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### (SNP133) Lola Wood interviewed by Joy K. Stiles

Lola S. Wood

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Interview conducted by Joy Stiles with Lola Wood (Mrs. Dewey R. Wood). Conducted at Mrs. Wood's home, 355 Cloud Street, Front Royal, Virginia, on July 15, 1985.

Stiles (S): O.K.

Wood (W) : That land, after the (unintelligible), belonged to the Leary's, Henry Leary; and William Beatty; and there was another owner in there, Mr. . . . I'm trying to think of Mr. Lem Fox's father - Mr. Thomas Fox. - was one of older ones that I know anything about. He owned a large acreage. The Beatty land: Mrs. Margaret Lewand who was the daughter of William Beatty, inherited alot of that, that led from Harmony Hollow right on up into the ridge. Now I'm going to have to bring you back down the ridge. Mr. Mark Mills - he was a mountain farmer. And Mr. Lem Fox, he was the son of this Mr. Tom Fox. And thats - and they're the ones that have the graveyard there.

S: The Fox Hollow?

W: Yes. Have you been down to that?

J: Oh, yes.

W: And alot of the people who lived up there . . . other names were: Smedleys, Cleggs, (unintell.), a fellow named Judd. And so many of those people were prior to the war between the States, they worked for Mr. Marcus Book who owned Belmont - all of that acreage - see that's in the Park now.

J: Right.

W: And he was one of the most influencial men in this section at that time. He raised cattle, sheep and of course had to have horses; that he had to have to work his plantation there. And cattle. He had a vineyard, and operated the winery. I was always so sorry that the Park destroyed the sites of the vineyard and the winery.

J: Where were these sites?

W: Well, it overlooked Front Royal. It was just right down where the lowest part of the Park. And some of the Fox lands came down there, too; Mr. Cab Fox who was the brother of Mr. Lem Fox; some of the lower acres there. Just about what we call Water Hollow. I don't know what you call it now. And see he gave so much employment to the people who lived up in . . . Merchants, that was another family, some of them

are still around here. That was another family that lived up in there. It was right thickly populated.

J: What is your connection with this whole area?

W: I'm from Harmony Hollow. I'm a descendent of John Beatty who came in there prior to 1825. And I still have my own place (unintell.). I'm a descendent of Pomeroy's. We were descendents of Peter LeHugh, the founder of Front Royal. His granddaughter married Richard Pomeroy (unintell.).

J: Pomeroy was a name that Mrs. Poe mentioned quite often. Also when she was talking about how Dickey Ridge got it's name.

W: Well there's been various stories, none of them I can give you the facts on.

J: Well, what are some of the stories you've heard?

W: Well I don't think they're worth repeating! 'Cause there's just no fact to them!

J: She had mentioned that the folks on one side say that there was a Richard Pomeroy . .

W: That the eagle carried over the mountain (laughter). He disappeared. That was it. And . . . it was a story that some of his grandchildren made up; greatgrandchildren. There was no fact to it.

J: O.K.

W: He disappeared. He was an old man, he had become senile and he just disappeared from his home one day. His wife was out at the spring house - churning - she was a distance from the house. And the youngest child could not persuade him to come back home. And then when he got the news to his mother, she sent to the upper fields for where the boys were - working. He was never found. Everybody hunted for him, but . . .

J: Was his wife Francis?

W: His wife was Mary.

J: And then she mentioned Richard Fish. Living on the other side of the ridge.

W: I was going to say that was on the other side of the mountain. That's getting down on the Browntown side.

J: She said that each side - Harmony Hollow and the Browntown side said that their

Richard was the one that Dickey Hill had been named after.

W: It's just like some people tell that yarn about Gooney Manor being named after a dog. But it wasn't; it was a king's grant. The Manor of Gooney, just like Leeds was the manor of Leeds.

J: When did you say that John Beatty had settled in Harmony Hollow?

W: In the 1820's. In 1825 is when he obtained the place that I have, but he had owned another place prior to that. Early 1800's is when he came there. And so did Richard Pomeroy. See, Richard Pomeroy's land was out of the Taylor tract. Lazarus Taylor's tract. On this other side of Dickey Ridge that we're talking about was off of Gooney Manor.

J: Did you live in Harmony Hollow when you were growing up?

W: I lived there until I was 15.

J: Until you were 15?

W: About 14, I think.

J: Were you living in Harmony Hollow, or were you living in a section that is now part of the National Park?

W: No, I was living in what's Harmony Hollow and I still have that acreage although the National Park got about 300 acres from my grandmother . . . (unintell.).

J: Do you mind if I ask you how old you are?

W: No, indeed. I'm just as proud of my age as . . . if it goes on 20 more years, I'll be just as proud. I'm 79.

J: O.K. 79 years young.

W: (laughter) No, it's beginning to work the other way.

J: Do you remember anything that stands out in your mind when you were living in Harmony Hollow area? Anything that you knew about the people who lived a little higher up on the ridge?

W: I knew them. They came to school down in Harmony Hollow.

J: Where was the school?

W: It's still there. It's up on 601.

J: 601 just past the 4-H Center?

W: Yes.

J: O.K. It's closed up now?

W: Oh yes, it's been closed several years. And Ed Hickerson owns it. It was sold.

J: I have seen that building. Was it known as the Harmony Hollow School?

W: Harmony Hollow School. It's also a descendent of John Beaty.

J: About how many people were going to school? Could you make a guess?

W: It averaged somewhere ~~from~~ about 45 to 60.

J: That many?

W: Well yes! Because see it pulled from both sides of the mountain.

J: Would people come all the way over from Browntown?

W: No. You see what's called Lands Run - the falls there at Lands Run, it's where Gooney rises. That divided the Browntown from Harmony Hollow. (unintell.)

From that school house there was roads that led to Browntown. Some was about 2 miles and if you went around up Rt. 604 I believe it was just about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

And see they all hit a road that was called Appalachian Trail then, that crossed over from Chesters Gap. So you could really travel. You could go up those roads and go on all the way up Miller's Mountain, take in Little Hogback and Big Hogback on mountain roads. But you can't now.

J: Sounds great.

W: People that lived on what I call the Chester's Gap side came on down to school: the Mills, the Fox's, all came down to Harmony Hollow; Sealocks, they lived just below the Fox's, and the Mills . . .

J: How many Fox families were there?

W: The original . . . they were . . . the only two that I know were Mr. Tom Fox, the old one - course I never saw him, he was dead I don't know how many years. But his son Lemley Fox owned the place. And he had a large family. And some of them are still living. His last son died this past year. . . (unintell.)

J: Do you remember anything in particular about when they were talking about forming

a National Park?

W: You don't want me to tell you.

J: Go ahead.

W: It was a very sore subject.

J: Really?

W: They was taking our land. They didn't give us any information . . . (unintell.)

Made them move away. It was their land.

J: Did they get a fair compensation for their land or not?

W: Compared to today's prices it wasn't anything. No, because there were alot of lawsuits; no one in Harmony Hol[ow] had a lawsuit, but further on up by Miller's Mountain there was folks that did. The price didn't bother them as much . . . as . . . just . . .

J: Just the land itself?

W: Mmm humm. Giving up homes. See, it all happened so quick, it stunned them so they didn't even think about preserving graveyards. They never thought it would have to be done.

J: Are there any other graveyards in that area besides the Fox . . .

W: Oh yes. But they're lost now. Just like the one that's there at the 4-H Center.

J: There was one there?

W: Oh yes. All the stones, when the Government took that in 1911, the first thing they did was move all the stones 'cause they were field stones. It was not a granite tombstone. The Waters used to have one - oh, just a lot of family graveyards. Like Mr. Nathaniel Fox - he was a Confederate soldier. He and his wife - I don't know what other members of the family - were buried under a cherry tree that he picked out there on their place. The Waters had a big graveyard; alot of them right down the line.

J: It's a shame; I wish it hadn't been that way.

W: Yes, it's a shame it was. They burnt their houses so they didn't even have anything to hike back to see. Houses were torn down. Now the farthest they got down in

what we call Harmony Hollow between the two ridges was Hickerson's home.

J: Is that the building tha's still standing now?

W: No, none of them are standing!

J: They're all gone?

W: None. See, Uncle Billy Beatty owned so much of the land. He had I don't know how many children and each one inherited land. Well, they got the land of every one except one who had already sold their land and moved to Front Royal. Got Mr. William Beatty's land, Mr. Lem Beatty's, Uncle Lem's, Uncle Lorn's, Mr. Sam Beatty, and took in what had belonged to another family. Another one of the Beatty families. They'd already sold theirs and moved away long ago, because of their children, when they had to leave; their father died, their mother married again and moved to another section. So they've got five tracts right there in one family.

J: How old were you when all this was going on?

W: Oh my gosh! 1936, 1935 or 6. I was living here in town when that was going on.

J: Are you - just out of curiosity - are you sorry that there is a National Park there now?

W: What I'm sorry about is . . . that, the . . . nice Drive - I think it's good. But I am so sorry that the peoples were upset on their land like they were. Course now, it seems my children know nothing differently. They don't experience what I saw. I would like for it to be on something like the Blue Ridge Parkway: a beautiful Drive, but not take the land. I know my grandmother was not happy when they took something she worked awfully hard for. It was a difference in experience, in experiencing a nice Drive and the Park now.

J: How did your grandmother support herself?

W: Oh, well, she had, down in the holler she owned the place that I now have. And they farmed it. My mother and father lived there with her. They raised stock, they had orchards, why Harmony Hollow at one time was mostly an orchard. Beautiful place to see. Nobody was wealthy, but they were happy.

J: Sounds good to me.



W: Well, see, we'd already experienced the Front Royal Remount Depot coming in 1911.

At that time they'd taken all the lower end of Harmony Hollow; just cleaned out all the Maddoxes. The Maddoxes owned from where you leave Rt. 522 and go to the 4-H Center.

J: The whole way?

W: They owned all the way except a little bit on the right. And then finally they got the 4-H Center. My great grandfather owned it. One of the Billy Beatty sons had inherited it. When he left to go to Canada, my great-grandfather, John Hamilton Pomeroy bought it. When his estate was settled - he died in 1903, I don't know when it was settled - the Maddoxes bought that, so they owned all the way from the highway up to the 4-H center. And it wiped out everything on the left side of the (unintell.). Their graveyards and took everything on the right except the son, a Mr. Charlie Maddox's land, which is still owned by different people: Glascocks, and Voghts, and Hickersons. (unintell.) in this whole area.

J: Were the Foxes also farmers?

W: Oh, yes, and stock growers. He was a prosperous mountain farmer. See, mountain farming is different from valley farming.

J: How so?

W: Well, first thing . . .

J: I know the land's different!

W: That's it. And they could not use modern machinery and things. They had to depend on the horse and the plow. Things like that. He was - Mr. Lem Fox was a prosperous farmer.

J: And you say he raised stock also?

W: Yes.

J: What in particular? Cattle?

W: Cattle. And he may have had sheep too. See, I don't remember. Although I know he was living; I remember some of his children.

J: You said he had a number of children?



W: Yes.

J: How many?

W: Oh, I don't know if I can recall all of them now. There was Ollie, and Billy, and Bloomfield and Henry and Thomas and Lemuel, and Gertrude and Catherine - That's 9; I don't know how many we're missing.

J: So it was more than 9?

W: I won't say that there wasn't. I won't say that ~~there~~ there was not; I just don't know. Because see, I didn't see too much of them; cause they weren't - they were all out of school and everything; none of them weren't in school. I wasn't - even the youngest one was a World I veteran.

J: He must have had a wife who didn't tire easily to raise 9 kids!

W: She was a good mother, wasn't she!

J: After the National Park was created, did you ever go up to the Dickey Ridge Lodge?

W: Yes.

J: Do you know when that was put in?

W: Soon after, it was one of the first things that got going.

J: What was it like when you first went up there?

W: Had a big fireplace, stone fireplace, a room that you could dance in, had an information center. It was quite different from what it is now, but it was something that they needed at that time.

J: We don't serve meals right now! Did you go up there often?

W: Not real often. I mainly went on times when we'd go up sometime and have a picnic. No, I didn't go too often. Sometimes relatives or friends would come and I'd take them over the Drive. No, I had my cabin in Harmony Hollow.

J: O.K. Anything else outstanding that - something that stands out in your mind about the area when you think about it?

W: Well, it was cleared; so much more of it was clear then.

J: The land itself?

W: In farmland. The Mills - I did mention them, didn't I?

J: Mm hmm.

W: 'Cause, just right down over the hill, on Gooney Manor side, place called the (unintell.), Mr. Henry Mills . . . graveyard there, too.

J: I assume you walked to school?

W: Sure, 'cause I lived as close to it as from here to Main Street.

J: O.K., that's not very far at all.

W: Not for me, but it was for a lot of the others. Now some of them walked three and four miles. As much as three, anyway. And sometimes the snow would be so deep and the sleet such . . . icy that they couldn't make it. Everybody didn't get to school every day. School started in October then and closed in April.

J: Was that because of farming?

W: Well, that was all the longer the country sessions were. And alot of them didn't start to school until the last apple was picked and the last shock of corn cut and stacked.

J: I wouldn't want to lose free labor!

W: Well, that's the way the families worked together.

J: Can you describe for me more . . . when you say that the land was cleared and farmland -

W: Well you see, they had to have so much cleared acreage so they could raise the crops to feed their cattle, and horses and then they had their orchards for saleable products. And they had their cattle that they sold.

J: What about the rocks?

W: Well, they were used to that. They didn't think about that when that holds the moisture when it rains. You don't have droughts like you do in alot of places.

J: Never thought of that.

W: Lot of the fences were stone. You see signs of those yet, don't you?

J: Oh, yes. The people ask alot of questions about why would people take the time to build a wall or a fence? Why not just put up piles?

W: No, that was an art, making that rock fence. It was something they took pride in doing. They still do. There's been a new stone fence built in Harmony Hollow

that's worth going to see.

J: Where?

W: When you get to the school house, you turn right and go to the end of the line and its on the right hand side. And I don't know what the boy's name is that built it - he married a Jenkins girl. Built a house up on the hill. And I goed up there with somebody last week; first time I'd been up that far for several years. One of John Beatty's descendents was here, and she and I went up to Harmony Hollow and I went the whole gamut since I knew you were a Pomeroy and Beatty both. I saw such beautiful things.

J: Did you like going back to visit?

W: To the Hollow? Well, yes! As long as there's some people there I know. You see, I still have my cabin up there.

J: My husband - he's also a park ranger - and our boss used to be Bob Johnson. I don't know if you know Bob and Stella Johnson? They live down in Luray now. But he lived down on the east side of Thornton Hollow and his dad sold his land off also, for the Park. But he bought some land -

W: I read about him in one of the books that Tom Floyd wrote, I believe. Tom Floyd was a good, truthful writer on the Park. Some of them lie a good part. Carolyn Reeder's good.

J: I've read some of her books.

W: That's something that I get to sell in our Confederate Museum down here. Believe you me, before I put any book about the Park, I read it first.

J: So you work down at the Confederate Museum?

W: I'm a member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and am one of the trustees.

J: Hmm!

W: So I scan those Park books before they go on sale.

J: If you were to see an exhibit up at the Visitor Center about the area, what would you like to see in it?

W: Factual.

J: That's taken for granted. What would you like to see in it?

W: Well, I don't know what you mean. Would it be in the form of posters, or things that you find in the area?

J: It would be more posters and pictures.

W: Well, I certainly would think you would include a picture of Fox graveyard.

J: O.K.

W: You can't get the picture of the place like it once was - can't get that!

J: It's hard, but I want this to be something that will educate people who have never been here before, and help them to appreciate what was there.

W: What people gave up to get what they see.

J: The Park is taking a much keener interest in that. They're getting questions that they can't answer.

W: They destroyed so much they can't get back. Like Belmont. I would love for you to have seen that. The beautiful old homes, and those vineyards, and the winery. Marcus Book is really worth some attention. He lived right down at this end of Dickey Ridge. Have you made a study of him in any way?

J: No, I haven't. This is the first thing that they've tried to do.

W: During the war between the States he was impressed. You know what that means, impressment?

J: It's being impressed into service, I know that.

W: It was impressment into service by the Confederate States government. And it was his duty to see the people in that area whose husbands or sons who were away in the war and needed medical attention, or food - we didn't have Marshall Plan then - that they needed any assistance whatsoever, he was to see that they got it. Another duty he had was to secure things for the Confederate Army. And after the war, it wasn't just over for him. He had to be given his citizenship back by the President of the United States. So we have the documents in our museum, signed by the President.

J: It's Marcus Book?

W: Marcus Book of Belmont. See, through this area, there were very few slave owners and the only ones that had them had very few. 'Cause see this - they didn't have the

big plantations like in the South where you needed them. (unintell.) the white people in that area did not own a large acreage and alot that had small acreage they could (unintell.) they weren't needed one way, still, it was extra work they got. . .

J: Do you know whether many of the men that were living in Harmony Hollow did fight in the War?

W: Which war? The war between the States?

J: Mm hmm.

W: Yes, I should say they did! The three Beatty brothers went, four or five Maddox was in, there was five Pomeroy's in; Mr. Lem Fox was in, but he got out of the service. Went back home to keep that place going. He was one of the ones that furnished Marcus Book some things that he needed! And, uh, Maddox - was one of them that was killed and his daddy went to Upperville and brought him back and buried him up there. I guess that would take care of - there was Smedleys; I'm also thinking one of those boys were killed. And Boldens, there was two of the Boldens in.

J: When you were living in Harmony Hollow - before you moved out at 15, what did you do when you weren't going to school?

W: Listen, they gave me plenty of work to do! (laughter) Had plenty of playtime but also had - there's usually work around the home that a child did. We didn't have water in the house and water had to be carried. Wood had to be carried in. Occasionally some weeds had to be pulled out of the garden. My father had the - he was a merchant and postmaster there, and I beat my time between my home and the other grandmother's. They owned Arco, which was the post office, the first site of Arco.

J: What did you do in your playtime?

W: Well, what's any little girl do: play with dolls, play with other children - we'd get together, have games. There was neighbors close all the time, and they all had children.

J: Why did you move into town?

W: My father had a serious illness and wasn't physically able to do the farming, the

farm work that he once had and we moved then so I could go to high school. There was no school buses then.

J: Where was the high school in town then?

W: Right down where E. Wilson Morrison Elementary is.

J: O.K. Right on Crescent Street?

W: Crescent Street. You know where the first one was?

J: Uh huh.

W: It's still standing on South Royal.

J: Which one?

W: The three story building, brick, right down near to Joel Burt's. The old Presbyterian Church is on the corner of Jackson and South Royal and Joe Burt's house I think is next. And then somebody's built in between there a lovely three story house. One of my uncle was superintendent of public schools.

J: I'll have to look for that the next time I go down the street.

W: Well it's there. Now the front has been changed; I think a Mr. Campbell, Bertie Campbell owns it now. Through the years the first floor front's been changed (unintell.).

J: Anything else that just comes to your mind?

W: I don't know what you'd want to know. About the Park?

J: About the Park, if you think of things.

W: See, we have conflict then, over Front Royal Remount and Shenandoah National Park. We're just right down in the Hollow and the United States government completely surrounds us. Have you ever thought of that?

J: No, I haven't!

W: Our Hollow's surrounded by the United States government. I used to say they'd never get us in corporation, but I'm afraid they will if something happened to the 4-H up there. 'Cause they put town water up there. Taking the water from the Hollow and taking it back to it.

J: It sounds like something the government would get involved in.

W: Uh huh!



J: I'll tell you, I've only worked for them for a few years but I've -

W: Learned what they do!

J: You just shake your head at times.

W: I know you would. It's a great waste, in a lot of ways. I'm trying to think; now there used to be quite a few mills in Harmony Hollow, so the people didn't have to bring their grain to Front Royal to get it ground into flour and meal. I know there was three: one at the John Beaty place, John had one; and then his son one down was a miller and then the other one I have no idea who the first people were. First I ever heard it told about was Cooper's Mill.

J: Were they all for grain?

W: Yes. They all had the mill races - water power.

J: Were there any lumber mills?

W: Mm hmm, my grandfather, that was his business, timber. He had a saw mill and a shingle mill - John Beaty Pomeroy.

(tape ran out)

J: I guess you would if you needed that many trees to support yourself.

W: Well, you see, timber men then, they would not cut but 'cept in the winter when the sap was down. It was their belief that the sap had to be down for your wood, your timber to be good, the lumber to be good. Other (unintell.) had sap in it, they believed that it would warp and twist; wasn't good, and it wouldn't last like it ought to, wouldn't turn out good lumber (unintell.)

J: When the apples were harvested from the orchards what would happen to them then?

W: To the apples? Did you ever see a barrel headed and the - apples put in the barrel and the head put on and put the hoops on, completely. No? The majority of them were barrelled. And they were hauled here to town, in wagons, and sold to apple dealers. Sometimes apple dealers would come, apple buyers, (unintell.) and sometimes (unintell.). My uncle had a large orchard, and my father, my grandmother had orchards. And we also, my father and uncle had a brother in High Point, North Carolina and he was a merchant. And they sold theirs to him, except one time Uncle Charlie (unintell.) and they said it wasn't so good. But (unintell.) the



apples were . . . shipped to D.C (unintell)

J: By railroad?

W: Yes. Same way with the chickens, the turkeys and the eggs. There was a cold storage on Water Street (unintell.). Cattle would be driven down the street; lot of them would go to the North and Western Station.

J: The one right in downtown Front Royal?

W: That's right (unintell.). And I saw something I'll bet you've never seen.

J: What's that?

W: Turkey . . . droves. The people in Rappahannock - now, people in Harmony Hollow did not raise turkeys on a big scale like they did in Rappahannock. And they would have turkey drove. The lead turkey had a little bell on it, and the others would follow.

J: Because he had a bell?

W: I guess that was it. But they all gave the signal; they learned it some way. And there'd be turkey droves, two or three families would go together and the drove would last two days. Drive over the ridge, they'd drive them in from Huntley and Flint Hill, and Washington, Virginia.

J: I guess if you're walking it's going to take that long.

W: And those turkeys, on their last night out, they would roost in trees out here on Criser Rd.

J: Must have been real quiet in the morning!

W: Well, turkeys don't make as much noise as a rooster. But they'd be on their way to N and W to be shipped to Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia.

J: How big of a flock would it be?

W: Oh, there would be several hundred! Two or three families.

J: That must have been a sight!

W: It was. I'm so glad I got to see it. And believe you me, if they passed by at recess or noontime, they all headed for the bench to look at those turkeys. And if one passed out - sometimes they would, the turkeyd, and they'd just pick it up and the first house they got to well they'd just give it to the person in it, and they'd have turkey.

J: I guess you'd want to be home on that day, then.

W: (unintell.) . . . he lived close to where they roosted, on Criser Road. . . (unintell.)

J: The orchard that's up in Harmony Hollow now, how does that compare in size with when

you were growing up?

W: That's one orchard, it's larger now than it was then, but that is the one big orchard now, where'd there just been dozens of them.

J: That many?

W: Yes. Montgomerys had an orchard, let's see, in my memory the Maddoxes didn't have big orchards because the government had already moved them off. (unintell.) . . . two orchards, that's nine (unintell.) was 11 (unintell.) there was 2, that's 15, Hickersons had an orchard, 16, Warren Beaty had one, 17, (unintell.) they had one it's 18. It was quite a sight when all the blossoms were out.

J: It must have smelled beautiful.

W: It did and lilacs bloomed (unintell.).

J: I wish I could have seen it.

W: It's a little different from what it looks like now!

J: I mean, there's something to be said for how the area looks today, but I'm interested in how it used to look.

W: Used to look - people took pride in their homes. They had a nice - not mansion types, but they had nice country homes. And then on the mountain, there's another, Fox's orchard and the - we called it the Bob Lewen orchard, and the Mark Mills orchard. There's three there on Dickey Ridge.

J: I read that, I guess it was they were talking about Mr. Carter . . .

W: Well Carter bought the Lewen orchard. And Carter, one time Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey owned an orchard up there; I think it's the Mark Mills orchard. But see, when I first remember, the houses that you could look up from down in Harmony Hollow, first one on the left was where Bob Lewen and his sister, who married a Mr. Anderson, lived. And the next one was Mark Mills. And they were two big orchards. And then Foxes. Now I never did know exactly where the land (unintell.) and Merchants I know Mr. Merchant owned land up in there. But they were smaller acreages. I couldn't see those on Fox Hollow. Could see the lights at night from down here.

J: It wouldn't be a whole lot of lights since there wasn't electricity.

W: Well, it wasn't on too late at night, but you could see lots of lights. How far up in Harmony Hollow have you been?

J: I have been on 601 out to the school, and the other way up to where the Park boundary is.

W: To the right?

J: Yes.

W: Well that's where this fence is.

J: O.K., I'm going to have to go back there, because it's been more than a year since I was up that way.

W: You see, my land's right in that, uh . . .

J: Between 601 and . . .

W: (unintell.) both sides . . . I sold off some tracts. I had bought my . . . John Beatty tract . . . several years when they had two houses on it and . . . (unintell.)

J: I don't understand that.

W: I don't either but it. . . (unintell.) Well, . . .

J: Unless you have something else that strikes you, I think you've told me an awful lot that's going to help me, and I do appreciate your letting me come over.

W: And if you need to come back, do. I don't mind.

J: O.K. As I said I didn't even plan on coming here, but Mrs. Poe said, "You call her today and she'll let you come over and talk." She's a very nice woman.

W: Miss Poe.

J: Miss?

W: Uh huh. Nice little old maid.

J: A very nice woman.

W: Course, she's a descendent of (unintell.).

J: She, uh, I got in touch with her just because we've lived here now for three years, and I've been reading her articles in the Sentinal.

W: Where do you live?

J: We live in one of the two houses right off Criser Road.

W: Park houses?

J: Uh huh.

W: The Pott's house?

J: Now, the Pott's house was the one that was over on Old Belmont Road, wasn't it? These are two that were built about 1965.

W: (unintell.)

J: I read her article on Harmony Hollow. Well, I'm going to take this back to the Park and . . .

(Tape removed; Wood began talking again, tape restarted. Talking about "the mountain people".)

W: . . . some of them had smaller acreages, but they knew how to get that living from the mountain. Now, when corn planting time came, they'd come over in Harmony Hollow, and work for the people who needed labor. When thinning time came, they'd come down and help the people.

J: How do you mean, thinning?

W: Well, corn. You usually plant four or five grains and you have to thin it out to two to have a good crop. They'd come back for that. Alright now, the mountaineer believes that during dog days is when you do your grubbing of the land. You couldn't get 'em to pull up a weed any other time. But they'd come back to do this what they call grubbing.

J: When you say dog days, you mean July and August?

W: Well, it's 40 days and its about August. And then, uh, you see when the crops would start coming in in the fall, and the apples would be ready, and those who had peach orchards and some of them did; my uncle had a large peach orchard. Sold it to Harmony Hollow Orchard; they would come back to pick peaches. Some of them would come down as far as up in Page County, and then they'd be there to pick apples and to help with whatever work was to do with the apples. They would come back to cut corn, they would come back to shuck corn. You see, there was five different things that I can think of that the person with a small acreage could do for people. Alright, they owned their homes, or if they didn't, their fathers and mothers of the young ones did. At their own place they would raise their hogs for their meat. They would have their cows and the chickens for their milk and butter. They would have a calf to sell or keep for a cow. They were totally self sufficient. They knew what to do and they'd have their gardens. There was always, uh, huckleberries and berries from the first strawberry on, that these people knew how to pick, and can, preserve, and jellies. There was no paupers up there!

They were not striving to be millionaires! They were striving to have a happy life. And they did. 'Round the holidays they might run a good doubling and have their own moonshine, they'd make their own wine. They were a happy, contented people. You can imagine what it meant to 'em when they were driven out just like that (Wood claps sharply).

A few of 'em even committed suicide. Several people, in one family (unintell.) suicide. And that was the same thing all over this Park; it wasn't just one place; they just couldn't understand how that happened. They had their own amusement, they had mountain musicians in their families, they'd have their dances around the holidays, Christmas.

J: Where would they have their dances?

W: At their homes! Big old hoe downs! They didn't have to go to a hall and have that junk that teenagers, and older ones have to do now! It was just a whole way of life just wiped out in a little while.

J: Did they come down to school?

W: Sure they came to school! There was very few illiterates among them. Now, there was no high school graduates but most everyone knew how to read and write. That was the days before compulsory education, too.

J: Did you have any close friends that were -

W: I hope so! (laughter) You're like a doctor to ask me if I had a friend, not long ago. So a little later I went to Winchester to take one over to see her son who'd had surgery, major surgery that morning. On the way back to the car I flopped out. I wound up in Richmond with open heart surgery so I come back and met Dr. (Unintell.) and said, "See, I had one friend". So I'll tell you the same thing! (laughter)

J: Well, I meant up with what you would call the mountain people.

W: Oh, sure! I knew nearly all of 'em. See, my daddy had the store and the post office. I could loaf around there, as well as go to school there. They came from right up on top of the mountain. Both mountains came to school. Now Mark Mills had more children going to school and he sold his place and moved over in the valley, over in Rockland. Not as many children came down that mountain when I was going to school as later when the (unintell.) lived there. (unintell.) And the Foxes had no children in my day, going to school. Now my mother went to school there, was age of the Fox children. (unintell.) And Borden had a sawmill up on top of the mountain, later, in my day. And there was quite a few people moved up in there to work for him and they came down to school. Two or three families. And there were people that worked for the others that had orchards. I attended school right well.

J: Who was the teacher?

W: Oh, my mother. I went to school with her there, and in my time, she was a teacher and Miss Margaret Wade and Miss Betsy Henson and then Miss Emma Moore, the last teacher I had there. And then her sister, Miss Effie Moore, taught until we closed the school. (unintell.) Now they're bussing them all in school . . . in town.

J: When did they close that school?

W: Oh, right off I couldn't tell you. I guess - I think it was in the 40's, but I maybe shouldn't say that. Either late 30's or early 40's (unintell.). At one time Harmony Hollow had more teachers than any other place in Warren County. More teachers came out of Harmony Hollow.

J: It says something about the education.

W: Um hmm. (Unintell.) . . . who was the school superintendent taught there once, and his brother taught there, Mr. (unintell.). They had some right well educated men, and teachers who taught there. And they encouraged them to prepare for teaching. See, you didn't have to go to all this college, then. The normals - what they called teachers normals, came during the summer months, educators would come in and conduct normal courses. What they called normal courses but they were here in Front Royal (unintell.)

J: Obviously you got a good education out of all of this.

W: I quit here after high school.

J: This is so interesting!

W: Well, I was heading for college. I reckon I'd of had to gone to Harrisonburg. But I wanted to go to a business school in Pennsylvania and my mother was taken ill and my father was (unintell.) And she wouldn't (unintell.) And at that time I had a grandmother and a step great-grandmother that was living with us so daddy asked me to stay out one year, until we could get things lined up, 'cause thought mother wouldn't even be with us. But she fooled us, and recovered. But I'd gone to work then and didn't want to go back to school!

J: Where were you working?

W: I worked at a ladies shop in town. I went to work for half a day and I worked Saturday mornings.

J: Well, look at me. I was trying to find a steady summer job while I was getting my schooling, and I got a job with the Park Service and I got married, so here I am.

W: Did you finish your college?

J: Yeah, I finished a master's degree as a matter of fact.

W: Whereabouts?

J: I did my four years of college at William and Mary, over in Williamsburg.

W: My daughter's a graduate of William and Mary. She (unintell.).

J: That was my first introduction to Virginia. Then I went to -

W: What state are you from?

J: I'm from New Jersey.

W: What year did you finish school at William and Mary?

J: 1979.

W: Oh, that was before - she was out a long time before you!

J: And then I did two years at Smith College. It's a women's school up in Massachusetts.

W: Uh huh. Now my other daughter got married when she was 16; she quit college. They offered her a couple of (unintell.) . . . then went into interior decorating (unintell.). And then she's had several courses in different things. All during which she's had three children (unintell.) You either get it or you don't.

J: Sometimes you finish and you end up doing something totally different.

W: I seen alot of them finish and then not do diddly squat! Failures, complete failures!

J: I hope I'm not a failure!

W: You're working, you're working!

J: My mom keeps saying "When are you going to use your education?"

W: Well, you use it every day. A person isn't really - they never through getting interested in things - they never gets through educating themselves.

J: That's very true, as I'm finding out this year especially; this is a new job for me with the Park.

W: Have you ever been down the Blue Ridge Parkway?

J: Uh huh.

W: They have a paper (unintell.) Have you seen that in the paper?

J: Huh uh, I haven't seen it.



W: (Unintell.) here that day. They were going around and interviewing people my age and older, and younger about the mountain stories.

J: (reading from "Mountain Laurel", a paper published for the Blue Ridge Parkway) "The Day Grandma Got Her New Washer".

W: I read that one (unintell.) . . . barrel (unintell) put your water and your clothes in it and it just kept doing this: (unintell) only time I thought I'd (unintell)

J: That would make for a very long day!

W: But they had it that way; they didn't have to get ready to go to the Eastern Star, or the Red Cross, or DAR, anything!

J: Isn't that true! I'll copy down that address (of the newspaper).

W: That's a good one!

J: I'm going to drop them a note. See the craft days, I asked for a day off from work so I could go out to Belle Grove next week.

W: When you get down that close to (unintell) Hollow, that's God's country in there.

J: Well, I really appreciate your help. I have a -

W: Request?

(End of tape)