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(SNP093) Franklin Miller interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Franklin E. Miller

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Miller

INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Noble Smith

DATE: March 14, 1978

Transcribed by:

Sharon G. Marston

Completed date:

October 6, 1979

I: I am interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Miller. And Mrs. Miller's father had been Homer Fox who had ~~run~~ a store in..was it [✓]Jeremy's Run?

N: Right here's where the store was.

I: Right here?

N: Right here in Shenk Hollow.

I: Is this called Shenk Hollow.

N: Rocky Branch.

I: This is Rocky Branch..Oh, where is Shenk Hollow.

N: That's down...

I: Goes the other way...okey.

What are your recollections of that store? How large was it?

N: Ah, a small country store.

I: A small country store. Uhhum. Have you ever seen W. ^{Lee}Neard Judd's store.

N: (apparently nodded yes)

I: You have? Was it about the same size as that?

N: No! About half as big.

I: About half as big. What did he...now this is what I have been most intrigued with...~~when~~ a farmer or people from the mountain brought down produce to him didn't they?

N: Yes.

I: They did? Now did he give him cash for that or credit?

N: Oh, they usually would buy groceries.

I: Yea..

N: Course they only ^{BROUGHT}bought eggs and chicken, and that's about all.

I: Uhhum...no ham

N: No.

I: No hams

N: Not to my knowledge

I: Just eggs and chicken. Didn't they bring berries or things of this kind...Dried apples.

N: Ah, I don't think he messed with that.

I: Then they couldn't build up much credit..they couldn't buy much?

N: ~~They~~ ^{He} could buy ~~walnut kernels~~ ^{WALNUT KERNELS}.

I: Have you any recollection of how much ~~he~~ ^{He} paid for those.

N: No..Do you?..No I couldn't say.

I: No..okey so then maybe those people had cash of their own they could buy what they needed.

N: Yea, most of them did.

I: I wonder where they got that cash?

N: Well, I guess most of them had jobs and work.

I: Ah, great! Did you know any of the type jobs they had?

N: Frank can probably answer that better than I can...

I: Did they work in saw mills?

N: In the saw mill, apple orchard...of course they worked in extract wood, bark...

I: Uhhum...good. Then these mountain families..the men would go out and work for various people that had leased property or owned land there or ...

N: Yea

I: Uhhum.

N: There was quite a few that owned big grazing farms now, and that would...course they had ^{heads (of cattle)} hands on them...cut bushes almost year round...a lot of them.

I: Uhhum. Did they ever set fire up here so they could have huckleberries and things of that kind.

N: No.

I: ^{Oh} No, they didn't. That was only in the central section that that was done wasn't it.

I: Uhhum, so you didn't have many forest fires in this area.

N: No.

I: No, hum...Did the people make moonshine from the apples.

N: Not to my knowledge .. No.

I: Uhhum. That again was only in the central section wasn't it?
Did they do much drinking?

N: Nope...not to much going on in this section to my recollection...
Now it might have been before hand..before I was big enough to realize..to know anything about it.

I: Uhhum. Now they would get together for applebutter boiling wouldn't they? Did they make a party out of it or was it a day time job?

N: No, no party out of it

I: No party

N: Not as a rule, no.

I: They missed a lot of fun

N: Yes, they did.

I: They sure did

N: They would have corn shuckings and such as that you know, ^{an} ~~ever~~ night or a rainy day or a snowy day...with other farmers.

I: Uhhum. Yea. Was there much visiting that went on.

N: Oh yea!

I: They would visit from hollow to hollow...yea. Uhhum. ^{It was} ~~Was it~~ only on Sunday that they did ^{there} ~~there~~ visiting or..and work all the rest of the time or..

N: It was about a routine thing, I reckon about a number of times a week.

I: Oh really?

N: Yea, them days.

I: Oh, that was a nice casual life then wasn't it...Yea.

N: More so, than now.

I: Yea, Yea. Was ~~there~~ much jealousy of their wives; were they very protective of their wives that you recall...

N: (apparently a nod)

I: So their weren't any feuds of any kind going on.

N: Very little of that.

I: Did they do any dancing?

N: Yea, I think there was some of that done.

I: Uhhum..square dancing type? Did any of them do the clog?

N: No, not to my knowledge..whatever that is. I don't know what that is. I think mostly square dancing.

I: Well the clog is sort of a tap dance. Only you can do it all by yourself. Mrs. Williams tells of her Grandmother doing the clog and ~~hum~~ she could do it balancing a glass of water on her head and not spill a drop.

N: She was an expert at that then wasn't she?

I: She sure was..I would love to have seen that. That must have been a beautiful sight to have seen someone do that because the clog is sort of an old Irish type dance that came over here.

N: Uhhum.

I: Did you have any particular friends that lived up there.

N: On the park.

I: Yes.

N: No

I: You didn't ^{visit} ~~live~~ up there?

N: No I lived down the road a ways.

I: Did you do any visiting up there Mrs. Miller?

N: I had an aunt and uncle that lived in the park.

I: Oh wonderful..then you visited them,didn't you?

N: Yea

I: What was their home like.

N: ^{Just a} ~~Usta~~ plant garden and work around the house there.

I: Was it a log house.

N: No, I don't think it was...was it?...no

That house wasn't log was it?

N: It wasn't no log house. Huhhuh.

I: Then it was a ^{CLAPBOARD} ~~clapboard~~ house or a stone house?

N: Wood frame.

I: Yea..wood frame house. Was it fairly large?

N: Hum..believe about five rooms.

I: Do you recall what they raised.

N: Oh, just the garden...beans, potatoes, vegetables like that in the garden.

I: Uhhum. Were the cabbages big.

N: Yea, they had right nice cabbages.

I: Everybody said the cabbages grew so beautifully up there...Yea
...how did they store them over the winter.

N: I spect they buried them..the cabbages

I: Uhhuh? Great!

N: Wouldn't you say?

N: Yea

I: Were there any stories handed down in your family as to where
they came from.

N: No, I wouldn't know.

I: You wouldn't know.

N: My mother's people were ..she was raised just over the hill here
at Mr. Barns place.

I: Uhhum

N: Is where she was raised.

I: Yea.

N: My father was raised over here at Shenk's Hollow.

I: Uhhum. You don't know when the family originally came here to
this country.

N: No

I: No

N: I expect my mother's people was probably raised over there too..
Wasn't they?

N: Uh..I don't know. I never did hear that discussed.

I: What was your mother's maiden name.

N: Beahm.

I: Beahm? Now is that any relation to the Beahm's that lived in
^{Jeremy's}
Jeremy's Run.

N: Nah..I don't remember.

N: No

I: No..okey.

N: My grandfather Beahm's name was Jess Beahm. And then he had a brother..Sam Beahm..owned the place up here, ^{where} Mr. Bennett owns now.

I: Uhhum..Now let's get into your father's store..what did he have there.

N: Ah, he just had groceries..grocery line.

I: Shoes.

N: Yea, he handled a few shoes.

I: Cloths

N: ^a Little material.

I: Uhhum. Most of the people made their own clothes didn't they.

N: Yea.

I: Uhhum. Yea. Did they have sewing machines?

N: Uhhum.

I: They did..the peddle type, Yea.

I: Now your own family..you said the store was right here...

N: Yea..

I: and the house was right near it?

N: It was over across the road. That's been torn down now.

I: Uhhum. Did mountain people come down during the night anytime to ask for anything like tobacco or medicine or anything like that?

N: Nah! they usually come to the store in the daytime..they didn't come ever night--Most people come over across the mountain in the day to buy some groceries.

I: Hum. How far across the mountain would they come..Thornton Gap?

N: No...hum...I really don't know how far it would be to where..do you?...I don't really know where ^{them} ~~that~~ place^s was over there to tell you the truth.

N: 10 miles, probably.

I: 10 miles? Would they walk or come by horse back?

N: Horse back.

I: Most of the families had horses

N: Uhhuh

I: Yea...Hum they were fairly healthy people, weren't they?

N: Yea.

I: Uhhum. Did you ever hear of any herbs that they used? Or did your mother use any particular herb that you knew of?

N: No

I: You don't know of any..

N: No

I: You know..if only people could remember those herbs because nowadays they are discovering that those herbs had good medicinal value. And we don't know what they were or what they used them for.

N: No, *I wouldn't know*

I: Were there many snakes here?

N: Oh, ^{*there was right many*} ~~awful lot~~ of snakes around.

I: Yea...Did many people get bitten?

N: No, not to awfully many

I: Can you recall any of the names of these mountain people.

N: Fraziers

I: Fraziers

N: Dwyers

I: What

N: Dwyers

I: Dwyers

N: Can you think?

N: Jewells, ^{clisers} ~~Keyzers~~, Armentrouts

I: Armentrouts

N: *PAULS*

I: Pauls..how would that be spelled.

N: Now that's a good question

I: Yea...^{SOURS} ~~Sowles~~..I guess...Yea

I: Do you know where any of these people moved to after the park took over? Did most of them move down here or did they go toward Sperryville.

N: I don't reckon too many of em really moved out of the park back this away..was it?

Hum, what moved out this side of the mountain usually went this away.

I: Uhhum..Yea.

N: The ones on the other side as a rule, usually went the other way.

I: Yea.

N: Some few came this away from the other side.

I: Did they own the land do you know, or did they just think they owned it because they lived there?

N: They owned the land...No, they owned the property...Mr. Bradley Waters, the park took his place, and he moved up here and bought

the Judd place where the Fraziers live now.

I: Is he dead?

N: Yea.

I: Do you know if any of these people are alive now?

N: That lived in the park?

I: Uhhum.

N: Ellis and Ollie Frazier lived in the park, didn't they?

Yea, but they got out before the park ever took it, I believe,
didn't they?

I: Ellis and Ollie Frazier.

N: Yea, they lived right up the hill over here.

I: Oh great.

N: And uh Homer Frazier and his wife. I don't know ^{whether} ~~if~~ they lived
in the park or not when the park owned that, do you?

N: I don't believe so.

I: Do you know anything about their schools? Did they come down here
to go to school.

N: No. Did they? No they had a school across the hill ^{for} for this
section of the county..They had one over on 211 going up the moun-
tain for that section. And one about three miles down the highway
for another section. And that's ^{the way} ~~how~~ it worked...so they didn't have so far
to walk.

I: Yea...Was school from September until May or when was it, do you know?

N: I spect that was about right. About seven months of school.

I: Seven months of school.

N: Yea, when I was going to school.

I: And it went through eight grades of school.

N: Through seventh.

I: Seventh. Hum! Did they stress anything in particular in school like Arithmetic, reading, writing, english, or...

N: Oh they had them subjects...History

I: History, really!!

N: History, geography

In the little country schools.

I: Do you know that this is the first time that I have heard of a school that taught all those subjects.

N: Is that right?

I: Yea..around the Elkton area all they taught was arithmetic. There were some schools in the central areas where all they taught was spelling...that was all...just spelling; but they gave you a complete education.

N: Yea we got a complete ^{overall} ~~overhaul~~ at these schools around here.

I: Yea

N: Yea

I: Now isn't that strange.

N: Now I don't know what the older..like when my mother went to school.. how many subjects she was taught; but when I went to school they taught these subjects.

I: Now were any of the children not able to attend because they had to take care of things on the farm.

N: No..they didn't have that big of farms ^{that} the children couldn't go to school, *all the children went to school*

I: Now in your school were any of the mountain children in it.

N: No. I don't think so.

I: I wonder where they went.

N: There was one family that before the park took over..they had children. Different families lived there..the Waters'..lets see *It was* Ernest Waters..his children went to school where I did..over here at Rocky Branch.

I: Okey.

N: The Ellis children..Bradley of course, he didn't have any children to go to school.

I: How were they dressed? About the same as you were?

N: Yes. Just like any poor country children was dressed back in those days.

I: That's right.

They didn't seem any different from the rest of you.

N: No.

I: That's great. That really is good.

N: I went to school with Dickie's two sisters.

I: Really!

N: Yea, we went to the same school.

I: Yea.

N: Mary and Pauline.

Course there was...they never lived in the park...My cousin, the Beahm girls, and the Seal children.

I: Bout how many were in the school. Was it a one room school. *house*

N: Yea, they had right many children when I was going to school.

I: Uhhum! Did you have the same teacher all seven years.

N: No! we had a different teacher every year.

I: Every year, you had a different teacher.

N: Except maybe..I *believe* think one year maybe..maybe a couple years we had the same teacher.

I: Uhhum, Yea. How about doctors? What did you do when somebody got ill.

N: Oh, doctors would come to your house in those days.

I: Do you recall any particular doctor that took care of this area?

N: Well there was Dr. Ed. Brumback..wasn't it?

I: Dr. Ed Brumback.

N: Dr. Bradley.. *Dr. Smith* Dr. Bennett.

I: Uhhum, where did they live?

N: Down near the river--Shenandoah River-- down 340.

I: How would you get in touch with them.

N: Oh, they're all dead.

I: Yes. I mean how did you when you needed them.

N: Oh, they ~~just had to~~ *used to have a* telephone when I was a kid. I don't know about the old people..probably they had to go get them...go get them, yea... back when my mother was growing up.

I; And the mountain people how would they get in touch with them.

N: I guess they probably would go get them too. There was a Doctor Hudson, wasn't it.

Yea...He would go see a lot of patients.

I: Dr. Hudson...was he also on the Shenandoah River.

N: Now I don't know where he lived, do you?

I: You know you had more doctors than we have now.

N: Sure did..thats a fact. I spect we did. Dr. Lorn Hammond. He would make visits up in here. I do know that. *VIRGIL* ~~Virgle~~ Hammers. Dr. George Long.

I: You had a tremendous number of doctors to call on, didn't you.

I: I wish we had that many now. We don't.

N: Yea, they would make house calls..come to your house.

I: Would they come by horse and buggy or did they have a car?

N: Well in the old days, they had horse and buggy; but, they had cars..later on..some of em.

I: You know this number of doctors, the people really didn't need to know about herbs, did they?

N: Well, no.

I: No.

I: Do you know of any particular sickness that the people had. Like..did they have diptherria or small pox up in the mountain.

N: I had a cousin died of diptherria.

I: You did. Uhhuh! Do you recall any stories about the flue epidemic during World War I.

N: I don't know, do you?

I: ^{It got} ~~They had~~ quite a number of the people that were in the central section, and I was wondering if it had hit the Northern section.

N: I don't hardly know that do you? No...I have heard talk of it, but, that's about far as I can go.

I: Back to your Father's store. What were his hours.

N: Oh, he would open up ever morning right early and he'd close up after dark.

I: That was a long time. Did he make much money at this?

N: No.

I: No. It sort of was a supplement for his farm then. Was that it.

N: Well, he didn't farm.

I: He didn't farm.

N: No.

I: That must have been a very tight living then, didn't it?

N: Yes it was..tight living

I: Yea. Then how did you manage with food?

N: Well when he had the store they had a supply place out there at
Luray that he would get the groceries and bring here to sell.

I: Yea

N: Sugar, coffee and things like that

I: Keresene and

I: Right. But if you didn't farm

N: Well of course we had a garden...potatoes and garden stuff.

I: Oh, well that was what I was thinking. Yea

N: Yea, we ^{raised} ~~made~~ beans and all such stuff as that in the garden. We
didn't have to go to the store and buy things like that.

I: Yea. Did you have your own chickens?

N: Uhhuh.

I: Yea. So you had your eggs and chickens. Did you raise your pigs?

N: Uhhuh.

I: Yea

N: Had a cow. ^{and} ~~How~~ milk.

I: Yea. Did you cure your own hams?

N: Uhhuh.

I: Do you recall how they cured them?

N: Salted. Put salt on them when we were butchering. Leave on for a
while and then we'd hang em up.

I: Uhhum

N: ~~Have~~ until they ^{cured out} ~~cure out~~.

I: Yea. Uhh..how bout beef. Did any of you eat much beef?

N: No.

I: No.

N: My daddy ---- *didn't butcher any beef.*

I: Uhhuh. Well let's see what else we should know. You say they use to do corn shuckings. *they* ~~You~~ had parties for that...

N: Yea. Right big thing at one time.

I: They'd all get together.[?] And did that have the custom if you found a red ear you'd get a kiss.

N: Usually a drink.

I: Oh.

N: Usually a drink out of the deal. A drink of cidar or something. *of that sort*

I: Oh, that was even better. Roughly how many people would get together for that?

N: Oh, ~~right~~ around a dozen.

I: Bout a dozen. Would they bring food so you could eat while they were doing this?

N: No Just strickly shucking corn. All that ever I was at now. They may have had some a little more up the Massanutten.

I: Uhhuh! How long would you do this then.

N: Well depended on what you raised during the summer. Of course sometimes it didn't do so good. They'd snap it off at the barn and shucked it as you got a chance. *to shuck it.*

I: Then would you take the dried corn to market.

N: (An apparent nod) *In my day they did*

I: Yea. Yea. Where was the mill?

N: One right up the road here couple hundred yards. Then there was one

in Shenk Hollow...^{Jewell}~~Jewel~~ Hollow.

I: Did those millers keep 10% of for their fee or did ^{you} ^{him} ~~they~~ pay you.

N: I believe they did it both ways.

I: Both ways?

N: I believe so.

I: Oh, first I heard of that.

N: I could be wrong. I believe they did it both ways as well as I
can remember.

I: Now for the apple butter boilings. Roughly how many would get
together for that.

N: Oh, you would ask neighbors around to help peel apples. Then some
would come help you boil them. *a big crowd.*

I: Then the ones that helped would get some of the butter..applebutter.

N: Usually, you'd give them...you know.

I: Would you put it in jars after it was made or what would you do
with it.

N: Yea.

I: Put it in jars. Would you cover it with paraffin?

N: Some would put it in glass cans and had lids to go on..you know.

I: Oh I see. Yea.

N: Mostly in my times they put it in jars and pack them and put lids on.

I: If your paddle touched the side did you get a kiss.

N: Hit the ears.

I: You what?

N: Hit the ears on the kettle.

I: Yea. Then you would get a kiss.

(A nod)

I: Yea, right. I wonder how many people did that on purpose.

N: I spec' there was a lot of it ~~around here~~ ^{done, I reckon,}

N; They'd have quilting parties. The older people would make quilts and ~~then~~ quilt them. And ask neighbors in and make quilts or tie comforts or something....Card wool and put in comforts..back when I was growing up...There was plenty to keep you occupied.

I: Then people raised sheep?

N: Yea.

I: Do you know how many families raised sheep?

N: Not too many in the neighborhood.. ^{maybe} Oh, two or three in the neighborhood.

I: Yea.

N: You'd buy wool, wash it and card it and get it ready for your comfort. Then you'd make your top and bottom..Put the wool on it. Then you'd tie it

I: Yea..Very great!

N: Course now when you make quilts...you'd buy ^{just a} small bundle of cotton and put in your quilts and quilt them..Put in a frame and quilt.

I: Uhhum.

I: Sorghum. Did people make much sorghum?

N: Uhhum.

I; How was that made do you recall?

N: Yea...I saw it done. Had an old ^{PRESS} ~~craze~~ ^{mill} and hook a horse or mule to it. Had a long pole on it ..oh 15 or 20 feet long. Round and round. Trying to crush this stuff up. I can't remember how long it took the stuff. I don't know about that. Quite a while though. I think.

- I: Yea. Now say somebody decides .. well I want to have a dance. What would they do? Use the barn for the dance.
- I: I'm really picking ^{your lines} ~~the phrases~~....I'm sorry.
- N: No. I don't think they used any barns around here.
- I: Then where did they have the dances then?
- N: In the room.. in the house..they'd take all the furniture out of ~~one~~ ^{one} room and have a dance.
- I: And people would come and play banjo and fiddle..uhhum.
Do you recall any of the tunes they played.
- N: Nah! I never was to any of them to amount to anything. I was a little bit too small when that was going on.
- I: Yea.
- N: That was me too. I was small; but, I remember going to a few. But I don't remember; I was small.
- I: Yea. You never heard the tune Fox Chase?
- N: I don't think so. Do you remember?
- I: Okey. Church. Did the mountain people go to church?
- N: Yea.
- I: They did. What church did they use?
- N: They had a little school house over here that they would go to church in. All the people around in the hollow here would go to that church. And then they had one down here..a Baptist Church..down here when I was growing up.
- I: This other church was it any particular denomination?
- N: What over here?..No. No denomination. Any that wanted could use it. Had service in it.
- I: Would they have like Sunday School and Church or...

N: No, just Church.

I: ~~Now~~ I have heard some of the people say that the mountain men all had long beards. Did they here?

N: No not in my *Time*,

I: I didn't think they did either...No...

N: Maybe in the older days; but, not when I was growing up.

I: Was there anything particularly ~~wasn't~~ *listen to* that thunder--- outstanding that you can think of about them. They were honest people..I know that.

N: Yea..

I: You say back in those days...

N: If you had an agreement with a man...their word was their bond.
That was it.

I: Uhhum. Nobody had to write up any papers.

N: No, unless it was a big deal sure enough.

I: Yea. There was no stealing or anything of that kind either was it?

N: No, Very little.

I: Hum...I am wondering if it was because they all had to live with each other and if you stole..everybody knew you stole and you were sort of ostracized and nobody wanted to be ostracized.

N: Uhhum.

N: Yea. They were fine people..they are fine people..quite a number of them still are ~~still~~ *alive*. ~~Do you keep contact with any of them?~~

I: ~~Do you keep contact with any of them?~~

N: In our neighborhood when I was growing up? Uhhuh..Well yea

I: And they are all doing well.

N: Course aren't any of the older people .. they're gone.. but, in

my generation..Yea.

I: Uhhuh. Was there much resentment about the ^{Park}...when the park took over? Do you know?

N: Well, I guess some didn't like it too good...Yea, that was a fact.

~~There was a great big uproar.~~
~~They uproared!~~

I: Well, actually the people in the northern section were doing very well, weren't they? Because they did have their saw mills..they had their orchards to work in. They had the grazing land. So they were able to make a livelihood even though the chestnuts were gone.

N: Yea.

I: Was there much wildlife?

N: Yea..such as squirrel and rabbits. There weren't no deer back then.
A lot of foxes..bobcats.

I: How did people keep rabbits out of their gardens.

N: Well, I don't think they had any problem as well as I can remember.
Don't know how it was done.

I: Did they have ^{a lot of} any dogs.

N: Yea. I reckon quite a few dogs at that time.

I: Maybe the dogs probably did it.

N: Groundhogs was bad in gardens.

I: Yes. Was there anything else that you can think of that will help us?
Did they have large families?

N: Some families did.

I: How large would be a large?

N: 12

I: I'd say that's pretty large. Do you know anything about their funerals. How ~~did~~ they..would they handle their funerals. Did they make their own caskets.

I: You don't know?

N: They handled pretty much like today. ^{only} Maybe not as up to date as today, *maybe some made their own caskets*

I: Did they have any embalming or anything or did they keep the body in the house.

N: Yea, they kept a lot of the bodies in the house; but, yea they had embalming. Now I don't know how far back that goes.

I: When they buried the body did everybody stay right there until it was completely covered?

N: Yea.

I: I wonder why they did that.

N: To see it was well done, I guess.

I: Make sure he didn't get out again.

I've heard ^{stories} ~~faries~~ it was because they didn't want anyone to rob the grave and take the body out...I can't see why anybody would.

N: That hasn't been done away with to long ~~around~~ ^{PALL} here. You know staying on til the grave was covered. I've been paul-bearer, a number of times, since we been married, and everyone would stay until the grave was covered. That hadn't been going on too long..not right around here.

I: I think it's nice. I think it shows respect, don't you? *think?*

N: Uhhuh.

I: I like it. And yet it isn't the custom elsewhere.

N: I don't see why a person would ^{take} ~~pick~~ up a body - *like they did Charlie Chaplin.*

I: I don't see it at all either. Hum, let's see. Do you know anything about the way they did their laundry?

N: We had a scrub board and you scrubbed your laundry on it.

I: Uhhuh...Did they boil?

N: No..on kettles you heated your water in it and scrub your clothes on the scrub board, and then put in firing kettle...boil them and take them out and rinse them, and..

I: Wash day was a real hard day.

N; Yes sir! Yea, I've done that..washed clothes lots of times. I had four children. I've washed on wash boards and I know what that is. Course then all older people ever knowd of was to wash on wash boards. They ~~ain't~~ never had no electric stoves and re-
frigerators and no deep freeze. Older people..they canned up their stuff to last them through the winter and that..

I: Yea. How did they keep butter and milk..in the springhouse?

N: Yea..~~close~~ⁱⁿ to the spring *house, close to the house.*

I: Yea

N: You know there wasn't any electricity then.

I: Yea, there wasn't any electricity. What if a house was where there was no spring or did they always make sure the house was by a spring?

N: Most houses had a spring, didn't they? Yea most in the mountain did.

I: Yea. That was another thing. When they were taken away from the mountain they were taken away from the spring weren't they?

N: Deed they were. Lot of them had awful good springs.

I: Yea..the water was good..pure water.

N: Yes it was.

I: And it was a place for them to store things too. Did they have..
did your Aunt ever say anything about her courtship. With your Uncle.

CD2
begins

end CD1

N: She was right old when she married..and he was too. ^{Well} And ~~uh~~, I ^{they stayed home}
guess they never had an automobile like they do these days. They ~~+~~
would have some young friends come in.

I: Were they well chaperoned? Do you know?

N: I have an idea they were.

I: Yea

N: I would think so.

I: And the weddings, were they simple affairs?

N: Yea.

I: Yea. I'll bet you recall! Do you know of any ghost stories they
use to be told.

N: No, don't remember any of them.

I: Do you remember one.

N: Nah. Can't help you on that.

I: Because I know they use to sit around and tell them at night just
to scare the youngens. And you don't remember....Do you?

N: Not to much..they'd tell some

I: You say not too much..sounds as though you might remember ^{one} ~~some~~.

N: No

N: My recollection ain't no good when it comes to that.

I: Did they have any special toys they played with? The children from
mountain?

N: Ah, some of them I imagine had toys.. ^{most of the} ~~some~~ children.

I: Did they pitch rocks or horseshoes?

N: Some pitched horseshoes a lot. Marbles was the big ^{game} ~~thing~~ in them
days.

I: Marbles ... Yea.

I: How about straw dolls or did they have store dolls?

N: I imagine the older generation would make dolls; now, when I was growing up you could buy dolls. Cause I know I had store bought dolls. Course they didn't have toys like they do nowadays.

I: Now it is overdone.

N: You had a couple toys, why...

I: You were a very contented child.

N: Yes you were! Now when my mother was growing up..if she had one why..

I: It was very cherished.

N: Back in that generation.

I: Right.

People churned their own butter...everyone had their own butter churn?

N: Yea, uhhuh.

I: And everybody had their own copper kettle for making applebutter?

N: You usually had one...ⁱⁿ a section..and different ones would use it and..

I: Uhhuh, yea

N: Not everyone had their own.

I: Were things as expensive even in those days..a copper kettle?

N: Not expensive as they are these days.

I: No it's ^{prohibitive} prohibited!

Yea, I was always wondering about that.

Did they use those copper kettles for anything else but apple butter boiling?

N: Nah, I don't think so

I: Yea. And most people raised cane so they could make sorghum?

N: Now, I don't know too much about that...Nah, not everyone raised it.

A few in the neighborhood..of course they'd share and ^{divide} buy it.

I: Uhhuh. Yea. Then what did people use for sweets.

N: Berries.

I: Berries?

N: Blackberries, strawberries...back in the old days they canned berries,
I guess you could buy sugar back in the old days....*make jam*
Huckleberries.

I: Did they dry huckleberries.

N: No.

I: Just apples.

N: Yea! apples, beans, corn.

I: Cherries..did they ^{dry} grow cherries?

N: Not in my neighborhood.

I: This tape is going to sound as tho the house is coming apart. O boy!
Well, I've about covered most of the questions. Did either of you
see saw mills? Were they moveable..could they move them from one
area to another?

N: With horses.

I: Uhhuh..so they were moveable.

N: O yea.

I: You know if those sawmills ^{had been} ~~were~~ allowed to continue we wouldn't have
any trees left whatsoever, would we?

N: On the park, you mean. What good are they? No good to anybody now.
They stand there...dying, falling down..dropping...ain't doing nobody
no good.

I: It's a good cycle that they are closing.

N: Hum! I don't know

I: The way ecology is suppose to be..they sorta stay..one rots and gives..

something for the woodpeckers to eat.

N: I don't know. Far more better off to clean it out..looks to me like.

They cleaned the forest..The National Forest out and cut out that thats bad... *dig up* small stuff and breaks it all up. That's no good either. That damages that.

I: Yea, that's true. Don't you think it would all have been a development if the park hadn't taken it over. One great housing development.. everybody clamoring to have...

N: No... *them people would* never sold it..stayed in the hands of the people who had owned it. Handed down generation to generation. These people came along, condemned it, took it at their price.

I: Uhhuh

N: Run the poor people out.

Some people sure did hate to get out of the park...leave their homes.

I: Well, of course!

N: Take it on yourself..how'd you like someone to come along and condemn your place..give you their price for it. ~~I'm~~ not gonna ask you what you want for it. It's not right.

I: No, it isn't.

N: No sir

I: No.. and it's their way of life..all their life.

That's right

I: But, in a lot of cases, particularly in the central section it did mean a tremendous amount because they had run out of ways of making money. They literally had. No more bark left on the trees..there were no trees. Nothing to hunt to make a livelihood that way. No chestnuts..their whole livelihood was gone. So the people in the

in the northern section were a lot better off than those in the central and southern. They were all very bad off...Now they've had a chance. Children have grown up and become doctors and lawyers.. and they wouldn't have had the chance if they had stayed in the mountains. They wouldn't have had the money for the education.

N: Well, things have gotten so out of hand, I reckon...things got so high, til I don't know.

Back in the olden days they lived good.

I: Raised almost everything they ate.

N: They had wood stoves..cut their wood, cut wood and ~~made money~~ ^{burned it}.
Didn't have to buy ^{coal} oil..didn't have to buy ^{oil or} coal. Gas to cook with, and all such things.

I: Yea. Right. And you got your entertainment by visiting people .. which is the way it should have been.

N: Happier than the generation today.

I: Right. When people were sick they helped each other out.

N: *They did*, Did anything they could for them.

I: Bring food in?

N: Sure

I: Uhhum. Well I certainly do thank you..both of you. You both.. Do you know what you've done for me..you've told me more about the Northern section than we've known before.

N: Is that right?

I: Right, uhhum. You know more than Dick Batman does. So you can tell him that.

N: He ought to be up on all that stuff...^{He heard}..His grandparents..His uncle ought to know a lot...Mr. Elmer..Yes he could tell you a lot.

I: Elmer, yea. I'm going to get in touch with him. I'm very anxious to

get..they live .. you said up the hollow..the same way that Dick...

N: Mr. Elmer lives right at the foot of the hill.

They know a lot more than I because they were older.

I: Well you have told me a lot already. So this is marvelous. I
certainly do thank both of you for your time. You've been very
very ^{KIND}~~fine~~...