7-30-1979

(SNP110) E.P. and Maude Shifflet interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

E. P. Shifflet

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Recommended Citation
E.P. Shifflet interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, July 30, 1979, SdArch SNP-110, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University

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D.S.: We are interviewing Mr. and Mrs. E.P. Shifflet who had lived in Bacon Hollow. Did you live there too, Mrs. Shifflet?

Ms. S.: Well, I was raised back... over the... across the mountain here, and.....

E.P.: The Mission home.

Ms. S.: The Mission.

D.S.: Which Mission home was that?

Ms. S.: The Episcopal school.

D.S.: Oh, the Episcopal school.

Ms. S.: Yea, The Ridge school, I was raised above that.

D.S.: Oh. O.K., fine. What was your maiden name?

Ms. S.: Morris.

D.S.: Morris?

Ms. S.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Oh, that's why you mentioned the Morrises earlier. What was your mother's maiden name, Mr. Shifflet?

E.P.: Morris.

D.S.: Morris?

Ms. S.: Yes, she was a Morris too.

D.S.: Oh, O.K. Was there many Morrises that lived there in Bacon Hollow?

E.P.: Oh, yes. More Morrises than there was Shifflets. (Laughed)

D.S.: Uhhuh. What were some of the names that lived there... of the people that lived there in Bacon Hollow?

Ms. S.: You mean the ole people?

E.P.: You mean in Bacon Hollow or the Park?

D.S.: In Bacon Hollow.

E.P.: Oh,..... you want the older generation?
MS.S.: On the flat grade, use to live on Flat Top.

D.S.: Oh, Flat Top. Oh, tell me, tell me about it, would you? You said that

E.P.: Flat Top is right up there.

D.S.: Flat Top is right up there? And, did Bacon Hollow run down in to it?

E.P.: No, it joins.

Ms.S.: Joins it.

E.P.: No, Bacon Hollow joins Flat Top and then joins the Park.

D.S.: Oh, I see.

M.S.: Joins down at John Knight's place.

D.S.: I see, yea. About how far apart were the houses?

E.P.: How far apart was the houses? Well, I would say some of them was five miles, some of them two miles, probably anywhere from two to three.

Ms.S.: Two to five.

E.P.: ... and four, and five miles apart.

D.S.: Then you all had good size property, didn't you?

D.P.: All of them had good size property.
D.S.: How large when you was a boy growing up, how large was your place?
D.S.: One hundred eighty acres, and did your father own it?
E.P.: Owned it.
D.S.: O.K.
Ms.S.: Well, you got to get his father.
D.S.: Yea. What was your father's name?
E.P.: Ah..., George Wheeler Shifflet.
D.S.: George Wheeler, and your first name is?
E.P.: E. P. Shifflet.
Ms.S.: E. P.
D.S.: That's all you go by, E. P.?
Ms.S.: Yea. (Laughing)
D.S.: You're not going to tell us the rest. (All Laughing)
Ms.S.: Ennis Peck.
E.P.: Ennis Peck.
D.S.: (Laughing) Alright. How many was in your family?
E.P.: In my family was nine.
E.P.: Yes. Some of them are in New York, some in Baltimore....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: ...some of them in Ruckersville.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: I had a ....
D.S.: How big a house and what was it built of? Was it a log house?
D.P.: Well, part of it was log and part of it was framed.
D.S.: Where did they get the frame from?
E.P.: Ah... well, we had a sawmill.
D.S.: Had a sawmill, your father run a sawmill?
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: They had a sawmill and they..., wasn't no steam, so they moved this steam engine, this engine and-a.... with eight mules. Pulled it and set it down....
D.S.: It was a moveable sawmill?
E.P.: Yes, it was moveable by horsepower....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: ....not by steam. Then after they get it set, they take wood and get the steam up to run your saw.
D.S.: I see. Uhhuh.
E.P.: And so when we had the sawmill I was a real little small boy.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: Went and cut lumber enough to build a frame house. And-a, it wasn't a big family of us then, just my Father, just started the family.
D.S.: Oh, you're one of the oldest?
E.P.: Uhhuh. And so, we cut log enough to build onto the house, the log cabin.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: Which the log cabin was one, two, three, we had three rooms, and a kitchen, they call it, was four. And-a, then we cut enough log to build a church up there, Mt. Grove Church.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: And then we cut enough to build a school.

For us

There was a young girl name Wampler.

D.S.: Wampler?

Ms.S.: 

E.P.: Miss Lilla Mae Wampler. Yea, she came here I don't know which year, but I was a small boy. And, and she taught... she came here when she was eighteen years old.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: And, she came from Bridgewater.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: A Brethern, so she started a Sunday School class. Then we cut enough lumber to build the school house.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: They called it the Victory Hill School house. So, I don't know why she named it Victory Hill School House unless she won a victory for building the school.

D.S.: I think so, yes.

E.P.: So...

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

Ms.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: Yea.

D.S.: How many children was there in the school?

E.P.: Well, she had sixty.

D.S.: Ahhhh! Sixty children. How far did you have to walk to school?
E.P.: Ahh... some of them walked about two miles, three miles, four miles.
D.S.: And you?
E.P.: Yea..., about a mile.
D.S.: About a mile?
E.P.: Yes.
D.S.: Was the school for seven months or nine months, or how long?
Ms.S.: Eight months.
D.S.: Eight months?
Ms.S.: Eight months. this one. No! No! No! It was six months when they first started.
E.P.: Yes, six months when they first started.
D.S.: In the winter?
Ms.S.: Yes.
D.S.: Uhhuh. What did you do when it snowed heavily?
E.P.: Well, you never..., well they had horses and had sleds made and they just scraped the roads and they had stoves, heat the school house. And, people would get wood..., for the school. To keep the children warm.
D.S.: Boy, you had it plush. (Laughing) You really did. Uh..., how many grades were in that school? Went up to what grade?
Ms.S.: Let's me see, how many grades did they have? I think they went through.
E.P.: Called it the Primer.
Ms.S.: I know, but....
E.P.: That was the first to
Ms.S.: That was the elementary, I don't know if they went through the eighth or seventh.
Ms/S.: I think it was the eighth. I went to the eighth, because Mr. Davis gave me one year of high school after I come over the Blue Ridge.

D.S.: Oh? Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: I mean over where I lived. It was a...

D.S.: You went to that same school?

Ms.S.: No, I went to a little school over there built just like that, something.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What else did your father do with the sawmill? Did he sell any of the lumber down, down anywhere?

E.P.: Yes, he'd sell some of it. He sold some of it.... uh,.... then my...... A stave mill. We had a stave mill, we moved a stave mill in here from Herds, from Elkton.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: Moved a stave mill in here and we cut timber, a lot of timber and hauled it to the stave mill and make stave out of it and then he hauled it to Elkton.

D.S.: How did he haul it to Elkton, that's a long distance away?

E.P.: Well, .... they......, had about, we had about four horses, big horses, and we would leave here about four o'clock in the mornin', and get into Elkton, get in there about eleven o'clock, and get unloaded.

D.S.: You could reach Elkton by eleven o'clock? 211, I mean 33 was not opened?

E.P.: No, we called it Powell dip. This road here was open over into Beldor, we call it.

D.S.: Into Beldor?
E.P.: Yes.
D.S.: Oh!
E.P.: This road open right over there, well, let's see; five, I say it ain't but ten miles over to Beldor.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Yea. I was....., I wouldn't say it wasn't over twelve or fifteen miles.
Ms.S.: It's closed now. The Park....
E.P.: To get to Elkton you cross this away.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: This road across Skyline Drive.... Right across Skyline Drive.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Right up in that little hollow. You can see it from my house up there right across that flat.
D.S.: Oh, I get it. Well!
E.P.: Then they hauled..... they hauled bark. They peeled bark..... hauled bark.
D.S.: Where did you take that, Elkton also?
E.P.: Elkton had a tannery over there.
D.S.: Yea. Did you peel bark too?
E.P.: Yea. I peeled bark many a day.
D.S.: W as that hard work?
E.P.: No, it wasn't too hard a work. It was....., people now get so use to these eight hours and factory work. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Factory work and...... the work is more..... more easier. You came into.... you grow into this work. It's..., I call it forest work.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: We cut railroad ties.
D.S.: Do you know how much you would get for a railroad tie?
E.P.: We would get......, at that time, I think, we would get ground about seventy-five cents.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: But...... now when....., we quit selling them we got around one dollar twenty-five cents for them.
D.S.: O.K. When did you quit?
E.P.: Uh......, my Dad, he quit, I guess, I guess around in the twenties.
D.S.: Why? Because there wasn't no more need of them?
E.P.: He found other ways he could make money easy.
D.S.: I see, yes.
E.P.: Make more money.
Ms.S.: Farming.
E.P.: In farming. Farming went up, cattle went up, and-a...
Ms.S.: Pigs.
E.P.: ..... we raised hogs, we raised cattle, and we raised horses, we raised sheep, and.....
D.S.: Did your mother have a spinning wheel and a loom?
E.P.: Yes......, we had two spinning wheels.
D.S.: And did she make your own clothes then?
E.P.: I got my Mother's sewing machine out here......, where she made all our clothes.
Ms.S.: I don't think she spin her...... Her father, uh....., her mother spun.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: But, she had the wheel, but she didn't do very much spinning.
E.P.: She knew how.

Ms.S.: She knew how, but she....

E.P.: She never spinned, do it though.

Ms.S.: ... she didn't do any.

D.S.: Then why raise the sheep if she didn't do any spinning?
      Sold the wool?

Ms.S.: Sold it.

E.P.: Sell the wool.

D.S.: Oh, ho.....

E.P.: You'd get profit from the sheep twice a year. Sell the lamb, sell the wool.

D.S.: Right. Did you? You say you had cattle, you, of course had cows?

E.P.: Yes.

D.S.: Was your home near a spring? So you could keep the butter, and milk, and so-forth in the spring?

E.P.: Oh yes, we had a......., a big, big springhouse. A big box in there keep running water in there all the time.


E.P.: And we would keep drinks, our lemonade and stuff in the water.

Ms.S.: In stone.... in stone pots.

D.S.: Lemonade!

E.P.: Yea.

Ms.S.: It would stay cool.

E.P.: And, the water, the spring water, it was the just same as getting ice water out of the refrigerator.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

E.P.: It would stay just as cool and nice.
D.S.: Did you allow your hogs and your cattle to roam loose or were they fenced in?

E.P.: No, they were all fenced, fenced in.

D.S.: What kind of fence?

E.P.: We use rail fence, and out of chestnut timber. The mountain was full of chestnut timber.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: And, we made rails out of chestnut timber and they made rail fences. So we couldn't get barb-wire at that time.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: But some ... some cattle we didn't want to use it on. Cattle and horses to use the rail fences. It was cheaper to use the rail fence.

D.S.: Yea. Would the hogs stay inside the rail fence?

E.P.: Oh yea, yea.

D.S.: Oh. They were good fences then, weren't they? Low?

Ms.S.: Oh, they would be up that high.

E.P.: Yes. We would build them high.

D.S.: No, I mean low to the ground.

E.P.: Yea.

D.S.: Because hogs will root under them.

Ms.S.: Low. Low.

E.P.: We used rail fence for the hogs.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: Put boards around the bottom.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Did you do any of the special fatten of the hogs before butchering time?
E.P.: Yes, we'd always... well, we would, alright, a long story. We would harvest our grain, carry it to Elkton and we had it thrashed there. Carry our wheat to Elkton, had it ground and bring in about eight barrels of flour.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: Had it water mill, they call it. Had a water mill, had at the mill up there, and we would grind up five or six bushels of corn and put it in meal for the winter use.

D.S.: The miller, did you pay him to do it or did he take a certain amount out?

E.P.: He'd take a toll.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: Take a toll out.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: And, then we had a regular pen we fattened hogs in, and the brooder, we would let run out, to raise...

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: And, we killed three or four hogs. And..., put them in there, keep some of the hams to eat and sell some of them, that he knew we wasn't going to use.

D.S.: Yea. Did you sell any chickens, eggs, and things of that kind?

E.P.: Yea, sell eggs and chickens.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Where would you take these?

E.P.: Down to the store. We had a big store up here. Clarence Sheppard run a store up here.

D.S.: Where in Dyke?

Ms.S.: No, up here on the other side, half of mile or so. It's a house now, a big house.

E.P.: No, up in Bacon Hollow.
D.S.: Oh, really!
Ms.S.: Yea.
E.P.: And the water mill was up there too.
Ms.S.: The water wheel, part of the wheel is still standing.
E.P.: Huh!
Ms.S.: Part of the mill is still standing.
E.P.: Yea. Part of the mill is still standing on the side of the road now.
D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K.. Now, when you took these chickens, and eggs, and hams in to that store, did he give you credit, or due bills, or did he give you cash?
E.P.: We'd give due bills.
Ms.S.: Due bills. (Laughed)
E.P.: He'd give you due bills so you'd come back and deal out.
D.S.: Oh! Uhhuh.
E.P.: And, sometimes if you needed some cash, while he would cash some.
D.S.: O.K.. Uh......, What would you buy? When you went.... you raised most everything you needed, didn't you?
E.P.: Mostly we bought sugar.....
Ms.S.: Kerosene.
E.P.: Kerosene.....
Ms.S.: Coffee.
E.P.: ....and baking powder, and salt, and pepper, just what you'd use on the table.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: And-a....., then sometimes we would have to buy fodder-twine or something other like that.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you have an orchard?
E.P.: Have what?
D.S.: ORCHARD?
E.P.: Ahhh, yes, we had a orchard.
D.S.: What kind? What did you have in the orchard?
E.P.: Well, we had orchards with apples, peaches, pears, and these green gages, they call them. We had all kind of fruits.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Cherries and chestnuts....
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: ....and....., some....
D.S.: Did you dry any of these?
E.P.: Yea, we would dry lots of them.
Ms.S.: Yea, we dry apples and cherries, and sell them.
D.S.: Yea. Right. Now, you would sell those in the same store?
E.P.: Yea, in the same store.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: But in the fall we would gather up our apples, potatoes, cabbages, and .....so we would....... I was around fifteen years old, I reckon, and we take them over there in Charlottesville and peddle them, our produce there. Go to house to house, just peddle it from house to house.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Butter.
E.P.: Butter and chestnuts, apples, all kinds of fruits. Carry it out there. We'd be gone about three days.
Ms.S.: Sausage.
E.P.: You've seen these covered wagons on TV?
D.S.: Sure.

E.P.: Well, that's what we'd use. We'd camp on the road. We'd camp on the road, we camp mostly under a tree and my Mother, she maybe kill a couple of chickens or something, fix up a pot, some eggs, had our coffee. Had coffee.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh! That is fascinating. Did you use two horses?

E.P.: No, we used four.

D.S.: Four horses? The road from your place was a fairly good road, wasn't it?

Ms.S.: Yea, it was all dirt roads.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: It was one street car that run in Charlotesville.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: From down to Southern Depot.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: And, the hospital was just small over there.

D.S.: Yea. Speak of hospitals. Uh..., What did you do if anybody got sick?

E.P.: Well, we had a doctor here, Doctor Collier.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: And, a very good doctor.

D.S.: Where did he come from?

E.P.: He lived over here at Nortonsville.

D.S.: How would you get in touch with him?

E.P.: I use to have to get on a horse and ride over there to his house. It was, I guess, around about six or seven miles.
Ms. S.: Yea, until the store on up here later got a telephone after we moved.

E. P.: Yea.

Ms. S.: He got a telephone. He layed but that was later.

D. S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: After we were married.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

Ms. S.: Well, just before we got married.

D. S.: Yea. Alright, then you would have the doctor to come.

Ms. S.: Yea.

E. P.: Yea.

D. S.: ......and take care of you?

Ms. S.: Yea.

D. S.: O.K. Uh,......now, did you make applebutter?

E. P.: Do what?

D. S.: Did you make applebutter?

E. P.: Oh, yea! We'd make applebutter and dance all night long. (All Laughing)

D. S.: That's what I thought.

M. S.: Had a good time, didn't we?

D. S.: Yea. Music?

Ms. S.: Yea.

E. P.: We made our own molasses, our syrup, and......

D. S.: Yea.

E. P.: Molasses...... Yea. We grind our cane up with horses.

D. S.: Yea. I want to go back to applebutter. Now, you'd start the apples in the day time, right? Peel them all a couple days before?
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Then you would start them, they would boil, all night. You'd have to stir?
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Now, what would happen if the paddle touched the side of the kettle?
E.P.: You had to kiss your date. (All laughing)
D.S.: Did you do it on purpose?
E.P.: Sometimes I would. (All Laughing)
D.S.: Oh, gosh! Those were fun times. You'd have music. What would you play, banjos and fiddles?
E.P.: We'd have fiddles, banjos, and harps.
Ms.S.: Harps, that's about all we'd have.
D.S.: A harp?
Ms.S.: Yea. Oh, a mouth harp.
D.S.: A Jews harp?
Ms.S.: No, a mouth harp.
E.P.: A harmonica?
Ms.S.: Yea. Yes.
E.P.: A harmonica at that time.
D.S.: Do you recall any of the tunes they would play?
E.P.: Do what?
D.S.: Do you recall any of the tunes they would play?
E.P.: The music that they would play was, Shouting Lou.
D.S.: Shout Lou?
Ms.S.: Shouting Lou or something, and.....
E.P.: Get Along Home Cindy.
Ms. S.: Get Along Home Cindy, Get Along Home Cindy and........
D. S.: Did you ever play Two Cents Gal?
Ms. S.: What?
D. S.: Two Cents Gal?
Ms. S.: I don't think so. I never heard them play that, did you?
E. P.: No.
D. S.: Boil Them Cabbage Down?
Ms. S.: Yea! Yea! That's right! If anybody just called them over I can remember. We had so many.
D. S.: Yea, I know. Sure. Of course, Turkey In The Straw?
Ms. S.: Yea. Of course if you square danced you had somebody call and maybe, you know?
D. S.: Sure.
E. P.: Frankie Was A Good Girl.
Ms. S.: Yea.
D. S.: Who?
Ms. S.: Frankie.
D. S.: Frankie Was A Good Girl?
E. P.: Frankie Was A Good Girl.
Ms. S.: But they do that anymore...., they didn't play that a lot.
E. P.: Yea.
D. S.: Did you ever hear that tune, Fox Chase or Fox Hunt?
Ms. S.: Uh....., Turkey In The Straw, was one. (Laughing)
D. S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: 
D. S.: At these applebutter boilings, did everybody bring a jug along?
Ms. S.: Did they bring a jug along?
E.P.: Jug?
Ms.S.: Yea, of whiskey?
E.P.: No.
D.S.: No?
E.P.: No. They might would have a drink.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: Not like..... Might maybe a pint or something like that.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: You never seen nobody drunk. Everybody would drink around. They would just drink enough....
D.S.: To feel good.
E.P.: To keep the music agoin'.
D.S.: Yea. (All laughing) How about corn shuckings. Did you have corn shuckings?
E.P.: Yea, they had corn shuckings and....
Ms.S.: Bean stringings.
E.P.: And, they just put put a jug in there in the corn shuckings, and the corn would sometime have a red ear in it. The one that got the red ear would be the one get the first drink out the jug.
D.S.: Sure. (All laughing) Did they bury then the jug under the pile of corn?
D.S.: So then you had to work fast.
E.P.: Yea. (All laughing)
D.S.: To get down to it. (Laughing) Oh! How about huckleberries? Did you have many huckleberries around?
Ms.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Did you pick them?
E.P.: Yea, we'd pick huckleberries and blackberries.

D.S.: Did you ever see anybody or hear of anybody starting fires so they would be sure of having huckleberries?

E.P.: No, I don't think so.

Ms.S.: Yes, I heard people did. Yea, I heard it. That they would start fires so people sure to have huckleberries. I really think they didn't do that because there was plenty of them.

D.S.: Well, that was the reason they had plenty of them.

Ms.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Because they would do the fires.

Ms.S.: Yea, they might have done it.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: This is over in the park now.

D.S.: Yea. Right. But, was fire anything to worry about? Did anybody think much about fires?

Ms.S.: Didn't have too many fires, did we?

E.P.: No, we never had too many fires.

D.S.: Did you hear anything going on like at other places? Spite fires, somebody would get angry and start a fire?

Ms.S.: No.

E.P.: No.

Ms.S.: No, never did.

E.P.: No, not around in this area.

D.S.: No, not in Bacon Hollow at all?

Ms.S.: No.

D.S.: Alright. See, it's good that I am interviewing you on Bacon Hollow because that is one of the rumor.

Ms.S.: Naaa!

D.S.: Uhhuh.
If it was, it was accidentally done.

Yea.

One time a fire, a boy was burning his brush?

Brush?

....Garbage, trash, and.....

Yea. Uhhuh.

....the wind started blowing....

Uhhuh.

...but, that's the only time I can.. the only time a fire around here.

Yea. Uhhuh. O.K.. Very good, I'm glad to hear that. (Laughing) Uh.....

It wasn't at that time, back in my Father's time, it wasn't too much money circulating.

Yea.

Now, you worked, you worked maybe for maybe fifty cents a day, seventy-five cents a day.

Twenty-five.

And-a, but you had plenty of everything.....

Yea.

....anything you wanted to eat.

Yea.

And cattle, you had food to eat, but you didn't have money like it circulates now.

Yea.

People's wardrobe wasn't full of clothes.....

Yea.

.....like there are now.

No.
Ms. S.: We would have them.
E.P.: But you was happy with that. More happier than we are now.
E.P.: ...with all the things people has got.
D.S.: That's right. Shoes. Did you buy, did you have one pair of shoes a year or two? Did you wear shoes in the summer?
E.P.: I mostly wore shoes. I mostly wore shoes in the summer, all of us mostly wore shoes in the summer. So....
Ms. S.: When you was small, you did.
E.P.: When we were small, about two or three years old, I didn't.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: But, after I got out large enough to get out of the house, I did then. Help my Dad do things, we wore shoes.
D.S.: O.K.. How big a vegetable garden did you have?
E.P.: Oh, we had about, I guess about a acre and a half in one garden and, we had three gardens and one. It was three houses on our farm. And-a, it was a tender, we kept a tender on it too, and we let him, let them have one garden. And, I say we had about two acres.
D.S.: What all did you grow?
E.P.: Well, we growed cabbage, we growed beans, we growed peas, and we growed radish, we growed strawberries, and we growed onions.
Ms. S.: Sweet potatoes.
D.S.: Pumpkins?
E.P.: Pumpkins and.....
D.S.: Make pumpkin butter?
E.P.: No, we never did make any pumpkin butter....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: But, we have made grape butter.
Ms.S.: Out of wild grapes.
D.S.: Wild grape butter!
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Never heard of that, it must be good.
Ms.S.: You mixed it with the apples.
E.P.: And we had damsons.
Ms.S.: Get my voice on the tape. (Laughed)
D.S.: Right. We want your voice on the tape.
Ms.S.: SWEET potatoes.
D.S.: Mmmmmmm.
Ms.S.: Squash.
E.P.: And we had damsons, my Mother, she put up a lot of this jelly, they call, pan it out. Oh, she made good jelly. Certain kind of fruit she'd get a jelly out of.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: And, then we canned up around one hundred cans of fruit in there, make twenty-five or thirty gallons of applebutter, make a barrel of molasses, a barrel of cider. (Laughing)
Ms.S.: And a big, big box of sweet potatoes.
D.S.: Ahhhh.
Ms.S.: And, we'd keep them all winter and roast them by the fireplace.
D.S.: Oh boy! How did you keep the vegetables over the winter? Did you bury them?
E.P.: Bury the cabbage.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: And we'd bury potatoes, bury the turnips.
D.S.: Uhhuh. And dried the beans?
E.P.: Dried the beans.
D.S.: You string them up?
Ms.S.: Sometimes we did and sometimes we break them and put them on dryers, big boards that my Dad would make.
D.S.: Uhhuh. But otherwise you string them up around the house, right?
Ms.S.: Yea, hang them up in the attic. Our log cabins were low.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: But, we had an upstairs rooms, for beds and different places.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: So we had a place for food like that. Hang them up and dry them and if it was bad we'd hang them upstairs.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Great. So, in the winter with you keeping the road open you had no problem getting out? You didn't have to stock up extra before winter came?
E.P.: No.
D.S.: Oh, boy!
E.P.: No, we had no problems, and....
D.S.: Your mother had a wood stove?
E.P.: Had a wood stove and-a....
E.P.: Cooked on a wood stove.
D.S.: Those was the best cooking I think going, don't you?
E.P.: Yea.
Ms.S.: You got one now?
E.P.: I got one sitting on the porch there now, Home Comfort.
D.S.: I'll take it with me. (Laughing)
E.P.: Oh no you don't!
D.S.: Dought we could lift it. (All Laughing)
   Did snow ever come into your house, during the winter?
E.P.: In the winter?
Ms.S.: Yes.
D.S.: Yep!
E.P.: In the winter, just before we built the frame house.
   The....., we made shingles.... you....... had made shingles....
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: .....put on top of the roof. Sometime, maybe the sun or
   something would WORP one up.....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: ....and, come a wind, maybe would find a little crack
   and the snow would come in.
D.S.: Sure. Yea. I've heard of houses they had to sweep
   before they could start the fires.
Ms.S.: Yea!
D.S.: Yea. No, it makes sense though, they say with a shingle
   rood it wasn't anything you could do about it.
E.P.: No.
Ms.S.: Sometime we didn't feel the cold like they do now with
   all the heat they got.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: We was comfortable.
D.S.: Sure. Right.
Ms. S.: We had warm clothes.....Like feather ticks, feather beds.
D.S.: Yea. Didn't the feathers separate?
Ms. S.: Noooo!
E.P.: No.
Ms. S.: No! The were just as comfortable as they could be. Just as warm.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms. S.: We would sleep on top of them and under them.
D.S.: Uhhuh. How did you keep the feathers from moving to one side?
Ms. S.: Oh, it wasn't..... You..., I have enough in there.... so.........
E.P.: Have it full.
Ms. S.: Have it full. Geese feathers was real light.
E.P.: Fill it up.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: Chicken feathers would be real heavy, but the geese feathers would be light and fluffy.
D.S.: So you had geese?
Ms. S.: Yea.
D.S.: Geese ticks.
Ms. S.: Geese, ducks.
D.S.: Geese, and ducks, and chickens. You really ate good, didn't you?
Ms. S.: Yea. I was just tellin' Pat, I said, "In the winter time we didn't have nothing to do".

D.S.: Mmmmmm!

E.P.: You'd get your wood, have it all cut, everything worked up. You had your meat, in the box you had your flour.....

Ms.S.: Milk your cow.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: ....in the cabin. The only thing you did was feed your horses and.......

Ms.S.: Milk cows.

E.P.: ....curry them down and keep them nice and keep your barns cleaned out.....

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: ....and keep your fences up.....

D.S.: Sure.

E.P.: ....in the wintertime, so you'd be ready to go to work when Spring ever come.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Uh,..... things to do about winter. O.K.! So, you'd have nothing much to do in the winter except all these things. So, you'd set around the fire in the evening.

Ms.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Did people come to visit then?

E.P.: Play jack rocks! (Laughing)

Ms.S.: Dominos, jack rocks.


E.P.: All the young people.....

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: All the young people, they'd come in and maybe it would be ten or twelve.
D.S.: Oh, my!

E.P.: They played all kinds of games, blind fold, play jack rocks, and so.

Ms.S.: Sweet CIDER

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: 

E.P.: Then the old people would get the banjo and fiddle and play music.


E.P.: Then they would bring out big baskets of apples, or fruits, or something at nights.

Ms.S.: And roast them.

D.S.: Yea. Great!

Ms.S.: Oh, the kids. I wish I could eat like they do. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) What did you all do about a dentist?

Ms.S.: We didn't have no dentist. (Laughing)

D.S.: What if you had a tooth ache?

E.P.: Gates? You used draw bars, you called them.

Ms.S.: Huh! Dentist...... for your teeth.

E.P.: Oh! A dentist.

Ms.S.: Yea.

E.P.: It wasn't any dentists around.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: You'd go to a blacksmith shop. (Laughing)

D.S.: And have it pulled?

E.P.: Have it pulled.

Ms.S.: Have it pulled. They pulled them.

E.P.: I don't know what happened to them. I had a pair of them here. I wanted to keep the.

Ms.S.: Called them.....

E.P.: Called them, pull-it. He made them. The old man they belonged to, Jim, I bought them at a Ranson sale.

Ms.S.: Ranson's, yea.

E.P.: I bought them at a sale, where he pulled a'many tooth for me, in pain. (Laughing)

D.S.: What's a money tooth?

E.P.: (Laughing) I tell you, he saw, he'd pull a'many tooth.

D.S.: Oh, a'many tooth. Yea. Oh.

E.P.: Sometime I let them go too far, you know, and they would bust.

D.S.: Oh!

E.P.: He would take his pocket knife and go around and check the gums....

D.S.: Ahhhhh!

E.P.: ......Around.

D.S.: He not give you anything?

E.P.: No. (Laughing)

Ms.S.: No.

D.S.: Not even take a drink to....... 

E.P.: No! No! He would let us......, he'd just hold your mouth, just as.....

D.S.: Uhhhh!

E.P.: ....he go around. And, you know they didn't hurt any more than the dentist do now.

Ms.S.: They give you a shot now. (Laughing) Put the needle in your gums. My Daddy only had one tooth pulled, he was sixty-seven years old.
D.S.: Oh, my!
Ms. S.: He had a stroke.
D.S.: You know, this was all the good exercise... outdoor exercise, all the good food you had.
Ms. S.: I think so.
E.P.: We didn't get all these sweets.....
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: ...and everyday, everyday.
D.S.: Right.
E.P.: And-a,... when they first brought us soda, a man run the store up here, now he keep the soda in the, he had a big tub.....
Ms. S.: They called it pop.
E.P.: Well, the pop..., in there so it would stay cool.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: Uh,... I guess I was around thirteen years old.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: I remember the first bottle I ever dranked, strawberry.
(Laughing)
D.S.: (Laughing) Did you like it?
E.P.: Oh, I didn't think nothing tasted no better. (Laughed)
D.S.: Speaking of eating. Did you ever eat beef?
Ms. S.: Beef?
D.S.: Beef?
Ms. S.: Yea, we killed a cow.
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Yea?
Ms.S.: Sell half of it and can, not can, dry. You could dry your beef or freeze it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: Put it out and let it freeze.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: In the winter time it would freeze too.

D.S.: Yea. Right. So, you did eat beef too. You didn't just rely then just on hog meat.....

Ms.S.: No.

D.S.: ....and chickens? How about wild...., wild life? Did you eat squirrel and.....

E.P.: Yes, they'd eat squirrels and...

D.S.: ....rabbits?

E.P.: ....and they'd eat rabbits, and they'd eat coons, and.....

D.S.: Coons, oppossums?

Ms.S.: Possum, I couldn't eat it. I never ate a opposum.

D.S.: I heard it was very good.

Ms.S.: Huh?

D.S.: I heard it's good.

Ms.S.: They say it is, but I just can't eat it.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: And they eat groundhog.

D.S.: Oh, yes groundhogs. Sure. And, fish, was there much good fish in here?

E.P.: Yea. But, it wasn't much fishing around these streams, but the merchants would bring up fish and.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: ....they call them salt fish. They bring them up in barrels.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh, yes, salt fish, right. Was your father
a cobbler or anybody in the neighborhood a cobbler
so if your shoes needed repairing, they could be fixed?
E.P.: No, they usually did it themselves.
D.S.: Yea, that's what I mean. Your father done it himself?
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Yea. He had a last?
E.P.: I got the last, I got the last now. (Laughing)
D.S.: You do? Did you use metal things on your shoes?
E.P.: Well, yes....we never did, but some of them did. They use
some on the heels.....
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: ...like a horse shoe.....
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: .....around there, about that wide.....
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: .....and then they use all way round here, they call
them hobnails, little tacks with big heads on them.
D.S.: Yea. Well, did that help them in climbing the mountains?
E.P.: Well, that saved you from buying a pair of shoes, your
shoes wouldn't wear out.....
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: ...heels and your soles wouldn't wear out as quick.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Hobnails saved you from slipping and sliding on ice.
D.S.: Yea! Apparently you didn't have to do much walking,
did you?
E.P.: No, we never did. Yes, we did right much walking. Uh...,sometimes we would walk to Shifflet Hollow going to churches
and places.
D.S.: How far away was Shifflet Hollow?
E.P.: Shifflet Hollow would be.....

Ms.S.: Be eight....Be...
E.P.: I'd say be be about eight....

Ms.S.: Nine miles, I imagine.
E.P.: About eight or nine miles, yea.

D.S.: On the other side of the mountain?
E.P.: Yea, on the other side of the mountain.

D.S.: I see. So, you did visit between hollows?
E.P.: Yea, be hollows. You'd go over there to church and they'd come over here.

D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: And, they'd walk it sometime.

Ms.S.: Walk it? You'd walk it a'many time.
E.P.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea. O.K.. Sounds like to me you was having a rather plush life riding around on your horses and wagons and all the rest of it, (Laughing) but you did walk?

E.P.: Yea, we did walk.

D.S.: How did you celebrate Christmas?
E.P.: How did we celebrate Christmas? Well, we'd celebrate Christmas about two weeks. We have two weeks to celebrate.

Ms.S.: How did you celebrate?
E.P.: We'd celebrate it by dancing, Santa Clause came, go in have refreshments at people houses.

Ms.S.: Serenade people at home.
E.P.: And....., and....., maybe stop in and dance awhile, take up some time in this house and go to another house.

D.S.: GREAT! Did you do the Kris Kringleers?
E.P.: Hows that?
Ms.S.: No! He had none. We had Kris Kringlers.
D.S.: Yea, that was fun, wasn't it?
Ms.S.: Fun. Well, that was fun, Santa Clause kind. We....
D.S.: Yea. Did you get any presents at Christmas?
E.P.: Yes, we'd get candy and oranges, and you wouldn't...., you wouldn't get presents like you give now.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: The clothes, the food...
D.S.: No.
E.P.: The people....., the money wasn't available enough to buy presents.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Couldn't afford it.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: You used what you would get, You'd go to a house you'd have cookies and things, things people would have.
Ms.S.: Homemade candy and cookies.
D.S.: Mmmmmmmm!
E.P.: And drinks.
Ms.S.: Apples and sweet cider.
D.S.: Fire crackers. Did you shoot off fire crackers?
E.P.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Oh, yea.
E.P.: Roman candles.
D.S.: Yea. (Laughed) Right. Uh,... Thanksgiving wasn't celebrated, was it?
E.P.: No, Thanksgiving wasn't celebrated.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms. S.: Did you have any fairs that you would go to?
E.P.: No.
D.S.: No County Fairs?
E.P.: No.
D.S.: Revival meetings?
E.P.: We'd go to revival meetings.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: We had plenty of those.
D.S.: Yea. How did you two court?
Ms. S.: Ahhh! He would ride a horse and go through a mud puddle and throw it all over me and then I would have on my best Sunday dress.
D.S.: (Laughing)
Ms. S.: That's how we met. (Laughing) find that one.
D.S.: Well, that's one way of starting a conversation.
Ms. S.: Then he stop wetting, riding and after that he started walking. (Laughing) We had a chaperon all the time.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: I had a riding horse, could prance so well.
D.S.: Was it a quiet wedding?
Ms. S.: Yea, it was a quiet wedding. We had it at home.
D.S.: At your house?
Ms. S.: Uhuh, at home, just family.
D.S.: Uhuh. The minister came?
D.S.: Kenneth?
Ms. S.: Kenneth, I guess that was his name, wasn't it?
E.P.: Yes.
Ms. S.: Kenneth Meadows.
D.S.: Yea. Of course, there was no honeymoon?
Ms.S.: No. Well, we went several days to visit my sister.
D.S.: Where?
Ms.S.: Charlottesville, and back home. Of course you couldn't go far.
D.S.: No.
Ms.S.: (Laughing)
D.S.: No, that's right you couldn't. This is not a very happy subject, but one I got to bring up. Uh....., your funerals.
Ms.S.: Oh, we don't mind.
D.S.: Wasn't embalming in those days, so, you kept the body right in the house?
Ms.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: Uhhuh. When you buried the person, Uh,.....did everybody stay there at the grave site until it was covered?
Ms.S.: Yes, as far as I can remember they did.
E.P.: Yes they did.
Ms.S.: Now they don't let you stay.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Later on....
D.S.: Did you put up monuments.....
Ms.S.: Yea.
D.S.: ...or just used rocks?
Ms.S.: No, we...
E.P.: Some of them....
Ms.S.: Some used slabs.
E.P.: And, some of them made head stones out of cement. Put their initials in it.

D.S.: Oh, that's a good ideal. I have heard that the largest grave yard that somebody ever saw was in Bacon Hollow.

Ms.S.: Where?

D.S.: He said the biggest one and most of the people had been shot.

Ms.S.: Oh, for pete sake! I don't know of any large ones, family ones.

D.S.: Do you know Fisher Finks?

E.P.: Hun?

D.S.: Do you know Fisher Finks?

Ms.S.: No, I don't know him.

D.S.: He said that.

Ms.S.: He's wrong! They only had family grave yards. It is one right up here on top of this mountain right now.

E.P.: It is two.

Ms.S.: The Knight family. You see these slabs they...

E.P.: I reckon the biggest cementary in Bacon Hollow was...

Ms.S.: Right here at the fountain, sold to the lawyer.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: And he is going to be buried there. He fenced it in and everything.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: It is his family.

E.P.: That was one, two, that was a family grave yard...

Ms.S.: They all were family grave yards.

E.P.: ...up here. This one up here is larger.

Ms.S.: Yes, it's three families in that one.
D.S.: Uhhuh. He was wrong.

Ms.S.: Nobody was shot and buried up there. It was one, was a Morris and a Sh..., some Morries got in an argument or something and killed each other.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: That was the only two I ever knewed.

E.P.: Bacon Hollow has got a name.

Ms.S.: It's not as bad as....

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: Bacon Hollow got a name and they never would let it die down.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: And, it was worser places than Bacon Hollow. South River and Ruckersville and all those places. Bacon Hollow got a name from, I think it started from just two killings up here. Just started and far as murders been up here in the hollow, it one, two, three, three, four......

Ms.S.: With suicide, suicides up there.

E.P.: ......and five murders only has been.

Ms.S.: Count five.

E.P.: There was....

Ms.S.: Burner and...

E.P.: Burner and Manuel shot each other.

Ms.S.: Shot each other, yea.

E.P.: And........., there was....

Ms.S.: Harve Knight.

E.P.: Like killed Roman, made three.

Ms.S.: Who?
Ms.S.: Thought Roman killed himself.
E.P.: No, ... Luke killed him.
D.S.: Why?
Ms.S.: I didn't know him. I didn't know it.
Ms.S.: That happened before I was married.
D.S.: What was they shooting or killing each other for, do you know?
Ms.S.: Family feuds, I think.
E.P.: Well, it was family feuds and...
D.S.: Was it because of the making of moonshine, maybe?
E.P.: Well, no.
D.S.: Jealously?
E.P.: No, some of this was done when the state was dry.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: When the state was dry.
D.S.: Yea, well, they still made moonshine.
E.P.: Yea.
D.S.: They made more.
Ms.S.: That's when they was making it, wasn't it?
D.S.: (Laughing) Yea. Right.
E.P.: But, I can remember before moonshine was ever made.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Uh..., moonshine was ever made. I was sixteen years old, I reckon when they started making moonshine. John Gibson was the first one to ever make any moonshine.
Ms.S.: Yea, I know. I was twelve.
E.P.: And so...
Ms.S.: Where did he sell it, do you know?
D.S.: Where did he sell it, do you know?
E.P.: That started back in, way back in nineteen hundred.....
Ms.S.: You mean where?
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Yea. Where did he start? He made the first equipment to make the moonshine in.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: And now, where he made the first, I don't know where he made the first.
E.P.: I don't know where he made the first.
Ms.S.: No.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
E.P.: He was the one that made the first still.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: That's what I told her.
E.P.: And, that wasn't made in Bacon Hollow. Then after when he got to making them and selling them and distributing them out and it got in Bacon Hollow and making it.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know where it was sold, any of this moonshine? Did they take it into Charlottesville or....?
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Most of it sold in Charlottesville, some in Richmond, and Washington, West Virginia....
D.S.: (Whistled)
E.P.: ....and ....
Ms. S.: After cars came in.

E. P.: ...and Harrisonburg, and Elkton.

D. S.: Oh, cars came here to get it?

Ms. S.: The cars, I said after the cars.

D. S.: Oh, yes.

Ms. S.: Then after cars came in, they would take it.

D. S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: But they sold moonshine before there was too many cars in Charlottesville.

D. S.: Yea.

E. P.: What?

Ms. S.: They sold moonshine in Charlottesville before so many cars came in.

D. S.: Do you know that there was any sort of signals that the people would have to tell a Revenue Officer was coming up?

E. P.: Well, they had a sign..... Maybe the mother, or wife, or somebody would get out and call a cow or something.

Ms. S.: (Laughing)

D. S.: Yea.

E. P.: Or ring a bell.....


E. P.: ...ring a dinner bell.

D. S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Now, most of them had some sort of signal.

Ms. S.: Yea, they had a signal.

E. P.: A man would get out and shoot a shotgun.

D. S.: Yea. (Laughing) Right. Well, it made a lot of sense to make moonshine because you got more money from than than carrying a whole bushels of apples and it was a lot easier to carry a jug than a bushel of apples.
Ms. S.: Yea, that's right. Yea, during the depression you couldn't sell apples, you couldn't sell nothing.

D. S.: Right.

Ms. S.: You couldn't buy nothing.

D. S.: Right, but you could sell moonshine.

Ms. S.: That's right.

D. S.: Sure.

Ms. S.: They would buy moonshine. Somebody would come in..... that had.....

E. P.: People was forced to make moonshine, or else starve.

D. S.: That's right.

Ms. S.: Had to make it. Force to.

D. S.: Yea. That's right. And from what I heard the people in Bacon Hollow and Smoke Hollow made some of the best, you know, the purest...that there was.

Ms. S.: Yes, they say that it was.

D. S.: Yea, right.

Ms. S.: Was called "White Lightin". (Laughing)

D. S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Uh,..... did at Christmas time, did the grown-ups do much drinking?

Ms. S.: No.

E. P.: No, not too much.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

E. P.: No, it would eighteen maybe twenty.... Well, we use to maybe eight or ten cars got together and we would go to Crozet, be invited to a dance. Be invited, maybe somebody invited us in to a dance, be in a home.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

E. P.: ......And we drived T Model Fords, and so there would be very little drinking.
D.S.: Yea. Right.
Ms.S.: Never had a fight or not troubles to any of the ones I went to.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: I never heard nobody be angry, you know, with each other.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: ...at that time.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Well, people really had to get along together.
Ms.S.: Sure, they had to get along.
D.S.: ...because if you didn't you were (Laughing) sort of left out by yourself.
Ms.S.: That's right.
D.S.: Uh., speaking of getting along with each other. Did you all like have, some of them they called it a matching party, if someone had this job to do... you all would go help. Did you do that?
E.P.: Yea.
Ms.S.: Oh, we helped each other.
E.P.: Yea, we helped each other.
Ms.S.: Bean stringing.
E.P.: Like somebody was building a house.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: ...We'd go give them a hand on that.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: Or else, maybe his corn come in and help. Maybe somebody in the family was sick.
D.S.: Yea.
We'd go feed his horses or take care of his stock. And, be in the winter time see that they'd get water and see they'd have wood.

Uhhuh.

And....

You..., you were neighbors.

Yea.

Yea.

You don't do it anymore.

Ain't no more of that.

No, I know that.

No. Don't want nobody to help.

People really helped each other, didn't they?

They helped each other. It was more love, but I think cars now, homes and....

Automobiles.

....so much for these young generation to do, go here and go there. Too much for them. That's you got all the love.

That's right.

Taken all the love.

Did you dare speak back to your mother or father?

How's that?

Did you dare say I wouldn't do it, if your daddy said to do something?

NOOOOO! (Laughing)

(Laughing)

That would be a joke.
E.P.: My Daddy tell me to do anything I did it and kept my mouth shut.

D.S.: And you know, they didn't discipline, but you just knew you had to obey.

Ms.S.: We knew we had to do it.

E.P.: And, just like you visited by our home and we were children, we set down and let the old people talk, or else get out of the house.

Ms.S.: If it was nice we had to get out of the house, go outside and play.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: ...never be around, but now!

D.S.: Oh, it is really amazing. And, I bet each one of you had a special job that was yours, didn't you?

Ms.S.: Yea, that's right. We...

D.S.: What was your special job?

Ms.S.: You mean in the house?

D.S.: When you was growing up?

Ms.S.: When I was growing up. Well, my special job was... to do our chores?

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: That we had to do? Bring in water from the spring, we had a spring.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: We had to bring in water, that was between two of us, my sister and I. Sometimes she would get a little lazy and I had to do it by myself because I was faster.

(Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing)
Ms. S.: Then we got larger we had to pick up cherries, pick up apples, we had to help in the field, there was no boys in our family.

D.S.: Oh boy! Who? Who? What was your particular job, when you got up in the morning you knew you had to do this?

E.P.: My particular job was to get up early in the morning and go to the barn while my Mother was getting breakfast.

D.S.: What time was this, early in the morning?

E.P.: Well, it was around about five o'clock. Go out and feed the horses and harness them and then come back and eat my breakfast and then go get the horses and go to the field. I would plow corn. Then after the corn season was over I hooked them to a wagon and go to the mountain with the team. The team, I stayed with the team all the time.

D.S.: Uh huh.

E.P.: The horses.

D.S.: Yea. I think that I wish our children as well brought up now.

Ms. S.: I know. I often think of that.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: Yea, my Daddy never whipped me in his life.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: But, when he said do this, I did it.

D.S.: Right. Did you have any dolls when you was growing up?

Ms. S.: Oh yes, I had dolls.

D.S.: What kind?
I'll tell you how we got those. This Mission down here, it was a Episcopal Church, they had... they would redo dolls and things that somebody would bring them.

Oh! Ahhh!

And you would have, you know, cheap.

Yea.

Mommy would get us the prettiest dolls, and I would think it was nothing like it.

Yea.

But she would get them cheaper, you see, that way.

Uhhuh.

And, we had dolls.

Right.

Different kinds of toys.

Yes.

I know they had to do without some things to... for us to have some toys.

How about newspapers? Did you pick up a newspaper when you would go to the store?

Didn't have any.

Not at that time.

My Daddy got the Chicago Tribune.

How did you know what was going on in the world?

Well, we knew. He got the Chicago Tribune, he ordered it.

Yea.

But, they wouldn't mail out no paper at that time to nobody.
D.S.: No. Well, how did you know the wars were on?
Ms.S.: Oh well, we had radios.
D.S.: People talking?
Ms.S.: When wars was on, we remembered, we had radios.
E.P.: See, we had.
D.S.: Not when World War I?
E.P.: Telephones out here at Standersville.
Ms.S.: Switch board.
E.P.: Had a switchboard out there.
Ms.S.: Used that.
E.P.: You go out there you'd find out all the news through the mail. The mail run from Standersville, called it the *field* Post Office.
D.S.: Yea.
E.P.: That was the old Post Office.
D.S.: O.K.
E.P.: So you got all the news, outside news through the mail.
D.S.: Alright. When you went to the store, you didn't stand around and talk there?
E.P.: At wet days (Laughing) when you couldn't work.
D.S.: (Laughing) Dear, that's cute.
Ms.S.: It was cold, they could set on the cracker barrels.
(All Laughing)
D.S.: Oh, gee! When the park was coming in, what did you think? Did you feel badly about it?
E.P.: About what?
D.S.: When the park come in?
Ms.S.: When the park come in?
E.P.: No.
Ms. S.: Yes, I did.

E. P.: Right at the time we didn't. The way they put the... The way they started it and I think, I don't know, I may be wrong with what I am saying. But, I think the people priced the land themselves, you either get six dollars or you give a acre of land.

D. S.: Huh!

E. P.: If you get six dollare and then you get a acre of land.....

D. S.: Uhhuh.

E. P.: ...you was pricing your land at six dollars an acre. And so, I didn't give anything. I didn't give anything.

Ms. S.: We wasn't in the park then.

E. P.: And, my Daddy didn't give any, not to the park.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

E. P.: And so, I didn't, I didn't like it too much. Well, the way it started... they wasn't taking as much land as they did take. Then they made the first survey, it was down here at the, at a Oak tree down here about two miles, then the second survey they made up here right through our farm where we owned, and...then....., and then the other farm on back up the hollow, then went right up, they call it , the Flat, back up the hollow. They went right up that hollow and on around the Round Top then.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

E. P.: And, so.... I think the Park in one way is...alright.

D. S.: Did you get a fair amount, do you think, for your land?

Ms. S.: Oh, we didn't sell it. We didn't sell it.

D. S.: You didn't sell it?

Ms. S.: No.

E. P.: Huh-un. And, so I think....
Ms. S.: They taken it.
D. S.: Yea.
E. P.: The way it happened now, they ruin the beauty of the
mountain by putting......uh,......by putting this settlement
up here on.....
Ms. S.: Flat Top.
E. P.: Flat Top.
D. S.: Uhhuh.
D. S.: Uhhuh.
E. P.: That was a beautiful......
Ms. S.: Oh, it was level, worked it down.
E. P.: What they are doing......is destroying wildlife, starving
them out. Wildlife is......
Ms. S.: That's not in the park area.
E. P.: No, it's not in the park area. It would have been a
good thing if they taken that.
Ms. S.: Yea, it would have been better after they let all the
families go.
D. S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: Moved.
D. S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: Well, how did they do that?
E. P.: Huh?
Ms. S.: All those families had to get out from there and then.....
what his\' name, got all that Flat Top up there.
E. P.: Well, you see, the Webster boys they owned that in the
first place, before they moved. They were just tenants
that build.
Ms. S.: Yea.
E.P.: They just seen to the cattle, they would bring cattle in there. And, Herman said they bring cattle up there when I was a boy. My brother would ride horses over here and we would round up the cattle and drive them back to market.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.P.: Drive them from here to Elkton.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: The Webster boys.

Ms.S.: Oh, they sold it to him and then he just... ...

E.P.: Huffman sold it to the Webster boys and then the Webster boys sold it to Haynes.

Ms.S.: That caused a lot of water problems with that timber going down, washing down.....

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: ....doing people danages down below.

D.S.: Yea. Speaking of that. With your gardens, did you have many rocks in the gardens?

Ms.S.: Oh, yes!

D.S.: (Laughing)

Ms.S.: Oh, yea we had rocks in the gardens! (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) Did you, those you couldn't move out, would you plant a kernal of corn right next to it?

Ms.S.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: Yea. Grew good, didn't it?

Ms.S.: Yea, grew good. But, we cleared the garden of most of the rocks.

E.P.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea.
Ms. S.: But, tight rocks in there you couldn't get out, you put a hill of corn there, it grew just the same.

D.S.: Sure. Right.

Ms. S.: Right.

D.S.: I know it. (Laughing) It always amazed me that that was the case.

Ms. S.: I know it. I think it was moisture there under that rock.

D.S.: Yeah. Have you any stories handed down in your family as to where your family came from?

Ms. S.: Well, we tried it. But, we (Laughed) we had to stop, it go so complicated.

E.P.: So complicated we had to stop.

Ms. S.: My daughter was trying to get the history.

E.P.: Get the history.

Ms. S.: ...get the history of our family.

E.P.: Trace our family.

Ms. S.: .....our family tree. We got first started on it.

E.P.: It got so complicated it was causing us too much. We couldn't find out, our parents didn't tell us.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: .....you know, about their relatives and their relatives.

D.S.: Yea, and if only they had, then you would have known.

Ms. S.: And, that was the problem there.

D.S.: Yea. You know I always pictured the people sitting around in the evenings in the winter with nothing else to do, with the fires burning.

Ms. S.: That's right.

D.S.: .....and the grandfather saying, "Now I want you children to remember".
Ms. S.: That's right.

D.S.: ...they never did, did they?

Ms. S.: They never did, no.

E.P.: I can remember back when my great-great grandfather and...

Ms. S.: Far as I can....

E.P.: ...and my great-great grandmother, I can remember who they were, you know.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: But, that's as far as I can go.

D.S.: Yea. They been here a long while, I know that.

E.P.: Yea.

Ms. S.: We are suppose to be the Shifflets, was suppose to be Shiff*lets'.

E.P.: Shiff*lets' not Shiff'*lets.

Ms. S.: It suppose to be German.


Ms. S.: Because they....

D.S.: Your name is spelled with only one T, right? There are so many spellings.

Ms. S.: Yea. We found out the first Shifflets settled here was at Barracks Roads, here in Charleottesville. Came over with Napoleon. Is that it? Well, anyhow, they went, part of them, in Charlottesville, most of them went to Harrisonburg.......

D.S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: ....back that away and settled.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms. S.: That's as far as we could get..... We are, I know..... I went to a funeral home, his aunt died and we went. We signed our name, I spelled my name at that time
S-h-i-f-l-e-p~ My son still does, he wouldn't change. And, he said, "You are the second person that ever spelled your name right". I said, "Are you kidding? I always spell my name that away". He said, "There is a lady from New York spells her's that way". He said, "Y'all are Germans".

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: I said, "I always thought we were Irish".

D.S.: Oh! (Laughing) No, Huh-un.

Ms.S.: And, I just said that because I knew we wasn't. And, my little nephew use to say "We are Irish, We are Irish" because he didn't know what else to say when they asked him. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) Oh!

Ms.S.: He said, "No, the first ship sailed out here at Barracks Road." He said, "It is right down at the record office."

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: But, that's as far as we could get. I, I just don't know. I don't know.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: My daughter worked on it a long time. She belongs to the Mormons and they all....

D.S.: Oh, sure.

Ms.S.: ........want you to look up your family tree.

D.S.: Sure.

Ms.S.: We searched the cementaries everywhere.

D.S.: Hey! To change the subject, I keep doing this to you, I'm sorry. Uh....
Ms. S.: That's alright.

D. S.: But, do you remember any herbs that your mother used?

Ms. S.: Oh, yes! For medicine?

D. S.: Yea. WHAT? WHAT? WHAT?

Ms. S.: Alright. Used Slippery Alma bark for if you had a temperature.

D. S.: Oh, for temperature?

Ms. S.: Uhhuh.

D. S.: Make a tea out of it?

Ms. S.: Wet it and you'd hold it on your forehead, it would be as slippery, or wrap it around your wrist.

D. S.: Oh!

Ms. S.: And, you can make a tea out of it, too. Then we used this peppermint for cold. Peppermint tea.

D. S.: Peppermint tea for cold, right.

Ms. S.: Uhhuh.

D. S.: Uhhuh.

Ms. S.: Miss Nettie use to tell me if I dranked a quart of tea and soak my feet in hot water I wouldn't have no colds. (Laughing)

D. S.: Ohhh! (Laughing) Did you ever get turpentine and sugar?

Ms. S.: Turpentine. Yeaaaa! Uhhuh!

D. S.: Uhhuh.

Ms. S.: We use to get it off trees and work it up and put it on sores, for different things.

E. P.: Pine trees.

D. S.: Pine turpentine, of course.

Ms. S.: Bee stings.

E. P.: Yea.
D.S.: That is good.
Ms.S.: And-a..... Uh....., horehound.
D.S.: Yeaaa!
Ms.S.: You got. Of course, they got making candy out of that later on.
D.S.: That was for a cough?
E.P.: Castor oil.
Ms.S.: Yea, but we didn't....., but that wasn't herbs, we'd buy that.
D.S.: Horehound....
Ms.S.: Horehound, it grew....
D.S.: ....was for what?
Ms.S.: It grew in the mountains....
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: ....in different places.
D.S.: Yea. What did you do with it?
Ms.S.: Ahhh..... they said it was good for colds.
D.S.: Make a tea out of it?
Ms.S.: Yea, they would make a cough syrup out of it.
D.S.: Cough syrup?
Ms.S.: Horehound and....., oh, what else was it that Mom put in it? Uh.....
D.P.: Catnip?
Ms.S.: No, it wasn't in that cough syrup we made. I thought it was a wild cherry.
D.S.: Bet it was.
Ms.S.: Yea, that they boiled with it.
Ms.S.: And-a.....
D.S.: Catnip tea?
Ms.S.: Catnip tea for babies with colic. (Laughing)
D.S.: Yea. (Laughing) O.K.. How about sassafras tea?
Ms.S.: Oh, yes we made sassafras tea to drink, that is delicious.
D.S.: Oh, just for fun?
Ms.S.: No! Because we like it.
D.S.: Yea, I mean you had it just for fun.
Ms.S.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Not for any reasons?
Ms.S.: Oh, oh, yes they made it. sassafras, let's see, what was it for?
E.P.: If you had a cold.
D.S.: It was in the Spring, wasn't it, to thin your blood?
Ms.S.: If you had a cold, if you had something wrong with your blood.
E.P.: For a cold, they give you hot sassafras tea.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: It's a reddish tea, you get the roots and wash them real good and make that tea, it was delicious.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: You can't hardly find it anymore now.
D.S.: Come to my house.
Ms.S.: Can you find it?
D.S.: Got lots of it.
Ms.S.: Ohhhh! Dear! Use to have some back over here, but I think the cattle destroyed most of it.
D.S.: Ohhh!
Ms.S.: I know Mommy use to have plenty of it. And, let's see what else we'd get. Uh, ... ginseng, but I don't know what they used that for.

D.S.: Ginseng was for the stomach, wasn't it?

Ms.S.: I think it was.

D.S.: Did you ever sell any ginseng?

Ms.S.: Well no, that was so expensive if we got any we dried it and ... (Laughing) My Daddy would get some sometime.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: Oh, it is so expensive.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: I think they use it to make face cream or something out of it now in Japan or China or someplace like that. I read about it.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: They said it keeps your complexion just as white and nice.

D.S.: Really?

Ms.S.: Yea. Didn't you ever read it? I read it in the paper not long ago, it was about ginsing.

D.S.: Oh!

Ms.S.: I thought about it then.

D.S.: Did you ever use Balm of Gilead?

Ms.S.: What?

D.S.: Balm of Gilead?

Ms.S.: No. What was that, Pat, that tasted like, we made tea out of that too? It was so much grown up, you know.

D.S.: Pepsythia?

Ms.S.: What?
D.S.: Pepsi.

Ms.S.: No, it was like a mint. I use to chew it.

D.S.: Horsemint?

E.P.: Mint julip?

Ms.S.: No, uh....., can't think of it anymore.

D.S.: It wasn't.... Did you use catnip tea?


D.S.: Yea, and horsemint tea?

Ms.S.: I....., I don't know if we ever used the horsemint. I don't know if it was horsemint, I imagine it might have been what it was. I know it would grow, it would come up by itself, you know, in fields.

D.S.: Yea.

Ms.S.: We'd get out and gather it.

D.S.: Wild and sticky. (Laughed)

E.P.: What you call sheep sod.

Ms.S.: Well, we used that for salad.

E.P.: Yea.

D.S.: What?

Ms.S.: Uh....., you pull it off.

E.P.: Sheep sod... (sheep sorrel)

Ms.S.: Sheep saw...

E.P.: ......dandelions?

Ms.S.: No, that was different. That was a salad, sheep sod was......

E.P.: Yea.

Ms.S.: The dandelions would make good salad, if you get it before it bloomed.

D.S.: What was the sheep sorrel?
Ms.S.: I don't know, we used to chew it when we were kids, and it was sour. It had a sour taste, I don't know if my Mother used that for anything or if she put it in a tea.

E.P.: You don't do it no more.

Ms.S.: You don't see it.

D.S.: How is it spelled?

Ms.S.: I don't know how you spell it. I know... (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing)

Ms.S.: I know Mommy use to say.....

E.P.: That's what the old timey people called it.

Ms.S.: I'd say, "Can you eat this?" Ahh, yes go ahead, that's sheep solve, or something, I didn't pay any attention. I didn't know what sheep solve meant.

D.S.: (Laughing)

Ms.S.: I just thought it came up from sheep. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) You know this story you have told is simple, a beautiful one. It shows how much enterprise, a lot of hard work.... I bet you went to bed early at nights, didn't you?

Ms.S.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: And slept like logs?

Ms.S.: Like logs. We didn't have no TV or no....

E.P.: No.

Ms.S.: Everybody went to bed early.

D.S.: Well, you had to if you was going to get up at five o'clock in the mornings.

Ms.S.: Five o'clock, that's right.
D.S.: Uh, ...... you went through, you said, sixth grade, Mr. Shifflet?

E.P.: Eighth.

D.S.: You went through the eighth grade?

E.P.: No, I didn't go through the eighth grade.

D.S.: Oh?

E.P.: No, I didn't. I ...... I didn't go through but the first and second......

Ms.S.: His mother got sick.

E.P.: My Mother got sick and in the hospital....... 

D.S.: Oh!

E.P.: .... and, my Dad, wasn't no automobiles, and my Dad had to go and stay in town. Ride a horse over there and stay in town. And, he had to take, my oldest brother was older than I, Russel, and he had to take us out of school and stay there at home and to farm and all. 

D.S.: Ahhhhh!

E.P.: Then after she got able, she was about, it was three or four years before she could do anything. And, we done got so far back behind our grades we never did start back.

D.S.: Yea. Your mother did recover?

E.P.: Yea. She....

D.S.: What was wrong?

E.P.: She....., she got a hold of the ...... wrong, the medicine was sitting up on the shelf, and she got a hold of the wrong bottle and taken it. It was Tink of Iron.

Ms.S.: She thought it was Tink fo Iron she was taking and it was Iodine.

D.S.: Oh!
E.P.: And, it ate her stomach.
D.S.: Oh! Shooooo!
E.P.: So, she was out of it a long time. Well, we cooked, wash clothes, clean house.
D.S.: Oh, can't you see the busy little boy? Oh! (Laughing)
Ms.S.: (Laughing) He got tired of that because after he got married he wouldn't do it.
(All Laughing)
D.S.: Handy to have around, a man who knows how to cook.
E.P.: Oh, yes.
D.S.: I'm, I'm sorry about that, because when you started out on your own you really needed that education, didn't you?
E.P.: That's right.
Ms.S.: Well, at that time the parents didn't think you needed much education.....
D.S.: That's right.
Ms.S.: .....as you would, you see, at this time.
D.S.: Yea, I know it.
Ms.S.: My Mother would say a lot of time, "You've got to help me today", my Dad would say, "No, you'll have to leave that go until Saturday because they got to go to school". So, he made us go to school, but, my Mother wasn't educated and she didn't think we really needed it.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
Ms.S.: As much as a boy would, you know, or something like that.
D.S.: Yea.
Ms.S.: But,......
D.S.: Everybody needs it.
Ms. S.: Yea.

D.S.: But, you done alright.

E.P.: Oh yes, I'm thankful for it....

Ms. S.: He got along fine, I think.

E.P.: ....along as I did.

D.S.: You don't know how I Thank-You.

E.P.: Well, it wasn't.... One thing, my Dad, he was a man always learned us how to do things.

D.S.: Yea.

E.P.: And, get out and make it. Not settle down and wait until somebody give you something.


E.P.: He was good to us, but he learned us to work.

D.S.: He taught you independence.....

E.P.: Yea.

D.S.: ....didn't he? Yea.

E.P.: Yea. So, we worked all our lives. I think that is why some of them around the hollows.... didn't do too well, because they was a little too lazy to get out and do rough work.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever have a lock on your door?

E.P.: No, not then.

Ms. S.: You didn't need them. (Laughing)

D.S.: Did you know anybody with long fingers?

E.P.: No.

Ms. S.: No.

D.S.: Nobody never did.

Ms. S.: We never did.
D.S.: No.

Ms.S.: We'd go places and spend the night and never locked our doors, and....

E.P.: No, never thought about locking our doors.

Ms.S.: ......come back. Never thought about locking our door.

D.S.: No.

Ms.S.: And, now you are afraid to go to the store. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) Right. That funny?

Ms.S.: Well, it's true.

D.S.: Uh.....

Ms.S.: It's not altogether the people that is around you, now it is so many people coming in.....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

Ms.S.: ......from everywhere, different states.

D.S.: Sure.

Ms.S.: You can see them come in up here now, guess they are going up on Flat Top. Motorcycles, be eight or ten.....

D.S.: Oh!

Ms.S.: ....at a time. Yea. So, you just have to be careful now, more careful.

D.S.: Gosh! You have told me so much, you have helped so much.

Ms.S.: (Laughing)

D.S.: And, you know what you have mainly helped with? You have eradicated the myths of Bacon Hollow.

Ms.S.: Well, that's what I would like to get straigten out, because everybody thinks that.

D.S.: Oh.
Ms. S.: Even if you get a job they think, Oh she is from Bacon Hollow!

D. S.: Yea.

Ms. S.: Ah, she's got a good job, she said, "Yes, I am from Bacon Hollow and proud of it".

E. P.: I always tell my grandson......

Ms. S.: I told her to be proud where you come from.

E. P.: .....I don't care where you come from, be proud where you come from.

D. S.: Right. And, by goly, I'm going to see to it that it THAT is told! WORD IS SPREAD.
According to Judge R. M. Early of Greene County, there were a good many murders in the years 1900 - 1940 in Bacon Hollow; what he meant by "a good many" was an average of one murder every two years. These were caused by making moonshine, men playing cards, drinking and then fighting.

Prohibition years were the worst, stills had always been in the mountains for everyone made legal moonshine but when prohibition was in effect the people made more whiskey and seemed to fight more frequently. When a murder occurred, the Sheriff didn't have to go into the hollow to bring in the man who caused the killing; he merely sent word that the Sheriff wanted him and, without fail, the man appeared at the jail. There was one instance of two men who killed each other simultaneously.

Judge Early recalled one trial case where Monroe Crawford was accused of making moonshine, all evidence was clearly against him so his attorney asked Monroe to plead guilty being assured to get only a $500 fine and six months on the work farm rather than five years in jail. Monroe Crawford refused to plead guilty, when the Jurors returned they announced, "We find the Defendant not guilty," the Magistrate was so startled he asked the statement be repeated. Later Monroe told his attorney, "I make good whiskey and every Juror is my customer, I knew I'd be freed."

Another incident involved Shifflett Hollow. Edgar Morris appeared in court to be tried for making illegal moonshine, he shot Magistrate Sullivan in the head. Edgar Morris was then tried in Charlottesville on charges of murder, given a life sentence and died insane (mountain people couldn't stand confinement).

Judge Early stated that the people in Bacon Hollow were good, hard
working people. The family names were mostly Shifflett, which is German in origin and Morris which he believes to be Irish. Both nationalities are positive in thinking and believe in standing up for their rights — this led to the numerous fights. To the best of his knowledge there was no in-breeding in the hollow. Judge Early said he always felt safe whenever he went into Bacon Hollow, "It's as safe as any place in the world."