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(SNP128) Cletus Waters interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston, updated by Mark S. Purington

Cletus Waters

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith
NARRATOR: Mr. Cletus Waters
PLACE: Store - Rocky Branch
DATE: March 19, 1980

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Sharon G. Marston

COMPLETED DATE:

February 8, 1982

This is Parathy Smith

D.S.: ..interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Waters. Uh, Cletus Waters' ^{your} father had owned a store in Rocky Branch. Is that right?

C.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Okey, now how far up in Rocky Branch was the store?

C.W.: Oh, let me see...I guess it was about four miles. *up in there*

D.S.: About four miles....roughly how far *from the top* do you know?

C.W.: Oh about three miles from the store to the top of the mountain.

D.S.: Uh, now Frances Grove said that their family use to drive their cattle past your store. Is that right?

C.W.: That's right.

D.S.: What did it look like. I've often wondered?

C.W.: The store...

D.S.: No, I mean the cattle. *drive*

C.W.: Oh, in the spring of the year it was hundreds of them went across the mountain over ~~to~~ Rappahonock over the mountain roads. Be a hundred of them in a drove...different...follow each other..you know different farmers.

D.S.: Did they ever get off of the road and sort of wander around or...

C.W.: Oh, no not too much. They followed *the road* in fows. Most of them...farmers had cattle..old cattle been over before and turn them loose and they would lead the rest of them over.

D.S.: Did you hear a lot of moo..moo..moo..

C.W.: Oh yea yea..a lot of belling of a calf...oh yea...did you...I bet you went out and watched didn't you?

D.S.:

C.W.: Oh yes. Yes.

D.S.: Uh, now...were there many mountain families near? Roughly...what we are trying to find out is how many families lived in that area.

C.W.: Oh, I'd say there was 30 to 40. You know all around to the edge of the mountain.

D.S.: 30 to 40. Were there any up at the top.

C.W.: Oh yes.

D.S.: do you recall any names?

C.W.: Mr. John Heiston owned a big farm...an uh, Jewell worked for him...run his farm. And uh, he sawmilled.. And he owned a farm down on this side of the mountain too. That was right on top...always called it the Heiston place.

D.S.: Now Mr. Heiston didn't live there did he?

C.W.: Well part of the time..he lived on this side of the mountain and then he'd go on the other side and stay too. But he didn't live there..his family didn't live there. He had people living on his farm.

D.S.: Tenant farmers...

C.W.:Yea, oh yea.

D.S.: Are any of those people still alive.

C.W.: Uh, yes there is a Henry Jewell lives across the mountain..he lived on that farm.

D.S.: Henry Jewell..

C.W.: Henry Jewell..uhhuh.

D.S.: Where does he live.

C.W.: Right across the creek here..right over on Dry Run. On the Winthrop Farm..

D.S.: Really?

C.W.: Yea. Uhhuh.

D.S.: How old a man is he?

C.W.: Oh he's about 70...2 or 3.

D.S.: And he lived on the Dry Run.

C.W.: Uhhuh, yea.

D.S.: I'll be darn.

C.W.: Now he lived on this farm...oh, across the mountain..on top of the mountain.

D.S.: Oh, great. He would be a good one to interview, wouldn't he?

C.W.: Oh yea, uhuh.

D.S.: Oh, alright, now...your father's store. Roughly when was that started, have you any idea?

C.W.: Roughly..about 1912.

D.S.: 1912. What did he have in the store.

C.W.: Oh, he carried all kinds of groceries, coffee, sugar, and flour,

D.S.: Kerosene?

C.W.: Kerosene. Overalls and shoes. Had a regular *general* store..sold shoes.

D.S.: Yard goods...

C.W.: Yard goods...bolt...

D.S.: Sure. Right.

C.W.: Kerosene..said kerosene...just anything in a store. Just a regular general store...hardware and axes *and picks.*

D.S.: How did he get these things?

C.W.: Well there was a wholesale house here in Luray at that time.

D.S.: Oh.

C.W.: Called Luray *Supply Co,* and that was where he got most of it. And then what they called a salesman called them drummers then...they would come around and a guy from Lynchburg would ^{come... I remember...} sell shoes...salesman or drummer they called them then. Sell all kinds of shoes. And he'd ordered them and they'd come in to Kimball down here on the train and you got to meet them with horse and wagon and haul the stuff home.

D.S.: That was quite a climb up there wasn't it? Yea. Have you any idea how much shoes cost at that time?

C.W.: I would say around...from a dollar to dollar and a half.

D.S.: Uhuh. Were they good shoes?

C.W.: Good shoes.

D.S.: Were they high button shoes?

C.W.: Yea, he had high button shoes. Women shoes...and I remember one family that lived over at Hudson Orchard over in Rappahonock Side and he would...*come* had quite a big family, and rode a horse across the mountain .. spotted horse..he'd come across the mountain and he had a little stick cut for each size shoe he wanted..that's the way he got the size. He 'd stick it down inside the shoe to fit...he measured the feet on the stick and cut the stick that length and that's the way he bought his shoes for his family.

D.S.: Did they buy them all year long or in the fall...

C.W.: Most in the fall...see come to get the winter clothes.

D.S.: How did they pay? For the things?

C.W.: Well a lot of them paid by chestnuts..brought chestnuts in..brought them by the wagon load...and eggs and chickens and at that time..always during the summer he huckstered..they called it huckstering...all across the mountain..all around the mountain and out in the valley too and uh, he bought chickens and eggs and rabbits, in the fall of the year. And uh a lot of people didn't take the money for it but they took a due bill... and they'd get their sugar and coffee then...if he owed them a dollar or two dollars or three dollars he would write out a due bill they called it. I.O. *you* so much and dated it with his name. He'd sign his name L.K.Waters. And uh, then in the fall of the year, they'd come get their clothes, they'd bring these due bills and cash them in for the clothes..they saved them during the summer.

C.W.:

D.S.: Okey. Now, they'd bring their eggs. *^* he went around and gathered them up he huckstered..horse and wagon all along the road.

D.S.: And then he'd sell them.

C.W.: Ship them to Baltimore... *J.W. Chew* in Baltimore. Commission deal. Bought rabbits too..bought rabbits *in* boxed..them up..

D.S.: Live rabbits or..

C.W.: No dead rabbits. They'd kill them in the fall. And box them up in big

wooden boxes and haul them to Kimball and put them on a train and shipped them to Baltimore. *J. W. Cheems* in Baltimore.

D.S.: Well, how much would he give from these people for rabbits?

C.W.: Uh, 20¢ for one that been shot, and trapped rabbit he gave a quarter. 25¢ a piece. They'd bring them in...take a string and tie them up in a wire room...store room had a big old wire room...hang them up there and he got almost a wagon load he'd box them all up and haul them down to Kimball and ship them to Baltimore.

D.S.: Wouldn't they turn sort of bad?

C.W.: Oh I imagine they would. But anyway they were sold and uh they were called commissioner dealers. They resell them and send him a check ^{for it} back. And he said he didn't think this *J. W. Cheems* Company ever beat him out of a penny. He shipped chickens and eggs and butter.

D.S.: Butter too.

C.W.: Butter. Bought butter. Yea, go around and buy butter and had a big wooden ~~crib~~ ^{tub} like...dumped it in. Get a tub full, seal it up take it down to Kimball and uh, oh Mr. Henry Kibler run the station. And he would tag it..load it on one of those little railroad wagons..pull it out and the train would take it ^{up}.

D.S.: Now, uh this is the first I have heard of a storekeeper going around to get the things..usually the people said they took their things to the store.

C.W.: Well a lot of them did. But he huckstered every day. Except Saturday... horse and wagon...

D.S.: And he would go where? Exactly.

C.W.: Well in one trip he would go out across the mountain..the old mountain road. over in the Rappahonnock side and uh, it would take him all day. Leave in the morning and sometimes it be 8 or 10 o'clock at night getting back.

D.S.: And as the people would give him the things he would write them a due bill.

C.W.: A lot of them yes. And of course if they wanted money..he would pay them money too...for the chickens and eggs and butter. But most of those people took a due bill. Cause that was like cash you know. And they saved it up and in the fall of the year, that's the way they bought their shoes and winter supplies. And old Mr...old Mr. Fox used to live their in Rocky Branch and my daddy used to say in the fall of the year, Mr. Fox always tell him...my father's name was Talbert..said Talbert I'm going to have to have a little cash..going to have to pay my taxes...just probably 8 or 10 dollars all the taxes be on the place.

D.S.: Sure. So then who took care of the store while your father was away all day?

C.W.: My mother.

D.S.: Your mother.

C.W.: My mother and Uncle Jimmy Waters...one of my father's...that was my Great-uncle. He stayed a long time and Irvin Waters...well all but Irvin Waters is dead now he went with him on the huckster...a lot of times he took a boy...a young fellow with him to help him, because he'd get a whole load of stuff..chickens and eggs til he'd get back in...pile them all up 8 or 10 coups high on the wagon.

D.S.: *Must have been a* A..good size wagon...

C.W.: Well, a regular ... we called it a spring wagon...huckster wagon like.

D.S.: Two horses pulled it or...

C.W.: Two horses..now sometimes .. he went out across the river went out..Bixler's.. went out Ruffners Ferry..went out through there and huckstered and bought chickens and eggs..*delivered* different grocereien. That was a great thing back in those days...Four or five merchants I know huckstered.

D.S.: Okey now these people when they came into the store..how were they dressed? Differently from what you were or...

C.W.: No, I wouldn't say...they just dressed in bib-overalls mostly..bib overalls..

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

C.W.: Well most of them was...a few older fellows had whiskers. Quite a few of them...Old Mr. Dave *Kennel* ...he lived over in Rappahonnock...he walked over to the store and carried a big uh...^{we} he called it a feed bag...a big long *sack bag* and he'd buy his flour and sugar and salt and five gallons of coal oil and he wouldn't come but about once a month and he would bring a few eggs and maybe chestnuts *he* raised hogs back in there...that's where the wild hogs in the mountain started from. And he'd take this sack put half in one end and half in the other, put it across his shoulder and get in can of coal oil and they tell me...he was a great big fellow..I imagine he was over six feet tall and he had long whiskers and they tell me he'd walk that mountain..up this side and down the other and down through... two mountains almost and never put nothing down til he got home.

D.S.: Strong. Yea.

C.W.: He lived back in there..in an old log house.

D.S.: Would you say the people..uh, this I'm sure you as a child would not have noticed but there has been quite a bit of discussion that the people were closely interbred. Did you notice any sort of wierd ^{ones} ... you know that weren't quite right mentally?

C.W.: No, I don't think there... I don't think I knew any at Rocky Branch. I really don't.

D.S.: Good. Uh, alright now..the children when they came..the children came into the store, did they run around wildly like they do today?

C.W.: No. No, no. Kids them days didn't misbehave..they stood and waited til their mother or father or somebody told them they could do something.

D.S.: Uh, you said there was a mill near there.

C.W.: Yes, there was *big* mill... three stories high.

D.S.: Who ran that?

C.W.: Uh, a fellow by the name of Sam ^{Dean} Dean...we always called him Uncle Sam. He built the mill. He had a real large store...*before the* mill *up* creek we always called it...but he built it..three stories. It had a water wheel and he built a wooden trough and piped that water out of a big wooden trough to make power for the wheel. Cause I re...

D.S.: When he...he'd grind corn and wheat and buckwheat..rye...

C.W.: Buckwheat..and rye ... anything you'd want him to grind.

D.S.: Did you ever see any of the people trashing their rye?

C.W.: No. No.

D.S.: Or *hivling* it? Alright when you brought this stuff to him would they carry it or bring it on horseback...

C.W.: Horseback or a wagon..

D.S.: Did they pay him or...

C.W.: I think a lot of times he took out a toll..so much...

D.S.: That was pretty normal wasn't it?

C.W.: Yes. That was the same way with *hivling* in my time they had the trashing machine and that's the way they trashed the wheat..buckwheat..and then they took the toll...1/10th I believe. Give you 9 bushels and they kept a bushel *took out of 10*

D.S.: There were a lot of good orchards up there, weren't there. Did the people in that area make any wine or moonshine?

C.W.: Well, I guess they did that..but of course in my time now...but uh my great uncle he had a still house one time in Rocky Branch..that was Mr. Sam Batman had a still house together...

D.S.: Not according to Dick Batman..you should hear him...no, no..we didn't do anything...

C.W.: Well I don't think he did bootlegging but his grandfather and my great uncle owned a still house together..that was..they..I think a state man or something

come around and *Taped* so much and they could sell it, but they did own a still house.

D.S.: Did anybody come in and buy an awful lot of sugar and make...

C.W.: Yea..and I imagine a lot of rye that came from the mill *was ground for it* too, because back in those times it was a lot of whiskey was made. *in the nets.*

D.S.: It was one way of making a living. Literally...

C.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh, they needed it when the chestnuts were gone really. Do you recall, there was a tremendous drought...I believe it was in 1928..oh, you had left by then..

C.W.: I had left..uhhhuh...I remember the drought..That would have been '28..no 1930...it was a big drought.

D.S.: 1930 yea. So you don't know how the mountain people coped with that.

C.W.: No, but I think they lived pretty good. See the cattle then could eat the bushes. I heard a fellow that lived up here back of Morning Star said he had sassafrass bushes ~~growing~~..and dried them and fed his horses that year.

D.S.: Uh, oh boy...

C.W.: You know sassafrass grows up in the real tender you know.. cut them down and let it dry like you did hay and fed it to ~~his~~ horses.

D.S.: Well, I'll be darn..yea. Now did you ever visit any of the homes?

C.W.: Oh yes.

D.S.: What were they like.

C.W.: Well most of the homes were of course just rough. *Built*

D.S.: Were they log?

C.W.: Some log houses, but most I remember now were weatherboarded. I don't remember too many you know ^{regular} log cabins...most of them was built and weather-boarded. A lot of them were ^{never painted.} Most all built little houses along the edge of the mountain. Maybe four rooms and a kitchen and a porch..you know a

porch on it. That's about the size they built.

D.S.: Did they do much visiting.?

C.W.: Yes, they did.

D.S.: Alright. Was it just in their own area or did they visit outside their area.

C.W.: Well I imagine it was mostly in a few miles around you know..

D.S.: Alright did those in Page County did they go over to Rappahonock?

C.W.: Yes, yes they did. Walked across. I had one fellow..hadn't been too long ago that he lived over in Rappahonock side and he was courting a girl over in Rocky Branch and he walked...over and back..same..come over on Sunday evening went to church..some little church there and then walk ^{the girl} home..take about 9 or 10 o'clock..walk over the way back over in Frazier Hollow that's almost over in Sperryville.

D.S.: Sure it is. Yea. Good la...

C.W.: Yea, walked that more than one time and didn't think nothing about. Right by himself at night. Right across the old mountain road.

D.S.: Yea. Right. uh..did they do much dancing and when they'd get together would they play music?

C.W.: Well they'd..a lot of dances around the mountain yea. Applebutter boiling.. that's when they'd .. uh .. in the fall they'd have applebutter boiling, they'd really have a dance that night too. Boil applebutter all day.

D.S.: And dance that night.

C.W.: Yea, have a dance that night.

D.S.: Ahhha...great. Did they have the custom that if you touched the side of the kettle you got a kiss?

C.W.: Yea, uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea. That was fun. That was fun. I heard that that was a good way of courting a girl...find out if he liked her or not.

C.W.: ...~~certain~~ boys at applebutter boiling. Course like I say that was in my younger day. A kid...but I've seen..been around...we had those at our home..well now we never had no dances at our home because my mother was down on dancing. Dancing and whiskey. Whiskey was poison the way she ~~talked~~ *told us*...yes sir she was down on drinking.

D.S.: What games did the boys play?

C.W.: Back in .. when I was growing up? Spin the pan, post office,

D.S.: Oh really?

C.W.: Kea,

D.S.: Uh, did they pitch horseshoes?

C.W.: Oh, you mean at parties...*the games*

D.S.: Yea.

C.W.: Yea, they pitched horseshoes.

D.S.: Did they ever pitch rocks?

C.W.: No, not that I remember. I don't remember....rocks...

D.S.: George Corbin said that when they didn't have horseshoes they used flat rocks.

C.W.: Could have.

D.S.: Uh, marbles?

C.W.: Yea, played marbles..shot marbles.

D.S.: Uh, sort of a baseball kind of game did they play?

C.W.: Yea, we played..it wasn't baseball, we played ball...softball I reckon you'd call it now. We had a soft ball...we'd make our own ball...take strings and wind them up you know *when you were up* and you'd hit it and run around a base and then they'd throw it and if you got hit you was out.

D.S.: Uh, do you know how these people were educated? Did they have much education?

C.W.: Well, no, not too much education.

D.S.: But they could count?

C.W.: They could count and most I knew could read and write...they had just a country education. ^{Maybe} Fifth or sixth grade I think they went to in those mountain schools. See I went to school at Rocky Branch. They went to seventh grade there. I went to the old schoolhouse...^{I think} Jack Swetnam owns that now and then they built one out farther .. that spring..out there. They taught seventh grade...from first to seventh grade...one teacher taught the whole thing .

D.S.: Yea. Right. So when your father gave them the due bill, they knew what they were getting.

C.W.: Yea. Uhhuh.

D.S.: That's great.

C.W.: See they'd come back and trade it for what they needed ^{for} for the winter.. ^{the} chickens and stuff they sold during the summer when they had plenty..and they kept these due bills and used them through the winter. Bought their clothes..just hundreds of them ^{I know} would do that.

D.S.: When you visited these families did you ever have a meal there?

C.W.: Well only my great uncle..no I never did eat there. Yea, I tell you this one family I did. This woman kept on after me to eat..well I eat..and they had possum..had baked possum and sweet potaotes. And they had a pretty big family and I didn't know if I could eat possum or not. But it came around and I took a piece of it and bit down in it ^{and it was} full of grease ^I chewed til I was sick so I didn't finish eating.....couldn't go the possum.

D.S.: No, I hadn't heard that it was greasy but I have heard people say that they didn't like it. It wasn't that good.

C.W.: My great uncle..uncle Brandy Waters about this still house..he belonged to the Brethren Church and ^{when} he went into this still house business they put him out of church on account of making whiskey. So from that time on he went to the Old School Baptist.

D.S.: Were the people very religious?

C.W.: Most of them was....yea...

D.S.: Yea. They did go then regularly to church?

C.W.: Church and they would have meetings I know at the ^{old schoolhouse} at night you know. Preachers would come and most all of them. ^{would stay with my} great uncle up

there in Rocky Branch. ^{probably} ^{you know, he lived above} Sam BAtman..owned a lot of that mountain up in there..

^{He had} running water there. ^{in his house, in the floor} and out the back...all the time...never was there that the spicket wasn't running all the time.

D.S.: I'll be darn...that was modern wasn't it.

C.W.: ^{He} piped from way up on the mountain down and had force, and just let it run and he had a pipe that run in the sink and had a pipe that piped it out to the little branch..and always had water running all the time. Had a bucket sitting there in the floor all the time.

D.S.: Gee, that was really a modern thing ..

C.W.: He had a great big...eight room house and when the park taken it all...he just had fits.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Uh, did he get paid...

C.W.: Nah, he didn't get a whole lot out of it. ^{He owned a lot of mountain} side....about \$15 an acre is all he got, for the ^{mountain} place...Great big old mountain ^{from} place...about \$2500 is all he got for it. Wasn't anything to what ..now..course at that time...I reckon. ^{it was right value.}

D.S.: Yea. Did the people uh...oh gosh I have so many questions to ask you. When they came to the store...did they stay around and talk?

C.W.: At nights they would...the men all came to the store at night ^{and loafed.} alone.

D.S.: A chance to get the news is that it?

C.W.: Sit there and talk...a lot of them tell ^{spunk} tales you know...

D.S.: Can you remember any of them?

C.W.: Well I can remember one old fellow....^{he was} up in the mountain and the devil had gotten after him. And chased him down the hill and ^{he} couldn't get away from him and uh was. *he knowed it was cause all these things happened.* Right down below the store there and Ernest Waters..you know *Ralph's* father...he could tell you...he was a cop...my father run *a store.* *one of the fellows had cramp and needed* vicks salve...sold vicks salve and all kinds of medicine then...and uh, he come up to the store and got him a bottle of salve and right down below the store is a little hollow that they called the spooky hollow and they always...a lot of people said they seen things there. *something* run in front of you. So Ernest..cousin Ernest..his kid was sick and called my father there out of the bed to get him this in the middle of the night and going back down the road he said something white ran in front of him and he hauled off and kicked at it and his foot went through it and he fell down and broke his bottle of salve and he had to come back to the store and get another one. Yea, a lot of people claimed they seen things there in the hollow...

D.S.: I'll be darn.

C.W.: I know I had to go up through there to go to the store at night..fooling around..I'd be so scared I'd feel my hair raise up...you hear them talking about it....sit around telling all these tales about what they heard and seen.

D.S.: Sure.

C.W.: I never did see any.

D.S.: No. Did you ever know of the people starting fires so that they would be sure of having huckleberries?

C.W.: No, I don't think in Rocky Branch.

D.S.: Did they ever sell huckleberries to you?

C.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Did they cost a lot?

C.W.: Not as much back in that time...the biggest crop they would sell was chestnuts. in that section....a whole lot..^{them}the whole mountain was full of chestnuts.That's what they fed the hogs...way up in the mountains fatten the hogs on chestnuts.

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

C.W.: Old Mr. *Kimbel* ^{I was} telling you lived back there he just had...well a whole mountainside..they called it a chestnut orchard there...the old trees. I've been through ~~it~~ there...in fact you were talking about driving cattle I've helped drive cattle across the mountain.

D.S.: You have?

C.W.: That's been since 1928...My aunt owned a big farm over here back of Jeremy's Run...and we'd leave here with cattle early morning, but see you always had an old cow that had been over there and you could turn them out and he knows right where to go on ~~through~~ ^{through} the mountain. And put bells on them. Go across the mountain and we'd leave...go down across mountain..uh, they call it Kipp hollow now used to call it Hudson...had an orchard over in there... you've heard about that big orchard...go down that mountain..back on the *Kimbel* mountain clear to Jeremy's Run. And sometimes the cattle would get tired and they'd lay down and we leave them at Heiston's place...you know I was telling you about on top of the mountain and leave them a day or so, let them rest up..go back and get them and take them the rest of the way to Jeremy's Run. Been on horse back there ^{dozens} ~~millions~~ of time.

D.S.: Uh, all these orchards and all these people up there and did any of them peel bark or anything of that kind?

C.W.: Oh yes.

D.S.: Where...would you say that if the people had stayed there that within time there would not have been any trees?

C.W.: I doubt there would..^{they} probably ~~any timber at all~~ ^{put it all}. All the timber off the mountain.

D.S.: Uh, does it look much different now than what it did before the park took over?

C.W.: I can't see a whole lot of differente. Only the trails..I mean the Rocky Branch section. Most of those people still own the places..they *let the timber grow too.*

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Do you know if any of these mountain people used any particular herbs, for illnesses?

C.W.: Well had one they call..I think catnip...

MRS. (catnip..made tea)

D.S.: What was that for?

MRS. (Uh, I think that was for sick stomach.)

Uhhuh.

MRS. (*GASPARILLA* but I don't know what that was for.)

C.W.: That was a salve.

MRS. (And then there was a one called ?)

D.S.: Called what?

MRS. (Feather beal..)

Feather ^{*FOOL*} beal...

MRS. (Uhhuh. and the way you fixed that you got the plant and put it in a skillet with lard and fried it and made a salve and that was used *SORES*)

DS What is feather ^{*FOOL*} beal...

MRS. (It's a plant...now I don't have it, but I have some neighbors up here that have it.)

MRS. You put it in lard (and fry it in a skillet and it will turn green like) and the salve was used for *SORE*

DS Do you know if that is spelled like it sounds?

MRS. (I think it is.)

(Feather F E A T H E R and the beal..)

DS That's a new one on me. Great. So many of those things really worked. And

people are beginning to find out..

C.W.: My sister...we lived in Rocky Branch..my father ran a store there and she got diptheria and the neighbors..the Seals..one across the hill from us their daughter had it too...she had died...she died..and uh old Dr. Hammers come up there...course they wouldn't let none of us kids go in you know...had her in a room and ^{got} some kind of bark..Willow bark I believe that they had to go get to make a syrup out of for her to take..she'd get to bleeding..it would thicken the blood...some kind of bark...I believe it was a willow bark...I believe it was.

D.S.: Willow bark.

C.W.: Boiled it and make a tea and that was suppose to thicken the blood. Folks would bleed...some of them bled to death you know with diptheria. In that time. Snake bit my older sister up there...a copperhead. And this Sam ^{BEAHM} ~~Dean~~...he happen to be there at the store and uh...he had a platform where she fed her kittens and she went there to get that and she reached under there and something bit her on the finger...this old platform raised up and there was an old copperhead...they said oh it was a terrible big snake. And uh, of course a copperhead you know is dead poison so someone killed him real quick, ^{SAM BEAHM SAID} kill him slow...took a ^{axe +} ~~saw~~ and just sawed his head off. Sister...of course everybody around the mountain had a different remedy...some said put it down in kerosene...old Mr. Frank Jewel I believe it was...a fellow that lived in the mountain he said take her and cut her finger and have a black chicken live and cut it open and stick your hadn in it and ... she was five years old at the time ... and uh took it..somebody held this live chicken and cut it open and cut her finger and stuck her hand in there...and of course somebody said they just done everything...my mother and father...that old people tell you to do...cause the doctor had to ride a horse then from Luray and he always said that was what

saved her life...was everything that they had used.

D.S.: That chicken worked. They say it turned green

C.W.: Had to be black..This old Mr. Jewell said it had to be a black chicken.

D.S.: I thought it had to be a white one.

C.W.: Mr. Jewell he said black, so my father always had a big hen house full of chickens he had bought...he would save them up til he got a load to ship. And he just run out and grapped a black chicken. And cut him open. Had to hold her hand and hold the chicken...anyway she got..she got over it.

D.S.: Well they are beginning to find out that these old remedies really did work and it's a shame that there is no written record...of it. Most of the people can't recall....How about Christmas? How was Christmas celebrated?

C.W.: Well it wasn't too much difference than it is now. Course you didn't have lights then..course we always had a Christmas tree and all kinds of decorations. Used to get these little paper bells. Fold them up...hang them all through the store...great big things...and he sold toys for Christmas..get a wagon in...wagons...doll babies...and uh, wouldn't put them out til about a week before Christmas. *Day after* and pack them all up and put them back...because never sold ^{no} more after that...after Christmas... and all oysters...that was a great thing at the store...and he'd..we'd go down to Kimball and get a whole load of oysters..have them sitting around. A lot of these mountain fellows...course lived in the mountains..and at night he would uh kinda get the oysters...had a great big old wood stove.. a great big kettle....kinda like a stew and give everybody oyster stew.

D.S.: Oh great. How about firecrackers..did you all do that?

C.W.: Oh yes, firecrackers. They were a great thing to sell then..firecrackers. Roman candles..

D.S.: So they did give toys.

C.W.: Oh yes. Doll babies...

MRS (Not a whole lot)

CW didn't get a whole lot like they do now. But they'd get a few doll babies.. and of course they wasn't a big price then...didn't cost too much. Not a whole lot did back in that time.

D.S.: Sure. Would you say the people were an honest people or..you know could you trust them...if they said they were going to do something.

C.W.: Yes you could. I never knowed any of them in there you couldn't trust. If they told you they would do something...they done it. This fellow..lived way across the mountain, and uh, he wanted an order and paid my father or somebody for it...his wife did..left the money and they wanted to know when he was going to deliver it. Right smart stuff..had to make a special trip. So my father *wrote on there* deliver it tomorrow. And give it to your wife or some of his people...there at the house. He *came in* found out it had on there tomorrow..he walked all the way across that mountain at night to get the date put on it...he said tomorrow never comes. He wanted the day and the date...tomorrow didn't do because always could be tomorrow you know.

D.S.: Sure.

C.W.: He walked all the way across .. from Rappahonock side down to the store.. *to get* the date...delivered on Tuesday, the 19th..whatever it was. But he didn't want the tomorrow on there.

D.S.: You know you keep talking about them walking..did they walk a lot?

C.W.: Oh, yea. Walk or rode a horse.

D.S.: Uhhuh. They would come to your father's store from the Rappahonock side and yet there was all that Estes..Charles Estes complex down near Sperryville.

C.W.: But it was closer over this way where they lived in...go down across the mountain and turn to your left and go way back in the other hollow. Now it *to the store* was just closer when they come up to the top of the mountain and go down to

Sperryville or come back to Luray cause I know in our orchards there was *wires and* different things, *the* finest people you ever met....I mean honest...they just worked in the mountain all their life and they rode horses all the time.

MRS. (everyone made their own *clothes*)

D.S.: Oh, they did.

MRS. (never bought nothing. It was made....rather ready made)

C.W.: over there I said they had spotted horses...only horse I ever seen that had the spots. Brown and white. And she rode all the way acrosss there side saddle. Get all her sugar, flour and all on back of her saddle and she had a long big black skirt and then she had a big *lap robe* she throwed over that. Except when she got on the horse. Old store porch was up high enough..she would she would sit in the horse side saddle..rode side saddle and told me she could jump gates...she wouldn't have no groceries or nothing...seen her jump gates and poles a sitting on a side saddle.

MRS. (When they did this huckstering they would take orders...they would go this week and deliver and then take orders for the next week...see, and then they would deliver that.)

C.W. That's when they knew what they wanted..how much coffee...

MRS. (how much each person wanted.)

D.S.: Oh, uhhhuh, yea. Great.

MRS. (And usually in the store if he got a new kind of a shoe in he might take one pair along to show them all. And then probably order some.)

C.W.: Coffee...my father told me one tale...some city people from Washington owned a summer home and of course when he come up he always sold them their groceries, coffee and stuff and uh, he had a certain kind of loose coffee he ~~drank~~ *furnished* and they claimed they couldn't buy it in Washington. Never tasted right...and so uh, it got so it came in a hundred or fifty pound bag..you

know a great big bag of it, so ^{they'd} he'd order ten pounds of it at a time and of course then *orbuuckle* coffee came out and so uh he was going around taking orders and this lady said she wanted ten pounds of coffee.. wanted to take some back to Washington...Daddy said I don't have it right now and said I got *orbuuckle* ...no indeed I can't drink that stuff.. we can get that. He said well I'll see where I can get it. So next week he didn't get it .. so this salesman told *him this orbuuckle* was the very same thing only they put it up in packages...name was different that was the reason they discontinued it..this loose coffee. So..he said very same thing so he uh..uh..just poured it out..the regular *orbuuckle* coffee and put it in a regular brown paper bag and took them ten pounds and the week after next, he went back. *He was worried what they would say about it.* I'm glad you got that coffee in...said that's the best coffee I ever drank. *He shipped orbuuckle coffee all the way to Washington to them* all the time he run the stores.

D.S.: That is amazing. Um that was coffee beans that your father *sold*

C.W.: Coffee beans....got to grind....a little hand thing you grind...course at that time people bought the beans and ground it themselves...

D.S.: That's right. Yea.

C.W.: Practically everybody had a coffee grind. *uh*

D.S.: Sure. Did people bring cabbages in to your father?

C.W.: To buy..

D.S.: To sell.

C.W.: No, no he never bought any because he was up in there where everybody else had them and raised them and he just never did buy cabbage.

MRS. (He made sauerkraut in a 20 gallon crock.)

D.S.: Wooden crock.

MRS. (No,...

C.W.: Yea, he'd make it in a wooden crock...barrels

MRS. (but then he got down to these 20 gallon crocks. Uh, just like the milk crock. And that was quite a time cutting that cabbage for that..all day ~~long~~ *job*...

D.S.: Oh, and then mashing it. Oh, yea.

C.W.: You were talking about the mountain people..most of the time if you would go to their house they would really beg you to eat.

MRS. (Everybody wanted you to stay and have dinner with them.

C.W.: *Why they'd get upset if you didn't eat with them.*

Course now..I'm describing back in Rappahonock and in that side...in certain parts of the mountain....maybe some of them was tal^{es}...get drunk and get pretty mean...sometimes...but I never did up in that section.. always good people.

D.S.: Well did you ever have much to do with Jewell Hollow.

C.W.: Yea, he huckstered up in Jewell Hollow.

D.S.: Um...did you ever hear about any times the sherrif having to go up there in Jewell Hollow?

C.W.: No. No.

D.S.: They didn't have many problems up there...

C.W.: The sheriff probably went up there during probation....hunting whiskey... now but I don't think...now one fellow lived up in Rocky Branch..¹⁸⁵⁴went up. ⁶⁰⁰⁰ ^{the} ^{mt.}

~~Smeltzer~~..Carl ~~Smeltzer~~ he was a young fellow and he'd go out and try to act Jesse James....get to drinking you know...but anyway I heard my father say one ^{time} ~~thing~~ he went up here to the Mt. Zion church to have a love feast...riding his horses...riding a horse..he ride around the church as

hard as he could go hollaring like Jesse James shooting up in the air and the people thought he was shooting through the church. Scared everybody to death and when they all went out, he took off and he went back to the mountains...up in Rocky Branch. And anyway they found out who he was and they got a warrent out for him and uh...Carl was mean, if you make him mad and push him, but he was a good fellow..if you didn't...treat him all right. anyway said one of the ~~rainy~~ rainy day Mr. Nathan Sedwick, Bill Sedwick's father was the sherrif and he came up the road in his buggy and came in the store there and the store was full of people..^{They loafed} most all the time in the rain and bad times and called my father out and wanted to know know where Carl Smeltzer lived...said I didn't want everybody to know where I'm heading for. And uh..uh..^{my father} said you better watch it, Carl might shoot you if you push him. Said oh, I don't worry about that...by himself..old Mr. Sedwick went up, tied his buggy outside the house and said he got to the house Carl was sitting at the woodbox and he could hear him, playing his banjo and old Mr. Sedwick just walked right in..said when he walked in Carl grabbed for a stick of wood and Mr. Sedwick said Carl I wouldn't do that...now...you're a good boy and come on in to town...we won't do much with you and he got in the buggy and went on down the road riding with him.

D.S.: Gee. Have you any idea, how the people adjusted after they moved..were moved out of the mountain.?

C.W.: Some of them never did ~~see~~ adjust it..Like old Mr. Cliser and uncle was about as ^{God...} bad...sat around and cried and he had a word in using [↑] in God the body that's what he ^{said took the body} away from him.....and now they took my nice home away from me. ... he would say...he did have a nice home... He did have a nice one...that's where...an eight room house...nobody but he and his wife and he had planned a very good living. He sawmilled and sold

raised a few sheep and a few cattle and...

MRS. (they loved the mountain.)

CW sold post. That's the way...he never did work himself.

MRS (Well in those days people didn't want so much. They were happy with what they had. So they knew what difficult for them.)
The older ones...

D.S.: That's right....the older ones...how about the younger ones.

C.W.: Well I think the younger ones sort of adjusted themselves.

D.S.: Well they didn't have much education...so how did they get along?

C.W.: Well they...I guess worked...some mighty good carpenters, came out of the mountain you know could build and uh ... better carpenter than a good education.

D.S.: Yea. Were there many stone masons in that area?

C.W.: No, wasn't no stone...wasn't anybody that was a stone mason. You got all of them back out of Stanley. Grays and Pettits...they all...I guess they done it..just kind of trade..now up in that hollow most of them was wood workers..carpenters, sawmill, and I guess the young ones would follow the trade of the fathers...you know. Yea. Yea.

D.S.: That's right. Yea. You don't know what you have told us. Can you think of anything else...I have been doing all the questioning.

C.W.: I can think of one thing I done....I told you about the snake..

D.S.: Yea.

C.W.: Uh, Amiss Waters and Ralph and James..that ^{is} my brother, myself and ~~Edgar~~ ^{Amiss} Smith there was an old big waterwheel on this mill...wasn't running ^{after} they discontinued the mill before we left from up there. So we climbed this wheel.. walked up on each step..where they built the wood and we got on top of that thing and took off and all of them jumped off but me and it caught me and I went down underneath of it...down in the water you know...caught my foot and I think Amiss, he's dead now, he grabbed me and drug me out...I

thought I was going to drown.

D.S.: Sure you would.

C.W.: So we never...we all said now don't you tell our father or mother about this. Don't nobody tell nobody nothing...but we never did ride the wheel no more.....^{He had} been getting on it and just lucky enough to jump off and get to the ground cause see this wheel was big..it came up...water down underneath of it. And all got off but me and it got to going to fast and someway I fell and went down underneath.

D.S.: And so you were drowned...and never recovered.

C.W.: ...boys..Amiss and Ralph and all boys...we hunted groundhogs in the summer take the shovel.. and dig them out. [^] dig under rocks...

MRS. (tell her about the little wagon...)

CW ...make wagons..get that cross cut ~~saw~~ and saw a big log..big logs laying in the mountain then everywhere then where they peeled the bark off..get round us a big log and cut us a big two inch box off of it and get one of these old ^{auger} loggers.. and make a big big hole and make a two by four and make an axil..and make an wagon to pull everything around through the mountain...make a wagon.

D.S.: Sure.

MRS. (You will have to show her the one out here...)

C.W.: No, no these were solid wood...I just finished an antique wagon...a little kids wagon...them was good times, I mean we moved out in 1926 ...

D.S.: Why did your father leave?

C.W.: Well business got a little bit slow you know in the mountains..people began to go to Luray ^{more} and all..the car came along about that time..you know the Model T. And we had a chance to buy a store.. was going to retire..at the monument and it was a real good spot so we bought that store...and sold out to Claude Fox and he moved the store

down to his place.

D.S.: Oh yea. Yea..

C.W.: Down near Franklin Miller..

MRS. (Tell her about the Model T. your father bought.)

CW Yea, my father was the first one that brought a car into Rocky Branch
I reckon as far as I know. Anyway Morris Waters...you've heard of him
worked for E.N. Hershberger.. I was small..
...sold Ford's all his life.. and my father bought a car. it had a brass
radiators
radio...open touring car..and uh *no truck Morris* brought it up to him and
boy my father built a buggy shed and fixed it up for his car..cause nobody..!
you know back in that time. So he brought this Model T up and uh Mr.
Harper Strickler worked for us, *drove another Model T to*
take Morris back so he put this car in the shed and he told
my father..he said now *Keller*, that's his brother...said now
don't you drive this car til I come back up here on Sunday and learn you
how to drive. Said up here on the mountain you'll run it down over the
bank...somewhere..and hurt..kill yourself. Daddy said okey...I'll be up
on Sunday...let you drive somemore. Well my uncle hadn't..I know he hadn't
got out of hearing distance and a bunch of people there at the store that
front
evening he backed the car up to the store there and took everybody for a
ride up the park road and back. He said oh, I couldn't wait til Sunday
to ride in it. Said I bought and paid for it. It's mine.

MRS. (Everybody just waiting their turn to ride)

C.W. Course they had a kerosene lamp..headlights...taillights..an uh I came
with him
on down the mountain..had an Old Model T truck. And I stood up *to tell*
when he was out on the road at nights all through them hollows...and he
told me he huckstered over Rappahonock and all through there and came
back late at night...with horses...some boy or somebody be there to help
him..put something white on and walk right in the middle of the road so

he could see where to go.

D.S.: Sure. Yea. Oh, this has just been absolutely marvelous...you don't know how..how we thank you.