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(SNP030) Lucille Blose Coffman interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Lucille Blose Coffman

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D.S.: There are a lot of Bloses around Elkton.
D.S.: Did you know Marvin Blose?
L.C.: Well, he is my brother. (Laughing)
D.S.: Is that so!
L.C.: He was down here yesterday ... not yesterday, the day before yesterday.
D.S.: Really?
Mr.C.: Down here Monday.
L.C.: He said Monday.
D.S.: Isn't there a lot of Bloses that has a very good cattle? ... Raise some good cattle. ... I can't think of their names. They live almost......
L.C.: Toward Harrisonburg?
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: Yea, we are distant related to them too.
D.S.: Uh huh.
L.C.: They run a dairy farm.
D.S.: You lived in Naked Creek?
L.C.: Yea, I lived at Naked Creek. I was born and raised there. I stayed there until I was between 15 and 16.
D.S.: Uh huh.
L.C.: Then we moved to Elkton.
D.S.: What made your family move out?
L.C.: Well, my father's health was getting bad and he couldn't work on the farm any longer, so he opened a little grocery store in town.
D.S.: Great! How many were in your family?
L.C.: Just my brother and I.
D.S.: Didn't a lot of the people have large families that lived up there?
L.C.: Well, no I wouldn't say so. It wasn't but two in our family ... Koontz's had four. Eppard's had a bunch of kids. ... I don't know where they all are.
Mr.C.: What do you call a large family?
D.S.: Well, what I heard up Naked Creek, and that's what I'm trying to find out, ... there were some that had twenty.
L.C.: Oh, my greatness!
D.S.: (Laughing) Yea, that's a lot of children. How big a farm did your father have?
L.C.: Did he have a hundred and eighty acres or two hundred eighty? One hundred eighty, I reckon.
Mr.C.: One hundred eighty acres.
D.S.: One hundred eighty acres. ... He had that in ... He didn't farm all of that did he?
L.C.: Well, he had some wood land. ... I don't know how much of that he had in wood land. Not ... a whole lot. ... He farmed most of it.
Mr.C.:
D.S.: In pasture and crop land?
Mr.C.: Yea.
D.S.: Right.
Mr.C.:
D.S.: Yes, they used plows and so on, didn't they?
D.S.: Yea. Uh, ...what was raised principally? Did they raise any cane and make sorgumn?

L.C.: But, we didn't as a general thing ... didn't every year. ... I know we did once or twice when I was a kid, we raised cane and we boiled sorgumn at least once.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That must have been a terrible job making the sorgumn. Do you recall how it was done?

L.C.: didn't have anything to do with it (Laughed). So, I don't know. I just looked on.

D.S.: (Laughed) Uhhuh. Yea, you were too young, really.

L.C.: I had to blade the cane, I remember that.

Mr.C.: It wasn't any more difficult than any other crop to harvest.

D.S.: Yea.

L.C.: Of course you had to have a thing to grind the stalk up and get the syrup. Then you boiled it down so long and that's all it was to it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh, boy!

L.C.: As far as I know.

Mr.C.: They didn't grind it, they pressed it.

L.C.: Well anyway, ... whatever they did, they got the juice out of it.


Mr.C.: A horse drawn .... the press was set up in a certain place and

D.S.: It's a fire somewhere.

Mr.C.: ...it had a long tounge on it about 15 feet long and it was horse drawn. Walk around in circles.

D.S.: Yea.
a large tray.

Mr. C.: Uhhuh. Then was it put in jars?
Mr. C.: Put in barrels.
D.S.: Put in barrels? You know these things were always put in barrels, how did they keep them from leaking?
Mr. C.: Oh, it was no problem there. Just like whiskey barrels ... never leaked ... same kind of barrels. Anybody could find ...
D.S.: Were they made out of Oak?
Mr. C.: Yea.
L.C.: Hooks ... around them to hold them together.
D.S.: Used barrels for their cider before it turned to vinegar and molasses poured into barrels. Now, that's a different kind of barrel than a flour barrel?
Mr. C.: A flour barrel is not worth mud. It's made out of cheaper material.
D.S.: Yea.
Mr. C.: 
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: barrels outside. The same kind of barrels we used. People would order them for cider and vinegar.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: They keep many years. Probably last a generation.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: We had two apple orchards.
D.S.: I was going to come to that. What kind of apples?
L.C.: Oh, we had a variety of winter apples, early apples, late apples and June ... and golden ... and .....
D.S.: Milams?
L.C.: Milams, and we had, not a real early apple, it was called a Woodpecker apple. (Laughed) I don't know where that ever came from ... that's what we called it. It was there ... I don't know, maybe it came up from seed. ... Anyhow, it was a good apple.

D.S.: Oh! Maybe that's why it was called a Woodpecker ... maybe a Woodpecker planted it. (Laughed)
L.C.: Woodpecker, maybe they did. I know they pecked the tree a lot.
D.S.: Yea.

Mr.C.: tree is attract insects.
L.C.: 
D.S.: My goodness! (Whistled)
L.C.: And we had strawberries and blackberries.
D.S.: Huckleberries?
L.C.: We didn't have no huckleberries. We had dew berries, the ones that grow low out in the field.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: Pasture fields, ... not pasture fields, ... they grew in fields when you cut wheat off or something.
L.C.: before.
D.S.: When ... with this pasture that you had, ... you must had quite a number of cattle?
L.C.: Well, we didn't keep a whole lot of cattle. We never had four or five cows or maybe 2 or 3 young cattle.
D.S.: What did you do with the excess milk?
L.C.: Feed it to the pigs.
D.S.: Oh!
L.C.: And, the cats.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: We drank a lot of milk too. For we used milk for a lot of things.
D.S.: Yea.
Mr. C.: We traded butter at the store for things.
L.C.: Yea. We took the cream off, of course, and made butter and sale ... had butter for sale.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Yea. Did you sell eggs too?
L.C.: Yea, had eggs to sell too.
D.S.: Yea. How about hams? Did you sell any hams?
L.C.: We didn't sell any of our hams, we ate our hams. They were too good to sell.
D.S.: (Laughed) Did you do your own smoking?
L.C.: We didn't smoke our meat either, we cured it with sugar.
Mr. C.: And salt.
L.C.: Salt.
D.S.: Sugar and salt? That is the better way, isn't it? How long would that take? For them to cure?
L.C.: I don't know, ... do you know?
Mr. C.: Yea, the salt is what is to draw the moisture out and in ordinary weather .... a ham will dry out pretty well so that you don't have to do much more to it for after about six weeks. The sugar, of course, is not a preservative but just to give it a little better flavor. Sweeten.
L.C.: We used pepper with it too, didn't you?

Mr.C.: I know your side your pepper. Most people around there used pretty much the same methods. It was ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: Just like people from Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Dutch for instance, had certain ways of doing things and keeping things. And moved here in Virginia, you will find that the neighbors who lived most of their life with a little vary.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr.C.: People had a lot of company in those days. They raised their own meat, they probably could raised some to sell but the ideal was to have plenty on hand because if people had company they planned on you staying to eat.

D.S.: YES! Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: And there was always plenty to eat.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

Mr.C.: My father was a very fit person and was a blacksmith.

D.S.: AH! A blacksmith too.

Mr.C.: He didn't do it for anybody else but for his own use ...

L.C.: Shoed his own horses.

Mr.C.: He could do about anything.

L.C.: ... mend the kids shoes.

D.S.: Yea?

Mr.C.: About anything ... make shoes.

L.C.: Yea, ... he could make work shoes.

Mr.C.: I believe ...

D.S.: Would he tan hides himself?

L.C.: No, he'd have to buy the leather.
D.S.: Oh? Uhhuh. Speaking of that, ....when you'd take things to the store and sold them ... would they give you cash or did you get credit at the store?

L.C.: Well, you could get either one. We would get coffee, or sugar, or something you didn't raise.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: So, we usually traded.


L.C.: I think they give ... I'm sure they'd give us money sometimes.

Mr. C.: Well, yes trade. Give you a dozen of eggs for 12 cents, for a dozen of eggs if you sold them and 14 cents if you trade them. 14 cents if you took trade.

L.C.: Yea, get a little more if you traded.

D.S.: Ah ha .... I get it.

Mr. C.: And down in Shenandoah there there was a grocery that gave you a slip.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: They wouldn't pay you a penny for anything in cash.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: They gave you their own slip and you used it at their store only.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: 

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: No, I can't remember that we ever took anything to Shenandoah to sell.

Mr. C.: No.

L.C.: We'd go down there and buy every once in awhile.
We didn't trade much in Shenandoah. We went to Elkton most of the time.

D.S.: You didn't raise your own beef?

L.C.: Well, ... most every year we had a beef to butcher.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Not every year... but as fer as I remember most every year we had a beef.

D.S.: Uhhuh.


D.S.: How would you keep it then over the winter?

L.C.: Well, ... I think we went in partnership with a neighbor or something and divided it up and if it was cold weather it would keep a long time during the winter.

D.S.: Yea.

L.C.: And... a... we dried beef. We had dried beef that we could slice and that would keep all summer. Dried... I don't know how that was cured, do you know how it was cured?

Mr.C.: No, other than dried and salted.

L.C.: Well, I guess that was it. Dried and then salted.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Sliced it down, just like dried beef you'd buy in the store.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: People canned beef too.

L.C.: Yes, you'd can beef. We canned our pork too, a lot of it. Sparribs and Ponehorse.

D.S.: What kind of cans would you use?

L.C.: You'd use.......

Mr.C.: Mason jars.

D.S.: Regular mason jars?
L.C.: Yea, ... regular mason jars. That stuff is good, I ain't kidding you.

D.S.: I never heard of canning beef.

L.C.: Yea. ... A lot of people can beef.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: Well, they had a ice house, but you see, this ice would melt into water and you could only use and you could put it in your refrigerator...your icebox a better name for it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: And, put it around it, keep it cool. But, you couldn't preserve anything for it to keep a long time.

D.S.: No.

Mr. C.: And you couldn't put that ice in your water or anything.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: So they ordinary canned it or dried it.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: You could dry most anything in those days.

D.S.: Apples?

Mr. C.: Yea.

L.C.: I'd like to get ahold of some dried apples.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: And corn.

D.S.: And cherries. Did you ever dry cherries?

Mr. C.: I don't know if we ever dried cherries, I know a lot of people did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: 

L.C.: We canned a lot of cherries. We had sour cherries and sweet cherries and wild cherries and grapes... About everything you can.
D.S.: How did you keep the vegetable over the winter?
L.C.: You canned it.
D.S.: Now, just by canning? You didn't dig a trench and ...?
L.C.: Yea, we buried some of the tings, and cabbages, and
turnips, and beets.
D.S.: That was a wonderful way to keep them.
L.C.: Oh, ... yes.
D.S.: They came out as fresh ...
L.C.: OH, ... they were wonderful.
Mr.C.: And covered them with foder.
L.C.: And sometimes we put apples in there too. Put winter
apples ... especially Black Twigs. Well, we didn't have
any Black Twigs, I don't know if we had one, but we
had Baldwins.
Mr.C.: We had Baldwins and Russets and ....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr.C.: And the ole timey Winesaps. Not like the Winesaps we have
today. improved variety.
L.C.: Apples grew real good up there.
D.S.: Yea.
Mr.C.: We had Jonathans, similiar to the York, and ...now...
L.C.: They were alright to bury too.
D.S.: How did you keep wildlife out of your garden?
L.C.: Put a fence around it.
D.S.: That doesn't stop a skunk ... I mean a coon.
L.C.: No .. we weren't bothered with coons. The only thing we
seen was a skunk or a ... 
Mr.C.: There was people further back in the foothills they
hunted coons for their hides. Trapped them for their skins.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: 
D.S.: 
Mr. C.: They didn't normal hunt things.
L.C.: Shoot a rabbit once in awhile.
D.S.: Yes.
L.C.: Set a trap and catch it and shoot it.
D.S.: Sure. Now about fishing, were there any good fishing around there?
L.C.: Well, there was some fish in Naked Creek every once in awhile.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: There was a deep hole out there close to where we lived. My Dad caught, what's that big fish? Carp? Yes, ... I think that's it.
Mr. C.: There's a variety of fish. ... Carp, yes but they are not necessary a running water fish. They live in a pond or any place.
L.C.: Well, that water there run, but it was deeper there than most places along the creek.
Mr. C.: Mostly was Perch.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: I don't know, ... he caught some kind of fish out there.
D.S.: Uhhuh. About your school, where did you go to school?
L.C.: I started to school right down there close to our place about as fer from here to the top of the hill.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: It's called the Blose School house. It's burnt down now. I went to school until I was ready to go to high school and then I went to Elkton.

Mr.C.: Our own ancestors probably further up gave the land for that Blose school.

L.C.: Yes.

D.S.: Yes.

L.C.: This is the fifth generation on that place. Five generations back the man came from Germany.

D.S.: That's what I was going to ask you.

L.C.: We had that deed and let Mr. Zirkle have it for when he surveyed here. It got away and I don't know where it is.

D.S.: Aaaah! Oh, that's ashamed.

L.C.: I'd love to get a'hold of it ... I tried everybody I could think of and nobody seems to know anything. We was when he died.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr.C.: And he died that year.

thing that ...... and somebody worked for him. Nobody can trace it.

D.S.: Oh, that's ashamed. That would be wonderful to have.

Mr.C.: They had little value activity then... people hints interest passed away ... years ago.

L.C.: 

D.S.: Yes. Do you recall what year it was? That the first Blose came here from Germany?

L.C.: I don't know... way back wonder somewhere.

D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: I don't have the slightest ideal. Anybody that would know never thought about asking them and they are gone now and I can't ask them.

D.S.: Yes. They...you know how they found the mountains? How they got here? They never told you, would think they would set around in the evenings and the elder would, you know, pass on this history of the family. But they never seemed too.

Mr.C.: At the time, they didn't know it really. They didn't know it really because their communication was so poor.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: And, ... I'm certain her family, ... mine did come by way of Pennsylvania ... and some stayed there maybe for generations before migrating to the valley here.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: Not many of them came across the mountain. A few came the Richmond up this way.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: Lord Fairfax had give land grants to many ... many people.

D.S.: Yes.

Mr.C.: In fact ... I think that most people's land grants came from Lord Fairfax.

L.C.: No....

D.S.: But, he was German.

L.C.: or somebody was on the deed, as fer as I remember.

Mr.C.: Well, in that case they certainly came by way of Pennsylvania.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Hard to tell what they came by because .......
Mr. C.: William Penn was very enthusiastic about bringing settlers over, in fact furnished ships and transportation to bring families.

D.S.: Yes.

Mr. C.: From Germany because they were industry people.


Mr. C.: And here people were ... German.

D.S.: Uhuh. The school that you went to, did they teach all the things like they do now? ... Like geography ... or ...

L.C.: Yes, they had all these things, but of course they didn't teach it like they teach now ....

D.S.: Thank goodness!

L.C.: ... because things are so different.

D.S.: But at least you can read and write, those can't. (Laughing)

L.C.: They had all the grades up through the 8th ... through the 7th grade.

D.S.: Through 7th?


D.S.: And then ....

L.C.: Little kids had to go with the big ones.

D.S.: Was it a one room school?

L.C.: A one room school. One teacher taught all of them.

D.S.: What was her name, do you recall?

L.C.: My first teacher's name was .... a Payne. What was her first name? .... I can't think of her first name ....

Dora, ... Dora Payne.

D.S.: Dora Payne?

L.C.: Was my first teacher ... and the rest of them I can't
remember their names. I should remember but can't. ... My memory is bad ... then sometimes it seems like a hundred years, but it hasn't been that long.

D.S.: (Laughed) When you ... you were saying when people came to visit they stayed a long while. ... Now, didn't you have visiting back and forth between others ..... 

L.C.: Neighbors? 

D.S.: Neighbors? 

L.C.: Oh, yes, ... especially around Christmas time all the neighbors got together. We all went to one house today and then the next day they would come to our house and ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: ... the next day go to another neighbors and we went all the way around the neighborhood. At Christmas time.

D.S.: Did you do the Kris Kringlers?

L.C.: Well, ... not much of it. Some kids went around a little but we didn't do any of it.

Mr.C.: It was a pratice in those days but ...

L.C.: We didn't get into it.

Mr.C.: I think they were afraid or something, it was in my people.

D.S.: Uhhuh. It sounds as if it was sort of fun though. (Laughed)

L.C.: Yes, I know.

D.S.: Yea ... When you were making your apple butter. ... During the apple butter boilings would all the neighbors get together to help on this?

L.C.: Oh, yes indeed!

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Would come over to our house and help peel apples and come back the next day and stir. ... help us stir.
D.S.: Did you do it during the day or night?
L.C.: We did it ... we generally cut the apples all day, I think.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: We boiled apple butter, started early in the morning.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: And made it during the day and get it off sometimes in the afternoon.
D.S.: While this was going on were there any food?
L.C.: Oh yes. Someone always stayed in the house and cooked the meals for everyone.
D.S.: Yea. And how about dancing, were there any dancing or music?
L.C.: No, not at our house.
D.S.: Not at your house.
L.C.: Was at some houses, but not at our house.
D.S.: Did they have the custom that if the paddle touched the side of the kettle you get a kiss?
L.C.: You got a kiss.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: We didn't have much of that, but ...
Mr. C.: I never heard of that.
L.C.: Oh, I have ... Ever heard of shuckin' corn, if you found a red ear of corn you had to kiss someone?
Mr. C.: Yea.
D.S.: Sure.
Mr. C.: Kissed anybody you wanted to. I heard about the corn shuckins.
D.S.: Yea.
Mr. C.:
D.S.: Yea. (Laughed) Your family didn't do it?
D.S.: Uhhuh. Were any people there ... the statue of limitations is gone, so you don't have to worry. Were there any people around that made any moonshine?
L.C.: Not in my family!
D.S.: No, not in your family ... But I mean in the neighbor.
L.C.: Not any of our neighbors ...
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: ... probably up in the mountains they did.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: Not in our neighborhood that I know of.
Mr.C.: It was some up there to do.
        The and the government didn't care as as long as you paid the tax.
        If you fooled around with the people.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr.C.: That is how

D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr.C.: If they cheated on, that is against the law.
D.S.: Yea.
Mr.C.: But they had Revenue process ... that they traveled on horseback operated or anything ... as long as they paid the taxes it was legal.
D.S.: Oh! Uhhuh.
L.C.: I don't know of any. Do you know of any?
Mr.C.: That was before my time too. But my uncle owned a
        and he worked on the other side of the mountain around
Orange County. As a fact this use to be Orange County many years ago.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: Now Orange County is all on the other side of the mountain, a poing in that direction.

D.S.: Uhhuh. (Laughed)

Mr.C.: I know but I never been able to quite myself.

D.S.: Uhhuh. (Laughed)

L.C.: 

Mr.C.: I guess so ... plenty of whiskey made there too.


Mr.C.: A good but ... In fact on the park or the out of the way places. People needed money.

D.S.: That's right, and it made a lot of sense, instead of carrying barrels of apples to carry a bottle. How about your music, did you all go together and dance ever? Were there any dances?

L.C.: Maybe it was dances around, I don't know anybody around that neighborhood danced. Had any dances, do you?

D.S.: They did. Would they hold them in the homes, the barn, or where?

Mr.C.: Well, in the barns prehaps. But, they very often they would go to a meeting rounds. Uh, ... and ... well, I remember one place they had a little pavillion like that ... like a little band stand.

D.S.: Oh!

Mr.C.: My folks was almost as strick as her's about dancin'. I didn't go dancin'.

D.S.: Yea.
Mr. C.: But being a boy instead of a girl, I naturally got around seeing more of these things.

D.S.: Sure.

Mr. C.: Talked to people who did ... dance.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: Yea. ... A lot of whiskey made back there in ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: ... water in Naked Creek. Well, nobody cared too much. Well, tell you, those people had to have a request or they couldn't live. They didn't need a lot of cash. But school, they needed, to me, some money for books and clothes ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: ... for their children.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: Chestnuts was plentiful in the mountains, and sell wood, as long as

D.S.: Then the Chestnut blite came along. ... Yes.

Mr. C.: Yea, that was a disaster.


D.S.: Right.

Mr. C.: All that Chestnut wood for rails and extract wood for the tannery.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: And for lumber.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: And they farmed. ... A few of them farmed on further up the creek. At least one stave mill back there ... and three or four lumber mills ... not big operations, family operations.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: And ....
L.C.: My daddy sawed lumber.
D.S.: I should think so, yes. For the railroads?
L.C.: No, for his own use. I don't think he sold any lumber.
Did my daddy sell lumber? He sawed lumber for our barn ... when he built our barn.
Mr. C.: He may have a little.
L.C.: Had a steam engine and a sawmill. I use to like to play with the steam engine and blow the whistle.
D.S.: (Laughed)
Mr. C.: Well, that was a family's sawmill.
L.C.: Yea, that was a family.
Mr. C.: I know of a family.... but, I can't think of his name to save my life and I should. But they bought sawteeth from me. Bought a saw with teeth you take off and grind them and put back on.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: What people would do if they wanted to build a barn they would take their own timber, if they had it, to a mill and saw ... and get sawed out what they wanted ... and if it was good one after that ... they would take out for the barn, the sawmill operator would credit for that on your bill for sawing.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: A lot of trading in those days.
D.S.: Uhhuh. That's right. Yea. That was very good. How about the mills? ... Uh, I mean like the flour mills and for corn ... like for grinding corn ... and meal. ... Did the miller take out 10%?
Mr.C.: 10% yea. ... I think it was a little more than that. ... Oh, I can't remember what the toll was. I ought to know but I can't. Can't remember. You remember the mill at Veberna?

L.C.: I can remember that's where Dad always took his wheat.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: Mine too.

D.S.: Yes.

Mr.C.: Do you know where that is at?

D.S.: Yes. Uhhuh.

Mr.C.:

L.C.: Got our flour ground there.

D.S.: Yes. Because generally it was 10% and I was wondering if it were the same there?

L.C.: I don't remember.

D.S.: No? (Laughed)

L.C.:

D.S.: No, why should girls bother about anything like that.

L.C.: Had more to worry about.

D.S.: Did your mother make your clothes?

L.C.: My father's sister lived with us and she did all the sewing. Yes, she made all my clothes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Till I got big enough and I made some of them myself.

D.S.: Did they have the old pedal type sewing machine?


D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: That's it over here.

D.S.: Oh, it is? (Laughed)

L.C.: Yes.
Mr. C.: Works better than a new one.
L.C.: Yes. old machine.
D.S.: Did your mother ever tell you about her doing spinning or
doing anything like that when she was a girl?
L.C.: No, I don't think she did. Maybe on her daddy's side
somebody did, I don't know. We had an old spinning wheel,
I don't know if anybody done it.
D.S.: Somebody must have.
L.C.: Way back, maybe my Grandmother. I don't know, she died
before I was born.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: I don't know. We had two spinning wheels. We had one
of these great big one and a smaller one.
L.C.: I remember that in the smokehouse we kept those. We never
used them.
D.S.: Yea. With ... did you ever raise any sheep of any kind?
L.C.: No, we never did.
(Tape went blank)
D.S.: Now, lets go to the music. Back, ... what kind of
instruments ere used for music?
L.C.: We had a we had an old graphicphone.
D.C.: You didn't play banjoes or ...a fiddle either?
L.C.: But we did have a piano and we had a radio after the ....
D.S.: Oh, yes.
L.C.: ....battery radio.
D.S.: Sure.
L.C.: A piano and we had one of these graphicphone that you
cranked up.
D.S.: Yes.
L.C.: Get it goin' good.
D.S.: Yea, and his Blose. (Laughed)
Mr. C.: Blose. (Laughed)

D.S.: Well, I was just wondering, of course you not going to
dances and you were too young to recall. I was just
wondering if you remembered any of the music that were
played at these dances? You don't?

Mr. C.: Turkey In The Straw, was the favorite, I think.
D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: Happy Times like that.
D.S.: Yea, that's right. Yes.

Mr. C.: No, I don't think either one of us remembers really any
particular tunes.
D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: That was ... a lot of dance tunes.
D.S.: Yea, that's right. Golden Slippers, is another good one.

Mr. C.: Yea.

L.C.: I don't remember any of the neighbors around us ever
having any dances. Do you?

Mr. C.: Not real close neighbors, no.

L.C.: I didn't think so.
D.S.: A typical day ... in the summer, when you're not going
to school, ... what time did you get up in the morning?

L.C.: When the sun came up, or before. When it started getting
daylight, you got up.
D.S.: I see.
L.C.: You got up and milked the cows.
D.S.: Alright.

L.C.: You fed, fed the horses and the men went to the fields and the women went to the garden; picked beans (laughed) or whatever it was to do at that time.

D.S.: Yea. When did you have breakfast?

L.C.: Well, generally when we got through milking and the men got through feeding the horses, they came in and we had breakfast.

D.S.: What would the breakfast be?

L.C.: Oh, we had ... we had ... ham or shoulder, maybe fried potatoes, gravy, fried apples ... if we had apples to fry. A whole lot of good somethings.

D.S.: Yea.

L.C.: Do that today.

D.S.: A good breakfast. Yea!

L.C.: Once in awhile we had eggs.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: But we didn't have eggs every day. We always had coffee.

D.S.: Yea. Did you make warm bread?


D.S.: Mmmmmmm!

L.C.: We made cornbread too. I love cornbread.

Mr. C.: I don't think that wasn't a daily thing though.

L.C.: No, we didn't make cornbread everyday, but we had cornbread once in awhile.

Mr. C.: It hot bread, make cornbread and hot bread.


Mr. C.: 
L.C.: We raised buckwheat once upon a time. I know we did. We raised our own buckwheat.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Not every year. Once in awhile we had buckwheat.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Because I remember seeing it grow.

D.S.: Yea. So, ... you all went back out in the garden and started working.

L.C.: Yes we started working ... we all worked until ...

D.S.: And the men worked in the garden too?

L.C.: No, they plowed the garden in the winter before we planted anything and then once or twice they plowed the garden with the horse.

D.S.: Then what were the men doing (Laughed) while you were out in the garden?

L.C.: Well, they had to take care of the corn, in the corn field, plant that and had to mow their hay and got that up and take care of their sheat crop. Always something to do. There was always something to do.

D.S.: I knew they weren't standing around.

L.C.: No.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you have a heavy meal at noon time?

L.C.: When you lived on a farm you had a right heavy meal all three times.

D.S.: Oh my, yea.

L.C.: You just can't eat a snack......

D.S.: No.

L.C.: ...and then go back out in the field all afternoon.


D.S.: Yea. (Laughed)

L.C.: Played hide-an-go-seek (Laughed) You know, everbody catch

D.S.: Yea. Did the boys ever play marbles?
L.C.: Yea, I think so.
D.S.: How about pitching horse shoes?
L.C.: Yea, we have done that too.
D.S.: What kind of dolls did you have when you were little?
L.C.: Oh, all kinds of dolls. ... I loved dolls.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: I guess. Oh, I don't know, 15 or 20 dolls at one time.
D.S.: Really?
L.C.: I wished I had them now. I still like dolls, I like to dress them.
D.S.: (Laughed)
Mr. C.: Had boy dolls.
L.C.: Yea, had boy dolls and girl dolls and ...
Mr. C.: Rag dolls.
L.C.: ... rag dolls, and I don't know what all kind of dolls.
Mr. C.: Sometimes of dolls ... a child with a vivid imagination can pretend anything. Anything. ...
L.C.: I had little dishes and had a little stove with little lids to it, you know, with pots and pans and all those things. I kept house.
D.S.: (Laughing)
L.C.: 
D.S.: Yea.
Mr. C.: Put the doll dresses on the cats.
L.C.: Yea, use to dress the cats up in the doll dresses and set them out on the back steps and pretending they were going to church.

D.S.: (Laughing)
L.C.: They didn't like it too well, but they played.
D.S.: Uhhuh. (Laughing) How far were the nearest church?
L.C.: Elkton.
D.S.: Oh.
L.C.: Oh, up at the Furance, they had a church. That's up on the creek, the Furance church. We went up there for awhile.

Mr. C.: There's plenty of churches up there.
L.C.: Well, that's the one we went to. I don't know about the others.

Mr. C.: Church.
L.C.: We went up there until we were right good size kids.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: It was a right nice church.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: It still is a nice church.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: Remodled it.

Mr. C.: 
L.B.: That's so. We were right big kids when we went to the Elkton Church. We got up in the morning early and got our work all done and got to Sunday School until quarter of five. Everybody in the family.

D.S.: How did you get there?
L.C.: Well, with the Surry with the fringe on top. (Laughing)
D.S.: Aaah! Nice.
L.C.: Right.
D.S.: Weren't they wonderful days? Really, weren't they, when you think about it?
Mr. C.: Not all of them were really nice.
L.C.: ?
D.S.: Yep.
Mr. C.: If we could have the best of both worlds we'd really have it made but we can't do that.
D.S.: No. ... The people were pretty honorable, weren't they? There were no stealing from one another? No?
Mr. C.: No stealing.
L.C.: Not to mount to anything.
D.S.: No.
Mr. C.: Well, there must be a thief someplace.
L.C.: It must have been, but not anybody steal from us as I know of.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: Ah ... taking something was something the neighbors didn't think much of it.
D.S.: Yea. Down toward the Elkton area I know there use to be. Well, I guess it was from too much drinking. Quite a number of fights that went on.
D.S.: Yea. But, it seems to me that Naked Creek was sort of protected from all of that.
L.C.: We didn't have any problems to amount to anything like that.
Mr. C.: None of our neighbors got in a fight as I know of.
D.S.: Huh-un.
Mr. C.: No, but you go up ... it wasn't no mountain people.
L.C.: No.
D.S.: No ... No ... Did you ever know any of the mountain people?
L.C.: Oh yes, I knew them. Not well, but I knew who they were.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: When I was working in the Doctor office, I worked there for about 7 years.
Mr. C.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: I met just about everybody in creation around there.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.C.: I knew them by their name and knew them to speak to them. But knowing how they lived or what they did at home or anything, I didn't know anything about that.
D.S.: What were their principal ailments, do you know?
L.C.: No, I don't know. They had a little bit of everything. Sometimes they had blood poisoning, sometimes ... Well, one time there was a woman come in there with her baby, Field Day, and she didn't ... they baby was born the day before ... and she came down to Field Day and she came ... bought the baby in the doctor's office to see what was the matter with it because it cried all day.
D.S.: (Laughing)
L.C.: Poor little thing in the hot sun. It was born the day before.
D.S.: Oh, my gosh!
L.C.: Mmmmm! I don't know what the doctor told her anymore.
D.S.: (Laughed) Were the men clean shaving?
L.C.: Uh ... much more than they are now. (Laughed)
D.S.: (LAUGHING) Uhhuh. ... Wonder how they shaved, those
mountain people?
Mr.C.: Straight razor.
D.S.: Straight razors?
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: Yea, that was fashion.
D.S.: Yea.
L.C.: Used a straight razor.
Mr.C.: My father used a straight razor. In fact I started
shaving with a straight razor.
D.S.: 
Mr.C.: Well, I have that much beard ... and safety razors came
along after 4 or 5 years. I got one of them.
Mr.C.: I expect Marvin did too. My brother.
Mr.C.: Yea, I shaved with a straight razor.
L.C.: I'm sure he did. I don't remember but I imagine he did.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr.C.: And they cut each other hair and like of that.
D.S.: Yea. And your father made your shoes?
L.C.: He didn't make the shoes I wore, He made some work
shoes ... for the men sometimes. He mended shoes, put
a half sole on a shoe or put a heel on a shoe for us.
All us kids and everybody in the family.
Mr. C.: Everybody had a last.

L.C.: Ah yes, ... he had a last.

Mr. C.: With a small stool.

L.C.: He had some kind of apparatus that he could treadle with his foot he sewed the shoes with. I don't know what he called it. I think he made it. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea.

L.C.: It worked.

D.S.: Yea. You know enterprise is what is coming out so beautifully. ... The enterprise of these people that ... you know, made do with.

Mr. C.: Yea, they were really resourceful, but they didn't have no choice.

D.S.: Uhhuh. I know they didn't set down and say I can't do it. They did it! They walked for miles. Did you think anything walking for miles? I bet you didn't?

L.C.: I never was too much a mover, but I could walk a mile or so. When we moved to town or sort outside of town and was going to school in Elkton we walked a mile everyday.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uhhuh. I heard tell ....

L.C.: Some had to walk a lot further than that.

D.S.: ... about a man that walked down from the top of the mountain to the bottom .... but,

Mr. C.: No.

D.S.: Did your mother have any particular herbs that she used?

L.C.: No.

D.S.: When you children got sick?

L.C.: No. ... (Laughing) use to use asafetida ... stinkin' stuff. ... if you know what that is. (Laughing)
D.S.: Asafetida?
L.C.: Uhhuh. ... You know what that's for ...? That stuff stinks so terrible.
Mr.C.: You used it.

L.C.: You put it on a little piece of it ... sort of like rock candy, doesn't it? I think it does.
Mr.C.: You got me there, I don't know.
L.C.: You take a little piece of it and sew it into a piece of cloth and put it around your neck. It keeps you from takin' cold.
D.S.: Oh, to keep your from taking a cold?
Mr.C.: It was worthless.
D.S.: (Laughing)
L.C.: Superstitious, that's all.
D.S.: Yea. Did you ever, if you had a cold, did your mother give you ... this sounds horrible ... sugar and kerosene?
L.C.: No.
D.S.: (Laughing) You had that?
Mr.C.: God, yes!
L.C.: I can't remember that we ever had sugar and kerosene.
D.S.: Sounds as if though they were trying to commit suicide.
L.C.: That's terrible.
D.S.: Yea, But they said it worked, did it?
Mr.C.: NO!
D.S.: No? (Laughed)
L.C.: Same as ole asafetida.
Mr.C.: I didn't know it then, I thought it worked, but I know better now.
D.S.: Oh! Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: It had no medical value.


Mr.C.: Neither did mustard plaster. Mustard plaster killed more people than it ever helped.

L.C.: everything you got a cold in your chest there was the ole mustard plaster.

D.S.: Yea. Didn't they use corn meal? Hot corn meal in a plaster?

L.C.: I don't know what they put in it, they put something in it. I don't know if it was corn meal or what.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: Something held the mustard ... must have been corn meal or flour or something.

Mr.C.: Flour.

L.C.: Flour. Well, must have been something.

D.S.: Is there anything that I have not asked that you can think of that would help fill in the story because it is truly a very fine story. ... Uh ...

L.C.: I don't know.

D.S.: perseverance and enterprise. Did your father ever use the horse for anything else beside plowing for instance?

L.C.: Oh, yes. Drove the buggy ......

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: ...ride the horses and ....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: .......everywhere we went, we didn't have anything else to ride in till they started making automobiles.

L.C.: Finally got a model T.

D.S.: Yea. Did you keep in touch with any of these mountain people after they had been moved out?

L.C.: No.

D.S.: No? I was wondering how they had adjusted to the moving?

L.C.: I don't know, we sold the whole place.

Mr. C.: Some of them very poorly. Some very well, some very poorly, they got back to the foothill first chance they got to it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: Mountain people and the valley people are a little different. Mountain people are of being suspicious of things ... and a ... and a circle of friends be tight. ... My experience with men I have know, you had to be a little careful what you said because there was a severe lack of education.

D.S.: Yes.

Mr. C.: The further back you went the worst it was. Now her people believed in education for most of her people and so did the rest of them. But, that was different further back in the foothills. ..... no morals today.

L.C.: Something like that.

Mr. C.: But, that was much further back.

D.S.: Yes.

Mr. C.: It was nine miles back in the mountain.

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

L.C.: Of course as fer as Number two, we didn't know, I didn't know anybody to amount to anything. Only just people that would come into the office and I'd sign their name out
and see the address would be up there. And far as knowing them personally, I didn't know anybody.

D.S.: They didn't come down to your school?
Mr.C.: They had a school up there.
L.C.: They had a school.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr.C.: They had a church and school. I don't think they had a school out the Furance Church.
L.C.: No, ... they had a school out on the back road.
Mr.C.: Fox Mountain school.
L.C.: Fox Mountain school ... the kids around up in there that was out from the Furance.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr.C.: ... old back in there one time, back from Shenandoah, and that was before the railroad. They loaded it on barges and shipped it to Harpers Ferry where it was transferred to the B & O Canal.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uhhuh. Yea. You .. know I really Thank You ... this has been a very very informative.

Mr.C.: They were a number of people back in the foothill that raised sheep and goats. The sheep as same as the cows, starved to death on them

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: The land was subjective to erosion and was not suitable for cultivation.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: But was very good sheep pasture.

D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: And why the wool didn't bring much ... maybe a quarter, 25¢ a pound ... 25¢ was right much in those days.

D.S.: That's right.

Mr. C.: It was something to supplement their income and beside there would be one or two rams from each ewe to sell.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: Or keep one to eat.

D.S.: Yea. ... Yea.

Mr. C.: People knew how to live off the land.

D.S.: Yes they did.

Mr. C.: They weren't quite as finicky about what they ate. What they ate

D.S.: No.

Mr. C.: But now it is so easy to go to the store and buy things.

Now you can go to the store and buy blueberries all year round. People went to the mountains and picked huckleberries and they made huckleberry jam out of them and canned them to make pies in the winter and ... But they were wild and of course they were small, but they were very good.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.C.: I don't think our families ever went to the mountains for huckleberries.

Mr. C.: Ours have, I've picked.

L.C.: I never did. I picked a lot of blackberries.

D.S.: Got a lot of scratches, didn't you?

L.C.: Yes.

D.S.: Were you bothered with snakes much?

Mr. C.: Well, no .... not a great deal. We were familiar with there and knew how to avoid them. We left them alone for
the most part... and most of us knew the snake was more afraid of us than we were of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: And they would get out of your way unless you stepped on one like the time that she asked

a box of snakes and bought his wife one home.

D.S.: Oh, my gost!

L.C.: 

Mr.C.: She was right tight with it anyway.

L.C.: His eyes was swelling shut. ... I don't know how he got to the doctor office, somebody must have drove him down down there.

D.S.: Oooooh!

L.C.: Swelled UP ALL OVER!

D.S.: (Whistled)

Mr.C.: I don't know if the snake died or not, but he made it.

(Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughing)

L.C.: 

Mr.C.: 

D.S.: They did? What kind was that?

Mr.C.: A hillside plow.

D.S.: Yea ... I heard that and I thought it was a joke.

Mr.C.: Oh no, ... No ... No. ... I sold many parts for a hill side plow made by John Deere. It turned the soil up the hill
all the time. Not like the normal plows we used in the valley ... it turns it one way all the time ... and you can start in the middle of the field and turn out one year and the next year you start at the edge of the field and turn in. But they could not do that, they had to turn the soil up the hill every year otherwise it would all be down hill side.

D.S.: Sure.

Mr.C.: And it would be you left the plow out and it was tacked on there and swing the plow around to the left side. Until they get to the end and then reverse the procedure and turn the other side and turn the soil up the hill everytime. A hillside plow

D.S.: Yes, it really makes good sense, but I really thought they were teasing me.

Mr.C.: No ... they wasn't. hill side plow.

D.S.: Roughly, how much would a plow like that cost ....

Mr.C.: Oh, in those days ....

D.S.: ....in those days?

Mr.C.: ....eighteen dollars.

D.S.: That was a lot of money.

Mr.C.: That was a lot of plowing.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Mr.C.: It was a slow selling item and most merchants didn't much like to carry things sold too slow.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.

Mr.C.: I use to to carry a few plows here. If anybody wanted anything else I ordered it for them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.
Mr. C.: But a plow in use and I would guess there is still a few.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: To cultivate corn or a crop like corn you had to use a hoe.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

Mr. C.: But, back in those days everybody learned to hoe.

D. S.: Uhhuh. ... Yes. ... Now, going back to my almost original questions .... What was your ideal of a large family?

Mr. C.: Four. ... over four.


L. C.: I can't think of one family that lived close by that had more than four kids.

Mr. C.: We had ten on our farm one time, they had twelve but a couple of them died.

D. S.: When the people in the family had a baby, did they call the doctor, or do you know?

L. C.: Some of them did ... I guess most of them did.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

L. C.: There were some midwives.

D. S.: Yea.

L. C.: Especially around in the mountains, I imagine they had more midwives than they did down where we lived.

Mr. C.: Yea, ... they didn't realize that kind of thing, they knew what they were doing.

L. C.: That's all, and a little know how.
D.S.: Yea.
Mr.C.: A woman that had four or five children herself.

The mortality rate was much higher then up there,
but it was everywhere.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. And of course, ... Yea and that flu
epidemic in 1917 didn't help much.

Mr.C.: No, ... I agree with that. I had the flu and pneumonia
but I made it through.

D.S.: Yea.

L.C.: We had a neighbor that lost two daughters and two
grandchildren.

D.S.: Mmmmmmm!

L.C.: I believe, as well as I remember they were all buried
the same day.

D.S.: Ooooh! yea.

Mr.C.: You see ... sanitization was not practiced as much then
as now and certainly they did not have the knowledge as
they have now. But there were not as many various
and things 'round then to protect the human beings.

D.S.: That's right. Yea. I understand that they didn't have
the insects then that we have now.

Mr.C.: No.

L.C.: Sure didn't.

Mr.C.: Japanese bettles.

D.S.: Yes. (Laughed)

Mr.C.: What we had were a few potatoes bugs and a couple
that's about it.

L.C.: A few.

D.S.: Yes. Right.

D.S.: Yea.

Mr. C.: Potatoes bugs you could just take lime, regular lime and you can buy at the store, now you can't, mix a teaspoon with a gallon of lime or something anyhow like that, go around and shake the burlap bag right over the row of potatoes and it was effective.


Mr. C.: As far as I know it didn't pollute anything else.

D.S.: Yes.

Tape skipped.

D.S.: You can always because

L.C.: I don't know.

D.S.: I don't think so.

Mr. C.: I don't think so either.

D.S.: Very very nice

Mr. C.: My memory goes back 70 years.

D.S.: Does it really?

Mr. C.: Because I'm 75 now.

D.S.: Are you?

Mr. C.: Yes.

D.S.: You'd never know it.

Mr. C.: I really, I actually remember for about 65 years or so.

D.S.: Yes.

Mr. C.: young and old, the very old.
D.S.: You know the more I learn about these people the more wonderful they are. I am .... Did you ever read that book, "Hollow Folks"?

Mr. C.: No.

Tape went blank.