

4-20-1979

(SNP089) Clarice Meadows interviewed by
Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Jeanette
Shapiro

Clarice Meadows

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/snp>

Recommended Citation

Clarice Meadows interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, April 20, 1979, SdArch SNP-89, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the JMU Special Collections at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.

Interview with Clarice Meadows
Part of the Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, SdArch SNP-089
(SC# 4030)

Interview conducted at Unknown Location, Virginia
By Dorothy Noble Smith on April 20, 1979

Transcribed by Jeanette Shapiro, March 2004
Updated by Victoria M. Edwards, November 2009
and Mary M. Darrough, January 2010

[DS:] Interviewer, Dorothy Noble Smith
[CM:] Interviewee, Clarice Meadows

[Notes regarding transcription technique]
[unintelligible] Unable to understand more than one word
_____ (??) Transcriber's best guess
- Speaker makes abrupt change in sentence
Refer to the Baylor University Style Guide for consistency in transcription

Total interview length: 00:43:18 min.

[Begin audio file, 00:00:01 min.]

DS: We are interviewing Mrs. Clarice Meadows, who had been a school teacher. Now I understand first you were a schoolteacher in Naked Creek. Is that correct?

CM: Verbena?

DS: In Verbena.

CM: Yes, one year.

DS: One year. Okay, and then, then you--did you teach at Sandy Bottom?

CM: After teaching at Maple Springs.

DS: Okay. Then we're going to touch on all three of the schools. Let's start with Verbena. It was a one room school?

CM: Yes, I don't remember much about the year at Verbena.

DS: Okay.

CM: (laughs)

DS: Well, whatever you do recall, do you know if there were many, many children that came? They were mountain children?

CM: I said that was one-room. That was a two-room school.

DS: A two-room school?

CM: Yeah. And I taught with Mrs. Baumgartner (??). And she had the upper grades, and I had the primary.

DS: Okay. I imagine the primary--there were more primary children then there were

upper grade, weren't there?

CM: Well we divided that so that I had four grades and she had three. And there were--it was about even.

DS: It was?

CM: Yes, it was about even.

DS: Well now that, that is unusual because a lot of the children said they dropped out after about three grades. In your teaching, do you recall what subjects you taught at Verbena?

CM: Writing, reading, spelling, arithmetic mostly.

DS: Did the children come even if there was work to do on the farms?

CM: Yes, they did, they came. The attendance was good in both rooms.

DS: Was school for seven months of the year?

CM: I don't think they had but six months at that time. I think it was six months.

DS: And school started around eight or 8:30?

CM: Nine, I'd say, nine. Nine o'clock I think, maybe 8:30.

DS: Did you stay up there with a family or did you commute to work, to the school?

CM: I stayed with a family, but we still walked to the school, it was some distance from it.

DS: How, about how far away was the school from most of the children? Did they have far to walk?

CM: I don't think so. I think those that were farther away went to Shenandoah or some other schools. Maybe up on Naked Creek. I think they had a school up on Naked Creek.

DS: They did.

CM: And I think on one side of it the children went to Naked Creek and then some of them went to Shenandoah.

DS: Okay. Were the children clean?

CM: Most of the children were. They were always nice and clean.

DS: Did you ever have any problems with lice?

CM: No.

DS: No?

CM: No. Better than any of all three schools. I never had any trouble with lice.

DS: Were the children obedient?

CM: I had no trouble with discipline. And that's strange because some of the

teachers did have trouble, but no trouble.

DS: In other words, your reaction to the children who went to Verbena school was that their parents wanted them to go and they wanted to learn?

CM: That's right. That's the truth. (laughs)

DS: Do you recall if they had large families?

CM: No, I don't know.

DS: You don't know.

CM: I don't think that group did. Not Verbena. But I don't remember that.

DS: Okay. All right now let's get to the school you remember, the next one, you remember that one better, right?

CM: Maple Springs.

DS: Yeah, Maple Springs. Now exactly where is Maple Springs?

CM: You know where Thoroughfare Mountain is?

DS: Yes.

CM: All right, you cross Thoroughfare, and there's a small church right across from where the schoolhouse was, and that's Hensley's Church, I think. Afraid to say Hensley's Church.

DS: Yeah. How long were you there?

CM: Not sure.

(laughter)

DS: All right. You were there a couple of years anyway.

CM: Couple of years, I'd say, five or six.

DS: Five or six years.

CM: Yes.

DS: Was this a one-room school?

CM: Part of the time it was a one-room, but I had so many children in school, I'd say fifty, and I couldn't take that.

DS: Yeah.

CM: So I asked for help.

DS: Now who would you ask for help?

CM: I went to the superintendent.

DS: This would be of the Rockingham, or?

CM: Rockingham, yes.

DS: Rockingham.

CM: Rockingham. And he sent me a helper. So then we divided the children. I taught in the church and the helper taught the lower grades in the schoolhouse.

DS: Okay. Roughly, how many children did you have? You had the upper grades there, then, right?

CM: I'd say twenty.

DS: Twenty. Now did they—

CM: Maybe more.

DS: Did they come, too, as regularly as they had at Verbena?

CM: Yes. They came regularly, those children.

DS: Even if the snow was deep?

CM: Yes, they came on through the snow, that didn't keep them at home. Now, sometimes the older children would help at home, in the spring, with the farm work, but they didn't miss many days. Attendance was good.

DS: And they were also, were they clean or—?

CM: Yes, nice and clean. They had clean homes and they were just clean children. They really were.

DS: Did you stay up there, with a home?

CM: Yes.

DS: What was that home like?

CM: Well, it was—

DS: Was it a log house?

CM: I'd say it was better than the average, or about the average home. What was the question? I forgot your question.

DS: Was it a log house?

CM: No, it was weather boarded. It, no, it wasn't log.

DS: Do you recall the name of the people?

CM: Yes. Meadows. (laughs)

DS: Oh! Is that where you met your husband?

CM: Yes.

DS: It was. Did they have a large family?

CM: Yes, I'm afraid to say how many, but there were ten or eleven of those children.

DS: How would they all sit around the table at mealtime?

CM: Oh, well, they had two long benches and they had a long table.

DS: Did you—roughly what were their meals? Did they have ham and chicken? Did they ever eat beef?

CM: Yes, but not often. Not as much lean pork because they sold them out of their farm.

DS: They sold it or would they get credit at the stores? Do you know?

CM: I think they sold it, but they may have taken credit.

DS: Did Mr. Meadows work anywhere, excepting on his farm?

CM: No, not that I know of. Might have done a little sawmill, I heard him say he worked for fifty cents a day when he was young. But they had—they worked on the farm most of them.

DS: Okay. Now, the classes that you taught, that would be what, fourth, fifth, and sixth, or—?

CM: Yeah, seventh.

DS: Seventh?

CM: Yeah.

DS: It went up through seventh grade?

CM: Yes, I went through seventh grade. I didn't have but three or four in the seventh, maybe five.

DS: What were your subjects there?

CM: (laughs) About the same as the others. We had history and some geography.

DS: You did?

CM: And I taught a group out of the fourth, fifth--not the fourth--fifth, sixth and seventh, we had projects, or subjects that we'd study.

DS: Such as?

CM: Yes, all the grades, all those grades.

DS: Well what would be a project for you?

CM: That's right.

DS: What?

CM: Well, a project. Well, we'd work on history sometimes, the history of the Valley, or other subjects they were interested in. Sometimes they would come up with something they wanted to learn or talk about. And then we worked with storytelling and language together, those groups. And that way, with seven grades, you can get so much more education across.

DS: Would you say the children were intelligent?

CM: I didn't see any that weren't. Very few. Now I may have had a few retarded children, but very few. You have to work at their level.

DS: Now I had heard that in that area, arithmetic was stressed. Is this true?

CM: It could have been more, because they were interested in that. They liked that. And I think boys and girls liked their arithmetic.

DS: Well, I was just trying to verify because I'd heard that it was stressed because the teachers felt that the children would need it when they were taking, like, eggs to a store, so that they were sure, you know, not to be cheated out of things.

CM: I--it may have been stressed a little more, but I think reading and writing was as important as that.

DS: The families in that area, did they do a lot of visiting.

CM: Well, on weekends maybe, maybe they did do a lot to their own people, their own groups.

DS: In other words, they didn't really go outside of their area.

CM: No, not unless it was somebody that was originally from there, had moved away, or some distance away. But they didn't often do that.

DS: Did they walk when they went to visit?

CM: Sometimes horseback, but usually walked.

DS: They usually walked.

CM: And the Meadows up around it, he'd walk all the way across to Green County and Madison to visit his brother, and that was eighteen miles I heard. Now that's a long distance for a walk for me. Every spring he went to visit his brother. And I don't know what time of year his brother usually came back, sometime in the year to visit him. But I think he maybe rowed, came around by Swift Run.

DS: Wow, that was a walk!

CM: He did that every spring, he'd [trails off].

DS: The shoes that they had, did they have a cobbler to make their shoes?

CM: You know, I don't remember about their shoes. I just don't remember. If the cobbler made their shoes, it was before I went there.

DS: Did you recall seeing any of them with a metal, sort of like a horseshoe on the heel of their shoe?

CM: No, I don't remember that. Although I feel like some of them did, I think maybe some of them did wear those, but I don't remember that.

DS: I think if they wore them you'd have heard them in the classroom. (laughs)

CM: In the classroom. Yeah.

DS: Yeah. How about snakes? Did you ever have any problem with snakes?

CM: No.

DS: No.

CM: There's plenty of snakes around. (laughs)

DS: Yeah there were, that's right. Did you ever see the Meadows family use any herbs of any kind for medicinal reasons?

CM: No, they raised ginseng, but I don't know, I don't remember the herbs.

DS: They probably sold the ginseng.

CM: Yes. They had a bed under the grapevine that they would dig, I think every two or three years. Some of it, and sell it. 'Course it was only wild ginseng (??).

DS: Huckleberries. Did they dry huckleberries, do you know?

CM: Yes, they dried huckleberries; and apples and corn.

DS: Yeah. Did they have any dances?

CM: Not where I was.

DS: No dances.

CM: Maybe a mile or two miles distance some of them, some of the groups had some dances. But not where I was centered, or where I was.

DS: In other words, they were just a hardworking people?

CM: They were a hardworking people, went to church on Sunday, and maybe visited a little and that was it.

DS: If they visited somebody, and that person was, say shucking corn, did they all pitch in to help, or what did they do?

CM: Well they had those, what did they call them, corn huskings?

DS: Yeah, yeah.

CM: They had those. I don't know anything about them. But they had those. And they had their apple butter. That was a big time for them. And they helped around from family to family with that.

DS: Did they play music while they were doing the apple butter?

CM: Not the group by where I was.

DS: I wonder what made them more quiet than the others.

CM: I don't know, unless they, the teacher who stayed with them, and there was one that they talked about so much that came back in the summer and helped them and taught them music, to sing, hymns, church work. And I don't know why they were much quieter than some. Never wanted, if you needed someone they were always right there.

DS: Yeah. Did you stay there over Christmas?

CM: No. I went home for Christmas.

DS: Oh, then you don't know how they celebrated Christmas?

CM: Well, everybody came home for Christmas, and especially Christmas day when everyone was there. (laughs) Now I might as well tell you now, I married the youngest boy in that family, so he, that's the reason I say he knows all the history.

DS: Sure, right, yeah. You say you went home, where was your home?

CM: Crimora.

DS: Oh, yeah. Now you taught at Sandy Bottom.

CM: Yes, longer than any of the others. A long time.

DS: Did the school transfer you to--did the supervisor--superintendent of schools transfer you to Sandy Bottom? Or was it your wish?

CM: He transferred me there and then after that too much drive back there. When I went to Sandy Bottom I did my own driving and it was easier, much easier transportation.

DS: Was there a difference in the children at Sandy Bottom, than--

CM: No, I heard that they were rough, and I wouldn't stay, and a lot of things, but I had no discipline.

DS: I wonder why the story was there that they were rough.

CM: I don't know.

DS: Now the children came from where? They were just from Sandy Bottom, or did they come from--

CM: Beldor? No, they had a school on back there, Roadside, another school. So they came from right around in that vicinity.

DS: Do you recall any of the names?

CM: Let me see. Baughers--I shouldn't forget anybody. Shiffletts, a number of Shiffletts. Conleys.

DS: Conley, uh huh.

CM: Now that--they came from across the mountain I think. I'm not sure about those. Lawsons, I remember the Lawsons.

DS: Was that a large community, Sandy Bottom?

CM: No.

DS: Roughly how close were those houses to each other?

CM: Not very close.

DS: About a quarter of a mile?

CM: Yes.

DS: Was this a one room school?

CM: That was a one-room. It's a one-room school.

DS: And how many grades did that go?

CM: Seven.

DS: Seven! You took care of all seven?!

CM: Yes. Most of the years I taught back there, and then towards the last years they took the older children to Elkton.

DS: Yeah.

CM: And I don't remember which grades, I think maybe seventh or sixth. Then of course later they close the school and all those children were transferred to Elkton.

DS: Again, what did you teach there?

CM: (laughs) About the same.

DS: Reading, writing, arithmetic, history.

CM: Yes.

DS: Geography?

CM: Geography.

DS: You know, you were giving these children a better education than most.

CM: (laughs)

DS: You were. Did you find it hard taking care of so many different classes? What would you do, get one class working on one project and then go to the next?

CM: Yes. No, after working that way so long, it was the easiest way really for me to teach. And of course, those that would get the lesson early would go ahead and help someone that was having trouble. They worked quietly, and they would help someone that just wasn't getting the lesson. And I couldn't have taught all seven if I hadn't had a little help from the children. They always helped.

DS: That's sweet.

CM: Well, (laughs)–

DS: Was this because that was the way their families were, that they helped each other? That the children grew up the same way?

CM: You know I couldn't answer that. I didn't do much visiting, I did some. Each family, I tried to visit each family, but as for doing any more visiting than that, I didn't. 'Course I had my work at home.

DS: When you visited the families, were the houses--what condition were they?

CM: I don't think that I could say anything but good about those houses.

DS: You would say they were clean, then?

CM: I'd say they were clean. And they helped each other, I liked that. Of course you came in contact with a little roughness among themselves, but--

DS: Well, Elkton has had a reputation that the mountain people were a bit on the rough side.

CM: Yes.

DS: So I was just wondering if the children were too?

CM: No, I don't think so. I wouldn't say so.

DS: What would they do during recess, or didn't you have recess?

CM: I had recess. They'd go out play ball, play different games, they got along all right. You had to keep a firm hand on them, but they were all right.

DS: And they would come whether it was snowing or not?

CM: Yes.

DS: How about in spring and fall?

CM: I don't think there was any difference. But the attendance may not have been as good, but it was--kept up the average. We kept up right good.

DS: Yeah. You'd make out regular report cards, then?

CM: Oh, yeah.

DS: And would they take them home?

CM: Well I [unintelligible].

(laughter)

DS: Have the parents sign them?

CM: I think so.

DS: Yeah. (laughs)

CM: I--in some way I always liked to give a child the most I could for his work (laughs).

DS: Yeah.

CM: That encourages them.

DS: Yeah. Did you see much problem with too close inbreeding?

CM: No, I didn't know. I don't think they had that at Sandy Bottom. Now they may have had much closer back at Maple Springs, the mountain people, families. But, but not Sandy Bottom.

DS: Great. Do you know if any of those families in Sandy Bottom are still there?

CM: Yes, the Lawson family's there. Ott Lawson.

DS: What's his first name?

CM: I think it's Ott (laughs).

DS: Ott Lawson.

CM: And Floyd Shifflett.

DS: Hope these people have a phone.

CM: I doubt if the Lawsons do. [unintelligible] The Balker (??). I was trying to think of what her name is. Her husband's passed away. She has a son that comes by, hollers at me and says hello so often.

DS: Oh really?

(laughter)

DS: Did you have a bell that you would ring to start the school?

CM: I think maybe I did. I gave it to my daughter, she taught out at Rushville or somewhere out in the county. And she wanted the bell so I gave her that bell. But I rang it. Of course then most of them within hear it and if you'd go to the door and motion then they'd all come in. You put Connelly down?

DS: No I didn't, what's his first name?

CM: Oh, now you got me. George, no, he's not, he isn't living. And his wife's passed away, some of the children. George Connelly family.

DS: Okay.

CM: And there's some Comer's back there too, beside the Voger (??).

DS: Voger and Comer?

CM: And I'm trying to think of another family back there—Williams.

DS: Williams?

CM: Yes.

DS: What I think I'll do is just ride around Sandy Bottom and just ask people.

CM: Well that'll be all right.

DS: I don't think they would mind.

CM: I'm sure they won't. I was trying to think—the Roaches, I didn't want to forget them, there's quite a few of the Roaches.

DS: Okay.

CM: And I think maybe the Roach is still there next to the school house, where the school house is there. You can see Manus Roach, I know his name.

DS: Manus?

CM: M-A-N-U-S, Manus.

DS: That's a strange name, isn't it?

CM: Yes, it is, yeah.

DS: Did you, with the Meadows, ever find out where they came from originally?

CM: I think the three brothers came from England. There's one in Jollet's Hollow and one in, over across the mountain, that's Frank, and then Leonard was my husband's father.

DS: They came from England in about 1900? Is that—

CM: I don't know, I thought maybe they came before that, but no.

DS: There are a lot of Meadows in Naked Creek, I know.

CM: One brother settled there. And one settled here. And then one over in Madison County.

DS: Yeah.

CM: My husband goes back and visits the one over in Madison County. Some of the younger ones.

DS: He doesn't walk it this time?

CM: Oh no! He did walk it though, a number of times, with his father.

DS: Sure.

CM: He said he liked it. Maybe that's the reason he walks so much now! Two or three times a day he's walking over, down to the creek and all around over the place. He likes to walk.

DS: Yeah. Well it was their main means of transportation.

CM: Well, yeah. (laughs)

DS: Do you know what—if they, if the store was convenient? Was it down at the foot of the mountain, or where was it, that they used?

CM: Well, they had a small store back there, but early times they walked across the mountain to the foot of the mountain I'm sure.

DS: Walked across—

CM: Number 2 Furnace—

DS: Walked east or--

CM: Or to Swift Run. No that isn't east, they came this way. Went to Maple Spring. And that's west.

DS: So it was probably somewhere around Elkton?

CM: Well, Swift Run, at the foot of the mountain there was a store there.

DS: Yeah.

CM: He was a brother to my husband.

DS: Oh really? Great. Do you know if Mrs. Meadows made her own yeast?

CM: Yes.

DS: She did?

CM: She did. I used to look at her and wonder what in the world--

DS: Do you know how she did it?

CM: I don't know! That's the dirt and fixed up (??). Well, and then, I can't tell you. But she'd crumble it up. Get it dry. I remember her crumbling, I remember looking, I remember watching her do that, but how she did it I don't know.

DS: That amazes me, when I hear people made their own yeast.

CM: Soap, yeast. Dried so many things: apples, berries. It was a way to preserve them.

DS: Right, yeah. Did they dig a trench for their vegetables for the winter? Put like cabbage and turnips in the trench. That was pretty universal, wasn't it?

CM: I think so.

DS: Kept the thing beautifully, too.

CM: Sauerkraut. They made that.

DS: They ate well, didn't they?

CM: Yes. Vegetables and meat. Dried fruits. They had plenty to eat.

DS: Did they have a lock on their door?

CM: Oh, the house? No, no. No lock. I think maybe they kept the smokehouse and outside buildings locked. Two buildings out there. Locked. But no house locked.

DS: Do you know how many cows they had?

CM: No. Oh, usually, for the family they'd have two, three sometimes.

DS: And then the excess butter they'd sell, right? Well, could you tell us anything more about the schools?

CM: (laughs) I don't know what to tell you about the schools.

DS: You enjoyed it?

CM: Yes, indeed, I enjoyed it. You had problems, just like we have problems today. After they closed the one room school I substituted over here at Elkton.

DS: Oh.

CM: With the children. And I didn't see much difference. (laughs) You had your problems and you had your retarded and your good children.

DS: Yeah.

CM: So I don't--I didn't see much difference.

DS: And you didn't find that the children dropped out of school after about the third or fourth grade?

CM: Oh, no. They stayed with me 'til the seventh. I had a lot of trouble getting them to go on to high school, but I had a number of them that went on through. Did good work.

DS: Do you know if any of them have become professional people?

CM: No, I don't know where all those children are, but I don't know of any that have. I know a number of them graduated from Elkton. Went on to High School, and that's good for those that comes from just around close to the schools.

DS: Did they have to buy their books?

CM: Well, I had some families that asked for books. But at the time, they were supposed to buy their books. Later we had the books furnished for so much.

DS: I was wondering how they could afford that.

CM: It was hard. Books were high at that time.

DS: Sure. And the people didn't have that much money.

CM: I remember one time writing three families to get back. That was back in Maple Springs. Three families. And I don't remember of anyone asking for books back in Sandy Bottom.

DS: Did you ever go into the Classics with the children?

CM: Not too much. I really didn't have time. But they enjoyed that. I think in their storytelling, and the books they'd read, and things that they were interested in, I think they got some of that. They'd always tell you the author, little something about the author, and the story, and they enjoyed that. If you can get them interested in a thing like that, they'll go ahead. Now that wasn't compulsion; that was just volunteer. Seeing if you were voluntary. That's how they, everyone would try to get ahead of the other feller.

DS: Sure!

CM: A little competition there.

DS: Yeah.

CM: That was good.

DS: Yeah. I'm trying to think of some--I don't know. Did you ever see any of the people start fires deliberately so they'd have huckleberries?

CM: I think I did one time. But I think it was necessary, the fire was coming in on their home.

DS: Oh.

CM: You understand. It wasn't for huckleberries.

DS: Yeah. It wasn't to get huckleberries.

CM: No, it was coming, maybe, and they started a line to prevent the home burning, the home spreading. I don't think it was to just start huckleberries. Course I think it's possible. They depended on their money to buy clothing and things, when they sold the huckleberries.

DS: Yeah, right, yeah. Did Mrs. Meadows make clothes?

CM: Yes. An old spinning wheel. I think one of the sons had it.

DS: Then they sheep, too?

CM: Yes they had sheep, they spun the wool, carded the wool. Did all that. It's just a faint remembrance of that but I remember walking to the spinning wheel and walking all the way across the room and back and forward. It was quite interesting.

DS: Sure. Wow, so they had--

CM: I knit the socks. Now I don't know, I don't remember anything about the shoes. I think they bought their shoes. But I remember knitting the socks.

DS: It must have been rather a nice experience living with that family.

CM: It certainly was. So different.

DS: Yeah. They sound like very gentle people.

CM: Well I found them so. Although there's some terrible things back in there happening that sure was bad.

DS: Such as?

CM: Well, shooting. (laughs) And drinking. Bad.

DS: They did make moonshine then?

CM: Yes, I never saw any, but I'm sure they did.

DS: And that, no doubt, led to the shooting, right?

CM: They have, drinking.

DS: How did they react to strangers?

CM: I don't know. I really don't. I think they were friendly. I really don't know how they reacted to strangers. Many of their ways I didn't understand.

DS: Such as what?

CM: (laughs) Don't ask me!

DS: Well, we can eliminate it from the tape.

CM: Men--walking with--when they go to church--I can't tell you that. There were some things that were so different. Very interesting though.

DS: Yeah. Well is there anything else about the schools that you can think of?

CM: That's all I can think of. You've really--I'm amazed at what you've covered.

DS: Well, they've been questions that I've had for a long, long time. Did you ever get together with any of the other teachers in any of the other areas?

CM: Well, had Roadside, and then we had a meeting at Elkton every month or two, had a meeting every month, a meeting at the school. The supervisors looked over the work, and worked with us. They were a great help.

DS: Did they report the main problems that you had or more problems.

CM: Well, we would talk, bring up a problem, we were having, and discussed it with each other, and I think it helped each one of us.

DS: Can you recall any of the problems?

CM: No I can't. Sometimes it was attendance on one person, how did they deal with it. And I don't remember discipline. Mostly the work that we did at school that we'd discuss. Then we could be of help to each other. All in all I enjoyed every minute of it.

DS: Oh, one question I was wondering, did you ever see--know of any feuds that were going on between families?

CM: Well, there was that tension of that dealing there, that you knew was there. You knew was there.

DS: Yeah. Did you ever see anybody get rocked, or their house rocked?

CM: No.

DS: No.

CM: Once or twice the windows of the schoolhouse were broken.

DS: (laughs) Oh!

CM: Once or twice the schoolhouse windows were broken; they had been our hunting, drinking, or something. They were--

DS: Did you ever see any bear?

CM: Where I see them is up in the national park.

DS: Yeah. Now.

CM: Now.

DS: But you didn't before?

CM: No. I don't remember seeing any bear. 'Course I did a lot of hunting, but I don't remember seeing any bear.

DS: Did anybody in the Meadows family play any instruments?

CM: No. No music. My son plays the harp.

DS: Oh, does he really?

CM: He played the harp or the accordion. Doesn't do much on the guitar, he does the banjo, he likes the banjo. I don't know where he got that but he does.

DS: Well you don't know what a tremendous help you have been.

CM: Oh I can't figure that I helped any. I enjoyed being with those families. And I never needed any help at all, that someone wasn't right there to help. And you can't deal with that many children all those families if the parents don't stand by with you.

DS: That's right.

CM: That's where you get your strength.

DS: Yeah, now speaking of that, if you had a problem, you would go to the parents and talk to them about it?

CM: Often times I would discuss it. Sometimes we wouldn't let the child know that we were discussing it. Just with the parent, the teacher and the parent. And it helped a lot.

DS: In other words, you knew where every child lived?

CM: Oh yeah.

DS: You walked there, you walked?

CM: Oh yes.

DS: So you were doing walking too, weren't you?

(laughter).

CM: At that time, I don't like to walk as much now, I'll tell you that. We didn't have any PTAs.

DS: No, no that's right.

CM: I think they'd find out who I was and get too personal sometimes. In that locality it would be. There's a group. Times have changed though.

DS: Oh, now I am going to leave this all hooked up because you may think of something.

[End audio file, 00:43:18 min.]

End of Interview

Meadows, Clarice; 04/20/1979

SdArch SNP 089

22