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(SNP094) Edward Scott and Russell Barlow  
interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed  
by Sharon G. Marston

Edward B. Scott

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. Edward Scott  
Mr. Russell Barlow

INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Noble Smith

DATE: February 2, 1978

PLACE: CCC's - Camp II

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

February 12, 1981

D.S.: *This is Dorothy Smith interviewing*  
*Edward....Scott..*

E.S.: Well, I joined the CC's back in 19...I was in camp before..in 1933.

D.S.: Oh, you started in the beginning.

E.S.: Yea, I started at the beginning and I went to Forks Run and stayed almost two years...we built camp over there..and then we moved...broke up camp and moved to Cleveland, Virginia, and I stayed down there the rest of my two years and a few months over and I was discharged..I came back home..

D.S.: Back home was where?

E.S.: Back home near Sacks..Sacks, Virginia in Charlotte County. And I stayed there a little while until I..stayed long enough that I could go back into the CC's. So I tried it again..and in May 18, 1936 I came up to Big Meadows...Number II camp on the Skyline Drive.

D.S.: Had you ever been in the Blue Ridge before?

E.S.: Never had. I had never seen a mountain until I left home.

D.S.: Where did you meet your wife?

E.S.: I met her in 19..early 1940...in Stanley.

D.S.: In Stanley. Oh, so you are from Stanley?

(Yes mam.)

Uhhum..great.

E.S.: And I met her on the street. She was going over to...

D.S.: You mean you picked her up.

E.S.: She was going over to her grandfather's and I..I thought I wanted to walk with her over the street..and she says I'll be back in a couple minutes..and so then I walked her home. And uh..I didn't

have an automobile, then..I was walking.

D.S.: And then what did you do..have to walk her all the way back up to Big Meadows?

E.S.: Well, a lot of times I used to walk it..all of us..a lot of us used to walk it. I walked from Big Meadows to Stanley and back at night.

D.S.: Weren't you..uh weren't you ever afraid of the snakes?

E.S.: No. I was in the mountains all the time anyway. Surveying..and snakes didn't bother me.

D.S.: You said you got to know some of the mountain families.?

E.S.: Well I knew June Weakley. He was about the only one that was left around there when I came there.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Where did he live in relation to the camp.

E.S.: He lived kinda East of the camp. Over the hump kinda we called it. In a little flat.

D.S.: Uhhuh..how big a family did he have?

E.S.: Well I never met but one of them..he had a girl that a Dice boy married..he was in camp with me. He married her.

D.S.: Uhhuh..did you ever go down to their house?

E.S.: No I never did get inside of the house..I mean I was outside..I ..he had a beautiful garden...that's what I used to admire..all kinds of cabbage and beans and corn and all..and I used to think he used to raise the largest cabbage as I've ever seen.

D.S.: That's what everybody says...that the cabbages that grew in the mountain were absolutely tremendous. Yea..uhhuh.. Well now what was the house itself like? Doyou recall?

E.S.: I think it was a log as well as I can remember...with a shed...

*alongside*



D.S.: Yea..uhhuh..did he make any moonshine?

E.S.: No..uh he was a mighty nice fellow.

D.S.: Making moonshine didn't mean that people weren't nice fellows.

Some of the nicest men made it.

E.S.: But, I don't think he did. I never seen him drink or anything.

D.S.: Yea. uhhuh. You know it was a good practical way of using tthe apples. It was easier than carrying them..and the peaches and so forth yea.

E.S.: They canned a lot. I was talking to Mr. Kinsey Gray yesterday and he said that was what they would do..most of the time..prepare them for winter. They canned everything they could can. And they would bury the turnips in a <sup>hill</sup> ~~hill~~ and also the cabbage. And you could have fresh cabbage..fresh turnips..

D.S.: All winter..

E.S.: All the winter long. And they gathered chestnuts..that was when the chestnuts trees were full and he'd sell chestnuts when he'd bring stuff off of the mountain down the red gate trail and sell them in town.

D.S.: D<sup>O</sup> you know where he would sell them in town?

E.S.: No, I don't.

D.S.: Do you know of any store that was in town Mrs.Scott, that the mountain people used to use.

(uh..no mam I remember them talking about them. I remember my mother used to talk about the chestnuts you know..my *we* had, and uh we had aproduce store out here at Stanley at that time and I told him maybe they sold to him..maybe took to the city you know. Cause a lot of people in the city used them and they'd roast them

...youknow), different casseroles and things...

D.S.: Sure

(but Uh..I remember my dad talking about them.)

D.S.: Did..now Redman's store in comparison to here..was that close..  
uh..would it be like close to Big Meadows..I'm trying to recall.  
Cause I know a lot of the mountain people used Redman's Store.

E.S.: I don't think it's much closer than it would be here...it might  
be a little closer to Skyland maybe. As far as Big Meadows...  
(but how would they have got down there...)

D.S.: On foot. Sometimes with a mule. Yea. Did you know any of the  
mountain people, at all.

(No, ~~mmm~~.)

D.S.: You never had any contact with them.

(I went to Timberville when I was between six and seven years  
old and I stayed over there till..um..I come from over there..I  
met him and we got married and I never did...)

D.S.: Yea, you never had any contact. Because there were quite a number  
of them up here, and I'm trying to find the names of some of those  
people.

E.S.: Old people?

D.S.: Yes, that had moved out of the mountains and came down like into  
Stanley.

E.S.: Well, I was checking yesterday in my book there and what I know  
and what I've asked..most of them has passed away. The biggest  
majority. You might find one once in a while.

D.S.: Yea, sure. Yea, it's quite a number of years now and that's a  
problem but a lot of times there are children..uh.. you know..they

had children and the children recall things that happened and how they lived. So it's just to get the names. That is one of our biggest problems..most of the people though lived on the other side. In Madison and Green Counties. Yea, uhhum.

E.S.: Yes mam.!

D.S.: You say the Weakley girl married who?

E.S.: A Dice.

D.S.: A Dice..uh did they move down here, into Stanley.

E.S.: They were down here but uh..

(he died                      said he diad didn't he.)

E.S. Not as I know of. He was down here in the valley somewhere, but I never got in contact with him.

D.S.: Uhhum. I wonder if she is still alive.

(She ought to be.)

D I C E?

E.S.: D I C E. I got his name and address here, but he was in the valley here somewhere. Probably Barlow might know.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhum. Great. Was she a pretty girl?

E.S.: She was a nice looking girl. Nice looking.

D.S.: Uhhum. A lot of them were very pretty.

E.S.: There was a lot of them down in Dark Hollow they called it. But I never did get down in there.

D.S.: Then mainly you just stayed in the camp? Excepting when you came down to spark Mrs. Scott.

E.S.: Well we worked..we worked until around 5 o'clock in the mountains. I mean we didn't get in til late, every night. And then it was

too late for me to try to go anywhere. And on the weekends I had to come down to...

D.S.: Yea, and you say you were doing surveying? Is that mainly what you did?

E.S.: Yes, Yes mam.

D.S.: Okey, great, now what were you surveying..where the highway.. where the road would go or where the trails were going to go or the whole bit?

E.S.: We surveyed the Shenandoah National Park.

D.S.: Hadn't it already been surveyed.?

E.S.: Well it was touched around in little spots, along around. Hadn't been checked. But we made a final survey of everything. From Front Royal to Waynesboro.

D.S.: You did. In other words the line had not been specific.

E.S.: That's right. Yes mam.

D.S.: I thought that by the time they had put the drive in..started to put the drive in that it already had been specified by the exact limitations of the park.

E.S.: Well, it was probably on paper, but it wasn't on the ground. Cause I put in just about all the markers and corners that was put in in the Shenandoah National Park.

D.S.: Did you have to change any of the plans that had already been shown?

E.S.: Yea, we changed a lot of the lines. Yes mam. We'd go to the courthouse and look up deeds...the old deeds..and then make a copy of them and Mr. H.R. Gilroy was the engineer.

D.S.: Right.

E.S.: A fine fellow. And I worked with him.

D.S.: This is absolutely unbelievable. I'm believing you but it's  
contrary to what...*has been told*...this is terribly in your way...uh..Darwin  
Lambert is writing..uh do you know Darwin?

E.S.: No mam.

D.S.: Well, he's been doing a lot of research on the formation of the  
park and the organization of the park and this is a fact that he  
has not learned. I can't wait for him to hear this.

E.S.: And we worked..a lot of times we worked for three or four days  
establishing the lines. They would be..I mean we would be just  
have to almost..hunt for..hunt for..hunt the deeds and everything  
up.

D.S.: Okey, so then .. like you would go into a courthouse, get the  
deeds that had already been assigned over to the park and you'd  
take that deed and you'd go to that property and put your *stakes*  
in. Is that it?

E.S.: Well, we'd have to check with the man's that's adjoining the park.  
We had to get his deed too. We'd prove it by both deeds. We had  
to go and where his line was..and sometimes they'd go with us.  
When it was handy you know, they was around..some of the homes as  
close as to the lines and we'd get one of them to show us as much  
as he ~~knew~~ about the line.

D.S.: Were there ever any extreme changes? That you made.

E.S.: Not..not a whole lot. Not a whole lot.

D.S.: No, but a little bit. By a little bit would you mean an acre or.

E.S.: It could be at times. Yes mam.

D.S.: Wow. In other words you would sometimes take an acre from this  
man's property that he thought he had or else give them an acre..

E.S.: Well sometimes..sometimes they would claim a little more than they had. And we checked back with both lines and both deeds...that's right the old fences and sometimes..as *hardly ever*... biggest majority of the times wouldn't be anything..fence..but a lot of times it would be fence and the fence was the line and marked trees..we'd go by marked trees and stone piles that was marked..*it* would call for it on the deed..that's the way we got it straightened out.

D.S.: And you did the entire thing from Front Royal all the way down..

E.S.: To Waynesboro

D.S.: What...oh Mr. Gilroy was your supervisor.

E.S.: Yes..he was the engineer..he was the engineer..he was the man *in charge*

D.S.: Alright now you were located at Big Meadows. Your headquarters was there? So how would you get up to Front Royal or to Waynesboro?

E.S.: With the truck..we had trucks..we had assigned trucks to us.

D.S.: Yea, but the road wasn't that good.

E.S.: Well we went in a lot of roads that wasn't good. Because we went up mountain hollows just as far as we could go and then we would walk...from there to the line and Mr. Gilroy could figure out on the map..just about a day's work..where we would come out at. And he would send the truck back and he would go around maybe and come up another hollow and sometimes we'd maybe go down the wrong hollow or he'd been up the wrong hollow and that would ... be late getting in a lot of times. But it was good..we enjoyed it.

D.S.: Well, I'll be darn...now uh..did you ever run into any problems with the people..that you know..you were saying okey I'm going to

resurvey this...after all they had had several people coming and surveying...did you ever run into any problems.

E.S.: Well, we never had any real problems, because Mr. Gilroy he was a good man and he sat down and explained it to them as best he could. And he'd show them the line and then we'd go over there with them and they'd go with us and then they would be partially satisfied. And we never run into too much trouble. Not enough to say..take it to court...or nothing like that.

D.S.: Yea. Well just as example of somebody that was slightly peeved... what would happen?

E.S.: Well, they..they..it would pass over. They would get upset a little bit but in the long run and after we put the corner in and put the signs up and painted the trees some of them for the lines but it was okey..

D.S.: Did you ever go back to double check and make sure that they didn't put their fences back where they thought they belonged?

E.S.: Well, we didn't go back only just to go back to check on corners. Different corners..or a piece of different lines or something like that..when Mr. Gilroy was making out his final map..we'd have to go back once in a while and check a certain portion of the line, or the corners.

D.S.: So in other words after you had done the survey..some people could say..makes no difference..I'm going to go back there and reclaim that land.

E.S.: Well I..no I haven't heard that..but I know they cut a lot of trees <sup>on</sup> of it. That's one trouble we had..you know in the lower

line area. Where they would run over the line and cut some trees..but we didn't have anything to do with that. That was taken care of by the park service .

D.S.: Uhhum. Yea. My heavens that was a lot of walking that you had to do wasn't it..

E.S.: A lot of it and I can feel it today.

D.S.: Yea. Now you would go up, in these hollows..uh weren't there families living in those hollows?

E.S.: Yes mam.

D.S.: How did the people react with you going up *into there.* and...

E.S.: Well it was sort of a strange thing for them to see us come up in there.

D.S.: Yea, I was thinking like in particular Dovel Hollow and Cabbage Hollow. Those aren't the very sweetest places in the world to go walking in.

E.S.: But, we didn't have any trouble. Any trouble at all..they would all come out and stand and watch us and we'd just go about our business and go right on up.

D.S.: What did the people look like? In those hollows..I'm thinking of Dovel in particular. Can you recall?

E.S.: Well, I don't see anything that looks like it today..but they was nice people as far as we was concerned. But the homes wasn't as good...like they are today by along ways. And they used less than usual. They'd have chickens and a cow..something like that around. A horse.

D.S.: They looked intelligent though didn't they?

E.S.: Yea. They was nice people.



D.S.: Now you see there is the problem. There have been stories ~~about~~ handed down, that these people were absolute morans and they were not. They were not morans. They were..they..uh I want to make sure this is going...yea. Uh they were all a very intelligent people, it was just that they didn't have the education.

E.S.: That's right. That's right.

D.S.: How were they dressed? Fairly good.

E.S.: They were dressed fairly good. Yes man. But they'd keep watch over us..most of the time..if we was close by you were being watched all the time.

D.S.: Yea. They were trying to make sure you didn't run off with one of their girls..after all...got this young buck in there..

E.S.: And we'd .. once in a while we'd run across a still. But we wouldn't bother it. We wouldn't bother..we might take a few drinks of the mash if it was ready to run and fill up our canteen full.

D.S.: Yea. How much would they charge you for that?

E.S.: Well it was running..then..about 50¢ a pint I think.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh boy, and that was such pure beautiful, beautiful liquor.

E.S.: It was. It was good.

D.S.: It's a darn shame those..had to stop.

(it was today)

Oh my goodness..far better.

E.S.: And if they kept a watching you all the time..you'd know then that there was a still pretty close by. But we never caught anybody there..we've been by a plenty stills that they just put the fire out..it had been running..but we didn't bother a thing.

Cause Mr. Gilroy told us not to bother anything to stir up trouble or something like that.

D.S.: Yea. Well, then how would you get your lunch.

E.S.: We had a boy to take our lunch along with us. He was carrying lunches.

D.S.: Well you'd be roughly what..sandwiches or what.

E.S.: Sandwiches all the time. Bologna most of the time. Peanut butter, Salami and liverwurst. We'd take our water with us, that's what we had to drink. Well we could get our water most anytime. Unless we was on top.

D.S.: Uhhum. Well the water in the streams was pure.

E.S.: It was..that's where we drank it, our water from the streams.

D.S.: Right. Did you recall seeing many wildlife?

E.S.: It was a lot of wildlife.

D.S.: Okey, what?

E.S.: Well we seen a lot of deer for one thing. But we didn't see any bear then that I know of.

D.S.: There were deer then. Now we are talking about when you first got there?

E.S.: Yea, there was some you know..just like there is everywhere else.. maybe you see one run across..and they stayed mostly in the laurel. I remember one patch of laurel .. about a couple acres in it and it..you could jump a deer in that most anytime really around the laurel.

D.S.: And yet Skipper <sup>Noyce</sup> Noise said that he had to go and get deer and.. import them to have have deer brought in here.

E.S.: No, it was deer over on the south side..this side of Swift Run..

back on that line.

D.S.: Uhhuh..this is why I keep doing..double checking and double checking because stories..gaps are always getting filled in.

E.S.: But it wasn't as plentiful as they are now I don't think. But of course we wouldn't hardly see as many anyways because I worked anywhere from 18 to 20 men.

D.S.: Oh yes and this would scare them away.

E.S.: And see they was cutting lines..had four men on the lines..cutting lines...

D.S.: How would you cut a line?

E.S.: Well you'd cut it wide enough..say four..maybe four feet..you wouldn't cut everything..but you had to cut it so Mr. Gilroy, the engineer, could see from one end to the other. I took the.. I carried the rod in front..I was the first man out. I'd go so far. If it was level ground I could go for a long ways but over noles and all I'd have to go to the top and <sup>then</sup> they would <sup>cut</sup> cut up. Cut a line up to me..

D.S.: Hand cut..hand cut..

E.S.: With a bush ax. And then..they would have to cut enough that he could see me. And sometimes we would shoot from one nole to the oher. I'd go on down this nole and on over to the other one and they'd come on over and just cut a place..start just a little ways and cut up to me where he could see me from over on the other nole see. Rather than cutting the hole way through at one time.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Okey now you say there were deer..

E.S.: I saw deer yes mam.

D.S.: And what else.

E.S.: Well, squirrel, and skunk and a plenty snakes. It was a lot of snakes.

D.S.: Yes there were. Was anybody that you know of ever bitten.

E.S.: Yes mam. I had a boy in my gang that was bite over on the other side of Little Washington. We was coming out of the mountain one evening and it was raining and we ..we'd always run to the truck. I had more energy then than I have now..and we'd always run and this boy..three or four of us together and we was running t'rough this orchard and a rattlesnake hit him between the knee and the ankle and tore up the skin and I stopped him and he layed down and Mr. Gilroy was the one that I think was suppose to pperate on him..cut him..but I had to take first aide.. I had to taking first aid training..I had to take that and he asked me to it .. that he didn't want to do it..or he couldn't do it and I went..layed him down and I give him a small operation right there..with a razor blade. I cut six slices this a way and six this a way and I had a silver cup..I put my tournequit on first..and then I had my silver cup that I sucked all the blood out of and after a while..maybe fifteen or twenty minutes I worked on him..sucking the blood, and then we came by Little Washington and called the doctor to see if he had anything for it. And he said he didn't have a thing for it..that I had done all he could do. So we called camp and told them tohave a doctor there when we got there and we taken him in to sick bay and the doctor was there and he said you done all that I could do. So the boy layed around there for a couple weeks and his leg swelledup but

he made it okey.

D.S.: Wonderful. Doesn't that make you feel proud.

E.S.: It sure did.

D.S.: That's marvelous. We now have Mr. Russel Barlow, who has joined us for this interview. And he also is from Stanley and was with the CCC's. Um, what did you do with the CCC's?

R.B.: Well, we worked with gooseberries...<sup>then the</sup> killing pines...done a lot of that work and then clean up brushes,,,dead brushes..clean up trees and all.

D.S.: And did you work with Mr. Scott, on surveying.

R.B.: No, I wasn't with him.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Where are you from?

R.B.: I'm from Norfolk, Virginia.

D.S.: Okey, was this your first view of the mountains when you came here?

R.B.: Yes mam, it was.

D.S.: What was your reaction?

R.B.: Well, went up there..didn't know the way off, so I couldn't leave. So, I just ..... but some of them would have left if they could. Along then..I know one boy he did run off awhile. They had to hunt him <sup>up there</sup> but he just got lost..cause he was like myself.. he didn't know the way off.

D.S.: Uhhum. Yea. Did you like the mountain?

R.B.: Yes mam I loved it. That's why I moved back up here.

D.S.: Yea. What year did you start with the CCC's?

R.B.: In '34.

D.S.: '34. Then you were here in the very beginning too.

R.B.: No, there was a crew up there before I was.

D.S.: Oh yea. Then you didn't have to put up with the tents?

R.B.: No, we didn't..they had....

D.S.: You didn't have to put up with the tents either, did you?

E.S.: The first time I did, yes mam.

D.S.: You did?

E.S.: Yes mam, we slept in tents for about a year.

D.S.: You were a part of that group then that when that wind storm  
or snow storm or whatever..rain storm came..had a terrible time  
batting them down.

E.S.: Well, we didn't have too much time..hard time..only it was cold  
sleeping in a tent.

D.S.: I bet it was. Yea. *Shore* It was snow..of course, at Big Meadows. How  
did you all manage when there was snow?

E.S.: No, I was at Forks Run you know, I mentioned.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. Yea.

E.S.: Camp IV.

D.S.: Well, how did you manage when there was snow in the mountains. Did  
all work stop?

R.B.: Well, we did when it got down so low we'd stay in and of course un-  
less it was an emergency like a wire down or something like that.  
And they used to have to go there and fix them up in the pines..uh..  
Tanners Ridge you know. We'd come down you know when snow and ice  
would just weight them down too much and would break them sometimes  
and we'd go down there and fix them but otherwise we didn't actually  
have to go out to work unless it was an emergency when it was over  
10 below 0.

D.S.: Uh, this line..this telephone line you are talking about..is this the one that came down right directly into Luray?

R.B.: Well, it came down Pine Grove..you know down that way..did it then..? dag if I know..I wouldn't say for sure, but I imagine it was. I feel like it was.

D.S.: Yea. Um..now what would you do when it was cold and you weren't allowed..you know .. no work to day. What would you find to do?

E.S.: Well we had to work if it wasn't below 0.

*DS* Yea. Okey, so it was below 0 so what would you do?

E.S. Well when I was there we just sat around in the barracks mostly and joked and we wrestled..we scuffled a lot...that's about the main thing we done. *Played the guitar* They ~~had~~..we had the guitar there and we played and sang some.

D.S.: Oh, did you play any mountain music, because they were mountain people that were with you?

E.S.: That's just about all we knew then.

D.S.: Now what were some of the tunes?

E.S.: Maple on the Hill

(Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley).

D.S.: Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley..how does that go?

E.S.: I forgot..I don't know exactly..we had a little radio program on Harrisonburg at one time. A fifteen minute program.

D.S.: How did the mountain people get along with you that worked at the camp?

R.B.: Well, as a whole they got along exceptionally good.

D.S.: Was there much intergration?

E.S.: I don't think there was.

R.B.: No I can't say there was.

D.S.: Because they sort of stayed by themselves?

E.S.: Well they had a barracks they stayed in. Except some was leaders.

R.B.: Yea, and they would stay in the barracks.

D.S.: I heard such a cute thing from one of them..the mountain people that had been with the CCC's and he said oh it was alright but the people that weren't from the mountain talked awful funny.

R.B.: Well, they thought we did..cause you can go as much as 100 miles and you find people that talks different..you don't have to go *too* far. Along then..along them days you didn't have to go very far. Little different..now people can get around so much.

(I don't know how..I had somebody write it down for me..the song "Lamp Lighting Time in the Valley..dreams I go back to my home. You know how it goes Russell don't you. But I can't remember it all. But it was a beautiful song.

D.S.: You don't remember the ~~tune~~.

(Oh, I..if I had the words I might could remember the tune. But uh...)

R.B.: Prisoners Song..do you remember that?

(yea.)

D.S.: The Prisoners Song.

(I just don't remember how that...

And then "You Are My Sunshine". When that first came out.

D.S.: Yes..uh did you..did the mountain people play the guitars themselves and the fiddles?

R.B.: Yes they did. They had a little church in Dark Hollow down from the camp and we used to go down there sometimes and Ralph Cave



fellow..he lives out here and uh..he used to come up there and play music and sing.

D.S.: Did any of you ever hear that song "The Foxhunt".

R.B.: I've heard it but.. *I can't remember it.*

D.S.: No, I'm trying to track that tune down because that apparently was a beautiful one. You know..they really heard the dogs and the fox and all and all done with banjos and fiddles....so how long were you there? At the camp.

R.B.: About two years. Maybe..A year and 10 months to be exact I believe.

D.S.: Had you ever done that kind of work before.

R.B.: Not a great deal. See I lived in Norfolk and raised up in Norfolk.. course I had lived on a farm at first when I was small and all.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So this was a whole new experience for you. Did they have to teach you how to do it?

R.B.: I knew enough about it to know what they was doing.

D.S.: Uh, what area did you have to clear out the gooseberries? The whole park or just a particular section.

R.B.: Well, we didn't go down the whole park..all around Big Meadows.. I guess three or four miles each way, weren't it.

E.S.: Just about.

R.B.: I imagine that would cover it..might not have been quite that far. And mostly we went down towards Panamama..work that end mostly. Course went up the other way a little.

D.S.: What would you do when you were far away from Camp at lunchtime?

R.B.: Well, we'd take lunch with us.

D.S.: Same bologna sandwiches

R.B.: That's right. And uh, sometimes if they was close enough, they got

so they would bring a wagon out with it. Hot food for us when it was real cold.

D.S.: Oh, how many were in your crew?

R.B.: It was the whole barracks. I guess around 30 I imagine.

D.S.: The whole

R.B.: There wasn't 30 in the crew..that's right..it was split up. I imagine it was about 12..15.

D.S.: Fifteen cutting brush..

R.B.: The other crew may have been off somewhere doing the same thing we were.

D.S.: Who was your supervisor?

R.B.: Fred Cave.

D.S.: Oh, the one you mentioned. Uhhuh.

R.B.: Chief Cave we used to call him. No that wasn't the one that used to play the music. He lived up at Kite Hollow see and had a farm and all

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. Who was the one that played the fiddle..Ralph..

R.B.: Ralph Cave..

DS (Ralph Cave..he's still alive isn't he.)

Yes he is.

D.S.: Hey, maybe he could play my Foxhunt for me.

R.B.: He lives right up here.

D.S.: He does.

(Where at...

R.B.: You know where the road right

(at the store)

D.S.: Is he known to both of you.

R.B.: Yes.

D.S.: Maybe before I leave we could give him a call and ask him if he remembers how to play it..I mean with one of you asking him, it would mean a heck of a lot more than me asking...

R.B.: See he has a little store up here...

(Somebody said though that he retired.)

He may not be *up there* very much...

(I see him at home a lot.)

You do..well Ralph probably...

D.S.: Is that the Cave brothers...

R.B.: No. No mam, different.

(around this corner...back off the...)

D.S.: Yea, I get it. Okey well now what other ~~recollections~~ do you have. The Statues of Limitations has passed, so..did you ever go down and visit any of the people in the mountains?

R.B.: Yes mam I did.

D.S.: What families do you recall?

R.B.: Well, some Jenkins..Broyles..

D.S.: Where did they live?

R.B.: Well, they lived down in Dark Hollow..Cave's and Jenkins lived down there and Breedens. And see they would have little gardens and all that....

D.S.: Uh, did you ever go into any of their homes?

R.B.: Yes mam, I did.

D.S.: Did you ever have a meal with any of them.

R.B.: Yes mam, I did.

D.S.: Great, what would you have?

R.B.: They would have..well, <sup>all</sup> kinds vegetables, meat..they raised hogs..  
*they'd have* beef..they would have a nice meal. Never did go to  
one that you didn't get a real nice meal.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they have large families?

R.B.: Well, some of them did and some..I don't know how many Jim Broyles  
..I don't know how many in his family.

D.S.: Was it sort of a log house that they lived in?

R.B.: Well, yes mam, some of them was weatherboarding. And uh, used to  
go down in Criglersville a lot..

D.S.: That was quite a..*walk*

R.B.: Well, we didn't mind the walking..cause you didn't have no other  
way to get around hardly.....

D.S.: Right. So what would you do in Criglersville?

R.B.: Well, go down to see some of them girls sometimes.

D.S.: Oh...

R.B.: Course some of the boys from Criglersville around in the mountain,  
and we'd go spend the night with them sometimes..

D.S.: Oh, uh did you ever buy any of the moonshine?

R.B.: Yes we did.

D.S.: Who made that?

R.B.: Well there was one..Jim Broyles..course he..can't hurt anybody..*now*

D.S.: No.

R.B.: He used to make a lot of it. Some days you'd see a little smoke  
over here and a little smoke over there..see they'd move the  
still around, and he was telling me about one time when the revenue  
man come up there after him, looking for stills..looking after  
stills in otherwords..not after him. And uh, he took the fellow

out to look for stills so naturally he taken him to the roughest place he could find..where you had to crawl over rocks and all and so the fellow told him when they got back to the house, said I don't care..said Mr. Broyles I don't care how much whiskey you make..says I don't tell you to make whiskey or I don't tell you not to make it, but I don't care how much you make from now on, I'll never be back up here to bother you. And around pay day he used to come over the mountain..you know we used to clean off the ditches and everything and he rode a white horse and he'd have two grass sacks with whiskey in them.....<sup>sell it</sup>around pay day see....the boys up there and he'd sell it to them for 25¢ a pint.

D.S.: 25¢ a pint...he got taken..

R.B.: Well that was a little bit before...he went up a little bit later on now.

D.S.: Uhhuh...25¢ a pint. Oh boy, and that was such pure, wonderful..it really was good. Wish we could get it now.

(Wonder if they put sugar in their's like they do today.)

No, no. No.

R.B.: I don't know...Mr. Broyles was all the times telling me to come over here and watch him make it and I never did.

D.S.: Wish you had now.

R.B.: And I wish I had. Afterwards, I wished I had..I never did go over there and watch him make none of it. But I wished I had. And he used to tell me a lot of times to come over there and he'd take me out and watch him run some...and I never did.

D.S.: Umm..yea, now there was a Broyles and what other family was there

did you mention. Jenkins, Breedens, and Cave...

R.B.: Well there was a Jenkins, and Breedens, and Caves...well of course

Mr. Broyles..Jim Broyles..he lived way over the mountains in a  
little farther from them. ~~It~~ *He* was *from* Dark Hollow.

D.S.: Now which Breeden was this? Would you know the first name.

R.B.: I forget the first name...I, I forget.

D.S.: Did any of these families look as though there had been too much  
uh..close intermarriage?

R.B.: Well I wouldn't say that, heck I couldn't tell, but they was  
nice families.

D.S.: And they were intelligent?

R.B.: And they'd treat you fine when you went to their home.

D.S.: Uhhuh. There was nothing .. sort of wierd about them.

R.B.: No, no mam there wasn't. I can't say that, no mam.

D.S.: Okey. All I need is constant verification of this, you know,  
cause have any of you read that book "Hollow Folk"?

(No mam)

Well that's why I am doing these interviews to try and disprove  
that horrible book. Because .. did any of you ever get a chance  
to get down and visit Nicholson Hollow?

R.B.: Well, not while I was up there, I never did, go down there. But  
I've been down there since ... one time ...

D.S.: Yea, I was just wondering if you got to know any of them .. the  
Nicholson's.

R.B.: No, and when I first went up there..see that's when they was a  
moving them off..out of the park. And there was some people you

know they had to take and take them out. They didn't want to move. Well, naturally they wouldn't..they'd been living there all there life and they had a good living and uh.. consider them.. course you can't compare them times with these times and uh...

D.S.: Right, did you have any uh..were you involved in any way with taking down the houses after the people were moved out..either of you? No. Uh, because according to Colonel Koch the minute the families were moved out they took the houses down..otherwise the people moved right back in, again. He said sometimes they found some rather fascinating things in the walls. Like for instance hessian buttons, revolutionary buttons and so that would be a fascinating thing if you had..

E.S.: Maybe Russell could give you a little light on June Weakley... you knew him didn't you...

(How about  that boy married...)

R.B.: Dice.

(Dice, yea. Is he still living?)

I think he is.

(Where is he?)

R B He was at the meeting one time, I believe Dice was...he was...yea. As far as I know he is.

D.S.: Uh, what were the Weakley family like? Were you ever in their home.

R.B.: Well, yes'um I've been in their home. They were a close family..

D.S.: Uh, from what I understand the men were highly protective of their wives. Was this true, did you find?

R.B.: Well, yes, I did in a way. Yes I did. Of the whole family, they

looked after the family..you know, protected the whole family.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So, if you by mistake touched any of the wives..was there any reaction? Or did you make sure you didn't?

R.B.: Well, I never did myself.

D.S.: I mean, you know you just happened to bump into them, or something.

R.B.: I don't know.

D.S.: No..okey, is there anything that you specially recall about any of these families that you visited? Anything that sort of stands out in your mind? First of all what was their reaction to the CCC's? Were they...You know ~~here~~ all of a sudden they've had a quiet life and there's a whole bunch of strange men all over the place.

R.B.: I never did see no resentment myself. Of course it's like a lot of strange people and everything you know..maybe kinda wonder where they come from and who they were all and wanted to know such as that. But I never did see no..they was easy to get along with if you done right..unless you done something to them.

D.S.: Was there any incidents of people in your camp doing something to ruffle the feathers of these mountain people?

R.B.: Yes, sometimes it was.

D.S.: And then what happened?

R.B.: Well they sort of stayed away from them for a while.

D.S.: What would ruffle their feathers?

R.B.: Well sometimes the girls that they go with done it, a lot of things like that.

D.S.: This is working out really good. I am getting a lot of information. Now you didn't spend all two years just cutting down gooseberry



bushes?

R.B.: No.

D.S.: No. Cause there weren't that many gooseberry bushes. So what else did you do?

R.B.: Well, we clean..cut down trees..

D.S.: Why did you cut down trees?

R.B.: Cause they was dead..ones that ~~died~~..cut down for wood...see burn wood. Haul wood and such as that. Sometimes just before *returned to quarters,* look after camp at night... well, I never did do it regular because I didn't choose to do it. See, and uh..I did it some week-ends, and such as that. One of them would want to go home or something. And then uh..they was <sup>know</sup> laying these uh..walls..you stone walls on the drive and all and us boys sometimes if you work on weekends with them, they let you have a day or two off and you go home.

D.S.: How would you get home?

R.B.: Well, the train..see the train run..go to Luray or Stanley and catch the train and it would go to Waynesboro and..yea that's where you switch trains and it went on North.

D.S.: It took a long time to get home.

R.B.: Yea, then again uh, one Christmas I went home..as long as we got us a bus to take us from here to Petersburg and uh, then I caught the train from there home.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well, you all didn't get much money..spending money.

R.B.: No..not a whole lot.

D.S.: No.

R.B.: They gave you \$30..gave you five of it..send twenty five of it home.

D.S.: Uhhum. So that didn't pay for much.

R.B.: Well, considering now, it paid for a whole lot.

E.S.: We still had a good time.

R.B.: Yea, we certainly did.

D.S.: Sure, yea. Okey, so it's Friday night and you are all up there and you are making plans about what you are going to do for the week-end. Would you all go out together to do something..walk down the mountain or would you be driven down?

E.S.: Well, sometimes we would walk and sometimes the truck would bring us down. Then we had a fire detail..one barracks a week. You'd have to stay on the mountain...during Fire season.

D.S.: Did you have much problem with fire?

E.S.: When I..one time we did. Lot of fires wasn't there?

R.B.: Yea it was. Well, the reason..people that homes..they would set the fire, a lot of times. Just to get the CC boys down there close so they could *come and help put it out.* I've known that to happen.

D.S.: Really.

R.B.: Yea, set a fire not far from the house.

E.S.: And also to have a good crop of huckelberries. Burned *the* brush up.

D.S.: Yea, fire in the mountains is nothing to fool with. Uh, would the whole camp go out to put it down?

E.S.: Well, if it required it, they would. Most all of them, maybe leave a little skeleton crew there. I've stayed out for a couple days and nights.

D.S.: Yea, yea..that's a ferocious thing to have happen.

E.S.: They had a lot of fires.

D.S.: Okey, so excepting for the fire crew..what all..would you all decide okey let's go down into Stanley and have ourselves a real big time or let's go into Harrisonburg or where..what would you do?

E.S.: Well, I came to Stanley most of the time.

D.S.: I wonder why.

E.S.: I don't think but one truck went to Luray..didn't too many go to Luray. I think Stanley gave them a little more excitement.

D.S.: It did. In ~~what~~ way?

E.S.: Yea, I think so. Well drinking and fighting I think for the best part.

D.S.: You mean you looked forward to these fights?

E.S.: Well, a lot of them did. Sure did. I've seen the Stanley streets blocked a many a Saturday night.

D.S.: Good grief. Look forward to coming down and starting a fight.

E.S.: Some of them did.

R.B.: Didn't seem like they held too much grudge though you know it?

E.S.: No, would be all over.

R.B.: Just the nature of them..just like to fight sometimes..that was all.

D.S.: Uhhum. Would you do it again?

E.S.: At that age I 'spect I would.

R.B.: I would.

E.S.: That's what the marines used to do..just about every time they came down..somebody would get in a fight. When they was up at Hoover Camp. So I was told.

D.S.: Uh, yea. That's right the marines had been moved out before..

E.S.: Just before. Barlow might remember the marines up there.

R.B.: I believe most of them..there were some down at Hoover Camp...

D.S.: Were you all there when FDR came through?

E.S.: Yes mam. I was.

D.S.: What is your recollection of that?

E.S.: Most exciting day I had..one of the most exciting days I reckon  
of all of it.

D.S.: Yea. What did you do. Get the whole place all polished...

E.S.: Spic and Span..everything..

D.S.: Uhhum. He didn't inspect the barracks though did he?

E.S.: I don't know, I tell you..just soon as his speech was over I had  
a way home and I was homeward bound. That's the first time I  
had been home since I was in camp. I wanted to get home and tell  
them all about it.

D.S.: How did you get home?

E.S.: Well it twas a postmaster from my home..him and his boy was up  
there and I happened to find them and I rode back with them.

D.S.: Yea, great.

E.S.: And we had 60 state troopers..they came up there and stayed a  
long time before he came in. They had a barracks of <sup>their own</sup> ~~there on~~..to  
themselves. Plus the army...

D.S.: Um, wonder why.

E.S.: Well, to keep everything under control I think. And a lot of the  
army..I think maybe a couple hundred of the army were up there  
camping

(Was you there then?)

R.B.: I had left. No, when was that..July.

E.S.: I think if was somewhere around..

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: I got the pictures of it.

D.S.: Yea. Did he eat at your camp?

E.S.: I think he did, yes mam. I'm sure he did.

Pictures there.

D.S.: Yea. And then that was where he gave his speech too wasn't it.  
from

E.S.: Right down in that hollow// the service senter..he was right down  
in it.

D.S.: Um, you say it was one of the most exciting days you ever had.

E.S.: Yes mam, it was.

D.S.: Okey when you got home how did you describe it to your family?

E.S.: Well, they all knew that he was coming up there and they wanted  
to know how he looked and..

D.S.: How did he look?

E.S.: He looked good I think. Wonderful man. And we just had a general  
talk and I don't remember any of the speech too much because I was  
posted up near the drive. We was up there you know to kinda keep  
order and..

D.S.: Yes, there were a lot of local people up there too.

E.S.: <sup>keep</sup>...traffic straight and all. With the troopers and army. But it  
was a beautiful day. Nice day..we was all watching for him to  
come like little Children watching for Santa Claus...wating for  
him to come.

D.S.: Well after you had been home, how did you get back?

E.S.: I caught the train..I had to..

D.S.: Had to do that bit to Waynesboro and...

E.S.: No I came..I caught the train at my home and I came to Pheonix about 15 miles from where I lived and I caught the C & O into Roanoke and I caught the Norfolk and Western back to Stanley.

D.S.: All on \$5.

E.S.: Yes mam.

D.S.: Try and do that now. You couldn't do it.

E.S.: That's right. No mam, you couldn't.

D.S.: Huhuh. So then after the CCC's were over what did you do. Well

E.S.: I came home..we went down to my home a couple days, and then we decided we'd come back up here to get married. And we got married in February and then we went back down to my home and stayed a while and hthen I came back and I worked at the Planning Mill down here a while and then I had to register for the army and I went in the army in '43..Navy..stayed in there til '45.. Christmas '45.

D.S.: Oh yes, uhhuh.

E.S.: And then I stayed and worked at a store a while and then we came back up here and then in 1947 we were at home and we came up here in July 2, 1947 and we settled down.

D.S.: And what did you do Mr. Barlow when you were through with the CC's.

R.B.: Well, I went home and went to work for a contractor building houses for a while and then finally..that was in .. about .. after I went back home see..and then for a few months I worked here and then I come back up there and stayed a little bit and went back and got a job..went to work at ? Steel..where they build all kinds of tanks.

D.S.: How did you ever locate <sup>Then</sup> them in Stanley?

R.B.: And then I got married and my wife come up here then and in '36  
.....I.....went there after I left camp....lived in Norfolk 10  
years and then decided to move up here..and I don't know..finally  
left that place..went to work for a chemical company..Monanto  
Chemical Company in Norfolk, and finally left there and went over  
to Norfolk Navy Yard and then after the war..I was layed off the  
Navy Yard..course I had preference to go to work over *seas*  
see. But we decided we'd rather move up here. So we moved up  
here and so came up here..got a job....

D.S.: Do you all agree with Doc Blevins who says he feels if it hadn't  
been for the CCC's, we wouldn't have had anybody trained to go  
into the services when the war broke out.

R.B.: Well, it helped. I think it did. <sup>Es!</sup> It helped me a lot. See, when  
I first went up there, they was giving the boys training you know  
calisthenics..drills..and all see...But after that they stopped  
that because other countries was complaining about such as that,  
the United States would have to much of a standing army..and they  
cut that out...but when I first went up there that was what they  
were doing. But it wasn't long after I got there that we had to  
cut that out.

D.S.: Well, it was good discipline I think, because you were all under  
the army at night.

R.B.: That's right.

E.S.: We still had reveli and retreat every evening.

R.B.: Yea, we always had that.

D.S.: What else was there of the army discipline?

E.S.: We had..I know we had to line up every morning and have roll call.

See that everybody was there. And most of the time you had to form to go into the mess hall, to eat. Form lines. And it was kinda..you could feel you know what you had to do almost. And.. along the army lines. You would get use to it. Because you had to make up your bed the army style..your cot. And you had to keep everything..have inspection...about everyday.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were you all issued uniforms? or anything of that kind.

E.S.: Yes mam.

D.S.: What were they like.

E.S.: Just one of these regular army OD shirts..we called them..and the pants and the army shoes..everything was army. And coat and then later on..was you up there Russell, when they changed the green.. they gave us a green uniform.

R.B.: Let's see..I don't know if I was or not.

E.S.: You know the OD's when they first came out and then later on they were a dark green.

R.B.: I may have been gone then. I don't remember.

E.S.: And that was a pretty nice uniform for then.

D.S.: The CCC's I think were a tremendous..wonderful thing. Not only did they make the park..they really did. But they helped make men.

R.B.: Yes they did. It was a wonderful thing and they..

D.S.: And all of you were thinking I'm just going to get some money. But actually it helped make men out of you, didn't it?

E.S.: It sure did. I enjoyed every minute of it.

R.B.: Took many a boy off the street when they had work no where hardly.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right, Yea. Do you recall any of the mountain people that worked with you..any of their names?



R.B.: Well, Chief Cave, that was Fred Cave, he was lead man..

*George GRAY (Poppeye), Big BILL*

they all passed away.

D.S.: Yea, I just would like the names you know..

R.B.: Morgan Cave,

D.S.: And did any of them act as leaders to show people from the city  
how to do things?

R.B.: Yes, they did.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were they nice about it?

R.B.: Yes they were.

D.S.: They didn't act show-offy?

R.B.: No, no they didn't.

E.S.: I think that's one good thing we can say about the CC's. I mean  
I was in there almost six years. And there was better unity in  
there then among the boys, I think as you can find today.

R.B.: Yea.

E.S.: Cause you couldn't beat the unity.

D.S.: Yea. And do you think ~~there~~ *there* was rivalry between camps, was good  
for you all too? You know like..you had baseball games..

E.S.: Yea, we had baseball games. I believe..I think it was good. We  
got to meet other boys...find out where they were at...how they  
were doing. They were the same as us. Really enjoyed it. Had a  
good time.

D.S.: Did any of you notice..in one of my interviews the other day, a  
man was talking about..there was a certain look in the eyes of  
the mountain people..he said that used to scare him to death. He

said it was a very cold stare..as if he could look right through you. Did any of you ever encounter that.

E.S.: No, I didn't.

D.S.: I was wondering. You had mentioned a Breeden..did you see that look in his eyes?

R.B.: No mam.

D.S.: Because I have seen some people with that look.

R.B.:

But I never would think of nothing like that because...

E.S.: No, I didn't either.

D.S.: It was pretty generally a kind look that you got, right?

E.S.: Yea.

R.B.: Wasn't much that would upset me along then.

E.S.: Me either.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Well is there anything else that you can think of that would help fill in gaps?

E.S.: Well before I started with the surveying outfit when I first went in and a little bit after we developed the Lewis Spring.

D.S.: You did?

E.S.: Where they get there water from now.

D.S.: Yes. Now how did you do that.

E.S.: Well, a Robert Crews .. he's passed away now .. he was in charge of it. I mean he was our leader and we went down and .. it was a spring there, but they wanted more water. So we went and dug ditches in all directions and some of them was ten and twelve feet deep...to gather all the water that we could..all in a circle all

the way around...to bring this water all into one receptacle and it would be more water than we get in...and I think <sup>what</sup> that the register after it was completed was around 300 gallons a minute. If I can..if I'm not mistaken.

D.S.: How long did it take to do this?

E.S.: Well we were working on that for a couple months I imagine.

D.S.: Now this Lewis Spring..is that near Lewis Mountain?

E.S.: No, it's back over here just right down from the Service Center kinda. You go south and then you turn off and go over the hill.

D.S.: Do you recall why it was..Did you ever find out why it was called Lewis Spring?

E.S.: No. I think that was the name of it though. Lewis Spring.

D.S.: And then this water was used for what?

E.S.: It's used right now. I think everything on <sup>Big Meadows</sup>...

D.S.: Really?

E.S.: Yes mam. As far as I know...since I left there. This is what it was developed for. It was a beautiful..good water.

D.S.: Yea. Absolutely pure..nothing there to contaminate it.

E.S.: And it was all dug by hand. It wasn't any back hoe there. It was on your back but it...

D.S.: And the blisters on your hands. Right. To me it is absolutely marvelous the city boys could come up here..get their first view of a mountain and really do the job that you all did. I think it is pretty wonderful.

E.S.: Yea, that was my first time I'd ever seen them.

D.S.: You know I'm still a little confused as to how..like when you were going up to Front Royal and the Skyline Drive was not built yet

how would a truck get you up to Front Royal for your survey?

E.S.: Well, it was mostly..it started on that end I think and was coming this a way.

D.S.: No, the first part of the Skyline Drive was from Skyland to Panarama.

E.S.: That's right..but it was pretty well fixed when I was up there.

I mean enough to go over..it was in..I thought..good shape. As well as I can remember.

D.S.: Was Mary's tunnel there then? Mary's Rock Tunnel?

E.S.: Yes mam. But it wasn't cemented then, it was rock..just cut through the rock. The cementing was done later. I know we've been through there and we'd have to stop and knock the icicles down to get the truck through.

D.S.: It was a dirt road that you were riding on mainly wasn't it?

E.S.: I couldn't..I declare I can't remember. But I know that's the way we used to. *go*

D.S.: then like down to Swift Run Gap.

E.S.: Well from Swift Run on they was still working on it.

D.S.: Yea. So how would you get to do that survey?

E.S.: Well, we worked this end first and worked on back that a way. And by the time we got there .. we went over it .. really .. it was rough. They just make enough so you could pass over. You'd go around rocks and around cliffs and things. They was still working on it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now it makes sense. Well I certainly appreciate this gentlemen. I think you have helped a tremendous amount. Is there anything more that you can think of? You know the statute of limitations is over with the mountain people. You can tell anything

you want about them. Anything that you recall. No?

R.B.: No.

D.S.: Okey, well, I sure do thank you. Because this has been....

E.S.: Well, you certainly welcome

D.S.: Would you mind repeating that. The truck driver always had to stay right with the truck you say. Why?

E.S.: Yes mam. Well see we moved..we never came out the same place we went in and when we'd go ~~out~~<sup>up</sup> in the mountains..we might come out five or ten miles of where we went in..so Mr. Gilroy was seeing him around to come up another hollow and sometimes ~~he~~ would come up to the end of the road and that would be a house..and he would just sit there all day.

D.S.: To protect the truck?

E.S.: Well he would stay with it..he didn't have anywhere else to go.

D.S.: Oh, I see. I thought it was for protection.

E.S.: No he stayed with the truck all the time.

D.S.: Oh, oh, all the time. Okey. Alright.

Edward Scott telephoned me after our interview and gave me this information.

The store he mentioned in the interview was owned by Tom Macspeeden. Mountain people brought chestnuts to him. They would bring two bushels on horseback, one bushel on each side of the horse. They received \$7 - \$8. for a bushel. A man called Will Grimm married the daughter of Tom Macspeeden.

Another store was in Marksville and was run by John and H.L. Coontz. People from the Madison side of the mountain brought him ginseng, bark and chestnuts.

Mr. Scott also recommended we interview Grover Bailey of Tanners Ridge who has lived in that area all his life. At present Mr. Bailey has pneumonia so we will contact him in a few weeks.