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(SNP090) Cleadus Meadows interviewed by
Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G.
Marston

Cleadus A. Meadows

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. Cleadus Meadows
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith
PLACE: Thoroughfare Mountain
DATE: June 11, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:
Sharon G. Marston
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Dorothy Smith is interviewing Clitus Meadows

D.S.:who lived in .. not in Naked Creek but where was it that you ..

C.M.: Throughfare area...

D.S.: Throughfare mountain

C.M.: Yea...

D.S.: Oh, Thoroughfare Mountain....you are a first. Uh, you've got to tell me
all about Thoroughfare Mountain...now how...how large was your family?

C.M.: Well I think there was thir..twelve of us in the family...all total.

D.S.: Twelve children?

C.M.: Twelve children. And I was the baby.

D.S.: You were the baby.

C.M.: Right

D.S.: Um..was this normal to have that many children?

C.M.: Yea..Well...I think it was a big family that's all...I'd like to say that.

D.S.: Everybody had big families?

C.M.: Well as a rule they had fairly large families.

D.S.: Okey. How far was your nearest neighbor?

C.M.: Oh, we lived fairly close together..maybe oh, a quarter of a mile. Something
like that.

D.S.: A quarter of a mile apart.

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: How much land did you have?

C.M.: Two hundred acres.

D.S.: 200. Now you owned this land.

C.M.: My father owned this land.

D.S.: That's what I mean. Yea, uhhuh. You paid taxes on it?

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: By the way did the tax man come around to your house?

C.M.: I don't remember ever seeing a tax man.

D.S.: Okey. Alright now uh, you had 200 acres what did you raise/ on this?

C.M.: Well we raised corn, potatoes, uh wheat sometimes, buckwheat and uh barley occasionally and most...we had cattle...had sheep.

D.S.: You had sheep?

C.M.: Yes.

D.S.: You raised cattle for uh...
for milk purposes...

C.M.: Yes, for beef...

D.S.: You raised beef?

C.M.: Yes.

D.S.: Okey. Uh, did you sell the beef?

C.M.: Yes we did...we sold them in the fall, *the calves particularly, from the milk cows for veal.*

and sold
churned the butter, chickens, sold the eggs, and some few vegetables occasionally.
potatoes and that kind of thing.

D.S.: Did you..you raised cabbage?

C.M.: Yes. Yes.

D.S.: Were the cabbages big cabbages?

C.M.: Well I would say, ^{other places} they were larger than what we raise. Dean ^{Section} mountains, [^]
^{They} I'm familiar with that, ^{on Dean Mountain} raised cabbage, [^] big as that..bigger.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, you had sheep. That meant then that your mother and grandmother had a loom?

C.M.: Right.

D.S.: Right. And they wove....

C.M.: I can remember my mother sitting til 9 or 10 o'clock at night at that weaving machine *and the* thread

D.S.: And what would she make...out of those?

C.M.: Made all of my clothes.

D.S.: All of your clothes..they were good warm clothes?

C.M.: My socks, my gloves, my overhauls, my shirts,...

D.S.: Wonderful.

C.M.: My mother and father were ~~not~~...in that locality were wealthy people...and I mean..they was leaders in the community. And uh,they all called him Uncle Leonard..... ^{of Uncle.}... gone by the name ^{of} favors that people would ask of him and he never did charge them for it.

D.S.: Favors such as what?

C.M.: Well he was rather a craftsman at stacking hay in the fields of oats..and everybody would call on him...didn't have it in the barn, they would put a pole up through the middle of the rack. ^{rails on the bottom} to keep it off of the ground to and they'd call him to do that. ^{He'd} work ten hours and never get a dime for it.

D.S.: It sounded as though that was making a ^{weird} sound...but I guess..Alright now you say you sold your eggs and chickens and butter and uh..did you ever ^{hans} sell any land...

C.M.: Oh, yea. Yes.

D.S.: And you sold your calves?

C.M.: That's right.

D.S.: Did you sell them and get credit or get cash?

C.M.: Cash.

D.S.: Cash.

C.M.: Yea, I don't think Daddy ever had a debt in his life.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Where would you sell these?

C.M.: Take them to Elkton or Harrisonburg.

D.S.: Harrisonburg, how would you get to Harrisonburg.

C.M.: Oh most of the times the buyers would come through and buy them..buy them up and take them...buyers...

D.S.: Oh, I see. This is really quite an amazing story. Uh, how did the ^{buyers} boys get there.

C.M.: Little cars...there was a mail route that run in there, at the time.

D.S.: Oh then you could...

C.M.: Yea, they had schools in there. My wife taught school in there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. Okey. How about friends when you were a child. Did you have many friends?

C.M.: Oh, all of them were my friends. Everyone. That's why ^{I don't like to} forget the good old days. Running the BlueRidge Mountains barefooted.

D.S.: Yea. In the summer.

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: In the summer. Yea uh...in the winter where would you get your shoes ^{from} in the winter?

C.M.: Well most of the time my dad would buy them...from the local grocery store.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know where that was?

C.M.: In Elkton.

D.S.: In Elkton...uhhhuh. Did you have the metal things on your shoes?

C.M.: They never would allow me to have them.

D.S.: Why?

C.M.: Tear up the floor.

D.S.: Okey..now you mentioned school. How far was the nearest school?

C.M.: Oh, a mile and a half maybe.

D.S.: A mile and a half. How many months was that for?

C.M.: Seven for a while and I think they eventually they went up to nine.

D.S.: Really. And how far up did that school go.

C.M.: Seventh grade.

D.S.: Seventh grade.

C.M.: That's as far as I went..seventh grade.

D.S.: Was it the one room school.

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: How many roughly were in that *school*

C.M.: Oh I would say in the school probably 40 or 50 sometimes. At one time they had two teachers.

D.S.: Quite a number of children...

C.M.: The one that taught in church...see the church was the school.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. The children came from Dean Mountain to go...

C.M.: No, they had their own school at Dean Mountain. They built a school.

D.S.: Yea. And you were having to help your father on the farm...

C.M.: Oh, yea I.....not often he'd ever take me out of school.

He was a good man.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What did they teach.

C.M.: Well English, reading, arithmetic, mostly. Some geography..mostly reading.

D.S.: Did you have jobs to do before you went to school in the morning?

C.M.: Yes, we had ~~cho~~res to do.

D.S.: Just as an example what? For instance?

C.M.: Well we had to get the firewood in and feed the cattle, feed the sheep, feed the hogs, feed the chickens.

D.S.: Uh, did you let your cattle just sort of roam?

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: You didn't have them fenced in?

C.M.: Well we could have them fenced in but as a rule we just turned them out.

Because we had 200 acres of mountain land.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhum. Was it good pasture up there.

C.M.: Well actually it was fairly good...they had a variety of food.

D.S.: Yea. Yea. Because I've heard that there was good blue grass and I was wondering if was along to Thoroughfare...

C.M.: Yea. Good blue grass. Course we put grass back...when we plowed a field we put clover or *timothy* on, for *hay*.

D.S.: Uhhum. Did you open up new ground every few years?

C.M.: Yes. We uh...quite often we'd clear ground for new ground. In most cases you could farm it for five or six years...almost^{all} in corn and uh..without it hurting the land. Then he'd put it in grass. *Hay grass.*

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, were there a lot of trees at that time?

C.M.: In some places in the mountain there were a lot of trees....~~no~~ oak, ~~no~~ hickory, *poplar* good bit of pine..in fact my dad at one time owned a saw mill and uh, during the winter months and when we didn't have farming to do we'd run the sawmill.

D.S.: Oh. Was this a moveable sawmill...

C.M.: Oh yea. Moved it from place to place.

D.S.: Oh, great. Had a question...oh, your house. What did your house look like?

C.M.: It was a frame house. Uh, well let me put it this way. We had the nicest house in the neighborhood.

D.S.: Well, uh, I imagine you would. Uh, how many rooms did it have?

C.M.: Let's see, that's one, two, three, five.

D.S.: Five rooms. You had one fireplace, or two.

C.M.: We had no fireplace. Heated by an old stove. Old cookstove and an old heater.

D.S.: Yea. And so that's what you needed the wood for..for those.

C.M.: And in the winter and fall, we'd cut wood. *for the winter.*

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now your mother made butter. Buttermilk,

C.M.: Yes. Oh, yea.

D.S.: Clabber?

C.M.: Yep, I never did like it. I'd drink it once in a while, but... I'd drink it while, because Dad said to drink it. once in a ¹ I've never remembered him using a switch — on me at all. He was a very gentle man, but uh, when he got angry .. I knew how to behave myself.

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

C.M.: Middle name or...

D.S.: Maiden name?

C.M.: Eppard.

D.S.: Eppard. How far away did she come from?

C.M.: They lived within three miles..radius *of* her people.

D.S.: Oh. So that's how your daddy met her then. Uhhum. Yea. When you were playing with your friends what would you play...

C.M.: Well we hiked the mountains mostly, because I loved to walk, and I loved to hike and that's what we did. Hunting season, we stayed in the mountains. Most of the time.

D.S.: What would you hunt.

C.M.: Squirell. Rabbit.

D.S.: Uhhuh, and you'd eat those, or did you sell them?

C.M.: Yea. Oh we'd eat those. Pheasants...anything we could eat..we didn't have a supermarket at that time.

D.S.: No. Uh, did you ~~remember seeing~~ *ever see any* bear?

C.M.: UM..never have. I have never seen a bear in the Blue Ridge Mountains until the Shenandoah National Park brought them here.

D.S.: Okey.

C.M.: ~~Sheandoah~~ *Sheandoah* mountains..but none in the Blue Ridge Mountain...very few deer *there were some in* in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

D.S.: You did see deer occasionally?

C.M.: Well occasionally ...but it was very rare.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How about snakes?

C.M.: Plenty of snakes. Rattlers...poisonous snakes..copperheads and rattlers..

D.S.: Yea. Did you do anything with those?

C.M.: Well I'd destroy them as quick as I could.

D.S.: You didn't sell any?

C.M.: No. No, I didn't....they were my enemy...

D.S.: I can well believe it.....

D.S.: Particularly with bare feet.

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: How about church. Where did you go to church?

C.M.: Methodist Church...a little country church. Methodist.

D.S.: How far away was that?

C.M.: Oh, it was three quarters of a mile.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And you'd go every Sunday?

C.M.: Well most of the time we did. Mother would...was very strict about her

religion. Dad was a little more lenient with his. But she was very strict.
What she believed in, she believed in.
with her religion. ~~But she'd be reasonable.~~ Forced us to go to church
whether we wanted to or not.

D.S.: Can you recall any particular childhood illnesses?

C.M.: The only thing I can remember ever being sick or ^{ever} having a doctor was the
time that I had the measles. And I thought I was going to die. But I never
had a doctor. In my life.

D.S.: Never had a doctor.

C.M.: Never...until I moved out of the mountains. Then I had a doctor.

D.S.: Good heavens. Well if you had these...you never got a cold?
nothing..

C.M.: Never had a cold. I never had a doctor. Never took any medicine...

D.S.: Your mother never gave you turpentine and. *sugar*

C.M.: Well once in a while she'd give me turpentine or castor oil..that was mostly
what. *I had, castor oil.*

D.S.: How did you keep your vegetables over the winter?

C.M.: We had uh, a special room outside..most time we kept the canned food
...that was freeze proof and then in the winter we'd sometimes..very often bury
the cabbage and bury the potatoes.

D.S.: Dig a trench?

C.M.: Yea. Yea. But uh, most of our canned foods..we had a large attic in the
house and it was a lot of room up there and you could walk *around* along up there

you know and they kept the most of their food up there. Sometimes had an outbuilding they kept the ~~berries~~ ^{preserves and jelly -} and the stuff that wouldn't freeze.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know how..where..now your daddy owned 200 acres...how about your grandfather?

C.M.: One of my grandfather's owned 3000 acres.

D.S.: Which one was that?

C.M.: Eppard.

D.S.: 3000

C.M.: 3000....that was on my mother's side. My mother...^{side} I don't remember my father.. my grandfather on my father's side. I don't...they owned land in Madison area.. Syria..over in there.. that area there...

D.S.: Oh, they did.

C.M.: Yea. I don't remember them, but they on my grandfather's side .. grandmother's side *there was a distance* where they lived seven miles away. They owned land clear into that area.... They owned the whole mountain.

D.S.: Oh, this is beautiful. And they owned it...

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: Have you any idea where they ^{the Meadows} came from originally.

C.M.: No, I really do not know. I think they come from England. I've been told.

D.S.: Yea. But you don't know when....and how they found the mountain.

C.M.: I have no idea.

D.S.: Oh dear..Well now, you must have had a lot of fun at different times.

D.S.:
C.M.: Oh, I sure did. Did you play music?

C.M.: No, I never was...talented and all..I played the *zoo* harp some and uh french harp...outside of that I really...my dogs would ~~hide~~ ^{start bawling} when I started playing.

D.S.: How did...did people get together and play music and dance?

C.M.: I don't really think they did. Most of those people worked practically

sunup to sundown....you know. They was hard working people. And uh, they went to church nearly every Sunday, but the rest of the week they worked. Had parties..social parties..and they gathered at homes..people talked.. men in one group and the women in the other..each side had something to say.

D.S.: Sure. Did they make any moonshine?

C.M.: Well there were a few families..^{but} as a rule...the home we lived in..the neighborhood we lived in...maybe one or two families in the whole neighborhood who made moonshine. And they were respected because they thought it was alright to make moonshine ...

D.S.: Well of course it was. Definitely..this had been done for generations. No reason to stop now.

C.M.: But my mother was very..^{strong} against it. I mean she was an old type Methodist and didn't have nothing to do with alcohol at all...

D.S.: So you never had a chance to taste it?

C.M.: Well...barely tasted it...in my life I don't think I've drank a pint.

D.S.: Uhhuh. It was very good from what I've heard. Very pure.

C.M.: Yea. I think it was. And it was a way of making a living.

D.S.: It sure was. ^{C.M.:} Some of those people were not capable ^{of uh...} buying and selling or dealing with people...^{so} they sold moonshine.

D.S.: Can you recall any of the names of those people...

C.M.: Well the Dean family was one that lived back there.

D.S.: Is that the Tom Deans's

C.M.: Jim Dean..

D.S.: Jim Dean..

C.M.: Uhhuh.Uh most of them made it but they were good people...they were still good people...

D.S.: I'm not...yea...right. Okey so how about when you made applebutter. Did you make a party out of that.

C.M.: Uh, most of the time we did. Yea. Sometimes we'd make three or four kettles and the neighbors would come in to cut the applesseldom they ever cut the apples by themselves. Neighbors always come in and help.

D.S.: And then when you were stirring it would anybody play music?

C.M.: Well yea..they would ^{come in} ~~commence~~ to play some once in a while.

D.S.: Did you use the kind of thing that a pole with two paddles...

C.M.: Yes.

D.S.: And so two people had to stir.

C.M.: They could stir...two people or one.

D.S.: And what happened if one of the paddles touched the side of the kettle.

C.M.: Well they didn't like for them to do that, but it did regardless..once in a while it would do it.

D.S.: And what happened? Did you get a kiss?

C.M.: Yes.

D.S.: Uh, would you do it at night?

C.M.: Yea. At night sometimes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How about corn shucking. Did you get together for that.

C.M.: Oh, yea. Yea. That was quite a treat.

D.S.: What happened if you got a red ear of corn?

C.M.: Well I tried not to get one.

D.S.: Why?

C.M.: I was ^{a lover} ~~11~~ at that time you know. Just a kid...

D.S.: What happened if you did get one?

C.M.: I ~~am~~ don't know whathappened. I never did have the opportunity to have that experience.

D.S.: You didn't...oh, come on. Uh, did you make sorghum?

C.M.: ^{We had} ~~Never had~~ no sorghum in the mountain. No, they didn't make that. It was there they went to the valley and bought it.

D.S.: And bought it.

C.M.: Yea, bought it.

D.S.: You know from the way you are talking your family really was very well to do.

Have you any rough idea of how much your father made?

C.M.: Well I never did...all of his life he could make money...even in the Depression
he put money in the bank...

D.S.: Oh, uhhum...

C.M.: I'll just put it that way.

D.S.: Yea. That's wonderful. Uh, your buckwheat and wheat that you raised. You took
that to where?

C.M.: Um, they had a mill that uh...at Mt. Pleasant, uh, Mr. Hensley run a mill and
we took the buckwheat there and had it ground. And took the corn there and had
it ground for cornmeal. We took the wheat to the Elkton milling company, ^{in Elkton,} and
had it ground for wheat flour.

D.S.: Okey. Now did you pay the miller?

C.M.: Most of the time he took grain.

D.S.: Yea. He would take 10%.

C.M.: So much a pound.

D.S.: Yea. That seemed to be the common practice...throughout the mountain.....
a lot cheaper.....

C.M.: At that time you handled...couldn't handle very much money...

D.S.: Yea. Right. Was your father a cobbler?

C.M.: No. He could do most anything he wanted to do, but uh, he wasn't a cobbler.

D.S.: How about shoeing the horses? How would he get that done?

C.M.: He would do his own work...outside of that he didn't do anybody ~~other than...~~ ^{else}

D.S.: No, but he did his own?

C.M.: He did his own work.

D.S.: And if your shoes needed sewing...well he'd half sole them once in a while.

Mother would sew them if they had a hole in them.

D.S.: Uhhum. That..that is beautiful. How did he celebrate christmas?

C.M.: Well it was a rare occasion to have..uh..had a great deal to eat..always had plenty of uh..I have never not ever wanted...anything I wanted to eat. But Christmas it was a rare occasion ^{when I was a kid} we got a cap pistol and some caps and a few oranges and some candy and I thought it was..oh, I thought it was something.

D.S.: Right. Did you shoot off firecrackers?

C.M.: Oh yes.

D.S.: Sure. And did you play the Kris Kringler?

C.M.: Yes. quite often. Yea, I liked it. I thought it was.

D.S.: Would you go visiting all around then.

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: How many days...would you do the Kris Kringlers?

C.M.: ~~About five to~~ ^{most times} seven. ^{day} all through the week...the whole week.

D.S.: Can you recall roughly how many boys were your particular friends?

C.M.: Well uh, I was the youngest in the family..and I reckon I had some nephews big enough to play with. Really. And we roamed the mountains and played and actually my own nephews were my closest friends.

D.S.: Oh, that's great. Yea, Uhhum. You never played marbles.?

C.M.: Oh, yea played marbles. I never was uh, too good at it. But I remember playing marbles.

D.S.: Ah, you'd loose your marbles.

C.M.: Yea and there was a family of Breedens lived close to us and they were good friends and one about the same age and we hunted together and go ^{sleigh} riding together..Henry Breeden was his name...^{Jesse} Victor Breeden was the boy's name.. he's dead now.

D.S.: You mentioned sleigh riding..You had sleds.

C.M.: Well..we made them.

D.S.: How?

C.M.: Took two boards and an old out of that and put a wagon runner on it..... and made our own sleigh.

D.S.: Hey. And you had plenty of place to sleighride...didn;t you?

C.M.: Plenty of places...plenty time to make them too.

D.S.: How did you keep the beef over the winter?

C.M.: We mostly canned it?

D.S.: You canned it?

C.M.: Yes. We canned it.

D.S.: How did that taste?

C.M.: I thought it was good. Of course, now I ~~think~~ ^{have} .. T-Bone Steak ^{when I} ~~want it~~ but uh, everything we had to eat was good as far as I am concerned. You know, my mother was a good cook and so...oh I can remember her making 50 ~~gals~~ ^{gallons} of applebutter and 40 gallons of preserves and 20 gallons of jelly. You wouldn't believe it but they dried all their beans and dried all their berries. She put everything up. She worked day and night nearly.

D.S.: You dried berries. What kind of berries?

C.M.: Huckleberries, blackberries, raspberries, cherries... ^{Dried em with the} ₁ seed on them.

D.S.: Oh

C.M.: I'd like to have some of them now.

D.S.: Yea. I hear they were good.

C.M.: Yes...little snap beans..remember the old cornfield beans...dried them...

carry them out on the roof, and put them out on the sun and then go back and get them in the evening.

D.S.: Yea. You must have had an orchard.

C.M.: Oh...we had a big orchard.

D.S.: What did you have in the orchard?

C.M.: Well I think we must have had about ten or fifteen ^{different} kinds of apples and the old time mylum. Smokehouse...several trees of ~~Smoketown~~ ^{Smoketown}...had winesaps, stahman, *Black Juice*, york, and uh, we must have had ten acres..five acres in orchard...I guess.

D.S.: Did you raise any peaches?

C.M.: Yes, raised all our peaches.

D.S.: Yea..pears..

C.M.: Pears..plenty of pears. Yea. *+ cherries*

D.S.: How did you keep the birds from eating the cherries?

C.M.: You know it's a funny thing...had cherries all over the mountains. And you didn't have to worry with them much. Now they eat them up.

D.S.: Sure. Were there as many birds?

C.M.: It doesn't seem to me like there is as many squirrel or birds or rabbits or anything else in the Shenandoah National Park now as there were then. I don't know whether it's all growed up and the food....you know the chestnuts *disappeared* and uh, you don't see as many really now as you did ~~twenty~~...when I was a boy. Course we didn't know anything about all these hunting laws...when we wanted to hunt we went hunting.

D.S.: Sure. Did your father know how to do grafting?

C.M.: Very little. He did some of it...but uh, just very little.

D.S.: Did you fish?

C.M.: Yea. Great fisherman .. my dad was.

D.S.: What did he use for bait?

C.M.: Worms mostly....and trout.

D.S.: Could you get a lot?

C.M.: Well most of the time...at that time 35 was the limit. You know you could catch 35. Lots of times you'd get 35.

D.S.: You mean there was a limit back then?

C.M.: Yea...after I was big enough to walk up there with him and fish, there was a

limit. But as a rule they never *hatched, they caught all they wanted.*

D.S.: I should think so. Did you ever see any people deliberately setting fires... so that they would have the huckleberries.

C.M.: No, I don't remember ever seeing anyone do it, but I heard that they did do it. I never saw any of it.

D.S.: Did you ever have any fear about your house catching on fire? Was there ever a forest fire that worried you?

C.M.: Never give it a thought. Really. Because we were surrounded by clear land.. all our land around the house was cleared. Wasn't anything *we had a* ... nice big spring... we eventually had the water put right at the house.

D.S.: You did.

C.M.:

D.S.: Your father was really quite a man...

C.M.: Oh, yea. one of the best I've ever seen.

D.S.: What did he look like?

C.M.: Ever since I can remember him, he had a white mustache...

D.S.: A white mustache...was he a tall man? Like you are?

C.M.: No. not.tall...kind of short...

D.S.: Where do you get your height from, then.

C.M.: Most of my mother's...my mother was tall.

D.S.: She was?

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: Thirteen children to make the clothes for, to do the ironing and washing for.

C.M.: Yea..boy..I never got involved in much of the ironing or washing, but I can remember my sisters...the one that is living now..would wash all day *you long* ~~know~~ on Monday and usually as a rule they had an old iron kettle out in the back yard and a scrubboard...no electricity.

D.S.: Yea. Would you get dressed up special when it was Sunday to go to Church?

C.M.: Oh, yea. Mother dressed me up..put my old shoes on and I'd feel so uncomfor-
table.

D.S.: And then would you visit around on Sunday?

C.M.: Yes....we'd visit mostly..but then when I was....the youngest baby and then
the family would come in most every Sunday and they would visit their dad
and mom...had pretty well occupied on Sundays. Someone..brothers or sisters
would come in you know...and spend Sunday with us.

D.S.: What if you were visiting somebody and they were busy..like you are right
now shelling peas.....what would they do?

C.M.: They'd probably ^{stop and} talk to you.

D.S.: Oh, that makes sense. In other words people were very friendly.

C.M.: Oh yea..yea. We uh, never thought of locking a door..No such thing as a
lock...no indeed. In fact I never...when I moved here I .. just recent years
that I ever locked the door, but then you know....

D.S.: What was your reaction when you saw the tourists coming into the park.

C.M.: Well I felt like it was....really I felt like it was a good thing. Uh, it
broke dad and mama's heart cause they had to get out. And they had spent
their life there. And uh, but the children were all moving out...all my
family...all my sons...my brothers...even before the park bought they were
moving out. Going to the valley. One brother ran a store at Swift Run..
and he bought another big farm right across from me here... *They were*
all stepping out..all getting out of the mountain. It got to the point
where it wasn't very much of a way to make a s living in the mountain anymore.
You know the lumber and timber was all being cut off and the chestnuts were
all gone. And it was a matter of survival by going on the outside. My dad
moved out and he..after he got ^{settled} out..he was happy.

D.S.: Did he get what he thought was fair for his place.

C.M.: Well yes...at the time I think he did. And he uh got something just as good or better...than what he had. Cause he was getting too old to ~~ream~~ ^{travel} those mountains...and cut lumber and cut fire wood and logs and locus posts and all that kind of stuff you know. *That was the cash sale he had,* locus posts...

D.S.: Did he do that?

C.M.: Oh yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How about peeling bark? Did he peel the bark?

C.M.: Oh yes. When they had the tannery down there...he peeled a lot of bark.

D.S.: Sure. Yea. And you had to help with that didn't you.

C.M.: Yea, yea.

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

C.M.: It was hard work. Really those people back there didn't know anything but work. I mean it was work ~~and~~ ten hours..maybe more. It was hard work. If you got a living out of that mountain at all you had to work at it.

D.S.: Yea. And yet look how healthy you were, because of it.

C.M. Well my family all of us were healthy. *We were all happy.*
never

D.S.: Yea..you had to call a doctor.

C.M.: No..indeed..never knew what a doctor was.

D.S.: Did your mother ever make anything..like peppermint tea...

C.M.: Yea, she was always a cooking up an herb or something....

D.S.: Yea. You don't recall what they were?

C.M.: I haven't the slightest idea.

D.S.: All you know is ma's. *Amey*

C.M.: It wasn't fit to drink.

D.S.: Uh, with your...this is not a very happy subject...but with your funerals.

When somebody died...uh, they didn't do embalming at that time so what would they do...keep the body right there in the house or....

C.M.: Well as a rule they would..yes. Maybe a couple days and then....they'd dig their own grave and put..put them in graves.

D.S.: Did you buy caskets?

C.M.: Sometimes they was made. We always bought the caskets. Well my family...none of us died...

D.S.: No...but I mean your neighbors.

C.M.: But they..uh, after I was *given they could*...buy your own caskets and have the body embalmed you know. I don't ever remember a death in my family as far as my brothers and sisters concerned.

D.S.: No, I was wondering about with your neighbors. No,there was occasions they made their own coffins. And then buried them in local graveyards.

D.S.: Did they use uh, mon..markers or rocks?

C.M.: Rocks. That was 20, 30, 40 years ago...

D.S.: Did they mark...*on the rocks*...yes....stones you are talking about...yea. Uhhuh. Did they mark them...

C.M.: Some of them did and some didn't. Later on their families...*I think...*most of those graves in there have tombstones because the families had placed them there. They removed the rock and put the names and put...the tombstones....that's later generations.

D.S.: Sure, yea.
of those

C.M.: **Most** people had all died. Well there...I'm the only boy...there is five of us...I'm the only boy living. And I have uh...~~two~~ sisters living..one in Baltimore and one *was here*.

D.S.: Oh yea...that's nice. When babies were born wasn't a doctor called then or did they...

C.M.:what you call a midwife...or they called in some lady and the lady... and that was all there was to it.

D.S.: You all were really self-sufficient.

C.M.: Why yes. I don't ever remember..once in a while they had to go out and get a hair cut.

D.S.: You mean your mother couldn't do that?

C.M.: She probably could but... *I think she wanted us* mostly to get a hair cut.

D.S.: How far was it to go?

C.M.: Seven miles.

D.S.: Did you walk it?

C.M.: Well a horse..rode a horse.

D.S.: How many horses did you have?

C.M.: Four, three.

D.S.: Used for riding, farming...

C.M.: Plowing..riding.. *a wagon*

D.S.: Uhhuh..did you use the wagon much?

C.M.: Think we had ten cows..something like that. Yea, we had eight or ten cows.

Milked..my mother and sisters milked, and I milked. Dad milked...

D.S.: *milk*for all the family and for the hogs too...

C.M.: Well we sold a lot of butter. sold a lot of butter.

D.S.: Do you know how much you got for that?

C.M.: I haven't the slightest e idea, right now. But I don't imagine much over 10¢ a pound. I can remember selling eggs for eight cents a dozen. You know back then when mother and dad had eggs to sell. But we could buy a *sack* ~~pack~~ of flour for 45¢.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

C.M.: So when you think about it now, even if you make \$5 an hour...you could buy then..practically just as much then for a dollar as you could...the difference today is our standard of living is so high...we have an electric bill, we have a phone bill, we have a *gas* ~~dentist~~ bill, our taxes are way up there so when you get through you really don't have any more than you ever did.

D.S.: That's right. Yea. Coffee. Did you drink coffee?

C.M.: Oh yea. And we ground all our coffee.

D.S.: That was good.

C.M.: Boy I...maybe you don't know anything about ...alright...that was a famous brand.

D.S.: Uhhuh...that old grind *ll*

C.M.: That was one...my dad was fussy about his coffee. He'd never fuss about anything...everything was alright but his coffee.....had to be just right...

D.S.:isn't that something....You know before the park took over, there were people that just came up into the park and sort of wandered around. Were they ever a nuisance? to you or...

C.M.: Not really...because we never had much of it and uh you know...most of the people were...if they tell you they were going to do something...they did it. You could depend on them...their word. That's some of the *traits of* of those mountain people, *that's the problem with* of our civilization today.

D.S.: They sure should.

C.M.: Now they had their faults.

D.S.: Such as what?

C.M.: Well they were very independent for one thing.

D.S.: That's not a fault. What would you call a fault?

C.M.: I don't know...I don't know if they really had them or not...anymore than they have them today. You know...

D.S.: Yea. They were people. Yea...very human people. Yea. Right.

Uh, the hogs, how did you take...did you smoke them or salt them..

C.M.: Most of it was salt. They had no modern method of sugar cure...that is.. uh..50 years ago...and uh, they knew nothing but salt and pepper. ~~Would~~

D.S.: Would you bring them in before uh...

C.M.: I believe we had our hogs on the fence all the year round.

D.S.: All year year round..

C.M.; Because we fed them...

D.S.: Yea.okey...

C.M.: *a lot to stay in .*

D.S.: Uhhum...now since you allowed your cows to wander did you have a job finding them when it came time to milk them.

C.M.: I had a time...Let me show you something...I have...that I brought down from my old ^{great} grandfather's.....we had a lead cow or two with these bells on them... we knew the cow by the sound of the bell...

D.S.: Now what was that made out of?

C.M.: That was hand made...see that...it was my great-grandfather's.

D.S.: Oh, how wonderful. And so the cows...you would recognize that sound.

C.M.: *as a kid I was sent*out to find them....and that's how I located them.

D.S.: You had two lead cows then?

C.M.: Yea, most of the time. They all stayed in a group as a rule.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Mr. Meadows I've always heard about...

C.M.: Okey, I'll be right back...

D.S.:a lead cow...how do you find out which one is the lead cow. Do you watch them for a while...

C.M.: It's the most gentle cow in the bunch...you know...you walk up to her and pat her on the back. You call her she'll come. *End CD1*

D.S.: Uhhuh. And she would..

C N *Most of the time the bull was on there. sometimes I had to walk 2-3 miles they'd*
C.M.: ...wander off when the food would get low...

D.S.: Sure. Well, once they saw you would they come to you...

C.M.: No, I had to round them up. Guide them all the way home.

D.S.: Did the dogs help you when you...

C.M.: We seldom used dogs...they uh *battered* the cattle you know. We seldom used dogs. Only as a pet..went along keep me company..

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh..what kind of dog ...

C.M.: A little uh... *flirt*

D.S.: Oh,....were you ever troubled with fox...getting into your chickens?

C.M.: Well, not..no..we didn't...we'd **have** some trouble with the hawk. But no fox...never any trouble with the fox as I know of.

D.S.: Well I wonder if there weren't any then?

C.M.: Yes, there were fox there...there were *just* hunters and they would specialize in hunting fox...in the mountains. Fox hound...great sport for some people.

D.S.: Which season of the year did you like the best?

C.M.: I think I liked the fall the best. Because I can remember the chestnuts. And we sold chestnuts you know..and hunting season...*came in* summer we worked hard.. summer was over, and all we had to do was cut fire wood and keep warm.

and wait for spring. Had the corn crib full of corn, and the barn full of hay, and feed for the cows and food in the cellar, and the house full of food...I don't know..just seldom had to d go to the store for anything...*something special..* pound of sugar or pound of coffee.

D.S.: Would you buy extra in the fall to make sure that in case of heavy snows so you wouldn't have to go down to the stores?

C.M.: No, I don't...it hardly ever got so we couldn't get out...so we couldn't get out you know. We never bought any extra...anything like that..we just got what we needed and uh...say to last two or three weeks

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. What would be a typical breakfast?

C.M.: Well we had eggs, potatoes, gravy...that was special...buckwheat cakes..bacon of course..

D.S.: You'd eat a lot..

C.M.: Oatmeal occasionally. Grits occasionally

D.S.: Oh, yea...Did you use your applebutter..

C.M.: Yea. we had preserves..applebutter all that..Mother made all her bread. She didn't..really didn't..we didn't..it ~~was~~ a rare occasion when she ever bought any bread.

D.S.:Yea. Did she make her own yeast?

C.M.: Yes....made her own yeast...made her ^{own} on light bread....^{biscuits}cornbread...

D.S.: Did you ever hear about drying applebutter?

C.M.: Dried? Uh, yes. I think when you dry applebutter you put it in a crock.. an old stone crock and cover it...And then it dries in about *an inch* or a half and then you slice it with a knife.

D.S.: Yea. That's the only one in this area that I have heard *of it.*

C.M.: Is that right...It wasn't you know...people got ready to eat, they had their applebutter. The put enough cider and cooked it long enough that it kept.

D.S.: By the way, did you make cider?

C.M.: Beg your pardon?

D.S. :Did you make cider?

C.M.: Yea, we made a lot of cider.

D.S.: You had your own cider mill?

C.M.: Yea...had *own own*

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did other people borrow it.

C.M.: Yes. They brought the apples and had it made. He didn't...my dad ~~was~~ *would loan anything he had,* I think... except maybe the cider mill.

D.S.: You must have had a lot of buildings *aside from* beside your house?

C.M.: Well yea, we had all the necessary buildings....we needed..the smokehouse, we had our springhouse...water ran right by the door....always water in the springbox.

D.S.: Um...good water

C.M.: Yea..come in right up there....from the **spring**. And of course had the barn. creamery.. *hen house* hog pen, had everything we needed really. Well we had more than most people I think.

D.S.: Uhhuh, You sure did. You sure did. Did you have a **hen house**?

D.M.: Oh,yea. Yea.

D.S.: Did the hens stay in it?

C.M.: Yea. We had two or three hundred chickens. We eat chickens when we wanted chickens.

D.S.:Did you raise turkeys?

C.M.: No turkeys. We had no...some of the **folks** did raise turkey in the mountains. They let them run loose. But we never had no turkeys.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

C.M.: We had , oh, at one time we butchered six or seven big hogs. We got full of **meat**. Bout sixty gallons of 'kraut made...

D.S.: Yea. Oh, well can you think of anything...I ~~I~~ have been doing all the questioning and it must have prompted some thoughts in your mind.

C.M.: Well I don't know...

D.S.: Did you ever hear of anyone rocking anyone else?

C.M.: No.

D.S.: You never did that.

C.M.: No indeedy. I guess you have criminal elements in every community or in every town and I think you have ~~enough of~~ *less*..in those mountain people than you would anywhere else.

D.S.: Well how about if a stanger came up and you didn't particularly like his looks what would you do about it.

C.M.: Well my family would have given him a good meal if wanted *something*

D.S.: Okey.

C.M.: My mother would have fed him.

D.S.: Okey. And if anybody dropped into your house that you knew, they were fed too..

C.M.: Right. Sure were.

D.S.: Um. ..if you had your chance would you go back there now?

C.M.: No. No, no, I do not regret..it was fond memories, but the life styles that we have here I ^{have fifty four acres of land} ~~strictly prefer it~~ as a man...I'm retired...I worked in industry for thirty five years.

D.S.: Oh you did. Where?

C.M.: Waynesboro..

D.S.: You traveled all the way to Waynesboro?

C.M.: Yea. For thirty five years. And I was a carpenter by trade. And uh, oh, I wouldn't...even with all the high price living that we have to have...I certainly wouldn't want to go back. I remember the good old days but I also remember today.

D.S.: Ah, oh yes. Uhhuh. Oh, Mr. Meadows you have really been a marvelous help. Do you know of anyone else that..like anyone from Dean Mountain that is around...

C.M.: Most of the Dean Mountain folks are all dead. That I know about. I'm not familiar with the Dean Mountain area, but I am trying to think who could give you some information that would help..that lived on it...Randall Dean in Elkton he was raised on Dean Mountain...runs that Dean Lumber Company in Elkton. You might talk to him.

D.S.: Randall Dean?

C.M.: Randall Dean...his father lived on Dean Mountain and he's familiar with that locality.

D.S.: Of Dean Lumber?

C.M.: Right.

D.S.: You had ne ^{stunned} ~~stumped~~..He really has done fine...

C.M.: He sure has. My...that boy went to school with my wife.

D.S.: He did.

C.M.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well if you don't mind...I'll give your name...

C.M.: Oh, sure, be glad too cause that was a real family. It was the top family
of the community.

D.S.: Oh, how great. You don't know how I thank you...now we're not through **yet..**
not through yet.