(SNP064) Dorothy H. Housh interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith and Dennis Carter, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Dorothy H. Housh

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Recommended Citation
Dorothy H. Housh interviewed by Dennis Carter and Dorothy Noble Smith, March 30, 1978, SdArch SNP-64, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University

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D.S.: We are interviewing Mrs. Dorothy Housh, whose husband, ah....., was in charge of resettlement, ah......


D.C.: He supervised the entire program?


D.S.: Then it would have been Wolftown also.

D.H.: Where they moved the families from what is now the National Park. All the families that were living there were moved down in an area that was close to where they lived. That is why we have all these different settlements.

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: And, so they wouldn't be moved too far away.....

D.C.: Right.

D.H.: .....from the places they had been accustomed to.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, all the houses, I think they were, many of them had two doors, I don't know why. They seem to like to have two doors in front, so that they (laughing).....

D.S.: (Laughing) That's cute.

D.H.: .... wouldn't have to walk in the same room and, they seem to be very happy with them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And-a,.....

D.C.: Who did the construction work on these, did they hire local people?
D.H.: I couldn't, I don't, yes, they probably did in each section. Then in each section, that they bought up, there would usually be a nice home. And that would be for a, a, for one of the family that had more children.

D.S.: Ah, I see.

D.H.: One that would perhaps have a little more education too.

D.S.: Now this looks like a really fine home.

D.H.: Now this is, yes, this is an old homestead. Ah, a ... That's what I said, each section, they usually had one nice home. And-a, ..... 

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: they would put a family that they felt was really responsible and would really take care of it.

D.S.: Yea, right.

D.H.: But, and course many of them, now this was in 36, that, I think that's when they started it, yes. See where they were just building them?

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: In 1936. I didn't recognize that. Now here is a house that is almost through. And-a ....

D.S.: These are very nice looking homes. A lot of them are still standing now.

D.H.: Oh yes! And, then now since they abandoned them, people could buy another house and add to theirs, and that's what many did, that stayed on the farm. Many of also use to have what they called a subsistence family, where the man could work.

D.C.: Oh!
D.H.: He had less acreage, acreage. Now many of those had been
abandoned.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Many of them didn't work out, and left. And, many of them
stayed and have done real well, and have enlarged their farms
and so on. But I can remember over in Ida Valley, they had
bathrooms in the houses, and (laughed) one family (laughed)
kept their coal in the bath (laughed), bath tub.

(All laughed)

D.H.: They weren't accustomed to that. (laughing)

D.S.: (laughing) They didn't know what that was.

D.S.: No. Yea.

D.H.: So they thought it was a good place to keep the coal in the
house.

D.C.: (laughed)

D.H.: And-a, let's see if we can ....... now here is another ....

Oh, this is a .......

D.S.: A school building.

D.H.: This is over in Greene County.

D.S.: Yea.

D.H.: And that was an ole school building they used it for crafts
and different things. Now the Ida Valley was set up a little
different than any other. They set it up after the French
farming. Everybody .......

D.C.: Ah, in Ida Valley?

D.H.: Ida Valley, right here. And-a, ...... ah, they came ......, the
houses were all kind-a like in a small group or community
and then the farms were outside.
D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: So everyday they went out and worked their farms and came in at nights, like the French fashion. And-a,

D.C.: Who's idea was that?

D.H.: Oh, ah, I can't think. Was it a Tudwell, or was he in .... whoever was in at the head, the ....

D.C.: In Washington?

D.H.: Yes. I believe, was that the name?

D.C.: Tudwell sounds right.

D.H.: Tudwell, I am not sure now. ..... But, this now has been taken over by a furniture company. They bought it.

D.S.: Oh, uhhuh.

D.H.: And-a, but they did a lot of craft work there. They had put out some nice things.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Things like baskets and ....

D.H.: Well that, but they made furniture like: wastebaskets, and stools, all those stools that you see with the woven .... a,

D.C.: This was the furniture company?

D.H.: Yes. The furniture, they did furniture and all.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Now these are all old places on the Greene County tract.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: This is the residence, an old residence, and-a ....

D.S.: Now there was a nice home.


D.S.: Ah, and some people would be moved into something like that?

D.H.: Yes, .... yes, they would keep the houses. They, whatever houses were ...

D.S.: Are these the empty houses?
D.H.: Well they were sold, you see, they were bought. The government bought them, then the people moved out.

D.S.: I see.

D.H.: And, so then they moved the people from the mountain. So you see there were quite a few.

D.C.: Whatever houses were there they just used those and built others?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Yes, yes, uhhuh.

D.C.: I wondered, you mentioned some jealousy. I wondered if there was any jealousy of the people that got those big houses?

D.H.: No, I don't think so. I, a... There didn't seem to be. We never heard anything.

D.C.: I suppose the people, someone with a large family might move into one of those.

D.H.: Yes, yes, you know you can always find someone that seems a little more responsible, have a little more experience. And, so these are all houses that......

D.S.: They were very nice homes too.


D.S.: 

D.H.: And the people are still living in them, they have done alright.

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: These are just,...... this is all Ida Valley. Oh here, here we are.

D.S.: Here are some of them.

D.H.: Yes.
D.S.: Darwin said it would be a stack about like that.

D.H.: Oh, I don't know, weather, that may be all I have. I don't know. Ah ..... 

D.C.: I think he was thinking of more detail records, possible, that might be in existence. But if I could borrow this I'll copy this for him and get it back to you.

D.H.: Well. It's ..... 

D.C.: Oh, I see, he has given just initials of the people of families and comments about them.


D.C.: Probably if someone saw that they might not know who it was.

D.H.: Uhhuh. Well, were you especially interested in knowing the names of the people?

D.H.: Ah ..... 

D.S.: Yes, he wanted any information that ..... 

D.C.: Any information will be of interest and I'll make a copy of that for him and return it to you, if I could. I don't know if he was that interested in names of individuals rather than the process that went on.


D.S.: Good heavens, there were lots of problems weren't there?

D.H.: Yes, there were problems.

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: You know ..... 

D.C.: Your husband, I guess, had to deal with a lot of those problems?

D.H.: Yes, ah, they were people ..... He was, I think that was one of his great trait, he was a very diplomatic person and he could talk to anyone on their level.
D.G.: He must have been a very unusual person to deal with.
D.H.: Yes, yes.

D.C.: ..... this individuals.
D.H.: I went with him a lot to, they had community meeting in these places, and I would go a lot. I am sure, if they are alive, they would remember me.
D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.G.: Oh, he must have been wonderful with people.
D.H.: Uhhuh. I would visit in the homes, and I can visit with anyone. It doesn't make any difference weather they was in my generation or in another one, or what class they were in I could talk to them.

D.C.: Well, that's a wonderful attribute to have.
D.S.: Really is.
D.H.: And, I think ..... I would go into the homes while he was out with the men on the farms, and-a, ah.... I just talked with the people, exchanged ideals. They were, they were nice people, so generous. They would give me butter, you know, hams, and you know, and corn, apples, and-a, just real generous, good-hearted people.

D.S.: That's what I've been saying. Despite all that is written down here, they had their own morals, but they stuck to them.
D.S.: And, as long as you stick to what you feel is correct, make no different if you kill a person, as long as you feel that you are morally right and everyone in the community said you was morally right.
D.H.: Right.
D.S.: They were gentle people really.

D.H.: Well, they say they were descendants of the English, and they still have a, you know, lots of the words and customs they had.

D.C.: Right.

D.H.: Well, they worked hard. I mean they had to grub out. I ... 

D.S.: Did you ever hear any Elizabethan terms?

D.H.: Oh, I suppose I have, but I don't remember.

D.S.: Uhhuh, because I know ... ....

D.H.: I know they have them, yes, uhhuh. At the time I can remember people had ... One woman who had, she was from the hill, she wasn't one of the homesteaders, but she was a mountain woman. You know, they get, their skin gets so brown and wrinkled and hard looking. But, she use to come and help me in my garden ... ....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, ah ......, I know she had a lot of terms. I don't remember, all I can recall right now of hearing her say, I don't know, I don't know it would be, ...... I don't think it would be Elizabethan or a term they just conjured up, but she talked about whooping ......, whooping a snake to death.

D.S.: Ah. (Laughed)

D.H.: She would take a stick and she would whoop it.

(All laughed)

D.H.: When they go picking, you know, they would always go up in the mountains to pick blackberries, or cherries, and ....

D.S.: Huckleberries and ....

D.H.: She would whoop the snakes.

D.S.: (Laughed) Poor snakes.
D.H.: Uhhuh. Lets see, sometimes you would get some of them they were very hard headed too. I remember it would be very difficult to get some of them out of the houses. They were supposed to.

DG: When they were to move.

D.H.: I mean into the farm security homes.

DG: Huh.

D.H.: When they failed, they had to put them out. You see if they didn't look after the place and didn't, to plow the ground, neglected it they, naturally were not entitled to stay. One family was very hard. She-a, Mr. Housh had the sheriff and someone else to go out there, and she came to the door, and someone could see in the back, and said to be very careful she had a gun in the back of the door. And she would have used it.

DG: Uhhuh.

D.H.: They were over on the Madison tract.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

DG: But they did get them out some how?


DG: They had then to prove up on this deal.

D.H.: Yes. Oh, yes, they had to take care of it or otherwise they wouldn't be allowed to stay. And-a,

D.S.: Now, this, was this where they were relocated to? Look as if this person got a brooder house and a barn.

D.H.: Well, I don't .......

D.S.: Another barn, a servant quarters.
D.H.: Well, these are probably some of the older plantations, you know, that they bought up.

D.S.: That's what I was wondering, did they buy this or ... This wasn't in the mountain, was it?

D.H.: Well this was Rappahannock .... here Madison.....Rappahannock, now just. Is that?

D.C.: North, that's north of Madison.

D.H.: Yes.

D.C.: Sperryville.


D.C.: I suppose if there was these old buildings on the property they bought, they would just use them?

D.H.: Yes they did. So, naturally they would. They just wouldn't want to tear down a good home.....

D.C.: No.

D.H.: ....... And-a, so they could move some of the families into it.

D.S.: Here is another one has a poultry house on Insurance Tract.

D.H.: I believe they had a lot of land over there. I believe they still have some, if I'm not mistaken.

D.C.: And the government bought up this property for this purpose?

D.H.: Yes .... Uhhuh.

D.S.: I see.

D.C.: So, many of the families that lived up Big Meadows ... was located in Elkton and Madison County.

D.H.: Uhhuh, right.
D.H.: And—a, now this, I, I know the name of the family that moved into that. I think they still occupy it. And every year, I think, they still have their lamb stew or whatever it is, they cook a whole sheep and have all the people come in and bring other things, and they have that.

D.S.: Is their names Hopkins?

D.H.: No, No. That's the Hopkins' residence, that's in Rockingham County, this is Madison.

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: But those people out here ———. I have visited in so many of these homes. Some of them were just beautiful inside. The one over, I believe, it's either at Flint Hill or Little Washington, it had ——— still had the frescoes on the wall ———.

D.C.: Oh, for heaven's sake!

D.H.: ——— And the most beautiful circular stair way you ever saw.

D.C.: Uh, this was one of the old houses taken over?

D.H.: Uhhuh. I ———, I think in the beginning they had someone that was kind of a supervisor to live in one of those ———

D.C.: In each group?

D.H.: Yes.

D.S.: Blose. Now there are still Bloses in Page County, in Rockingham County.

D.H.: Oh, yes. Uhhuh. There are people in Elkton.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Now, now of course there are typical person, see how they raise corn out here in these rocks. You know they tell a
story about how they lift up the rock and put the corn under it, put it down again.

D.S.: Yep, they say you can see the corn grow.

D.H.: Yes .... you see ....

D.S.: Yep.

D.H.: See there, look a-there.

D.C.: Heaven sake! It's amazing!

D.H.: Look there, well, you've seen places like that. Here's another one.


D.H.: I don't know, does it give any ....?

D.S.: John Nichols.

D.H.: Nichols, yes, Uhhuh, they were a nice family .... Here's a man, of course, they were great hunters. They always had dogs, you know. Took good care of their dogs.

D.S.: Look at that pascal of dogs. (Laughed)

D.H.: Yes. There's the drive/.

D.S.: Yes. Uhhuh.

D.H.: These are wonderful photographs.

D.H.: Uhhuh. Now here ...., now here shows a settler, you know, with his....., his little house there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: You know, some of these I wouldn't know what they were. Looks like a going down the mountain.

D.S.: Yes, looks like coming down this mountain.

D.H.: Just out in the country. Here is a country road, but it may have to just a road going up the mountain, I guess.

D.S.: Looks like one of the fire trails, doesn't it?

Yes.

D.H.: Yes, just a home there. This must be.....

D.C.: Looks like Madison Run road on the other side.

D.H.: Oh, this is Dodson. Now, they, there was...., they lived in one of the nice homes. The Dodsons, now they were, and the girls, one of them became a teacher. They, they were a wonderful family, they believed in progress.

D.S.: They did, yes.

D.H.: Now this .... Now I guess this is the falls ..... White Oak Falls. This shows the dead oaks. The ..... 

D.S.: Dead chestnuts. Yes. Ah.....Ah.... Yes.

D.H.: Now this is just a trail.

D.C.: Were the chestnuts pretty well gone about the time these people were moving out?

D.H.: Yes.

D.C.: The blite already hit earlier hadn't it?

D.H.: Yes, you see....., the drive was put through there and remember they used all that dead chestnut to build all the concessions up there, and furniture up there.

D.C.: Yes, right.

D.H.: The all, the

D.C.: They just got that wood from these dead trees?

D.H.: Yes. The cottages and everything they made of the ..... 

D.C.: Right, the original chestnut is still there in some of those old buildings.

D.H.: The chestnut, Uhhuh.

So, I guess this book is just of the facts. These may be some they considered and didn't buy, I don't know.
D.S.: These are all Rockingham County.
D.H.: Uhhuh. This is Rockingham, I think they were ...., here is Ida Valley. These things are all comin out .... I'll have to fix that up.
D.S.: This is a completed house.
D.H.: Yes, these are all, they were painted.
D.S.: Yea.
D.H.: I mean, that on different places. Now on the Elkton tract, I think, they all were painted yellow.
D.S.: Oh, this is where they remodeled that Saunder's house in Ida Valley.
D.H.: They painted them all the same color in each tract?
D.H.: Yes, all the same, yellow with white trim .... See, a lot of this, we went over in 1938, see.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: I'll take and do something with this. This must have been this mucilage or something they put these on with, it don't last.
D.G.: No, it doesn't.
D.H.: I'll get something better than that.
D.G.: Just don't use scotch tape, it damages the photographs. (Laughs)
D.H.: No.
D.S.: (Laughed)
D.G.: We were talking to people yesterday that told us that.
D.H.: Here is Dr. Frank C. Handerham out there breaking ground at Ida Valley unit.
D.S.: There is the Weaver's Estate in Wolftown.
D.H.: (Laughed)
D.S.: Estate (Laughing).
Oh dear! This must be ... this is the Weaver's estate too, see that.


D.H.: Had a lot of ..... 

D.S.: Had a barn, he had two tenant houses, and servant quarters.

D.H.: Uhhuh, at one time it was quite a place, wasn't it?

D.S.: Right.

D.H.: You see, we have two slave houses here.

D.C.: Oh, do you?

D.H.: This, this right where you are sitting was part of the slave house.

D.C.: Huh.

D.H.: The bottom, the fireplace is just exactly the way they had it. And, this other one over here is a slave house too. Most of the places around did have slaves.

D.C.: Yes, especially on this side of the ridge.

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: Yes.

D.S.: Yes, Mary's Rock. Uhhuh.

D.C.: Were the people moved down a few at a time, or did they move quite a few right at the same time?

D.H.: No, I believe they were all moved when the houses were finished.

D.C.: They tried to move them all at once?

D.H.: Yes, it looked as though they were working on all of them.

D.S.: From what I understand it, they couldn't move them all at once because as they moved them out they tore the houses down. And, they didn't have enough personnel to tear them
down. Ah, they would move, maybe, two families at a time.


D.S.: Ah, if they didn't tear them down the people came right back. (Laughed)


D.S.: Or that is what I heard.

D.H.: Or some of the others would tear them down and take the things away.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: You know things like that was done.

DC: As soon as they left, someone else would come in

D.H.: Yes.

D.S.: Yes, that is why the CCC tore them down.

D.H.: Have you read that book by Pollock?

D.S.: Yes.

DC: Yes.

D.H.: Now you know what he told.

DC: Right.

D.H.: And that was exactly, you know, the way things would happen.

DC: That's the way it was.

D.H.: So, I think that's why they tore the things down right away, because they didn't want someone else to come in.

DC: Move in right after them?

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: Yes, or ..., you know the government is very stric about a lot of those thing over what belongs to them.

DC: Oh, yes.
D.H.: It's ..., even if it isn't even worth while, they ... you can't buy it, you can't.

D.C.: Yes, they will destroy it, weather ....

D.H.: Yes, they'll destroy it ..., weather then you buy.

D.C.: Had your husband been in this area before this job or did he come just for this job?

D.H.: He came for this, he was, at the time, he was at Redhouse, down in ..., no, not Redhouse ..., down in .... He was in Tennessee, ah, a settlement there. And-a, then he came from there.

D.C.: Just for this project?

D.H.: We came, before we came ..., to this project ..., we ... we, he was in Morgantown ..., with the farm in Morgantown, with the Farm Security Administration.

D.C.: West Virginia?

D.H.: West Virginia. Then we moved from ..., from Morgantown to ..., to over to Elkton.

D.C.: It must have been quite a challenging job, wasn't it?

D.H.: Yes. (Laughed)

D.C.: Probably didn't know what he was gettin into.

D.H.: Well, he ..., of course, worked.

D.C.: Oh, your husband had done similar work before. I see.

D.H.: Ah, see when we were married ..., Chester was with a larger, the Duluth Iron Range Railroad Company, who had a lot of land in northern Minnesota. They sought settlers in from different parts ..., a lot of them came from Chicago and many foreign; French and Austrian, and all .... And, to settle. So he did have some kind of experience.
DC: He had a background then, Sure, right.

D.H.: That he had these, Czechoslovakians and .......

DC: Well, this no doubt helped him in this job, that experience.

D.S.: Yes, Uhhuh.

D.H.: So.

DC: Someone coming in fresh would have probably done them in.

D.H.: (Laughed) Well, I don't know, it seems like he ..., of course, we had a good organization, and people. He had good people to work with him ... in the office and all.

D.S.: How large of staff did he have?

D.H.: Well, I think, let see, they had ..., Mozelle, at the time ..., was his, you might call her a Home Economist. Well, I suppose ..., I don't, I didn't know too much about this.

Oh, I'm going to take this and get them all ....

DC: Yes, why you had them near the captions, that is important.

D.H.: These are marked on the back, see.

DC: Oh, that's good ..., someone really ....

D.S.: But, not all of them. Huh-Un, No.

D.H.: No, not all of them, but these are. But I'll, I think they are, one's out, I see. They have come loose from the binding. But ....

D.S.: Yes, see, now that didn't have anything on the back.

D.H.: Yes there is a mark.

D.S.: No that's just a print mark.

D.H.: Yes, but that's right here, I'll try to leave them in the .... Ashby Atkins, Finch, Dodson, this must be out at Flint Hill, Washington ...., Little Washington.
D.S.: Yea.
D.H.: Here in Blue Ridge Family.
D.S.: Up in the mountain.
D.H.: Uhhuh. Here's .. don't say what that is even.
D.S.: Just was called - Blue Ridge Family.

Oh, I'm sorry.
D.H.: This must be, this must be a family.
D.S.: Ashby Cabin, Thorton River Valley ...... Thorton River Valley? Oh.

DG: I see a lot of these people barefooted. Do they go barefooted quite a bit?
D.H.: Yes, yes ... saved on shoes.
DG: Uhhuh.
D.H.: You know they were poor. They were poor.
DG: Yes.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: But a ..... Look at this sled they drew, I don't see how they could use that without .. snow.... Look at them, see loading that, that was a big load on there.
D.S.: That sure was.
D.H.: Huh, they didn't have much, I'll tell you that.
D.S.: Poor horse had to pull that with a boy that was riding on it.

(Laughing)

DG: Were some of the people glad to move off the mountain or was some of them pretty upset?
D.H.: Well, I think it was quite a change for them.
DG: It would be, of course.
D.H.: I think so, that is why I think perhaps people .
neighbors, that had been neighbors, you see, didn't make
it quite so bad.

D.G.: They got to be together again.

D.H.: Yes that.

D.G.: In the same general community.

D.H.: Yes, Uhhuh. You see the people that was in Big Meadows,
they went down to Luray.

D.G.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And they, we ... I don't, I was trying to think where
the ...., where the people from Elkton were, they probably
were up here on the mountain. This was probably ....,
South River and-a ..... 

D.S.: Did any go to Wolftown?

D.G.: Oh, right.

D.S.: Wolftown?

D.H.: South River, Wolftown, yes, they had one at Wolftown and
Madison, I think. Were there two there?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.G.: You say your husband had meeting with them ... to discuss ..

D.H.: Oh yes, community meetings.

D.G.: Was this to discuss, problems and complaints?

D.H.: Problems they had, Uhhuh.

D.S.: Was this after they moved out?

D.H.: And he would go out and just visit with them, with the
individuals.

D.S.: Oh, I see, this was after they had moved out.

D.H.: Yes, this ....
DG: Try to work out some of their problems.
D.H.: They were all moved when we came, you know.
DG: They had already moved?
D.H.: Oh yes, they had already moved. Yes the settlements were all here, 38 was when we came, 34 was when they started this.
D.S.: Oh, I see.
D.H.: It was relatively new?
D.S.: Yes.
DG: Do you remember some of their main complaints? Some of the worst problems he had to deal with? He must had a great variety.
D.H.: I don't know. Oh, let me see if I can think of anything. I don't know, they seem to be given things.
D.S.: Did they object to living so close to each other? They had always been so far apart.
D.H.: Well, they didn't, the places weren't too close together, you know, they had to have enough acreage ......
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: You know, to do a little farming. Except the ones that had one, what you called the subdistrict. Most of them had five acres or something, where they had a garden and or a patch here for some cattle, their cows, and their pigs. Then they worked, see then they got them jobs like in Elkton, they worked around in the town.
DG: I see.
D.H.: But then where the others was suppose to have enough for crops then ......, corn or whatever was ......
D.S.: Did they object to loosing their springs? Do you recall?
D.H.: Well, they couldn't move those.
D.S.: Yea.
D.H.: No, they just had, I think they had water in the houses, they had, I think, they had a sewage system.
D.C.: Running water?
D.H.: Yes.
D.C.: Which they hadn't had that before probably.
D.H.: No, they hadn't that before. That, they had the baths, they didn't know ......
D.C.: Didn't know what to do with them.
D.H.: What to do with them, so they put the coal in it. But-a, see, I don't know really, I guess all that was done, you see was four years old before when we got there.
D.C.: Sure.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: And-a, I..., I believe Chester came, he was over here about a year before I came. So he ..., he came, Ah..., I ..., let me think......I think he came a little bit earlier than that, I guess 38, ... in the fall of 38. He was here a year ahead of that.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.C.: I was just wondering in your talking with wives and people if you have many people complaining that they wished they were back up on the mountain.
D.H.: No, I think, I think, they'd gotten so they had gotten to like ....
D.C.: They were fairly well settled and liked the new life.
Yes, I think they really like to think their children were getting an education.

They really had improved themselves?

Yes.

Then in general even if they may have missed all their environment.

I think they liked that, they may have missed the kind of freedom, you know, the mountain was close, it wasn't like they put them on absolute flat land.

No, that's true.

But I'm sure..., I'm sure they would have missed their mountain. Don't you think?

Oh, I think so, yes.

Oh golly.

I'm sure they did, I was just wondering if they did by the time you were dealing with them, if they did adapted to their new lives.

I think pretty well.

That was fast then.

Well, they still had some murder cases after we came. I remember there was one at Flint Hill. I was over with Chester one day and sat through a, I guess they were selecting a jury. Then we had one here, a man that worked for us, he killed a man.

That was with in the community?

Huh?

It was..., was someone murdering someone else within the communities?

Yes.
D.H.: There's still a lot of that going on.

D.C.: Yes, I know. (Laughed) It sure is.

D.H.: My, my daughter, I mean my granddaughter said we should help. Say, "I wonder why there are such mean people in this county?" Say now, "Down in North Carolina," she said, "they don't have that." And I said, "Well." . . . , she said, "Why do you suppose that was?" "Well," I said, "Ah, I believe it is lack of education," and I said, "These people, they're, they lived in the mountain. So many you know, we are in the mountain here".

D.C.: That's the way you settled your problems . . . . , sometimes.

D.H.: And-a, . . Yes. They were vindictive. They didn't, they would do mean things. Go and well, poison the water, poison the hogs, or something, or they would burn the houses down. They were, people was afraid to leave their homes and even to go away for the day, they didn't know if they would have a house when they got home. . . If someone was feuding with them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.C.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And-a, I guess it was just survival of the fittest, or maybe survival of the cleverest.

(All laughed)

D.C.: That's probably more like it.

D.H.: The one that could beat the other. I, I enjoyed that book by Pollock.

D.S.: Yes.

D.C.: Uhhuh, that's a very interesting book.
D.H.: Simply because, you know, it was a forerunner of what we experienced when we came here.

D.C.: Sure. Did you ever meet Mr. Pollock?

D.H.: No ..., let me, I don't believe, I don't know. I believe he was still alive when we .......

D.S.: Oh yes.

D.H.: I mean...., we probably had. Was he kind a, of a large broad face man?

D.S.: He was of small stature.

D.H.: Small, maybe I'm thinking of someone else. But, I don't know if he was coming up to Skyland as much when.....

D.C.: Probably not.

D.H.: Because you see, Big Meadows was built later, so Skyland was THE place to go. I remember in the old, you know, they had a lovely big old dinning room there in an old building there, but that burnt.

D.C.: Right.

D.H.: And-a, but, that was really a good ..., ah, just a good place for social gatherings.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: So we would go there real often.

D.C.: Yes.

D.H.: Of course, Big Meadows was nice. It was a nice place to take guest, and they all enjoyed it. It was rustic, and-a ..

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: But we don't, I don't, we don't seem to get up on the mountain like we use to. We enjoyed it so much. But we was so busy.
Use to go a lot, I guess.

D.H.: Oh, we went an awful lot. We went there all the time. I believe about every Sunday, we'd go. I use to love to fix up a, you know, a regular dinner, and then just pack it so it was hot, quickly go up on the mountain, we would make our coffee up there. Or, on Sunday, I'd have a roast and fix mashed potatoes up there ....

D.S.: Oh, my goodness.

D.H.: ...lima beans, and have a regular dinner, or I'd, some night, I would fix up some corn beef and cabbage and take off.

D.A.: Away you would go, huh?

D.H.: One night went over to the fall, Chester he was coming from here, Walt and I was already up there, it was getting dark and skunk's were coming out.

D.S.: Now, you was mentioning a Mrs. Hughes.

D.H.: Uhhuh. Yes, I can't recall her first name, but Mrs. Hughes had been teaching public speaking to the Senator's wives, and I think, her husband was connected with the government in some way, so she became very interested in this one project at Flint Hill, Virginia. So, she and her husband bought one of the houses just like the ...., the people there, that was moved from the park and, and fixed it up. I remember they had bunk beds, trying to live in a primitive way. And-a, she was very much interested in promoting education and advantages .......

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: ...... to the people of the community there. And-a, she and one family she visited, while, she had mashed potatoes, they
were having dinner, and she had mashed these lovely fluffy white potatoes and fried salt pork seemed to be the meat, for the meat for the day, so, one of the girls took the grease from meat fried and poured this all over the potatoes. (Laughed)

D.S.: Mashed potatoes, Oh.

D.H.: That was one thing Mrs. Hugh did, try to do. She brought several times, food editor from Washington and tried to get the people to be more interested in the proper nutrition.

D.S.: Did she have trouble communicating with them? They... ah, you know, their use of words was not as great as hers.

D.H.: No, I think she communicated very well.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: They were a type of people ..., that they could understand.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Uhhuh. But, of course, it was new to them. Ah, about the food like we had. That you should have your proteins and carbohydrates, and so on. They didn't know anything about that, but if you told them what foods, you know, they could understand that.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: But-a, also they didn't have the advantages to purchase food like others did. They were depended on what they grew in their gardens. They would have potatoes, their vegetables, and so they just ate what they had. And with meat they didn't go out....., lived out in the country, and couldn't buy meat like we did. So, they depended mostly on meat they slaughtered themselves, which was mostly pork.
D.S.: That's right. Yes.

D.H.: So, that was ... their great food item.

D.S.: Do you recall how they kept their vegetables over the winter?

D.H.: I don't .... think so, I think ...

D.S.: When they were in the mountain they use to dig a trench ....


D.S.: ...... and bury ....


D.S.: .... them in the ground.


D.S.: And, I was wondering if they continued doing that.

D.H.: Well, I think some of them did. I think some of them would dig trenches and put potatoes in them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, by the time we were there they knew how to can.

D.S.: Well, they canned, also in the mountain.

D.H.: Yea, they canned, but sweet potatoes and a lot of time they kept their sweet potatoes, I think, right in the house. Because sweet potatoes are difficult to hold, think you have to have some heat with those.


D.H.: But, I think, turnips and potatoes and things like that, I think they did ...., just dig a trench and I think, put straw over them.

D.S.: That's right. Yea, Uhhuh. So, that custom then continued after they came down.

D.H.: Uhhuh
D.S.: Well, that makes sense.
D.H.: Yes.
D.S.: But they had refrigerators, didn't they? In these houses?
D.H.: When they were moved they had refrigerators. Oh, there's one little interesting thing I remember about, practically everyone of the people they moved bought their boxwoods with them, and because they felt that was just traditional, I guess. They always have had boxwoods. You can see where houses had been abandoned in the mountain there is always boxwood.
D.S.: Oh, I didn't know that.
D.H.: But anyway, the way they did, they cut sprigs of boxwood off and stuck them in potatoes, and brought them down, and in that way they rooted them.
D.S.: In the potatoes?
D.H.: Yes, in the potatoes, that's what they told me. (laughed)
D.S.: Have you ever tried it yourself?
D.H.: No, I never have. But, the reason I am sure it worked was because I remember years ago my Mother getting a slip of a rose geranium, which is not an easy plant to root ....
D.S.: Right.
D.H.: And, she would split the bottom of the root and put an oat, or a grain of oat ... in it. The oat sprouted and, of course, that brought, the nutrient to the plant. So, I'm sure putting it in a potato it will live. (laughed)
D.S.: Yes.
D.H.: But, then they rooted their boxwood like that.
D.S.: I wonder what boxwood had for them, why it was traditional?
D.H.: Well, I don't know. You go into old cemeteries there is always boxwoods.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: There is always. It's a southern thing, I guess, to have boxwood. You don't find it in the north.

D.S.: But these people weren't really southerns.

D.H.: Well, yes, there in Tennessee and West Virginia, and Virginia.

D.S.: Yes, I mean, they . . . . ah, they weren't part of the mainstream of the south.

D.H.: No.

D.S.: What I mean . . . .

D.H.: They were the mountain, the mountain people.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yes.

D.H.: The mountain southern, I guess you might call them.

D.S.: They get . . . . they get their customs as they had been when they came to this country.

D.H.: Yes, Uhhuh.

D.S.: And, I was just wondering what boxwood had to do with it.

D.H.: And I know they would . . . . they would still gather ginseng.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: They would gather ginseng to sell.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, I can remember . . . . ah, one of the home . . . . we always called them homesteaders. I remember, he had to take a group of people over to the hospital, he drove my husband's car and they, he wanted me to go along. My husband always wanted me to go along to kind-a look after things, and, I remember
on the way back he had to stop by at a little road side store because he had some ginseng to take in there. (laughed)

D.S.: (Laughed) Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, but now I guess they aren't allow to, they use to go in the mountain, but now they aren't allowed to pick it. But it is very expensive, very expensive.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That's right. Yes, they stopped them from doing that because they pratically wiped the ginseng out.

D.H.: Yes, Uhhuh. I know that.

D.S.: Ah, you visited many of the families?

D.H.: Yes, I would, I would go with my husband on trips when, they would have communities meetings and, or we just go out to visit some of the families. Maybe one family, or two families, one time and someone else, and go along the way and probably meet somebody and have a chat with them. I'd go in the house and sit and visit with the women and talk to the children. There was always a group of children around. And-a, I always enjoyed talking to them. They always, always was glad to hear anything you had to say.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Just anxious for news of what was going on around, and, perhaps from different groups of people, seeing what their views were. And-a....

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were they wearing shoes then, by then, Or?

D.H.: Yes, I think they were. The children were usually bare-footed, but the women had shoes, they weren't that primitive. I'm sure taken in the, the women were barefoot.

D.S.: That's it, yes. And they were not wearing shoes, so I was wondering if.... and, then......
D.H.: See, they moved them closer to towns, and it didn't take them long to, you know, learn the ways of, of the town people. And the children went to school regularly which makes a different.

D.S.: Sure.

D.H.: And, you teach ...., the children teach the parents what they learned.

D.S.: Sure.

D.H.: And ....

D.S.: What was in their houses? How was their houses furnished?

D.H.: Well, they had linoleum on the floors, no one had rugs. They were all .... linoleum rugs. Sometimes they would call it a drug-it ...... a drug-it.

D.S.: A drug-it. (Laughed)

D.H.: Yes, a drug-it. And, of course, they had a kitchen stove, a wood stove.

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: And, that would be, then they would have another ...., a smaller stove, you know, for heating in the winter time. The houses weren't big, I think they were about four rooms, or five. A couple of bedrooms, and a kitchen, and maybe one they would use for a living room. Most of them had to use all the rooms for bedrooms, except the kitchen.

D.S.: Ah!

D.H.: Because there were more in the family.

D.S.: Sure.

D.H.: And-a, but I never was in a house that was, Oh, once or twice I have been in a house that wasn't too clean.
D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: But families like that usually didn't make it. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yes.

D.H.: And-a, then ....

D.S.: Then, you say didn't make it, so what happened to them? Did your husband then step in?

D.H.: Well, the government would just decide that, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: If they are not living up to really what their responsi-
bilities, then someone else could come in and take it over.

D.S.: I see.

D.H.: Because, I mean, if they were not getting anywhere ..... because these homesteads were established so the people could better themselves.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And-a, if they had no desire to do that, they were constantly drinking or, you know ....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: They/, of course, there was no use in helping them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: You know it eventually gets to a point help doesn't do any good. But, I found most of the homes were very neat ..., very neat.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.

D.H.: And the yards, but, of course, some of them would sweep their yards. That's an old custom, you know, to have a dirt yard, but sweep it. Have it swept clean. And others, most
of them enjoyed their flowers, have their little flower gardens, and raised lovely flowers. I had many bouquets given to me from them.

D.S.: Yes. Ah, was their furniture purchased for them, or did they have to buy it?

D.H.: They could pick it out. I think the government allowed them so much, enough, enough, you know, because they didn't have anything to move with really.

D.S.: No.

D.H.: That was worth moving. And-a, so the government allowed them, you know, enough to be comfortable. A bed, and I suppose, a dresser, weren't expensive things, they weren't expensive.

D.S.: No.

D.H.: But better than they had.

D.S.: Sure.

D.H.: And, so, they were, they had enough to make them comfortable. And after that if they wanted to add it was up to them.

D.S.: That's right. I just wondered about getting them started.

D.H.: And some of them, I remember on one tract in Elkton, there was such a fine man, and a basket maker; he is still working today. They bought their place. And, he still makes baskets, and chairs, and hampers, and all of that, and I still take, when one of my pieces wears out, the seat, you know, of a split bottom chair, why he repairs it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, so many of them have made good, been very successful.
The children have done well .........
D.S.: They have.
D.H.: That's, that's the thing, I think, that has been the greatest benefit, the children has done so well.
D.S.: I've known some of the children to become lawyers, and doctors, really professional people.
D.H.: Uhhuh...Yes. Uhhuh.
D.S.: And so, it was there ......, all the time......
D.H.: Oh yes!
D.S.: It was a lack of education on their part.
D.H.: They had ......, they weren't ......, yes, they had ......, they just hadn't had the advantage, but they had good minds. They were sharp.
D.S.: Yes, they were.
D.H.: Sharp. (Laughed)
D.S.: Right ......, they were. Ah, you got along well with them and enjoyed them, so they naturally liked you too.
D.H.: Yes, I ......, I enjoyed them very much, and remember many of them. And, I can remember one young woman, she was daughter of one of the families, and we went ......, she, she worked at a restaurant and she would come over and have her hair done at the same place I had mine done, and she remarked to this woman that had this shop. She thought Mrs. Housh was so nice, she didn't expect people like her to talk to her, or remember her.
D.S.: Oh. (Laughed)
D.H.: So, it never has bothered me, people are people, and I am no better than anyone else. It's just fortunate, fortunate I was perhaps raised and born into a different class and that was all.
D.S.: That's right.
D.H.: Different circumstances, I wouldn't say class, just
different circumstances which make a difference.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes, right.
D.H.: So, that was ....
D.S.: Did you notice any peculiarity in speech with these people?
D.H.: Well, they have, there is, there is kind of a, there is a
little accent there or something. A little or, just
a little difference. I really can't describe it....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: But it is different....
D.S.: Yea.
D.H.: And, they, I think, they have different expressions
for different things that happened that was perhaps a
little different from the way we would express it.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: I don't recall right now exactly what.
D.S.: The men were all clean shaven, weren't they? Most of them.
D.S.: I wonder what they used? I haven't been able to find out
what they used.
D.H.: Well, they just used soap.
D.S.: And a razor.
D.H.: A razor ....
D.S.: A strap razor.
D.H.: I imagine, a strap razor.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: I wouldn't be surprised if they weren't using a safety razor
like everyone else, it doesn't take them long, to get down
to it.
D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.
D.H.: They used that, and the families were still making that old soap, you know. The homemade soap, with the lye.
D.S.: Uhuh.
D.H.: And-a, they lived by that soap.
D.S.: You know that was very soft, it made your hands soft.
D.S.: And-a, ....
D.H.: It was pure. (Laughed)
D.S.: That's right. Yea. Did they, did the men do any moonshining that you were able to hear of?
D.H.: I imagined it went on. (Laughed) I imagined it went on. But of course, I didn't know.
D.S.: Yea.
D.H.: I imagine my husband would have known, but that wasn't anything we talked about. But, I'm sure, I'm sure where they could they had stills. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea, that was a way of life with them. It was.
D.H.: Yes, they had their corn. They planted their corn. They didn't plow their land, perhaps lifted a stone where the ground was soft under it and put some kernals there and it grew.
D.S.: Uhuh.
D.H.: Even on the mountain side, they do that where it was uneven.
D.S.: Uhuh.
D.H.: But, they had their corn crop.
D.S.: Yea.
D.H.: They didn't buy very much, I think, perhaps all they bought was their sugar and coffee.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: Things they couldn't grow.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: And, of course, they collected wild food. Collected berries and fruits.
D.S.: Ah, do you know how many actual settlements there were?
D.H.: I think there were seven.
D.S.: Seven?
D.H.: Uhhuh. There was two at Elkton, and I'm not sure whether Madison had two, but I know there was one at Madison, in Madison County, right outside of Madison.
D.S.: Wolftown?
D.H.: Wolftown, yes. And then there was one at Flint Hill and one at Little Washington, and Ida Valley, and Luray, and Greene County.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: I think that takes them all in. And, I think ...
D.S.: Were they all similar?
D.H.: No, some were, most were similar, the only one was radically different was the one in Greene County.
D.S.: In what way?
D.H.: That was kind of a dream of one of the government agriculture official that it should be patterned after a French farm village.
D.S.: Oh.
D.H.: So, they had purchased an old estate there, really where an old school was, a private school, and the idea was to live close. Have all the homes like a little small community.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: And then all the farms work was on the outline districts.
D.S.: Is this the school that is in that book of pictures?
D.H.: Yes, yes, that's the ...., that's the school.
D.H.: And, but, you see, the little settlement was on quite a little hill of its own.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: So, there was no farm land right there. It was all outside.
D.S.: Uhhuh, Yes.
D.H.: The flatlands, where they did the farming, So the men would go out and farm in the morning and then they would come home, to their (laughed) little homes at nights.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did they like it?
D.H.: Well, I, of course, I wouldn't know enough about that. I didn't believe I visited in that, in that settlement as much perhaps as I did some of the others.
D.S.: Because that is quite a different idea.
D.H.: Yes, it was entirely different.... I don't...., evidently it wasn't a success. Because, I believe ...... they ... I don't believe they were satisfied. think about it.
D.S.: You know, you think about it, there was no protection of the vegetables against the elements, or against rabbits .......
D.H.: No, it was all out ..... 
D.S.: It was away from their homes....... 
D.H.: That's right. 
D.S.: And, so they couldn't watch over it.
D.H.: No, and so much of the time; now if they wanted to come home... be, have lunch at noon, I think most of the people ate their big, now like we call lunch they call dinner and at night had what they called supper.

D.S.: Yea.

D.H.: ...and, a, I think they like to come home.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Be able to, if they wanted, go to the well to get a drink of water....

D.S.: Yea, uhhuh.

D.H.: ...or something. Because, I, I really don't believe that, that worked out, that idea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Ah, it would be ..... it sounds good.


D.S.: But ....

D.H.: One thing, one thing, the way they arranged for the people. The reason why... the people was moved out of the mountain was because the Skyline Drive was put through, and all these people had to be relocated. So, what they did, that was the reason for the settlements in different places.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: But because they had located the people close to where they had lived.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: Whereever there was a town close by that's where they were put to live. And-a, I think, on a whole, it worked out for those who stuck it out, very successfully. There was some very fine people from, that resulted from these moves.
But it was very new to them, they weren't used to modern conveniences, and in the settlement over in Ida Valley they had bathrooms, and—a, I know one family that kept their coal in the bath tub. (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

D.H.: So ....

D.S.: What else do you do with a bath tub? (Laughed)

D.H.: But ...., I ...., and that, that became one of our very successful family.

D.S.: It did?

D.H.: Yes, Uhhuh. He eventually, ah, he was able to purchase a farm of his own.

D.S.: Oh, great.

D.S.: And—a, ...

D.S.: Then was he allowed to sell ...., his house?

D.H.: Yes. After, you see, they all were privileged to buy their places eventually, you see, that's the way it worked.


D.H.: They could own their own little farm.

D.S.: Uhhuh. I think, that the people, well, now say a person had no skills of any kind, and there was quite a number had to go on welfare. Ah, were they put in these settlement houses too?

D.H.: I don't know. I don't remember of anyone they took from welfare. I mean, any ...., I'm sure that those mountain people all knew how to do something.

D.S.: Yes, there was quite a number had to go on welfare.

D.H.: There were?
D.S.: Yes.
D.H.: Out of ..., well, I don't, I don't believe I ever heard that.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: Of course there might have been, I don't know whether they put them in those homes or not.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.
D.H.: They may have just moved into a community.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: I wouldn't, I never thought about that, and I never heard.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: Of course, as I have said, the settlements there, they were all relocated ... .
D.S.: Yes.
D.H.: ... before we came ... .
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: ... in 19--, my husband was here in 1937, he came a year before I came. He would commute to Morgantown. (Laughed)
D.S.: Oh, No!
D.H.: That was ..., Yes. That was quite a drive. For, maybe one day was about all he could spend at home for a year. But, we came here. The trouble was finding a place to stay. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yes.
D.H.: That was very difficult in a small town of Elkton. You know everyone owned their home and there was just very few to rent.
D.S.: Yes.
D.H.: But ...., so ..., we finally found a place.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: And lived there for awhile. We liked it, I've, I've loved living here in Virginia, I like the mountains. (Laughed) Really love them.
D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. I do too. I think there is a beauty about them and it's always changing.
D.H.: But you see, a ...., then they also had medical and dental care. But when one (laughed) had their tonsils out, everyone had to have their tonsils out. (Laughed)
D.S.: (Laughed)
D.H.: That's the way it would go, you know. They, there was that little feeling, bit, you might say, jealousy.
D.S.: Right.
D.S.: Sure.
D.H.: And, the same way when they got the things in the houses. I remember one woman, one family was satisfied with one linoleum rug, but they found out that others was having two or three, why then they decided they, they would like three. (Laughed)
D.H.: So ....
D.S.: Uhhuh, Yes.
D.H.: Of course, I didn't know too much about their intimate lives. And how they got along with their neighbors. I, you know you can't cure people of some habits they had a life time.
D.S.: That's right.
D.H.: And, when they lived in the mountains they had a hard life, and it was an awful lot of rivalry and ill feelings.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: ... amongst many of the people, and I suppose it just took time too. (laughed) But some of those habits would still remain.
D.S.: Yes. Well, that's true, because some of the people that were left in the hollows where the park didn't buy, they were still the same way that they were back in those days.
D.H.: Yes. For the most part, I think for the most part, I think they did very well. Just visiting in their homes they seemed just like any other farm family.
D.S.: Yes.
D.H.: And-a, at least they didn't complain to me, I didn't hear any complaints. They were just very pleasant, and .... interested in anything I was doing or anything that I could tell them.
D.S.: Did they play any music?
D.H.: Well, I don't know. What ...., I don't remember ...., I don't remember, I was trying to think weather I saw a piano in any place, or an organ ...., I think, they are ....
D.S.: How about a banjo?
D.H.: A guitar?
D.S.: It would've been banjos, or guitars, violins, or fiddles.
D.H.: Guitars ...., yes, I think a fiddle.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.H.: But you see, when I visited them, now if we had been there in the evenings, that would be the time they would have any
entertainment.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: But see, it would be in the day time and the men would be busy and the women, you know, were busy too.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: They had things to look after. But....

D.S.: I certainly do thank you. You have cleared up whole lot of gaps that we had.

D.H.: It was so long that, as I say, things are just kind of ...

D.S.: Of course it's a long while ago. We should have been doing this years and years ago.

D.H.: And I guess you know what happened later on when the ones would leave the homesteads that would leave extra homes.


D.H.: .... houses, and anyone who wanted to buy one of those could buy them and they could have it moved and make a double, make a larger home. Many of them did that.

D.S.: I see.

D.H.: And that gave them a larger amount of property, and by that time they were able to do it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.H.: And, so they had very nice places. Was very surprising, you could go on those places they hardly look like it did when it first started out.

D.S.: Yes, that's right.

D.H.: Uhhuh. They made nice homes out of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. I know, Ida Valley doesn't look at all like it.

D.H.: Have you ever visited any of the homesteads around here?
D.S.: Ida Valley, I have, and Wolftown.

D.H.: Oh, you have. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Those were the only two.

D.H.: You never visited the ones at Elkton? I think they have developed so.

D.S.: No. No. I'm not exactly sure where they are.

D.H.: Well, there is one on the way as you to Harrison... Harrisonburg right close to Elkton.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh.

D.H.: Uhhuh. And then there is one, was trying to think where the other ones is on the other side. But, the one at Elkton, being so close to Elkton has given them pretty good advantages...

D.S.: Sure.

D.H.: You know, we always had pretty good schools, and...

D.S.: Right.

D.H.: I, I think that is a big advantage, I think. But now that generation of children if they had been in the mountains was no school. There just were no schools in the mountains, very, very far, far apart.

D.S.: They were far apart. The youngsters walked miles, and lots of time the snow so deep they couldn't do it.


D.S.: Yes, but they did have about twenty.

D.H.: Yes, they had for certain time of the year, you know. They would have a school a little bit and the children were kept home to help with anything they had to.

D.S.: That's right. Sure.
D.H.: Well, I hope I helped you.
D.S.: You certainly did.
D.H.: They are intelligent as I say, just that they were born in different environments.
D.S.: That's right.
D.H.: They didn't have the advantages, as I say they had good minds.
D.S.: They certainly did, and they still do.
D.S.: Their customs were different from ours, I'll grant you.  But ....
D.H.: Of course, I haven't given any names which ....
D.S.: No ..... Did you know Deconess Hutton?
D.H.: Huh?
D.S.: Did you know Deconess Hutton?
D.H.: No.
D.S.: A wonderful, wonderful woman who lives up in Grove Hill.
D.H.: Oh, yes, over in Shenandoah. Near Shenandoah?
D.S.: Yes, right.
D.S.: Well, bless her heart, I told her I wanted to interview her, she said, "I wouldn't do anything to hurt my people." I said, "I wouldn't do anything to hurt them either," and I said, "all I want you to do is tell me about their life style. I don't give a darn what their names are, I just want to hear about their life style."
D.S.: "Well, I don't want to do anything to hurt my people." Well shoot, they never will be hurt.

D.S.: Alright ..... Right there ....

D.H.: I was going to read this, I have never read this.

D.S.: Alright. And, so when I went there we we absolutely ..., she said never gave you any names. I said "Nope."