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(SNP037) Claud Cullers interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Claud W. Cullers

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D.S.: This is Dorothy Smith interviewing Mr. Claude Culler who has lived all his life in Rileyville. Is that correct?

C.C.: Right. That's correct.

D.S.: Now did you live toward the mountain Mr. Cullers?

C.C.: No, I lived about a half mile...well it's not quite a half mile right along rail the road there.

D.S.: Right along the railroad. Ah, then you saw a lot of...I have heard from time to time, various people from the mountain say they would bring things down to the railroad. Did you see them doing that.

C.C.: Oh yes, I seen them hauling bark, lumber and some of everything.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Where would it go after they brought it in to the railroad. The bark and the lumber?

C.C.: Well I don't know just where they shipped it to. But they shipped it from Compton, Rileyville...Compton just...uh...about a mile down the road.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Would they carry this down?

C.C.: No. They hauled it.

D.S.: Uh horse and wagon.

C.C.: Horses and wagons, or mules and wagons.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Then they had mules.


D.S.: Were there many people living up there?

C.C.: Well there was a right smart scatter of people living in the mountains.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you think that with all of this cutting of the wood that they did and the pealing of the bark, that within time there would have been no trees?

C.C.: Well no, I don't think so because the trees come up...saplings come up all the time and trees die all the time. So that's the way it just keeps the same and unless they are cut out.

D.S.: There is another thing they have told me and that is they would peal the bark and then just let the trees lie there.
C.C.: Yea, that was done. A lot of it...and then in later years they got to sawing lumber out of the bark trees that they had pealed. So they got double...


C.C.: But uh, years ago there wasn't many saw mills and uh, of course the trees just rotted up. Wasted.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, did you know of any of those people up there working for the sawmills?

C.C.: Well I guess probably I did, but I don't remember.

D.S.: You don't know whether they did or not?

C.C.: No.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know what they...in this area...how many sawmills there were.

C.C.: Uh, I'd have to sort of study a while. Will Knight run a sawmill about all his life. And then there was other people would come in and saw out tracks of lumber. Just different people from out of the neighborhood.

D.S.: Yea. Okey. Now there were good orchards up there?


D.S.: Uhhuh. Did any of the people work for the orchard?

C.C.: Well, not too much because they didn't take care of the trees like they do now. Uh, I reckon they wasn't bothered like they are now. Wasn't near as much disease in fruit and vegetables.

D.S.: Right. Okey now. Uh, the people that lived up there in the mountains...did you ever visit any of them?

C.C.: Yes. I kept cattle back in the mountains in the summertime and there was a family of people that lived where I generally turned my cattle loose...awful fine people.

D.S.: What was there name?

C.C.: Uh, ah, that's one of the things I'm so forgetful about. Oh, I'll tell you after while. Baldwin...

D.S.: Baldwins.

C.C.: Boldwins...B O L D W I N S.

D.S.: Oh, okey. They owned the land then?
C.C.: They owned their home.

D.S.: And you owned the land?

C.C.: No, it was just anyone that wanted pasture...pastured.

D.S.: It was public land then?

C.C.: Well it wasn't public, but you didn't pay no attention to it. I don't know who owned the deed...and there...well there was lots of cattle...turn cattle out...from down here in the valley.

D.S.: Do you know exactly where this was?

C.C.: Uh, yes, it...if I could just think now, I could tell you.

D.S.: Near Elk Wallow.

C.C.: No, now you mention over a couple then things. It's settled up now where I pastured the cattle in the park, and lots of buildings there now.

D.S.: Dickey Ridge...

C.C.: Well now it might have been back on the southern Dickey Ridge. I ain't sure about that.

D.S.: Was it near Front Royal.

C.C.: No, it was nearer Bentonville, than it was Front Royal...or Rileyville I reckon either.

D.S.: Matthews Arm?

C.C.: You could go to Matthews Arm to get to it...if you was coming from Bentonville and if you went from here you went up Compton Hollow or around Rileyville back up in here.

D.S.: Oh, I better mention you on this tape...and your name is...


D.S.: Pravline Keyser...you are the niece of Mr. Cullers.

F.K.: Yes.

D.S.: Right. Otherwise when they hear the tape they will say who was that.

F.K.: I guess so.
D.S.: Okey now you say a lot of people used this pasture...was all this Blue Grass.
C.C.: Well no it wasn't all Blue Grass but where it had been a pasture back there in a right smart clearing and that was good Blue Grass And Blue Grass all along the roads and awful good wheat pasture.
D.S.: How could you keep your cattle separate from the other people.
C.C.: We all had a different mark...in the ear.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
C.C.: My mark was a [mark] on the right.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Was there any fence of any kind?
C.C.: Only the people that lived back there. They had a patch out, they had fence around it to keep these cattle out.
D.S.: Did you pay these people to take care of your cattle or...
C.C.: No, about...I went back about every two or three weeks to see about them and take them salt.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How many would you have up there.
C.C.: Oh, 25 or 30. I was just a youngster then...maybe as many as 40.
D.S.: Okey. Hey this is great. Now. So you visited these people?
C.C.: Yes.
D.S.: What sort of house did they have?
C.C.: Well they...these people had comfortable house...it wasn't big house nor it wasn't a little shanty...just a comfortable...
D.S.: Was it a frame house or was it log?
C.C.: A frame house.
D.S.: Frame house. Hmmm...do you know if they had large families?
C.C.: Uh, no these people I was speaking of only had one child. A girl.
D.S.: One child. Wow. How about the other people that lived up there...did they have big families?
C.C.: I reckon they'd call them mostly medium at that time. Four or five. Some of
them maybe six or seven.

D.S.: Now these children, did they act like the children do today. Sort of irresponsible.

C.C.: Yes. I think maybe from Adam and Eve down, there has been that.

D.S.: Well...they didn't have to work hard or do anything much?
C.C.: Well, there wasn't much work for them to get...for pay.

D.S.: No, I mean around the farm. Did they work at all around the farm?

C.C.: Oh yes, they...some worked around the farm but most of them stayed at home...

I reckon helped in their patches and they lived good.

D.S.: Yea.

C.C.: They eat good.

D.S.: They had good vegetable gardens.

C.C.: Yes.

D.S.: Ahha...good. Do you know what they grew?

C.C.: Well, they grew cabbage and potatoes and tomatoes and everything you grow in a garden.

D.S.: Did they grow wheat?

C.C.: No...not much...not...

F.K.: They say they grew cabbage...grew cabbage...like that.

C.C.: Boy I've seen some of the finest cabbage back there..a whole patch of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they ever sell those cabbages...down here in Rileyville?

C.C.: Uh, they sold them, I don't know whether they brought them down here to Rileyville or taken them somewheres else. Rileyville it was...country place.

F.K.: Did they not...did they sell berries or keep the berries..huckleberries?

C.C.: Well they didn't sell too many berries because it was too far to get them out.

Carry them out.

F.K.: Oh.

C.C.: And berries...you pretty near hae to carry them out...haul them in a wagon be
D.S.: Right. And there were so many berries there. I wonder what they did with those berries.

C.C.: Well they just didn't do nothing. No more what they needed for their home use.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Huh. They had chickens? Hogs?

C.C.: Yes. Hogs...hogs running around... hogs running out....

D.S.: Did the hogs interfere with your cattle?

C.C.: No, indeed. No indeed!

D.S.: Oh, then the hogs were penned in?

C.C.: No. You take hogs and cattle and run together... where they got territory, but you take and pen them up and hogs didn't pay no attention to cattle nor the cattle pay no attention to them.

D.S.: Yea. You say that they ate well... did anybody up there ever raise any cattle of their own. So that they could eat beef or did they just rely on chickens and hogs.

C.C.: Well some few had cattle and kept beef and some of them... I think the biggest part of them had... a little corn.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they raise rye?

C.C.: Rye. Yea a little but not much. Just...they had to frail it out by hand you see. It was too far back in the mountains in them days to get a thrashing machine... the roads wouldn't allow...

D.S.: Right. This rye... did they use this mainly for making moonshine?

C.C.: Well I couldn't tell you... the territory where I pastured my cattle was pretty decent people...

D.S.: Oh, they were all decent people.

C.C.: Well what I mean they behaved themselves.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well moonshine was a good money crop.
C.C.: Oh yes, that was a good money crop. No, there was one. I won't call his name but maybe you've heard of him. Was between...uh was a great moonshiner. He lived up in Compton Hollow they called it. We lived right at the foot of the mountain...you went up Compton Hollow.

D.S.: Sam Bailey.

C.C.: No. A much bigger moonshiner than Sam Bailey...

D.S.: Bigger than Sam Bailey...that's impossible.

C.C.: If you are talking about the same Sam Bailey I am...uh Tom Bailey's boy?

D.S.: Uh huh.

C.C.: Oh no. He was just a little moonshiner...besides of that fellow. He sold moonshine in Baltimore and everywheres...all over the country.

D.S.: Oh, do you know how much he got for it?

C.C.: No, I don't. I reckon maybe maybe...I don't know...back them days. That's been a long time ago.

D.S.: Yea. Did they use apples to make apple brandy?

C.C.: Yea, but the moonshine was done mostly by using rye. grain maybe barley...I don't know but they didn't use many apples.


C.C.: ...barley, I don't know. But uh, they didn't use many apples...too much to bother with.

D.S.: Speaking of apples. They had applebutter boilings. Did you ever go to any of them.

C.C.: Yes. No, it was too far back in the mountains.

D.S.: They were fun times. They had a great time at those.


D.S.: Uh, did any of them talk to you about them?

C.C.: Not particular. As of I know of. It was uh every day or week thing...we just didn't think nothing about it.
D.S.: Uh, do you know if any of them played any musical instruments like fiddles, or guitars.

C.C.: Well most of them played something like that. Banjos or fiddles.

D.S.: Yea. They made good music.

C.C.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh, did they have any dances like square dances in homes in homes that you know of?

C.C.: Not that I know of but I can't say. Because I lived back ten or twelve miles from the mountain...

D.S.: I've heard some of them say they would come into the store in Rileyville...now when they came in to the store uh they said they would bring chickens and eggs and ham...uh when these people came did they look any different from anyone else?

C.C.: Uh yea. Well some of them did and some of them didn't. Some of them looked a little shabby, but for the most of them they looked on the average.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Their clothes were uh, what..mainly overalls or..

C.C.: Yes. Yes the main thing was overalls.

D.S.: Did they look homemade? The clothes?

C.C.: Well, course I was a boy when most of that was going on...didn't pay too much attention to it. But I think they was mostly store bought. I think so.

D.S.: Did you know of any sheep that were raised up there?

C.C.: No only this moonshiner...he had sheep. And every patch that people had up there that they famed in the summer when they gathered that in the fall well they could go in and clean up them patches.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. Yea. Uh, back to the way the people looked? Did the men wear long beards?

C.C.: Some of them. Then some of them shaved clean...most of them had a mustache. If they didn't have any other beard. That is after they got up a little age..

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever play with any of the boys that came down?

C.C.: No. I don't think I did.
D.S.: Oh. You never played marbles with them or anything.

C.C.: No. I uh, I've played marbles, but I don't think I ever played marbles with any of the people that lived back in the mountains. Cause when I was a boy I went to Sunday School pretty regularly. Course it would be Sunday mostly when they came down or Saturday.

D.S.: Yea. Do you know... if they had a school anywhere near them?

C.C.: Not back years ago they didn't. It was just a one-room school near us for people back here and that would be three or four miles up and down the mountain.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. None of them came to your school?

C.C.: No.

D.S.: Did any of them come to your church?

C.C.: Well once in a great while they would have the revival and some of them would come out and some of them belonged to the church.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Would you say that they were uh a religious people? Or Not?

C.C.: Well I... I reckon I would have to say they were religious because they wasn't mean people and Uh, I never heard of any of them bothering any kind of a religious service or anything so I would have to say they was a little bit on the religious side.

D.S.: This man who's home uh... where you kept your cattle did he own his property?

C.C.: I think so.

D.S.: Roughly how many acres did he have did you know.

C.C.: I wouldn't know.

D.S.: He had a vegetable garden and he raised chickens and hogs and you say he had a few cattle?

C.C.: I don't know whether that fellow had any cows or not. He only had the one child I reckon he worked out some around, not for it.

D.S.: Uhhum. Working around some when you are way up in the mountains is pretty hard when you have to come all the way down here.

C.C.: Well, yes it tis. I guess they helped each other out in some instances...
F.K.: And you know he said there was wonderful springs just right on top of that Blue Ridge Mountain.

D.S.: Really.

C.C.: Yea, it's all good water back there.

F.K.: And that's why they would take their cows to the mountain because there was good water and pasture.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How long would it take to get the cattle up there?

C.C.: Well it just depends on how aggravating they would be. Sometimes after you'd take them up there a time or two you didn't have much trouble, but if you had a new group well you'd have a right smart trouble.

D.S.: Well uh, as an average would you take a day to get there...

C.C.: No. About a half a day.

D.S.: Half a day.

D.S.: Yea. All those poor cows, climbing up that mountain.

C.C.: Well sometimes I'd take a nearer cut. It wouldn't be as far up...it would be closer to where the cattle was going to be when I started up. I would go in from Rileyville here or go in from Compton and uh, take them up to the Foot of...oh, I'm so forgetful...uh, Ridge have a certain name and then from there up if you went up across that fellow...now that moonshiner I was talking about...he has a right smart cleared land and it wouldn't be long til I'd be up there...have them up there...that is if they drove good and

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you use any horses or...dogs to help you..


D.S.: You didn't.

C.C.: I never did.

D.S.: They all had dogs didn't they? Up there.

C.C.: Yes, I think they all did.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever do any hunting up there?
C.C.: No, I never did do much hunting. Hunting kind of keeps you busy. You don't have time to do this that and the other.

D.S.: Yea. How about fishing?

C.C.: Well I never fished. Once or twice til I retired.

D.S.: Jeremiah's Run is a good fishing place.

C.C.: Yea, but I never fished til I was grown, and I always fish in the river.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh.

C.C.: It's only about two or three hundred yards from here. Straight down that hill.

D.S.: Sure. Right. Yea. Well, now when you were up there you were how old? With your cattle.

C.C.: Oh, I was anywhere from about 20 or 30.

D.S.: Okey. So you would have noticed the various people? Did you see the children playing games, or...

C.C.: No, I didn't spend much time up there. I just taken my cattle up and then come right on back and then when I'd go to see about them I'd maybe have to ramble around in the woods for an hour or two and I just left when I saw all.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh..make sure they were all there. Did you everhave any problems with anybody doing any rustling of your cattle?

C.C.: I had one steer taken. And it was a nice one..that's the reason it was taken. Extra nice.

D.S.: Do you know who did it?

C.C.: Well I think I do. Pretty sure I do. Knew at the time....

D.S.: Was it a mountain person?

C.C.: Well yes it was. But it wasn't a natural mountain person. It was one that moved to the mountains.

D.S.: Ah ha. Okey. And you've lived here all your life. And would you say that most of those people that were in the mountain had been there always..except those one...

C.C.: Yes..Yes I think they'd been there most of there life.
D.S.: Did you ever hear anything about how long the people had been there? How many
generations?
C.C.: No.
D.S.: Wish we could find out. Um you went past many homes as you went with your
cattle?
C.C.: Not toomany. Wasn't...you think about 60 years ago wasn't settled up around
here so fast. It wasn't none of these houses down here....I reckon 30 years
ago...
F.K.: Around 30 years ago when it started to build up...around here.
C.C.: Right around this...
D.S.: And so they were widely scattered...in the mountains.
D.S.
C.C.: Yes. Yes it was widely scattered. Do you know if they ever did much visiting.
If they went back and forth and did visited each other?
C.C.: Well I don't know how much but they did visit. But I wouldn't know how much.
You see I wasn't back there any time much..I'd just go back and see about my
cattle and once I'd seen them all I was ready to come home. And long about two
or three weeks I'd go back and look about them again. Take them salt.
D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Did you walk up?
C.C.: No, I mostly rode, but I have walked...but I'd take a nearer cut...wouldn't be
as far.
D.S.: Yea. They didn't object if you went over their property?
C.C.: Oh no. Not them days. People wasn't so touchy.
D.S.: Yea. Uh did you ever run into any rattlesnakes?
C.C.: Yes.
D.S.: Yes...were you ever bitten?
C.C.: No. No sir. The first one I saw back there after I went to taking cattle back
there I saw that rattlesnake..I reckon as far as from here to the road...to the
highway before I got to it. And you know when I seen that snake I paid that a rattlesnake. He was laying right in the middle of the road...I rode on up close enough as not to disturb him got off my horse and taken this rock or something and that was it. But I killed several, but see where other people had cattle in there pretty near every day somebody had killed a rattlesnake. In the mountains where they used to haul out bark.

D.S.: Yea. By the way...did people have bells on their cows.

C.C.: They had so many bells so they could tell where they were...they could hear the bells.

D.S.: It must have been...sounded pretty.

C.C.: Yes, and you learned for the sound of your bell and if you heard the cattle you knewed whether it was your's or not. Over there a half of mile all of them didn't have bells on...that would have been too much of it.

D.S.: Did you ever hear them shooting off firecrackers at Christmas?

C.C.: No, I wasn't back there at Christmas.

D.S.: No. You couldn't hear it from down here?

C.C.: Oh, no. huhuh. You see I was just back there in the pastures...every few weeks.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Do you know what they bought in the store, when they came down.

C.C.: Well I think they bought some uh...somewhat on the order of what other people got.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they at Christmas time do you know if they bought anything special.

C.C.: Well yes, I think they bought special stuff. Course them days they didn't spend too much because they didn't have it...us people out here in the valley didn't spend too much. We didn't have it.

D.S.: Do you recall the year of the terrible drought?

C.C.: Oh, yes mam.

D.S.: How did your cattle make out during that drought.

C.C.: Well they cattle done better than the crops. You see they eat leaves...and they had something to eat, because the pasture was fresh grass and the corn crop I
hauled in a four acre field and a one horse wagon bed and didn't have it full. You know that kind of corn crop you got... that was a hard year on corn.

D.S.: It sure was. Yea. Did you hear any of the mountain people talk about it?

C.C.: No,

D.S.: Uhhuh...it must have been hard on them too.

C.C.: I spect they got more stuff than we did for what they had out because there was right smart water round up there....

D.S.: Yea. Right. When the chestnut blight came along...there were a lot of chestnuts, through here.

C.C.: Yea.

D.S.: Um, had the people before that been bringing chestnuts down into Rileyville to haul away by train? Do you know?

C.C.: I imagine they had. Because there were lots of chestnuts back in the mountain. Where I used to keep tattle used to be lots of them big chestnut trees. I know my older brother some would go back in there and stay overnight you know...like the one before the...

D.S.: That's right. The hogs really did...go after them.

C.C.: I guess so...right much corn....

D.S.: Did you ever see any big fires in the mountain?

C.C.: Yes, I've seen them, but I wasn't too close to them. A number of fires down here in the valley where you get in the woods...but I never did fight fire on the Blue Ridge. I fought fire one time over on the Massanutten.

D.S.: Do you know if these fires were set deliberately...

C.C.: Now, I think a lot of them was but there was a heap of them...a lot of them set deliberately I am very sure. Burn the brush off so the huckleberries would be there.

D.S.: Yea. That's right. That was another good cash crop.

C.C.: That was...well about the best. At that time.

D.S.: Yea, sure. Right.
C.C.: And I expect...I don't know if I'm exaggerating or not, but in my times from a boy up until I got to farming and didn't have time I expect I've picked this room full of huckleberries. Now that might be an exaggeration, but I've picked some...

D.S.: You didn't get anything for them, or did you?

C.C.: Well at that time...you couldn't call it too bad, but now it wouldn't be practically nothing at all.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Now you are a farmer. And did you sell your crops? Or did you use them for your own use?

C.C.: I mostly...fed mostly to cattle and sold the cattle. And I used to take the cattle to Baltimore before this stock yard come into Front Royal.

D.S.: Ah ho... then you knew Bill Breed?

C.C.: Uhhuh. But I was a young man...very young...buying cattle...ah, I made myself

D.S.: Uh huh. The year of the drought did you have to sell off all your cattle?

C.C.: No, I didn't have so many cattle that year, and I kept them.

D.S.: You had enough food for them then.

C.C.: Yea.

D.S.: That was a break.

C.C.: That's right.

D.S.: It sure was, yea. The time of the Depression came along...did you notice any difference in the mountain people in their lifestyle during the Depression.

C.C.: Well uh during the Depression I think there was three or four times as much moonshining as there was before. And they taken it to Baltimore, Washington, Richmond but I was telling you.. I didn't tell you his name...he taken it all over the country.

D.S.: Uhh huh. I don't know why you don't give his name. Everybody else gives names.
C.C.: Well...

D.S.: You've got my curiosity up. Was it Ikey Miller's father?

C.C.: Oh no...Speaking of that calf; I've got no way to know absolutely he stole it...

F.K.: Well come in.

D.S.: Now, the question I was wondering...with all this...some of this moonshining that was going on...did the sherrif have to go up very often, or don't you know?

C.C.: I don't really know. But I don't much think he did. But I don't know. For certain.

D.S.: Did you ever hear about any fights going on, up there?

C.C.: Oh...fights back them days every once in a while.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Uh, without much education, how did the people adjust...when they were moved out of the mountain? Do you know?

C.C.: Well I think they done extra good. They taken lived in the mountains all their life...


C.C.: Well, now there was a family of Bailey's lived back of Bob Bailey and when they come out they seemed pretty fast.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know what they did as uh, what they did when they moved out...what type work they did.

C.C.:

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh..hey did you ever see goats up there. Um, didn't Sam Bailey have some goats.

C.C.: They had...I didn't see Sam Bailey's place most of the time when I went to see about my cattle back on the mountain. He lived about amile from where I took my cattle.

D.S.: There was a mill somewhere near here wasn't there?

C.C.: A couple.

D.S.: A couple of mills?
C.C.: Yea. A mill over by the river and there was a mill over uh where you turn off to go to Rileyville well there was a mill right up there at the creek here there a piece. And there was a mill right over in the next hollow up the hollow here.

D.S.: Now mountain people brought their corn...

C.C.: I suppose...that was before my time back in there.

D.S.: Oh, you never saw them bringing it down to them.

C.C.: I've seen them bring it to this mill over here lots of times. I've taken corn over to this mill and then there is another mill...oh it's not over a mile through the field over here and they made flour...and cornmeal.

D.S.: Uhhuh. When people brought it in did they carry it or bring it on horse?

C.C.: No, they brought it on horse or a wagon. Oh a few of them.

D.S.: You say you used the mill. Did you pay him or...

C.C.: No, no...I didn't use no mill.

D.S.: Oh, I thought you said you did

C.C.: No.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh. Okey. Can you think of anything I have forgotten?

F.K.: No, I think you have covered it pretty well...up in the mountain then they had roads, not just paths.

C.C.: Sure they had roads. Wagon roads.

F.K.: ...roads to get around.

C.C.: Cause they hauled bark and

F.K.: They were good people. Did to make a living...to make a living.

And I guess when they hauled bark out to the railroad out here

C.C.: Yea, and an awful lot of lumber and bark, but the timber is about gone back there. Mostly gone...sawdust...

D.S.: Yea..did they take any of the bark to the tannery in Luray?

D.S.: And again they would use the wagon? For that.
D.S.: Well that was a long haul by horse and wagon.
C.C.: Yea, it was.
F.K.: In that day and time that was the only way.
C.C.: You see, to haul the back to every it'd take all day to make the round trip.
D.S.: Yea. Right. Well I think that we have learned a lot about the mountain people from you...I just wish you had been a little bit younger because...or I wish you had been a little more inquisitive about the people...not hurried in and out so fast.
C.C.: Well you know I don't think that I have ever been too awful inquisitive about anything. About any people because it's their business I always believe it's absolutely none of my business. If it was, they would tell me.
D.S.: You never heard about any of these people doing any stealing?
C.C.: Well I don't know, you'd hear about somebody stealing something every once in a while but I think that was mostly out here in the valley.
D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. And when you went to visit this family did you ever see a lock on the door?
C.C.: Well I never did notice...I was just a boy...and I never did pay no attention but I don't remember seeing no locks...on the doors. And I doubt they did but I can't say they didn't.
D.S.: And they welcomed you as though...
C.C.: Yes. They treated me real decent.
D.S.: Do you suppose that if you had been a stranger they would have treated you so decently?
C.C.: Well, I believe they would...if I had made several trips and they would have kindly learned what I was like. I believe they would. I don't know, they might have been a little distant at first maybe. But I believe with a little
time or two they would have been as friendly as they were with me. I reckon
most of them knew me before I used to keep cattle back there maybe and 
back in the ne., and I knew a heap of them.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How did you find this place to keep your cattle?
C.C.: Well sir, I can't tell you how come or what happened that I was back there
the first time....other people kept cattle back there...older than me and I
reckon I loomed about it. It's been a long time.
D.S.: Yea. Hard to remember, isn't it?
C.C.: Yes it is. My memory ain't like it once was.
F.K.: Well your cows were what...more down there or over in here?
C.C.: Well a little more down...
F.K.: Down, that's what I was thinking over toward Bentonville.
C.C.: Well now they was pretty close to Bentonville...
F.K.: Bentonville, oh............I just happened to think of that now...we was
talking about....so that was a good question. I sort of thinking it was back
here some place.
C.C.: No, it was down
F.K.: ..down towards Bentonville.
D.S.: and you say it's built up now.
E.C.: Yea...the park's got it built up...they tell me.
D.S.: That must be the Matthew's Arm...campground..
C.C. ..it's uh...I think the Matthew's Arm comes up where the Park is built up...that's
what I've been trying to think of the name of the place...Darr place..
D.S.: Dyer..
C.C.: Darr...D A R...I've been trying to think of that ever since we been talking.
And it just come to me. And that's where we mostly turned our cattle loose.
Darr place..right smart cleared land and a nice wide meck.
D.S.: And the Darr's never came then.
C.C.: No they hadn't been there for years and years. But then it was named after Darr's.

D.S.: And had been cleared because of the mill originally. Okey that gives sort of a graduation because the mill sort of cleared off the trees and then the Blue Grass took over and the cattle kept it...you never had to have anybody clear the brush out?

C.C.: Oh no. No. We turned them back and they...they kept it. And they done good too. It was cool back there in that mountain and the best water in the state I reckon.

D.S.: Well I think you on behalf of...the Park for all you have told us.

C.C.: Well, I hope I didn't make any mistakes. I tried to be truthful.