagon back down the mountain. And then when they would get down to the bottom part of the mountain, they would leave whatever logs...if they had three or four...they would turn all of them lose but one .. you know if they could drag one without to much energy and then they would leave that log of at some of their buddies for firewood along the road....as they went into the tannery. Don't know whether they give it to them or sold it or what. But uh, ther~~e~~ wagons weren't made only for mountain use. I've got it in my book here. Ther~~e~~ wagons was made heavy to hold that stuff. There's no good for long hauls. They would generally bring this here...now the Elkton people would take it clear to the tannery, but you take people from around Waynesboro or Luray or places like that...they would take

it out and park it along the road and then the tannery wagons would pick it up and take it on into the tannery...it was to long a haul for their type wagon. And I've seen them haul watermelons out of the mountain and they would have some of the nicest watermelon ... and I loved those watermelon out of the mountain. They was altogether different from ours. And they would have a car and they would take all the seats out of the back and fill it up...no trucks then. And haul watermelons out..and I bought some watermelons off of them, and I sold some for them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. The store that you were mentioning...did that have dry goods in it like bolts of *cloth*

E.H.: Oh, yes, it had everything. Everything. Shoes, dry goods, oil for lamps, and all the different things that might be needed. It was a general store and I mean really a general store. You could get anything there that you wanted to that....what he did was this...I have heard him say it a many a time...that whenever a person called for it, they didn't call a second time. He would buy either one of it or two of them and put them in the store.

D.S.: Do you know if he gave them credit when they brought in produce or did he pay cash?

E.H.: I think that he would give them script..most of the stores in that time give script.

D.S.: Uhhuh..yea..well it's really like credit because that script was only good in that store.

E.H.: Well they never needed no credit. I tell you another thing...I never seen a check until about 1923 or 24. Never seen one until about that time. And the first check that I ever remember seeing...I seen a man write on a piece of flour *bag* where flour come in. He tore a piece of bag up and wrote a check on that and took it right in the bank and paid it....give it to me.

D.S.: Yea, would you mind reading this for the record for the park?

E.H.: Uh this is a record that uh, I wrote down and I let the Shenandoah Heritage, and the Appalachian Trail have and uh, they made an article on it. Before the blight, You could see the wagons loaded with logs, bark and large bags of nuts...dragging logs along down the steep mountainside. They would then leave the logs off at some friends house for firewood. Then they would continue onto the tannery. From there they would sell the nuts to the country store. The chestnut bark could contained tyme which was in great demand for curing leather. And after the chestnut trees died they had to depend on chemical methods. In the spring the mountain people would cut the trees or *haul* the trees, strip the bark and peel it off for the tanneries. Sometimes they would stack it along the road to be picked up later by the tannery wagon...as the mountain wagons were not made for long hauls. Chestnut logs were in great demand for use as telephone poles and for railroad ties. The straight trunks and resistant to rot made the chestnut wood ideal for anything. Besides being a *free* for cash **crop** the chestnut played an important part in building homes, barns, *hangs* with sheds or animals. It was easy to work with and it was almost free of knots. Chestnut wood could be made into handles and wheels. It was lots of shingles and boards with *virtually* ~~greatly~~ no knot holes at all. Every part of the tree was used for something. The nuts that fattened the razor back hogs also attracted the animals..and the squirrels that were so tasty in stew. Limbs were long and straight and were used for long lasting fence posts and rails. The twigs were put into gulleys to keep the land from washing. The new spring growth known as honey dew was stored for winter cattle *food*. The blossom attracted the bees. The chestnut groves were often used for bee stands to mark the starting point of *an expedition* ~~extradition~~ to locate the bee tree. The chestnut blight reached the Blue Ridge Mountains in the '20s. Within a few years it had wiped out the American Chestnut and with it a major source of livelihood for the mountain people. In 1928 chestnut skeletons were a common site in the Blue Ridge. The trees that once stood a hundred feet

tall was used for knotty chestnut board. There was no knotty chestnut board before the blight...killed the trees. The worms eat the wood then instead of the sap. Their canals soon smothered them to death.

D.S.: That is such a beautiful summary that I wanted..if you didn't mind..having that on our record.

E.H.: Uh, the beeline now...I mentioned the bee line in there. I've seen those stands that they made there. They...they would take a stand and build it up about six foot off the ground...high enough that a bear couldn't get.. the honey off of it. And they'd either build it close to a chestnut tree or close to the house. One or the other. And they would put all of last year's honey on top of it and wire it fast and under it they would put a pan of water. And uh, the bees would...soon one would light on it and then in about a half an hour there would be a hundred light on it and then before the day was over there would be thousands of them ^{lit} on it. And then they would fly to a hollow tree and that was called the bee line. You could look and see which way they flew and that's the way they got their next year's honey. Every year they would get their yearly supply of honey from this bee stand.

D.S.: You say bear...and yet there were not bear at that time...

E.H.: Oh, yes there were bear too. Yes sir. They said there wasn't bear...they might not have been plentiful...

D.S.: There were bear?

E.H.: There were bear. There were bear.

D.S.: Bless your heart.

E.H.: Now, I'll tell you why I know there was bear...my father....we used to haul slab wood from these places where they sawed the chestnut boards and all and one day we was coming out with a load of wood and a bear went across the road and he jumped up over a great big tall rock and I said to the fellow with me ...I said why didn't he go up over there...I said when he could have went just a little bit on each side and just went right on up the mountain. He

said that's the bear..that's the animal trail and he said he knew every protection that he had all the way up the mountain and they use the highest part of the mountain for body heat...they use the lowest part for water and all along this they have their protection. And they never feed further away from this than what their breath would get them back in case of emergency. And they'd go back to this here protection and his protection was up over there. Now when you think about this theory...why wouldn't they put signs all along the road...animal crossing....that's an animal trail. Whereever they put those signs. And that's what these bears would do. Now I've seen bear in the mountain back as far as 1912 or 13. Now there wasn't many.

D.S.: No, but there were some.

E.H.: There were bears.

D.S.: How about deer.

E.H.: I don't believe I ever seen a deer. But I've seen uh wildcats and stuff like that.

D.S.: Sure.

E.H.: But we used to do a lot of night hunting you know. For coons...stuff like that. But uh, don't believe I ever seen a deer. But when they say there weren't no bears, there were bears.

D.S.: Great, great, great. That's a first. You said you were with the CCC's.

E.H.: Well the CCC camps moved in I used to go up and repair the cars. The boys cars...you know..when they had something get wrong with them, I'd have to go up to repair theircars.

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

E.H.: And uh the forest service...I made keys...and the forest service give me a key to all of the gates...one key fit them all...so that I could recognize it in case somebody come in to have a key made. And I carried that key for years and years and years.

D.S.: Yea. The CCC's...do you think that they were hard working young men?

E.H.: Yes, the boys obeyed them pretty well. You see money was so scarce then that that was the only way that they had of making any money and they figured that they could get kicked out just as easy as they got in. And uh they...I had a little grocery store along with...at the same time...but I'm getting ahead of the story. I was in the mountain when the first equipment went in for the CCC camp.

D.S.: You were?

E.H.: Yes. I was there when they brought the first equipment in to start on the mountain.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Then you could tell us...how was the reaction of the mountain people? Did they seem upset or...some happy..some **sad**.

E.H.: You got me just a little bit on that. I heard a little bit backwards and forwards, but as far as to just come right out and tell you, I just couldn't tell you. And I wouldn't want to tell you.

D.S.: Some of them have shown utter longing for it and yet they have said they wouldn't go back...because the work was too hard.

E.H.: The mountain people.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.H.: Well when they moved out I got to dig the wells for their homestead. I worked for a man..well ^{quiller} digger. Now the reason I worked for them was because in the wintertime we didn't have much to do...in the shop you know. And we'd go out and get work, you know. I went up on the Safe Harbour Dam and worked up there when they built that ^{about the Comstock Dam} just below Columbia for a winter, and I went up to Pittsburg one winter and worked up there.

A bunch of us guys you know. And then we'd come back in the spring..Man there was plenty of work in the spring. So they drilled these wells in the winter time and I helped to drill them.

D.S.: Did you ever see Polluck? George Freeman Polluck...at Skyland?
a lot

E.H.: No, I've heard of him, but I never did see him. No.

D.S.: You never went to any of his affairs? No..

E.H.: No.

D.S.: What were their teeth like..

E.H.: What..

D.S.: Their teeth. Were they in any good condition...or bad?

E.H.: ~~With all the~~ *most all of them used snuff -* I don't know if I could tell you or not.
Even the men did.

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh. I was wondering if they...I don't think they had a dentist.

E.H.: I don't know of any dentist. I know that they pull one another's teeth.

I do know that. Without..you know...going to any professionals or anything,
like that. I do know that.

D.S.: Yea. Were the men clean shaven?

E.H.: The younger people were. The older wasn't. But there was a lot of older
ones that was clean shaven.

D.S.: Did you ever go to any of their dances?

E.H.: No, no. But I have been around as a bystander where they would have singing
and stuff like that...you know.

D.S.: Do you recall any of their tunes?

E.H.: Shade of an old apple Tree. *That was one I remember.*
Bail 'im cabbage down. They mostly had
songs of their own
oh, around these places. You know most of them had a banjo or something like
that there for the youngsters you know. I don't know of any other kind of
music...oh, yes I did...some of them had accordians.

D.S.: Accordion.. wealthy *ones*

E.H.: Yea... They must have been pretty wealthy because I have seen a few of
them around where they played. Yes. I have seen them.

side 2

D.S.: *Now you've given me 2 fists.*

E.H.: Huh?

D.S.: Okey..

E.H.: But the banjos was the main music. *Jugs* Harp. That was another thing they had.

D.S.: Yes. and fiddle.

E.H.: Yea. Didn't see as many fiddles as you did the banjos though. Tell you another thing they used to use....just gallon jugs to make their music...with...you know. bum..bum..bum..like that...for the background.

D.S.: Oh yea.

E.H.: Yea, I've seen them use that a many a time. Did you ever hear one of them.

D.S.: NO.

E.H.: Oh, it made a dandy background.

D.S.: Of course they would

E.H.: It had a way of *blowing like*a whistle or something. That was another thing they used to make a lot of. Whistles. They'd take a limb and cut it off and remove the bark...firm you know..slip it right out..and then they'd cut a little notch in the top and plug the end of it up...and put a little piece in the front and that was their signal whistle. They used that for signals.

D.S.: Signals for what?

E.H.: If they wanted to call attention to somebody way off. You know a lot of people would put their fingers in their mouth and whistle you see... *But they* used those whistles for signals to do that. Ever see one of those?

D.S.: Yes I've seen them, but that's a great idea. In other words to call a neighbor about a quarter a mile away.

E.H.: Right..uhhuh...wherever..you know the sound would carry so much better from them than they would...

D.S.: Sure. Yea.

E.H.: And another thing that I can tell you is that uh..very peculiar...a lot of

people didn't know....you always thought cow bells was to find a cow. But a cow bell was notto find a cow. It was made to run snakes away. A snake can't stand vibration. My mother told me this..she used to pick a lot of berries in the mountain and she always carried a big pan on the back of her back when she went to the mountains besides her buckets. And she'd bang on this old ~~pan~~ pan for a while and then she'd start picking berries. And uh, I said to her..I said mom what'd you do that for. You know boys holding fingers in their ears while she did it. She said to run the snakes away. She said that's why your daddy has got bells on the cows. And I said..you know..it is. She said yea. She said while they are eating the snakes can't stand the vibration and they don't stop eating. And the cows does better. And I said why don't they put them on horses. She said a horse can smell a snake fifteen feet away... don't need no bell on. And you never heard of a horse having a cow bell on.

D.S.: No, hey..pretty great.

E.H.: So that's why the cow bell was invented. To run the snakes away. You see if a cow is eating...he's always ringing his bell. And a snake can't stand vibration. A lot of the mountain people used bells in their yards for that. They didn't ring them bells for dinner..course they used them for dinner bells too. But they usef them for to keep the snakes away...from the house. Just numbers of them did. I've had numbers of them tell me. Don't it sound logical to you.?

D.S.: Yea. It sure does. Did they let their cattle roam free.

E.H.: Yes. Yes.

D.S.: ~~There was~~ ^{Rained} a lot of trees...

E.H.: Um..no..um..the cattle mainly kept down the ~~birch~~ ^{brush} and the trees done better... by them roaming around. But law..you'd have to start hunting about three or four o'clock to get them before dark. They'd be wandered so far away.

D.S.: Huh..how about hogs. Did they let them run free?
have maybe

E.H.: They was generally a little rail fence or something put up generally. They wasn't too many raised hogs...had plenty of wild ones. get those old razor

back *any time they was* so *you* you'd have to eat skin and bones..
I'll never forget one time there was two **run us up** a chestnut tree...
kept us therefor a couple hours too. I believe they'd have eat us up
if we'd went down.

D.S.: They are vicious.

E.H.: Oh yea. Yes indeed. But it was a funny thing. We used to always when we'd
go to the mountain to get chestnuts...carry a bag of corn along you know. And
one boy would feed the hogs away while the others would gather..you know of
the ground. Oh yea. We would feed them away. The oldest boy mostly always..
there was three of us that would go. And uh, he would feed them away and uh..

They'll dig all around up in there..the tree..*if nuts are there*
they love them. And he would carry this corn along and one boy would shake
the trees and a chestnut tree is a funny tree. They don't have no limbs til
you get up fifteen or twenty feet...that's what they made such good lumber.
And my brother used to take the hay *junk* rope off, where they pulled hay to
the barn you know and he'd take his shoe off and he'd through it **up** across
the limb and then the others would pull him up to shake the tree. *no way to*
get up,
so
be about eight foot across. And the limbs would be **n** high. And he'd go up
the tree..be seventy five feet tall. Lord when he'd shake the tree you better
get out from underneath those trees. The ground would be covered. I've seen
a many a time . And I used to ride a school bus to...we had three

I lined miles to go to school. And uh, I lived inside the boundry *that you're supposed*
to walk.
outside of there the bus picked them **up**. I used to hide along the road you
know...get behind a cedar tree and when the school wagon you know..with horses
...I'd get behind this cedar tree and hide and when the horses come, well the
kids make a right smart fuss..I hadn't *made up* with them you know..and then
I'd slip on the wagon...and ride to school. But he would let me ride only
once in a while he'd have a fit you know and put you off or something like
that. But along the road..ft would be chestnut trees...right beside the road

and us boys would jump off and run ahead and get our pockets full til the wagon got to us and I never will forget just before he got into Stanley.. was a great big chestnut tree and it was right beside the road and ^{the road} ~~it~~ would be covered. Well we would gather them and then when we got to school we'd divide them. Uh children back in those days they looked out after one another. There's as much difference now as then as day and night.

D.S.: Sure. Yea. Uhhuh. Uhhuh.

E.H.: If I had a uh..lost a pencil...they'd see I had a pencil...at school. If one ~~wanted~~ ^{had it} anything, they'd divide with the other, if one would bring lunch and they didn't want such and such a thing..they'd pass that down and want to know if any of the others would want it. Something like that you know. But uh..

D.S.: And I imagine it was the same way with the children that were in the mountains too wasn't it?

E.H.: I imagine it was.

D.S.: Uh, yea. huh..did you ever see them playing with any toys.?

E.H.: Wood ones. The most they had was uh...that I have seen...nearly all of them had...was they called it a joy stick. And uh, it had looked like a ^{seed} ~~seed~~ on it. and they'd put it between their legs and drag it and walk. I don't know if you ever seen any of them or not. But mostly all of the kids would have some-thing like that you know.

D.S.: Did they play marbles?

E.H.: Oh yes. That was a great game. Marble games died about 1930. Before then, they would gather in gangs and be dozens of them playing marbles. I've seen a many a marble game.

D.S.: How about pitching horseshoes?

E.H.: Yes, that was another good game that they...but did you know back in those days these blacksmith shops they uh, had occasion to use the old horseshoe. And it was right hard to get them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. I've heard some of them when they didn't have horseshoes, they'd play..pitch rocks.

E.H.: I don't believe I ever seen them pitch rocks, but I have seen them pitch wood. Just a piece of ^{prong} wood you know. Cut off about a inch below the prong and about two inches maybe a little further at the top. And they would pitch that. I've seen a many a one of them. It worked about as good as a horseshoe.

D.S.: How about firecrackers at Christmas?

E.H.: Never seen a firecracker in the ^u hole mountain. ^{nothing...} and I'll tell you what we used for ~~trains~~ ^{traps} they'd get ^{sorting} boxes and when they pulled the top off they'd tie them together and the small kids would drag them around ^{to the stone} I did that myself...

D.S.: Sure.

E.H.: That was our toy then. And my first tricycle...my brother's had a blacksmith shop and they built these little express wagons and my job was to sand them up ...^{me} which they didn't have no sandpaper..you used glass...to sand them up. And my brother made me a tricycle just like the tricycles are made but he didn't make it so you guide it. He said you don't have to guide it...you got a straight place to go but it was awfully hard to ride without upsetting.

D.S.: Of course. Hey ^{by} the way...fires...speaking of firecrackers made me think. fires...

E.H.: They would all set fires because wherever there was a fire there was a tremendous crop of huckleberries.

D.S.: Right.

E.H.: They nearly all set fires.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Do you know if...now we have a lot of pictures up at Park Headquarters of the houses and they all had a ladder up against the roof...do you suppose that was because they were afraid of fires in the house from the chimneys.

E.H.: No that was for lazy people...they wouldn't cut the wood up and they'd go up and stick it down the chimney...let it burn ^{just} itself down...there's numbers of them done that.

D.S.: Go through that again. What was it that they did?

E.H.: The fireplaces...they wouldn't cut the wood short you know...they'd cut it about eight foot long and they'd go up on the house and stick it down through the chimney and let it burn and feed itself down. It would keep a fire all night long. That's what most of them ladders is up against the houses for. You never heard of that?

D.S.: I have never heard of that.

E.H.: Yes indeedy...they would just numbers of people that did that. You know what I mean now don't you?

D.S.: Yea...only how did...I thought you needed an open chimney...

E.H.: Well the chimney was open up at the top...you know where the fireplace went up through h the house... And they'd just go up and stick the thing down from the top. If you notice a lot of those houses they was built ^{along the} ~~at the long~~ edge of a deep mountain..and they'd have a platform that you'd go out and stick them down through.

D.S.: Well I'll be darned.

E.H.: Yes indeedy I've seen that done a many a time. There was two things that those ladders was used for. They didn't have no inside stairway to the second story.. wherever the houses had a ^{second} story and they went up the outside...they'd generally have a little porch around and a door and they'd go up around the outside. And they'd use a ladder to go up there and to stick these logs down through the fireplace.

D.S.: Wait til I tell them at the park...Oh, this is fun...what else can you tell ...think of that I haven't asked...I've been doing all the ~~asking~~ questioning and you are the one that has the memory...When you were asked to go someplace..

did you ever say..oh gosh, I don't want to go to that ^{area} place...

E.H.: No, no. Because money was so scarce then that we was willing to go anywhere ^{to}..make a few dollars...

D.S.: Did you ever hear any of them say where they came from?

E.H.: No, but I'll tell you what I've heard a many one say...that they couldn't ride in an automobile..it would make them sick every time...they never had rode an automobile you know. And you could go in the different ones...that had moved out and I would go back into their homeplace with them or something like that you know and their parents wouldn't even get in an automobile you know because they said it would make them sick every time. You know the olden days people used to always get sick in an automobile. But uh, I remmeber in back 1916 I think it was my daddy bought an old and nearly every trip that we went he twisted an axil off. Well it's no trouble to put anaxil in..little wire that goes up and you pull it out you know...he always carried five or six axils with him in the car...that's where I learned the mechanic trade from mostly was learning to help him. But my daddy was a veternarian and I used to have to go around with him to vaccinate hogs and I drove mostly for him....that's in the latter...he died in 1924 and I was born in 1909. But the first automobile that I ever drove...my brother got married in 1914...that makes me five years old...so he went to Stanley to get on the train to go on his honeymoon and he said to me, take it back and put it in the barn...never even let me drive it out to the train...and uh, coming back I knocked down a mailbox and when I got home and pulled up in the yard the first thing my daddy said...my gracious you could have killed fifty people. He got awful mad over that.

D.S.: You were too young to *drive*.

E.H.: Well it wouldn't have been so bad if he'd have taught me..you know. But I've

been a driving ever since.

D.S.: Hey by the way were the people clean.

E.H.: No, not..not no more than usual for a farmer..old farmer...you know...there was some of them right clean...some of them come out dressed up pretty nice. In other words mostly when they would come out they would change to cleaner clothes but the same working clothes. I don't believe they ever..any of them would come out dressed up.

D.S.: No. No. But uh, they always talk to me about their laundry and it sounds as though they work pretty hard...trying to keep their clothes clean.

E.H.: Well they worked..they mostly washed in the creek. And they'd hang their clothes on limbs and stuff like that you know around close by. Seen that a many a time yea. They'd do a right smart washing but uh they had to do a right smart washing.

D.S.: Did you ever see any in there that because of being closly bred they weren't quite right.

E.H.: Oh, yes.

D.S. Physically or mentally.

E.H.: Yes, yes, yes. I seen one woman that had three afflicted children. And I seen numbers of others. Uh, we called them simple people...simple..but we always treated them all with respect you know. A lot of those children in the mountain there...if they would have had the schooling and out among the public..they would have made great people. They had the potentials for it you know..the good memory and the alertness and all that kind of stuff...

D.S.: Do you recall any of their expressions?

E.H.: Well doggone was one thing that most all of them used. There was very few of them that ever cursed...I don't believe I ever heard but very few unless they got awful mad or something like that. They most all had a by word of some kind...but doggone was the biggest word that they used...

D.S.: Well what did they refer to as what you are sitting on? That word pronounced..

E.H. What a chair you mean...mostly a stool or a seatee or something like that.

D.S.: Uh, what I am trying to find out is there...I have heard people say that there was a lot of Old English expressions...Elizabethian terms really, and uh, now nobody can recall what they were.

E.H.: Well there was a lot of them that uh, they spoke what you might say their own language. They could communicate where you and I couldn't. Give you an example.
He done gave it up hush pup e man.

D.S.: Uh, what was that again.

E.H.:

D.S.: What does that mean. How come.

E.H.: I'll have to show you. Uh, we used different things like that there especially when we was writing to girls and we didn't want their parents to know nothing about it. See. A lot of them would call it pig latin.

D.S.:Um..oh yea, yea. Uhhuh...

E.H.: And each one of us knew what each thing meant. Now they used a lot of that.

D.S.: Yea. Did they write and spell and everything.

E.H.: Nah, they was very poor speakers and not much on spelling and done very little writing. A lot of them couldn't even write at all. With reason..there was no chance to write...there was no taxes to fill out, there was nothing.. no occasion for them to write.

D.S.: How did they get the news...how did they find out what was going on in the outside world. They couldn't buy...they couldn't read why would they buy a paper.

E.H.: No, I don't think there was but very few of them in there ever saw a paper.

D.S.: Then how would they know .. like they went to World War I....

E.H.: Well now you understand these boys and all would go out to town...they'd probably get a whole week of news...that's what I would say.

D.S. :Yea..Yea..I guess....

E.H.: Because a lot of times I would go in there and they would ask me different things about different things and I would tell them different things you know. And you have to be very careful about telling them...anything at all. Because you see whenever you tell a person a thing, they couldn't repeat it just exactly like you can. They always add a little or take a little bit away. And the first thing it's done wound up to a tale.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. So you had to tell the minimum so that they could elaborate.

E.H.: Yea. It's just like one time there was a fellow lived right close to where I lived and uh, they always called him the biggest liar in the country. But he wasn't no liar..he was an entertainer. And there is a whole lot of difference between a liar and an entertainer. So one day a man said to him...said hey John, come in here and tell me one. Snow on the ground about six or eight inches deep and so he walked up there and he said I don't have much time. He said John just died..and I'm trying to find somebody to lay him out. Said would you help. He said yea. So this John went on and got ready and went over to this man's house to where he thought was dead and he was alive.

So he really told one.

D.S.: Yea...I can see...well that was apparently their one way of entertainment, wasn't it.

E.H.: It was their entertainment. They would pull jokes and stuff like that...now I'll tell you another thing. I don't know as I ever heard of one of them ever pulling dirty jokes like on you..like uh you know like kids do now. Mark glass up or break glass or stuff like that. If it was a joke it was something.. you know...that they would laugh about.

D.S.: Sure, right, yea. Uhhuh. Yea. I guess they did play practical jokes didn't they.

E.H.: Oh yea, yea. They played them on themselves. But they was right funny about this now. Uh, if you couldn't take a joke they wouldn't pull no joke...if you

could take a joke then they would pull them, and then they had a way of feeling around you know to see if you could take a joke.

D.S.: Okey, give us an example...of a practical joke....that they would play.

E.H.: Well uh, they would uh, coming right on off I couldn't give you one right out but uh usually they would have different jokes about different things you know. Among themselves. *(I'll show this when we get done.)*
But not now...

D.S.; Alright. Alright, well do you know...I have taken...I have had your shop closed for an hour and I feel. *guilty*

E.H.: Well I'd just leaves take your money as anybody else's.

D.S.: I'm not paying anything...

E.H.: Oh, you're not. Well now uh a man went into a lawyer's office and he says is there any law against hanging clothes on another person's clothesline... said oh, you got a good case... neighbors you know..side by side..He said alright pay me..your wife hung clothes on my line...said you know I'm a bachelor and I can't stand what they said. So he was right mad about it...so the lawyer said to him said John we've been good friends all of our life..he said let's compromise. He said alright you give me \$15 and promise me y she'll never hang no clothes on my line no more...I'll compromise with you. So the lawyer give the \$15...next day he got a letter in the mail for \$15..legal advise.

D.S.: So...

E.H.: I'm just kidding..

D.S.: I know you are. Uh, you know it really does seem a shame to just take and not be able to give anything back, but do know this...that you are helping the people from the park...

E.H.: Everybody knows *me*...I happened to be in a place the other day and I was talking to a fellow and I noticed the fellow standing off a little ways and he kept

watching me. And uh, so some how or another this fellow called the name... the boy I was talking to and when I went out he said to me..he said excuse me sir..are you ~~x~~ Huffman. I said yea. He said are you the chestnut Huffman. I said yea. He said I'm from South Dakota and you are well known out there.

D.S.: Nice. Say, by the way I know the payment I will ^{send} give you...I will ^{send} give you... ^{not} ^{just a} ^{seed.}

Now what were you saying about the leaves...

E.H.: Alright now this is a page on Green Thumb. All trees have long limbs on the east...they have a flat side on the west. That's nature's way of keeping a person from getting lost in the woods. Another thing that would used for.. back in the olden days when they blazed the trails through the mountains and the roads they used the limbs on the trees to go by....because the Montzume rains lasted too long and they couldn't use the stars and the sun and stuff like that. Now you can paint an imaginary eye and you can't find a road that wasn't north and south and east and west...that was over a hundred years old.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Right.

E.H.: And not only that but they used them for graveyards...for starting a graveyard ...all graves are facing either east or west. And they used that because they had no compasses nor nothing to go by. So they used these here limbs to go by. Now if you take a tree up...the magnetic pole forms in a tree...I'd like to read this...

D.S.: Yea. Go ahead.

E.H.: It has been said that some people has green thumbs. What does this term mean. It means that those people have a certain touch with plants and trees...they all seem to grow faster and healthier with people with green thumbs. This does not happen by mere chance. These people probably know more about plants than the average person would. People with green thumbs probably know about the magnetic pole which controls their growth. You have the same thing in you but you call it static electricity...that controls your growth. Uh, we learned this by

building new automobile batteries. If you turn the battery around in a car.. you know what it will do. If you turn a tree around you know what it will do. All trees have magnetic poles. If a tree is transplanted with it's east side facing west, north side facing south, then the growth of the tree will be stunted. I've experimented with this in planting trees or vegetable plants. I can set two plants side by side, water and care for them exactly the same, one will grow very fast and the other very slow. This happened because one has been planted with it's magnetic pole facing the wrong way. So I found that the best thing to do is to mark the east side of a tree that is to be transplanted before it is moved. The easiest way to do this is to watch and see which side the sun comes up on. And mark the tree with a cloth or a string. When reset the east side should be facing east if you move it a hundred miles. Or a mile. Or a foot. If a tree is not transplanted in this way..it will take many years to change its magnetic pole. Change a battery ^{around} and see what it will do. Uh, in 1923 a walnut tree was planted on a fence row just east of the Shenandoah River dam. My father told me this tree was being set exactly opposite from the way it should be set. If it would have been set with this magnetic pole facing the right direction in fifty years it would have been 60 or 70 feet tall. But now it will never reach a height of 35 feet, because it takes a walnut tree 20 years to change its magnetic pole. The magnetic pole forms after the seed or nut ~~has dropped~~ ^{roots rot} off. We like to transplant our chestnut trees before the nut drops off. We plant them in half gallon milk cartons. That a way they are already growing and you don't have to worry about which way you set them. As long as the root is contained with dirt. Plants or trees does better if planted before the ~~the~~ ^{the 3rd leaf} forms. If you plan to plant a tree..don't get a great big one, get a little one. The magnetic pole in people is called static electricity.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Well that is absolutely fascinating. Beautiful. Well I thank you,

more than you can know.