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(SNP071) Erma Jones and Lucy Taylor interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Erma Jones

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Erma Jones interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, November 19, 1979, SdArch SNP-71, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University
This is Dorothy Smith interviewing Mrs. Erma Jones and Mrs. Lucy Taylor. Lucy Taylor, where was it that you lived in the mountains?

Here, and over thar, up the Red Gate Road, back over the hill.

About how far up Red Gate Road?

Have you been over thar, the little road goes down to the creek?

Yea.

Well, I go across the creek and around the hill.

Uhhuh.

Up on top of the hill.

Up on top of the hill?

Uhhuh.

What was the area called?

Purgatory! (Laughing)

(Laughing) O.K.. Mrs. Jones, where was it that you lived in the mountain?

I lived what they called the Cool Spring.

Cool Spring?

Uhhuh.

O.K.. Now, what kind of a house was it that you was born in? Alright, Mrs. Taylor?

It was here when I was... I don't....

A log house.

A log house?

Yea.

How many rooms?

Four.
D.S.: Four rooms?

D.S.: O.K. How about yours, Mrs. Jones. What was your house like?

E.J.: Well, mine was a log house too, but it was weatherboarded on the outside.

D.S.: Ohhh, then that kept the snow from coming in, didn't it? (Laughed)

E.J.: (All Laughing) Yea.

D.S.: Did you have a shingle roof or a tin roof?


D.S.: Uhhuh. Chestnut shingles?

E.J.: I reckon, I don't know what kind of shingles.

D.S.: Ahhh..., What did..., this is going back when you both were little girls. What did your daddy do, ...... uh..., what were his jobs....... uh...., did he work anywhere, or ......?

E.J.: Well, there was a apple orchard up thar, he packed, he barreled apples and made cider.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: And, then later on...., the man that owned the place, then bought the places, he built some big chicken houses, and they raised chickens.

D.S.: O.K. Then your father didn't own the property?

E.J.: No.

D.S.: No. How about your property, was that, did you own that?


D.S.: No, I'm talking about when you was a little girl?

E.J.: No, this place here belonged to her granddaddy.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K.. Then he owned it?
Yes, we had gardens. Was the ground rocky?
Not too bad. It wasn't too rocky?
It was rocky, but they farmed it.
D.S.: What, you grewed all the usually vegetables?
E.J.: Yes. Potatoes, and cabbage, and tomatoes...
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: ... and cabbages.
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: All kind of vegetables.
D.S.: Yes.
E.J.: Then we always had hogs to butcher in the fall of the year.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you pen up your hogs or did you let them run loose?
E.J.: We penned them up.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: Fattened them, feed them corn.
D.S.: Yea. All year round?
E.J.: No, not all the year, about four or six weeks before butcherin' time.

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: We always penned them up in a pen.

D.S.: Yea. Before butchering time did they run loose?

E.J.: Yes. They run out then in lots.

D.S.: How could you tell which was your pig (Laughing) and which was somebody else's?

E.J.: Well, nobody else had none.

D.S.: (Laughing) Oh, that was easy.

(All Laughing)

D.S.: O.K., because a lot of time I should think they would got mixed up with everybody letting their pigs run.

E.J.: No, everybody didn't.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: Each had their hogs seperated.

D.S.: Yea. Did your mother dry anything, like apples?

E.J.: Yes, she dried apples and beans.

D.S.: Yea. How would you dry the beans?

E.J.: Snap them, and string them, and spread them out on papers.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: Up.... We had a loft, upstairs....

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: She would have that floor full of beans. (Laughing)

D.S.: Did you ever string them?

E.J.: No.

D.S.: You didn't?

E.J.: Never did do that.
D.S.: Uhhuh. You never let them dry on the vines?
E.J.: Yes, sometimes. Then we would always shell them out for shell beans.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Did you call them hey beans or shell beans?
E.J.: Shell beans.
D.S.: Shell beans.
E.J.: Soup beans. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh, right.... Uh...., when you...., when she had dried these, did she put anything in them? Salt or anything of that kind?
E.J.: Oh, black pepper or red pepper.
D.S.: Black pepper?
E.J.: To keep from getting bugs in them.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How about your family?
L.T.: About the same, I think. Dry the beans, my Mother did.
D.S.: Yea. Did your mother make yeast?
E.J.: Yes.
D.S.: Did she....
E.J.: Called them rifvles. (Laughed)
D.S.: Ripples?
E.J.: Rifvles. R-i-v-v-, I don't know how you spell it.
(Laughed) Rifvles.
D.S.: R-i-v-v-les. How would she make these?
E.SJ.: Well, she would take corn meal and..., I don't know what else she would, and she would pinch them up in little balls and let them dry. And, then when she wanted to make bread she just put a couple of them in....., Mash some potatoes up and put some of these rifvles in with the potatoe and put water in with..., and then over night, let set over night.
D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: Then it would be foamed way up next mornin', then she would make up her dough.

D.S.: Now, if you took just plain corn meal and tied it up, that wouldn't do it would it?

E.J.: No. She use to get these hard blocks of yeast, they called it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: It wasn't that soft kind.

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: It was the little hard block and, she would melt that and pour in the corn meal and mix and make the rifvles.

D.S.: Yes. Uhhuh, and then that would keep a long whil,

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: is that it?

E.J.: Yes.

D.S.: And it stretched out the regular yeast?

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: O.K., I've been wondering about that a long, long time. Great! Uh..., now how about it, did you have any particular chores you had to do?

E.J.: No, nothing particular, I had to do.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were there many children in your family?

E.J.: Yes, but when they got up big enough to get out and go to work they went out and went to work for themselves.

D.S.: Well, how many were in your family?

E.J.: Five..., I think.

D.S.: That's not many! How about your family?

L.T.: I have to count them before I tell you.

D.S.: O.K.
E.J.: Five or six, I think.

D.S.: What was your maiden name?

E.J.: Southard... Southard

D.S.: Southand?

E.J.: Uhhuh. S-o-u-t-h-a-r-d.

D.S.: Southard. That's not common in this area, is it?

E.J.: No. I don't know too many.

D.S.: Did you have any kin folk?


D.S.: Well, that's what I mean.

E.J.: Over in Pine Grove ther is one, but of course he is dead now, but he was my first cousin.

D.S.: And he was a Southard?

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Wondering just where they came from? What was your maiden name, Mrs. Taylor?

L.T.: Before I was married I was a Jones.

E.J.: She was a Jones.

D.S.: Oh!

E.J.: See, her and my husband was brothers and sisters.

D.S.: Oh! I see, yea...Uhhuh. Uh..., when you was a little girl, did you have any special jobs you had to do?

L.T.: I worked out some when I got bigger.

D.S.: Yea.

L.T.: Went to school some.

D.S.: Yea. Where was the school?

L.T.: Forrest Dale School, wasn't it Erma?

E.J.: Right out here, right above the little store. Do you know where that little bitty trailer sits? Well, that little house right thar, that was the school house.
D.S.: I see. You both went to there?
E.J.: Yes.
D.S.: To that school?
D.S.: Who was the teacher?
L.T.: Where did you commence at?
E.J.: Oh, it was so many different ones. Wren Taylor, he was mostly the teacher.
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Right. Uh..., uh..., the school was for how many months in the year?
E.J.: About..... eight, I think.
D.S.: Eight?
E.J.: Let see...., it always started in September.... and December, January...., Nö, seven.
D.S.: Seven months. Even in the snow you went to school?
E.J.: Yea.
D.S.: You would wade through the snow?
E.J.: When it wasn't too bad.
D.S.: Yes. When it was too deep then. Now, the church. Which church did you go to?
E.J.: The Bethlehem Church on down the road further.
D.S.: That was quite a distance away, wasn't it?
L.T.: We had to walk it.
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: You passed it a'comin' up.
D.S.: I know! I know the church, but that was still a long way to walk down
E.J.: Yes. Yes, it was a right good ways.
D.S.: Yea. Did you have church in the mornings or was it in the evening?
E.J.: Sunday School was at morning.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. ....... Alright now, in you school, I want to get back to that. Uh......, what subjects did they teach?
E.J.: Well,..... we mostly had reading, and writing, and arithmetic, and geography, and history.
D.S.: You did?
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Ummm. (Whistled) That was a very well rounded education.
E.J.: Yes, we use to have spelling matches against other schools. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea. Those spelling bees! Yea, they were fun, weren't they?
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Where would they be held? On a Saturday, was it?
E.J.: No, it was during the school day, week.
D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh, yea.
E.J.: One school would go to another one and would have them spelling matches.
D.S.: How would you get to the other schools? They didn't have school buses in those days.
L.T.: One way. (Laughed)
E.J.: There use to be another school house right below the church down here.
D.S.: Oh, I see.
E.J.: We would mostly go to that, or sometime that would come up to Forrest Dale.
D.S.: I see.
E.J.: That was called the Bethlehem School.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: And, this was Forrest Dale down here.
D.S.: Yea. O.K. In other words there was quite a number of children in this area around her, weren't there?
E.J.: Yea, use to be a lot of children around.
D.S.: Yea. The apple orchard that your father took care of, that was not his? Right?
E.J.: No, it wasn't his.
D.S.: Uhhuh. But, he was a good orchard man?
E.J.: Yes.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: He would always barrel the apples, and saw ......
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: The drop ones they would always pick up and make cider out of and put it in barrels.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did he ......, how would he get the apples out? In a wagon?
E.J.: Yea. He had a wagon, a horse and a wagon.
D.S.: O.K. Uh,...... he had a horse and wagon. Did he have any mules or......?
E.J.: No, we didn't have no mules.
D.S.: How about cows?
E.J.: Yes, we had cows.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How many?
E.J.: Oh, we just kept a couple of milk cows.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Had chickens?
E.J.: Yea, had chickens.
D.S.: Alright. What did you do with the eggs? Extra eggs and butter, and extra chickens?
E.J.: Taken it to the store.
D.S.: Would he give you credit for them?
E.J.: He would give you..... They had these here....., what you didn't deal out....., he would give you these here little round checks, you called them.
E.J.: Then-a, you could take them back to the store and spend them just like money.
D.S.: Sure. Right. Uh,..... could you grown wheat up there?
E.J.: Wheat? No, it was most too rocky. (Laughed) Never did grow no wheat up in thar.
D.S.: Then you had to buy your flour?
E.J.: Yea.
D.J.: You had corn?
E.J.: Yea.
D.S.: Both of you had corn, right?
E.J.: Yea.
D.S.: Where was the mill?
E.J.: On down the road here, Ed Wolfersberger, he had a mill. He'd grind corn for people.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you pay him to do it?
E.J.: He mostly would take toll out.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. O.K. now, you all are working pretty hard, what time would you get up in the morning?
E.J.: Oh, we would get up right early, around six o'clock.
D.S.: Uhhuh. First thing, you would milk the cow or what would you do?
E.J.: Yes, milk the cow, feed the chickens and hogs.
D.S.: Yea, then feed yourself.
E.J.: Yes. (All laughing)
D.S.: O.K. What would you have for breakfast? Just as a
typical breakfast.
E.J.: Oh, we would usually have eggs and sausage......
E.J.: ...... gravy. (Laughing)
D.S.: Yes. Yea. Great! That sounds good. That was a good
breakfast, wasn't it?
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Then did you have your dinner at noon?
E.J.: Most of the time. Sometimes, of course, in the wintertime
when the days was so short, we didn't cook but twice
a day.
E.J.: And then when....
D.S.: Oh, really!
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Because you would get up late, was that it?
E.J.: Yes. We didn't get up as soon in the wintertime.
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: We would usually have breakfast around seven-thirty
or eight o'clock.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: Then we wouldn't cook no more until around about two or
two-thirty, somewhere along there.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: Then if we got hungry and wanted something before we
went to bed, we always had enough left over.
D.S.: Sure.
E.J.: We would eat something. Two meals a day is all we cooked.

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: in the wintertime.

D.S.: What jobs were there to do in the wintertime?

E.J.: It wasn't much of anything?

L.T.: People hauled wood then too, I reckon then, didn't they?

E.J.: Yea, they cut wood and hauled it to the tannery. The tannery use to buy wood to tan the hides with.

D.S.: Sure. Right.

E.J.: Called it pulp wood.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Uh..., that was a good time to do it then.

E.J.: Mostly in the Spring of the year when they peeled bark. When they peeled bark, the tannery use to buy bark too.

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: But, you had to do that in the Spring of the year, after the sap come up.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Well, that's not what you did in the winter then.

E.J.: No.

D.S.: That was in the Spring.

E.J.: Yes. But, you could cut wood. They did buy wood in the winter.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Did you use the Gordonsville turnpike, for like, for going over on the other side of the mountain?

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: You did?

E.J.: Uhhuh
D.S.: Would you go as far as Gordonsville, or... what would you go over on the other side of the mountain to do? Visit?

E.J.: Well, yes. We... My Mother had a sister lived at Wolftown.

D.S.: Oh!

E.J.: And, we use to drive horse and buggy over thar. And, then she had another sister that lived up on the ridge. Thar where Big Meaders is.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: It was houses along in thar.

D.S.: Yes.

E.J.: And, her other sister lived thar. And, we use to drive buggy and horse over to Wolftown.

D.S.: Huh!

E.J.: To the other sister.

D.S.: That was a long distant, wasn't it?

E.J.: Yes, for a horse and buggy.

D.S.: Sure. Uh......, how about fences. Did you have anything fenced in?

E.J.: Yes. Had these old, called them rail fences.

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: You would go this away and that away.

D.S.: Yea.

E.J.: (Laughing)

D.S.: This was to keep your cattle in?

E.J.: Yes.

D.S.: You raised cattle then?

E.J.: Just..... Well, we had milk cows, and they would have calves in the Spring.
D.S.: Oh! Oh, but you didn't have regular cows?
E.J.: No, we didn't have regular...... We didn't raise cattle that away.
D.S.: Was there any bluegrass up there so the valley cattlemen could have cattle up there?
E.J.: Yea...... there was some blue grass in spots. Right down below us, they called it the clover field then.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: They use to put cattle in thar and sheep.
D.S.: Sheep?
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Ahhh..... Who had the sheep?
E.J.: It was a Koontz man. Charlie Koontz, they called him. He owned that big, what they called the clover field. He owned that.
D.S.: How large..... how large......
E.J.: But, its grown up in bushes now. You can't tell thar was ever a field thar.
D.S.: Yea. Was there a family that kept the fields open and clean?
E.J.: Yea. It was a man...., of course it ain't no house thar now because that belongs to the Park.
D.S.: Yes.
E.J.: And, that man would always keep the field cleaned up.
D.S.: Do you know what his name was?
E.J.: Ashby Berry.
D.S.: Ashby Berry?
E.J.: Uhhuh. It was George's uncle.
D.S.: George's uncle. O.K..
E.J.: Uhhuh. And, he would go through, you know, the big ole weeds, nothing would eat them, called mullens.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: He would go through with a hoe and chop them out.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea... Was there any, much visiting that went on? Beside you going over there to see your aunt.
E.J.: Oh, yes. People use to go to people's houses, they visit each other. They don't do that anymore now. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea. Like you said; 'Was I selling something ', when I come in here. I couldn't just come and visit, could I? (All laughing) Would they visit during the day or in the evening?
E.J.: Yes, in the night. And, always had big bean stringings, and when they boiled apple butter, they would have apple cutting, snitting, then they called it.
E.J.: They do... They mostly do that at nights.
D.S.: Uhhuh. And corn shuckings?
E.J.: Yea...., they would have corn shuckings.
D.S.: Did you ever during the day say, "I'm not going to do any work today, I'm going to go visit so and so"?
E.J.: No. Of course, when I was a kid I didn't do too much work myself. (Laughed)
D.S.: Spoiled!
E.J.: Yes. I was the baby in the family.
D.S.: (Laughed) Did you have any toys to play with?
E.J.: Very few. Children then didn't get much. Toys like they do now.
D.S.: Do you recall any of them in specially? Specially?
E.J.: Oh..., I use to have dolls. Have a doll around Christmas, that was about it, too.
D.S.: Yea. How about you, Mrs. Taylor?
L.T.: I reckon I had a doll way back, but I don't remember it.
D.S.: Ohhhh!.... Did any of you, either of you play the Kris Kringlers? At Christmas time?
E.J.: Yes......, we use to go Kris Kringling.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.
E.J.: (Laughing) Dress up and.....
D.S.: How far would you go?
E.J.: Oh, we would go around to most everybody's house. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yes. That would be about how far?
E.J.: Oh, we would go on down pass the store and....different houses, and around......, every which away.
D.S.: Uhhuh. You never went as far, like Piney....., Pine Grove?
E.J.: No, we never went over in thar. We just went around in the neighborhood.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How far apart were the houses? Up there? Uh......, two hundred yards, or..... a quarter of a mile, or.....?
E.J.: Ahhhh...., some of them was. Some of them you could stand at one house and holler to the other. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: Most of them was in hollering distances.
D.S.: O.K.. Did anyone up there in thar area....., nothing against them because it was good money. Did any of them make any moonshine?
E.J.: No, not that I know of.
D.S.: No?
E.J.: Back up on the ridge....., back up on the ridge they did.
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: But, not down in the neighbor, nobody made it.
D.S.: Uhhuh. All those nice apples, it seems ashame. (All laughed) Oh, dear! Did you raise rye?
E.J.: No.

D.S.: Buckwheat?

E.J.: Oh, sometimes we plant a little buckwheat.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now let see, I want to ask you so many questions I've got written down here. Oh! Was there any special childhood illness that you know of? Croop?

E.J.: Oh, yes. Children was bad to get the croop.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: And, get measles, all kind of ....... After they started school you didn't know what you was going to get.

D.S.: Yes.

E.J.: Even lice.

D.S.: Did your mother use any special herbs that you can recall? That she used when you was sick?

E.J.: Oh, she use to get this horehound and make tea out of it for a cough.

D.S.: Yes.

E.J.: That was bitter enough, too...., and then catnip.

D.S.: What would she use the catnip for?

E.J.: That was mostly for babies.

D.S.: With the croop?

E.J.: No, just give it to babies that didn't have nothin'....

L.T.: Make them sleep good.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: Catnip tea was the thing for babies, for babies.

D.S.: I be darn!

E.J.: It did.

D.S.: Yea. Well, you give ti a couple sips of catnip tea and it would go to sleep and stop crying.

E.J.: Uhhuh. (Laughing)

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever use mullen leaves?
L.T.: Mullen leaves is for something, ain't it?
E.J.: Yes, mullen leaves, make a poultice out of them for boils or something.
E.J.: My Mother, she was a midwife.
D.S.: She was?
E.J.: You know people around, they couldn't get doctors when they had babies. She then, they would come get her.
D.S.: Hey, great! Then she traveled all around then, didn't she?
E.J.: Yes.
D.S.: Yea. Did she pass on any of her stories or how to do it? Did she tell you any of them?
E.J.: No, she.... I just know she went, that what she was.
D.S.: Yes. Oh, boy. Do you know how many babies she brought into the world?
E.J.: No indeed, I don't. It was a whole lot though. Some of them are old and married and got children and grandchildren of their own.
D.S.: Yea. Did.... did she get paid for doing that or was it just as a friendly jester?
E.J.: I think the county paid her a little bit, it wasn't much.
D.S.: Oh? Uhhuh. So, the county did help you all?
E.J.: Yea.
D.S.: In various ways. O.K. How else did the county help?
E.J.: I don't know weather the county helped any or not.
D.S.: You looked as though if you was going to say something. No?
L.T.: Don't know what to say.
D.S.: O.K. (Laughed) Did your mother make your clothes?
E.J.: Most of the time.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you buy the material down here at the store?
E.J.: Yes. She would sew.
D.S.: Yes. And, did she make the boys' shirts and overalls?
E.J.: Yea. Us dresses, even drawers.........
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: ....with buttons. Put buttons on them. Had a little body to them with, always worked button holes in the drawers, I called them.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: You button them instead of having elastic in them.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: Button them. (Laughed)
D.S.: Did you buy shoes? Have shoes all year round, or just in the winter?
E.J.: Well, us kids when it would get hot weather mostly went bare footed. But, we would have shoes for Sunday.
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: But through the week we would go bare footed.
D.S.: Yea. You preferred it?
E.J.: Yea. (Laughed)
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did your father have a lase so he could re-sole your shoes?
E.J.: Yes. Uhhuh.
D.S.: Wonder where all those lase.....
E.J.: And, he use to get splits and put bottoms in chairs.
D.S.: Yes. Oh, really?
E.J.: Yes. He would get hickory and-a....., and split them out about that wide.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: .....and let them dry. And, then you would put bottoms in chairs.

D.S.: How did he learn to do that?

E.J.: I don't know how he learned. (Laughed)

D.S.: Did anyone else in the family do things of that kind?

E.J.: No. He was the only one that bottomed chairs.

D.S.: Would he do them for people in the valley?

E.J.: Well, sometimes he would bottom them for other people.

D.S.: Ummm. And you never learned how to do it?

E.J.: No.

D.S.: No. (All laughed) You were too busy being a little girl.

E.J.: Yea. (All laughed)

D.S.: Did the boys do hunting?

E.J.: All they would hunt, make rabbit boxes, and put a apple in it on a stick in the back end and make a little trap door and when the rabbit went in and went to nibbling on this apple that would pull that trap door down. Then they would have them a rabbit. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea! And, what did you do with the rabbits, sell them?

E.J.: No, they ate them.

D.S.: They would eat them. Would they sell the skin?

E.J.: No.

D.S.: No?

E.J.: They use to hunt other things and they use to sell the hides.

D.S.: What?
E.J.: Oh, like coons, polecats, oppossums......
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: ...all kind of things like that.
D.S.: Oppossum hides you could sell?
E.J.: Yes. Coons and polecats. (Laughed)
D.S.: I can see a coon, but I can't see a oppossum. What would people use a oppossum hide for?
E.J.: I don't know what they used them for.
D.S.: Do you know what they would use them for?
L.T.: Deed, I don't.
D.S.: Huh! O.K.. But, you would eat the animals and sell the hide, right?
L.T.: Huh!
E.J.: Well, when they catch rabbits they eat them.
D.S.: You didn't eat coon?
E.J.: No. Some people would, sure.
D.S.: A lot of them. How about ground hog?
E.J.: No, don't want no ground hog either. (Laughed)
D.S.: Oh! Was there much fishing up there?
E.J.: Yes. They use....
D.S.: In the streams.
E.J.: ....to put fish in the streams, but thar... See the Park got it now and they wouldn't allow no fishing.
D.S.: Yea. But, there were fish up there?
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Alright. Did all this help with your....uh,...diet? Were you able to eat, like more things instead of just having chicken and hog?
E.J.: Yes.
D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Would you say that hunting and fishing was a necessity?
E.J.: Yea, I think people liked to fish and hunt.
D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Yea. Was this done on a Sunday or work day or what?
E.J.: Any time they wanted to go hunting they would go. (Laughed)
D.S.: Uhhuh. Just pack up and go.
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: O.K. Speaking of that. If someone came to visit you and you was busy doing something, like hoeing in the garden or something of that kind. What would you do, stop, or would they help you?
E.J.: Well, I didn't do no hoeing. I didn't do no hoeing.
D.S.: No, I mean if people were.
E.J.: Well, sometimes they would stop, depend on who it was.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. What I'm trying to get at is... Did the people work together, did they play together?
E.J.: Yes.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: Yes, they associated more together than people does now. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Uh, how about huckleberries. Did you ever have a lot of huckleberries where you were?
E.J.: No, thar wasn't none up that a'way, but we use to go around here what you call Piney Mountains and get huckleberries.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.J.: Yea, there use to be a lot of huckleberries picked.
D.S.: Were fires ever set deliberately to make sure of having huckleberries? That you know of?
E.J.: Well, they calimed that it was.
D.S.: Yea.
E.J.: I don't know for sure.
D.S.: Were you ever afraid of a fire, did you ever have a threat of a fire at your home?
E.J.: No.
D.S.: No? Very unusually because there weren't apparently nobody were afraid of fire and yet there were a lot of them.
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Were you around..... Yes, you were. Uh...., in 1930 there was a bad drought.
E.J.: Yes, I remember that, everything.
D.S.: Yea. How did your family make out with that drought?
E.J.: Well, it was mighty hard go, but they made out.
D.S.: How?
E.J.: Well, they would usually water the garden.
D.S.: Uhhuh. So, the springs didn't dry up?
E.J.: No, the springs didn't dry up.
D.S.: O.K. So, they were able to water the gardens. Carry the water and.....
E.J.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: It's a job, isn't it?
E.J.: Yea.
D.S.: Did the depression hit you people?
E.J.: Yea. It hit everybody I think then. (Laughed)
D.S.: In what way did it effect..... You was saying your brothers went out and got jobs, right? When they got
E.J.: Yes. It has been so long I can't hardly remember what they did do.

D.S.: Yes. O.K. Were you moved out of the mountains...... when the Park came in?

E.J.: No.

D.S.: You were already left?

E.J.: Yes. See my Mother and Father, they went to West Virginia before the Park ever taken it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: So, it wasn't anybody a'livin' up there, then when the Park taken it. There were several people, several families lived in that house there after my Mother and Father moved out.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. How did you happen to come back here then?

E.J.: See, I was done married then. (Laughed)

D.S.: Ahhh! Now, you got to tell me all about it. How did he court you? Was he from the valley or from the mountain?

E.J.: He was from right here, he come from right here.

D.S.: He came from Kite Hollow?

E.J.: He was born and raised right here. Of course, it wasn't this same house, it was a old log house.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: But, there,......here was where he was born and raised.

L.T.: Huh!

D.S.: O.K. So, how did he court you?

E.J.: Huh! Oh, we courted like anybody else did. (Laughed)

D.S.: Oh, No! I bet you didn't. How did you even know he was even interested in you?
L.T.: Huh!
D.S.: Would he come visit?
E.J.: Yea, sometime. I would see him down the road.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you walk to church together?
E.J.: Yea,... and back up the road together. (Laughed)
D.S.: Uhhuh. How about apple butter boilings? Would you always have...., both work on the same paddle?
E.J.: Yea. (Laughing)
D.S.: Alright. (Laughing) Were you chaperoned when he came to visit?
E.J.: No.
D.S.: Didn't your father, or mother, or somebody have to stay with you?
E.J.: Well, no. I was already home. My Mother stayed at home almost all the time.
D.S.: I know. I mean, was you ever allowed to be alone with him?
E.J.: Yea. I would see him out somewhere. (Laughed) I usually, I would have to go down there to this little store to meet the mail. That's where I seen him most of the time. (Laughing)
Where was the wedding, in the Church?
E.J.: No. We got married in Luray at the preacher's house.
D.S.: Ahh, Uhhuh. That was quite a distance away, how did you get there?
E.J.: A man, he run another little store on down the road further, he had one of these old Model T cars.
D.S.: I be.
E.J.: (Laughing) And he taken us.

D.S.: Ahhh, that's great! Now you tell me about your courtship, Mrs. Taylor.

L.T.: Well, sometime he would come here to see me and take me out car ride. About it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.T.: Then I started back to work and went and got married. And didn't go...

D.S.: Where was you working?


D.S.: Oh, my goodness! What were you doing there?

L.T.: I was baby sitting for a woman.

D.S.: Oh, my.

L.T.: She was going to have a baby.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Good heavens! Now, then you would come back here like on a weekend or something?

L.T.: Over thar at his house.

D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh. Did he live here in Kite Hollow?

L.T.: Yea, over thar up the Red Gate Road, up the road thar.

E.J.: Yea, he was born and raised over thar where she lives now.

D.S.: Oh! Uhhuh. That's a fine old house. Yea. Alright, so....., uh,.....then..... Where did you say you got married?

L.T.: Luray.

D.S.: You also went to Luray?

L.T.: I done started back to work and changed my mind and didn't go.

(All Laughing)
D.S.: O.K. After you were married, did you stay with his family?
L.T.: Weren't nobody home but him, his mother done died.
D.S.: Oh.
L.T.: She died in May, I think. Was May, I think. We got married in August, see?
D.S.: Oh. So, you just took...., settled right in there, right?
D.S.: Uhhuh. That was great, you didn't have to worry about building a house or anything. It was already built.
L.T.: It's a ole army house.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.T.: You know, like wall down here, you seen like rock....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.T.: ....down in the basement. It's up at Big Meadows like that.
D.S.: Yes.
L.T.: Because I worked up there right much.
L.T.: Skyline too.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
L.T.: But, I worked at Skyline since my husband been gone.
D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K. Now,....Now...., can you all think of anything that I haven't asked you all about?
E.J.: No, I don't.
L.T.: Make jelly and preserves and reckon that.
D.S.: Oh, gosh yes!
L.T.: People did then, didn't they?

D.S.: Yea. Did either of you play practical jokes on anyone?

L.T.: Huh!

E.J.: No.

D.S.: You didn't?

E.J.: No. No.

D.S.: Did anybody play them on you?

E.J.: No, around in them times they didn't play many jokes.

(Laughing)

D.S.: Yea. They were too busy working? Yea?

E.J.: Yea.

D.S.: Except you, you was busy just being a little girl.

(Laughing)

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: A spoiled little girl. (Laughing)

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Did you... did either of you get spanked?

L.T.: Huh!

E.J.: Yea,... got more than spanked. (Laughed)

D.S.: What for? What would you get spanked for?


D.S.: Oh. How about you?

E.J.: Yea, I've got it.

L.T.: Huh!

E.J.: My Mother use to take a switch to me.

D.S.: Yea. What for?

E.J.: I would go down the road to meet the mail and I wouldn't go back. I would get playin' with other kids down thar and wouldn't go back, (Laughing) when she thought I ought be back.
D.S.: Sure.

E.J.: Sometime she'd come down the road after me.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Then you would get a switching all the way home.

E.J.: Uhhuh. (All laughing)

D.S.: Oh, poor Erma!

E.J.: But, my Daddy, he never even smacked me.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever talk back to your parents?

E.J.: No, I knowed better.

D.S.: Did you?

L.T.: I think I did one time.

D.S.: What happened?

L.T.: I went up the road and went up that and set on a fence a long time and my Daddy came after me. (Laughed) Then I got mad and gone on up the road. He said, "Come on back to the house, your Mother needs you". He thought I had gone off and got lost in the woods, you know?

E.J.: But, my Daddy never did even smack me.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: But, my Mother poured it on me. (All laughing)

D.S.: Well, the discipline was strong. I think it had to be, don't you?

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea.

L.T.: Huh!

D.S.: Yea, because if you had children sassing you back, you would not get your work done.

E.J.: No. None of mine never did sassed me back.
D.S.: How about dances, did you have many dances?

E.J.: Yes, people use... The old time people use to when they had corn shuckin's, and apple butter boilin's, and stuff like that, they use to dance around and have music.

D.S.: Yea. What did....

E.J.: My Daddy use to play fiddle for dances.

D.S.: He did?

E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Oh, great! And, then they would have banjos?

E.J.: Yes, sometimes they would have a banjo. Fiddle and banjo, mostly was what they would have.

D.S.: Yes. Was it sort of a square dance that they did?

E.J.: Yes, it was most square dancin' what they do then.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. And, would this be, you said apple butter boilings and corn shuckings? Would people just stop what they were doing and start dancing, or you have it in the house?

E.J.: Well, sometimes when they would have them corn huskin' they would have it in the barn. (Laughing)

D.S.: Oh!

E.J.: Dance on the barn floor.


E.J.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Must have been a lot of fun. Yea. Huh.... What have I not asked? Any recollection that you had, did you ever stop and say, "Gee, it's a pretty place where I am living"?

L.T.: Huh!
E.J.: Before the Park taken it over, it was prettier around these places. But, you can't see for the bushes.

L.T.: Growed up so bad now.

D.S.: Yea, it has. A woman try to do that work. (Tape Side II)

D.S.: No. No. So, things have grown up, right?

L.T.: A little limb broke off her tree out thar, when that snow was. See it hangin' down?

D.S.: Yea. A lot of those broke. Well, I don't know how to Thank-You both, it has been great, and I hope that if you can think of anything.... What did you do if you had a tooth ache?

E.J.: Well, it use to be a doctor out here at Stanley, he pulled teeth.


E.J.: There was a couple of dentist in Luray.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.J.: We mostly go to one of them.

D.S.: O.K., fine. Because, that is..... I would hate to go to a blacksmith to have a tooth pulled. I'll tell you that.