9-24-1977

(SNP117) Pearl Williams Smith interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Joy K. Stiles

Pearl Williams Smith

Follow this and additional works at: https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/snp

Recommended Citation
N. Pearl Williams Smith interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, September 24, 1977, SdArch SNP-117, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the JMU Special Collections at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.
Interview with Pearl Williams
Part of the Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, SdArch SNP-117
(SC# 4030)

Interview conducted at unknown location
By Dorothy Noble Smith
September 24, 1977

Transcribed by Joy K. Stiles, date unknown

Key
[DS:] Interviewer, Dorothy Smith
[PS:] Interviewee, Davis Twyman

(   ) Unable to understand word

Total interview length: 00:42:25 min.

[Begin audio file, 0:00:01]

Dorothy Noble Smith: . . . four, three, two, one.

[tape stops, then starts again]

DS: Now, let's first start with what was your maiden name?

Pearl Williams Smith (Mrs. Benton Smith): Williams.

DS: Williams. Are you related to Elsie Williams?

PS: Yes, first cousin.

DS: Are you really?

PS: That's right.

DS: They live right across the road from us.

PS: I know they do.

DS: I'll be darned. So, how many lived in that particular area, where your home was?

PS: You mean where I was raised?

DS: Yeah. How many families were there?

PS: Oh, goodness, I couldn't count!

DS: Well, can you think of some of the names?

PS: Closest neighbors?

DS: Uh huh.

PS: Well, Ed Miller's family was a close neighbor.

DS: Yeah.
PS: And a Sours family, Noah Sours' family.

DS: Is that any kin to Leroy Sours?

PS: I don't think so.

DS: Alright, umm hmm.

PS: Oh, what's different ones? There's Joseph Miller and his family.

DS: How far apart were these homes, roughly?

PS: Oh, about half a mile, I guess.

DS: About half a mile apart. Where was your home located in there?

PS: Well, it was up in the Morning Star section, on the main road, that's all I know.

DS: Near Lee Judd's?

PS: Well, you go on farther to get to Lee Judd's. It's on this side of your place.

DS: Umm hmm.

PS: Before you get to the hill.

DS: Yeah, uh huh. About where the dam is now?

PS: Close to that, that's right.

DS: Uh huh, yeah. Now, there were homes that went on up that hollow, weren't there?

PS: Yes, there were some up, but I don't know who lived in all of those homes up there.

DS: There wasn't much visiting back and forth, then?

PS: No, no.

DS: Now, what type things were planted? Was the gardening easy?

PS: Oh, in them days, it was. What you planted just grew!

DS: There weren't rocks or anything?

PS: Well, well, some, of course. But my dad had a, what they call a new ground. And everything you planted just grew abundantly.

DS: What's new ground?

PS: (    )

DS: Uh huh.

PS: And everything, we'd plant beans, potatoes, and cabbage and everything. And it just... grew just fine.
DS: Oh, my. Did you store the potatoes and turnips and--
PS: Oh, yes, we had cellars at home.
DS: Oh, you put them in the cellars.
PS: Uh huh, put the potatoes in the cellar and canned the beans, and used them.
DS: Cabbages, did you plant or put in the ground?
PS: (   ) cabbage, made sauerkraut--
DS: Uh huh.
PS: --and buried the cabbage in the winter.
DS: Yeah, buried it. That's right.
PS: Buried it, you know, in the garden.
DS: Yeah.
PS: (   ) all over.
DS: Did you lay down lime or anything in that, in those pits where you put the cabbage?

[sound of microphone being moved]

DS: Ah, well, some people put down lime . . .
PS: Lime? I don't remember that.
DS: Did you put straw?
PS: Yes.
DS: Straw to protect it, yeah. Umm hmm. And so you, you were able to eat vegetables, then, all year round?
PS: We had plenty of vegetables, always had plenty of vegetables.
DS: All year round, isn't that wonderful?
PS: We'd can. And dry beans, we'd have those.
DS: Yeah.
PS: You also had a peach orchard. And we had plenty of peaches, just plenty of peaches.
DS: Did you dry the peaches?
PS: No, I don't think my mother did that, but she canned an awful lot of them.
DS: I haven't heard of anybody drying the peaches. They dried apples--
PS: Yes, we used to dry apples.
DS: How would you dry those? There are different ways of doing it.

PS: We'd just cut 'em up and put them on a ( ) and put them on the lowest roof you could get to and leave them out in the sun, and they would dry.

DS: How long would it take?

PS: Oh, I don't know, several days.

DS: Several days. Flies didn't bother them or anything?

PS: I don't think so.

DS: That's what always surprises me, that they didn't, apparently. We must not have had the flies, then.

PS: Well, I don't remember them a bother.

DS: Yeah, right. Uh huh. Okay, so then, did you raise hogs, and chickens?

PS: Yes--

DS: Did you have milk cows?

PS: Had one.

DS: One. Was there any eating of beef?

PS: Oh, yes, you could buy beef.

DS: Where would you buy it?

PS: At the butcher shop in town.

DS: Right, you went into town to get it.

PS: They're called, they're called butcher shops.

DS: Now, how would you get into town?

PS: Horse and buggy.

DS: Horse and buggy. (laughing) About how long did it take?

PS: (laughing) You know, I can't remember, it didn't take too long. It was five miles from our house to town.

DS: Exactly what it is from my house to town.

PS: So it must have been not quite as much from my house ( ).

DS: Yeah, yeah.

PS: ( )

DS: Yeah. I, you know what you're telling us. That living on this side of the mountain was better than it was on the other side.

PS: Now this is before I was married, you know.
DS: Yeah, right. Now, well, I mean, the lifestyle was better.

PS: Yes.

DS: What kind of a house was it?

PS: Well, we had just an ordinary, plain five room house.

DS: Umm hmm. Made of logs?

PS: No, not logs. Weatherboard or whatever you called it. It was over all of it, it wasn't logs.

DS: Umm hmm, not logs. Okay. Five room house? How did your family feel when the Park was going to take over?

PS: Well, it didn't take my homeplace where I was born.

DS: I see.

PS: They didn't take that until after I was married, and lived in a different place.

DS: Where did you live after you were married?

PS: I lived, uh, what they call the Lee Highway in them days. Five miles up this road.

DS: Yeah. Uh huh. And then the Park took that?

PS: Uh huh.

DS: And you didn't mind one bit?

PS: I was real happy about it. I never did like it up there.

DS: I see (laughing).

PS: Guess I, I, guess I was about the only one that was happy! (laughter)

DS: Yeah. Because there was a tremendous resentment.

PS: Yes.

DS: Umm hmm, yeah. Have you, I imagine your mother knew all the herbs and everything that are now, people are learning were well-used and are good, and are trying to learn them again?

PS: Well, she used, she knew a lot of them, I can't say all.

DS: No. Do you recall any that she did use?

PS: No, I can't.

DS: Uh huh. If you had a cold, what would she do?

PS: Castor oil, mostly! (loud laughter)

DS: Oh, great! The, the cooking that was done, was that done all on a woodstove?
PS: That's right. Nobody had anything else but them then.

DS: That's right, yeah. Did you do a lot of trading with Lee Judd?

PS: Yes, I did. That was our nearest grocery store when I was growing up at home.

DS: Sure. Did you, did you take anything to him to sell?

PS: Eggs.

DS: Eggs?

PS: Eggs. And sometimes chicken.

DS: Beans?

PS: No, we didn't sell him beans or anything like that. My daddy would take them in payment.

DS: Yeah, uh huh. Would you buy your material from Lee Judd--

PS: Some.

DS: For clothes?

PS: Umm hmm, some of it.

DS: How about school, where was the school?

PS: I went to school at Rattleburg School. And the Tobins lives there, now. They've made a house out of the school.

DS: That's right, I have heard that, sure.

PS: That's where I went to school. That's the only place I went to school.

DS: Was that a one room school?

PS: One room school. With an old wood stove.

DS: What did they teach in the school?

PS: Well, they taught up to the sixth grade. Everything up in the sixth grade.

DS: Same teacher took care of all the classes?

PS: Same teacher. Took care of everything.

DS: Do you remember her name?

PS: Oh, yes! One was Miss Syna Holmes. And one was Miss Rena Burn.

DS: Uh huh. Now, was this nine months out of the year?

PS: That's right.

DS: Again, the education was better on this side than the other side of the mountain. Did children stay out of school because of having to help on the farms?
PS: Some did.

DS: They taught reading, and writing, and arithmetic. It was one school, but over there, near Nethers, that taught only spelling.

PS: Why?

DS: Now, see, you said you had nothing to tell us. You're already showing an entirely different way of life. And the names that you have mentioned, now, of course, Williams is an English name. But Miller was Mueller, at one time. And Sours is of course a German name. So it was a mixture of German and English apparently that were on this side. Was any story handed down in your family as to where and when your family arrived here? In the mountains?

PS: What do you mean, where they grew up and then, then moved where they--

DS: Yes, like, they would say, oh, your great-grandfather came from so-and-so in England or so-and-so in Germany, or anything?

PS: I haven't heard anything.

DS: No. No stories were handed down.

PS: No.

DS: Was there much playing of fiddles and banjoes or dances of any kind?

PS: Yes, there was.

DS: Where would you hold--

PS: We used to go to square dances.

DS: Where?

PS: Oh, different--at each other's house.

DS: Uh huh, houses were large enough for that?

PS: Uh huh.

DS: Yup.

PS: Yes, the young people would just have a great time going to square dances.

DS: Yup, and they would play fiddles and banjoes. Do you recall any of the songs that they played?

PS: Oh, I can't remember much, it was a good many.

DS: Did you ever hear the song Fox Hunt?

PS: I don't think so.

DS: You never heard a dulcimer, did you?

PS: Uh, no, I hear them over in the motel, but that's all.

DS: Yeah, right, but there weren't any dulcimers in this area.

PS: No.
DS: I was sure that there wasn't. With your milk cow, I imagine you made your own butter?

PS: That's right.

DS: Cottage cheese?

PS: That's right.

DS: Anything else?

PS: Well, that's about all you could make out of it.

DS: Yeah.

PS: I reckon, is butter and cheese.

DS: Yeah.

PS: And use the milk.

DS: Umm hmm. Did you make apple butter?

PS: Oh, yes.

DS: Did you have a party when you did the apple butter?

PS: Yes, we'd have a party, and each would take their turns stirring apple butter.

DS: Uh huh. Did they usually have a fellow and a girl on each side?

PS: That's right.

DS: And if you hit the side of the . . . (laughs) You got a kiss?

PS: That, that was supposed to be! (laughs)

DS: I've often wondered how intentionally the paddle hit the side of the kettle! (laughing)

PS: I know. That was great times, though.

DS: Yes, they were good times. Who all would come to it, would it be now, like the Millers and the Sours?

PS: Oh, yes, all the family and the neighbors. The young people.

DS: And the women the day before would cut the apples?

PS: That's right. Cut the apples and have them ready.

DS: Yeah, did they--(dispatcher's voice on a police scanner interrupts interviewer). That's going to be a surprise, to the person who hears this. Uh, the, the, apple butter boiling was often quite a party, wasn't it?

PS: Yes, it--

DS: Because it would go on all night, didn't it?
Well, no, it didn't go on all night, it would go on sometimes right late.  
Yeah, mmm hmm.  
Before it was ready to take off then.  
Sure. And then after the apple butter was made, what was it put into?  
In cans or stone jars.  
And did you cover it with anything?  
Oh, yes, you had to cover it. Of course, your cans have your seals, you know, and the jars you covered with, what you call it? This wax, something like you put over jelly . . .  
Paraffin?  
That's right.  
You were a lot more tidy than they were on the other side. They just put newspaper over it.  
They did?  
Yeah, uh huh. Have you ever heard of apple butter made so thick, that it was really like dried apple butter?  
No.  
I believe that was only in the Elkton area they used to do that. And they would cut off slices of it, add water to it, to reconstitute it.  
Oh, I never heard of that.  
Yeah. Was there any moonshining?  
Oh, there was lots of it around. (laughter)  
And I imagine that helped the men during the apple butter boiling, right?  
Well, I don't know if anyone had any of that when they boiled apple butter. We didn't have it, but you, it was around, it's all around, people did, you know.  
Yeah, umm hmm, yeah. Did you ever make pumpkin butter?  
No. We made a kettle of peach butter one time. We had so many peaches and we made the kettle of peach butter. But we didn't like it as well as apple butter.  
Peach butter. Sounds as though it would be delicious, doesn't it?  
It wasn't, it wasn't as good as apple butter.  
Huh! How fascinating.  
Excuse me one minute.  
Sure.
DS: Alright, you say that there was not much visiting up and down in your hollow, excepting with your immediate neighbors.

PS: Well, not too much but the neighbors visit a lot.

DS: Oh, they did.

PS: With each other.

DS: Yeah.

PS: Yeah.

DS: Now, of an evening, wouldn't they, like, come to your home and sit around, and talk?

PS: Sometimes, yeah, sometimes. Neighbors would come in.

DS: Were there any ghost stories that were ever told?

PS: Oh, lots of them! (laughs)

DS: Oh, I'd love to hear one.

PS: I do too, I love ghost stories and ghost pictures on television. And to read about them.

DS: Can you remember any of the stories?

PS: No, I don't remember them any more.

DS: Oh.

PS: But we used to tell a lot of ghost stories.

DS: Yeah. And I imagine a lot of people believed them, too, didn't they?

PS: Well, I imagine they did.

DS: Yeah, right. You went into Luray fairly frequently?

PS: No, not too often.

DS: Umm hmm. How far did you normally travel? Did you ever go very far in your travels?

PS: Never went very (    ) out of Page County.

DS: Yeah. Well, it would be pretty hard, with a horse and buggy, to go too far.

PS: Oh, yes, it would.

DS: Sure, right, yeah. How was Christmas celebrated?

PS: Oh, we looked forward to Christmas! Our daddy and mother would just go all out! We was poor people. But they made us happy. And we couldn't hardly wait until Christmas morning. We'd always get a little something. And we were just
tickled to death and so excited.

DS: Yeah, right.

PS: We enjoyed Christmas.

DS: Was there, were there ever any use of fireworks at Christmas?

PS: No, I don't think we had fireworks, then.

DS: How about Thanksgiving, was that celebrated?

PS: Well, some people did, but not too much.

DS: Yeah. Fourth of July?

PS: No.

DS: No. But it was Christmas.

PS: It was Christmas, we looked forward to Christmas. We was all awful happy on Christmas.

DS: Yes, and then it was a time for all the family to get together, or was it just with your neighbors?

PS: Well, just our family.

DS: Umm hmm. Your family--

PS: Sometimes the neighbors would come in.

DS: Your family was spread out pretty far, or, since Elsie is a cousin of yours, now, like, would you get together with Elsie at Christmas?

PS: No, we didn't get together very often. It was just our immediate family.

DS: Uh huh, yeah. Would you have turkey or something like that?

PS: Yes, we would have turkey or a chicken.

DS: Yeah. At that, in those days, chickens were chickens, not like the little things you can find nowadays.

PS: We always had chickens.

DS: Was there much wildlife around?

PS: Not like there is now. There wasn't very much.

DS: Uh huh. Yeah. Did your father or brothers do any hunting?

PS: I had some brothers that dearly loved hunting. My daddy never did hunt much, but my brothers did.

DS: Yeah, and they would hunt squirrel and rabbit?

PS: Hunt squirrels and rabbits.

DS: Umm hmm, yeah. I understand they're good eating.
PS: They are.

DS: Make stew out of them, or something?

PS: No, we would fry them. Like chicken, fix them like fried chicken.

DS: Oh!

PS: And they were good. That's the way we used to fix them.

DS: Umm hmm, yeah. Now, when you got married, what was the wedding like?

PS: Just a small, home wedding.

DS: A home wedding.

PS: We didn't have big weddings, we was married, I was married at home. And just my family and my husband's family was there. That was all. But they didn't have these big weddings in my time.

DS: How did you meet Benton Smith? Was he a, sort of a neighbor? Because you didn't mention him as a neighbor.

PS: No, he was a brother of my girlfriend. I met her, and we, you know, became friends. And another girl and myself went to her house one Saturday night to spend the night, with this girlfriend. And I met him. That's the first time I ever saw him.

DS: Uh huh. Where did he live?

PS: They lived right on top of the mountain, between Sperryville and Luray. (laughs)

DS: Oh, really! Up there--

PS: Uh huh, right on top of the mountain, between Sperryville and Luray.

DS: Then, uh, Panorama, where Panorama is, now.

PS: ( ) near that, close to Panorama.

DS: Yeah. We never knew a Smith family lived there.

PS: Well, it's been a long time ago.

DS: Mmm hmm.

PS: Long time ago, I've been married, oh, about, nearly soon sixty years, I reckon.

DS: Yeah.

PS: And that was then.

DS: Okay, wow. That was quite a trip for you to take to spend the night with her, wasn't it?

PS: But if you go through the fields and the woods, it wasn't far and in them days, people didn't mind walking.
DS: No. No.

PS: You didn't mind walking at all.

DS: And you walked up there?

PS: My girlfriend and me walked. Spent the night, come back the next day. And that was fun.

DS: Yeah. I am surprised, then, that when you got married, your husband's father didn't give you some land on his, you know, from his, so that you could build there.

PS: Well, we did, after a while. But we lived with his mother and father for about four years. And then we moved down on the Lee Highway, like I was talking. On my father-in-law's home place, he lived there, he had a house there. And we lived there about four or five years, and then we built us a house on his land across the creek.

DS: Oh, I see.

PS: We built us a house on his land just across the creek from there. And that's where we lived when the Park run us out.

DS: Yes. Did you get much for your land?

PS: We got a good price for it, I don't remember what it was. But in them days, it was considered a very good price.

DS: So, you felt it was reasonable?

PS: Yes.

DS: Mmm hmm. And then you moved down here?

PS: We built here.

DS: And it was enough money to build this house?

PS: I don't think it was enough, but it helped.

DS: Uh huh. So there was no adjustment. What did your husband do, then?

PS: When we lived up there, my husband operated a sawmill. When we lived ( ) the top. He operated a sawmill.

DS: You said you had nothing to tell me!

PS: I--

DS: And do you realize--we didn't know there was a sawmill there?

PS: Well, he didn't operate it right there. He, he operated one, but it was across on the Sperryville side. He'd go backwards and forwards.

DS: Oh! Now how far down--

PS: ( ) his sawmill, and he had it across the mountain in Sperryville. How far down this side of the mountain did you live?
DS: Do you know where that gift shop is up there, Virginia (    ).

DS: Yeah.

PS: Right there, right down in the woods from there. It's growed up, now.

DS: Yeah.

PS: But that's where we lived at.

DS: And every day he would go over--

PS: No, he would stay over there from Monday until Friday. They had a cabin over there, and he had men working for him. My son worked with him, my oldest son. And they would go on Monday morning and come back Friday evening. And operate their sawmill.

DS: That's, you'd do that by horseback, or did he have car?

PS: Yeah, he had a car then.

DS: He had a car then. Was the toll gate still in effect?

PS: No.

DS: No, that toll gate had come down by then, right?

PS: There wasn't any there, then.

DS: I'd hoped you'd remember how much the toll gate was.

PS: No, I don't have any idea.

DS: Yeah. That was hard for you, though, then. You were alone all week.

PS: Yes, with children.

DS: How many children?

PS: I had four children, but I only had three when I lived in the Park. Bobby was born after I moved here.

DS: Oh, he was? So he's your youngest?

PS: He's my baby.

DS: Uh huh.

PS: That's right.

DS: Where are the other children?

PS: Well, I have two in Florida, my oldest, Kirby, lives in Saverna Beach. And my other son, Billy, lives in Orlando, Florida.

DS: What do they do?

PS: Well, Kirby's retired. And Billy works for the Ford company.
DS: They had no problem adjusting, did they?
PS: I don't think so.
DS: Where did they go to school?
PS: Well, it was a small school above where we lived, up on the highway. That you go up in Jewell Hollow, you know where that is?
DS: Oh, yes.
PS: Well, the school house is there. And that's where they went until we moved down here.

DS: That was quite a piece to go.
PS: It wasn't too far ( )

DS: To Jewell Hollow?
PS: It was right, as you start to go into Jewell Hollow, right on the road, the main road.

DS: Oh, I see.
PS: And that's where Kirby and Nina, my other daughter, went to school. 'Cause Billy wasn't home ( ).

DS: Yeah. And that was a regular school that took you through sixth or seventh grade?
PS: Yes, I think that they went. Just a one room school.

DS: Now, is that building still standing, do you know?
PS: No, no ( )

DS: Was that in park territory?
PS: ( )

DS: What are your most vivid recollections? Are they happy recollections?
PS: We had some happy times with ( ). We was young, and healthy and we had some happy times.

DS: And it was a very close family?
PS: Yes, always was.

DS: From all I've been able to learn, the morals were very good. The were very rigid morals, but they had--how about church?

PS: Well, I, when I was growing up here at home, we attended Morning Star Church, 'cause it was close and we could walk there. And after I moved out here, I remember going to the Christian church in town. And I took ( ) So we're at the Christian Church.

DS: And church attendance was regular, wasn't it?
PS: Yeah, I went regular, whenever I could.
DS: Did everybody?

PS: Well, no everybody didn't.

DS: No.

PS: But we was at home, children, our mother made sure we was in Sunday school on Sunday nights.

DS: Did you wear anything special on Sunday?

PS: Oh, we'd wear our best clothes. Which wasn't too fine in them days.

DS: No. No, nobody had much money in those days. No. So there wasn't any shame in that, the fact that people didn't have money, it's just that there wasn't any for anybody to have. What I am fascinated about is that your children, after the Park did take over, were able to adjust so beautifully, you know, without any problems.

PS: Oh, they did.

DS: Umm hmm, yeah. Because there were quite a number that were not able to.

PS: I know. I remember that.

DS: And in fact, there are still problems with some of them, as they've, they've gotten older. Did you ever feel the way some have felt, that it would have been right for the, oh, people around fifty to have been allowed to stay on in the Park until they died?

PS: Well, I believe that would have made them more happier, if they could.

DS: Would they have been able to make a living?

PS: I don't know.

DS: Because I've often thought about it and I don't think--

PS: What older people would have done.

DS: Yeah.

PS: Of course, living wasn't high then, anyways. You raise your food, and you didn't have all these electric bills and things to pay. And living wasn't as high like it is now.

DS: Yeah. Yeah. Well, you know . . . how many were in your family?

PS: Ten children.

DS: Ten altogether?

PS: Five boys, and five girls.

DS: Your mother must have worked awfully hard!

PS: She worked in the home all the time, hard.

DS: That's right.
PS: We all worked hard. As soon as we was old enough to work, we worked, and helped out.

DS: How was the washing done?

PS: On a board.

DS: Scrub board, right.

PS: Scrub board.

DS: Right. Was, was there anything about, did you have to do any boiling of clothes?

PS: Yes, we boiled clothes and them things.

DS: That's what I thought. Yep, you had a great big kettle?

PS: Great big iron kettle, ( ).

DS: (whispers) Boy.

PS: ( ) change.

DS: (still whispering) That must have been hard.

PS: Well, we didn't know any better.

DS: You'd have to build a fire, first, didn't you?

PS: Sure, heat your water.

DS: To heat the water.

PS: Build your fire and heat your water. My sister'd get one tub with a scrub board, and I would get the other, and we'd scrub our things, for the whole family.

DS: And for ten children and the mother and father, that's a few clothes!

PS: Yes, it was, it was.

DS: Yeah. Did you have to do it almost every day, or . . .

PS: No, not every day. About twice a week.

DS: Twice a week. Oh, boy. You know, if I had to do that, I think I'd go dirty.

PS: I couldn't do it now.

DS: I couldn't do it, no. You know, there's a particular strength that the people had, wasn't there?

PS: I think so, I think people were stronger then, than they are now.

DS: Right. Do you suppose it was because of the food, and that they were out-of-doors a lot more than they are now?

PS: Well, I tell you, we'd eat plain food that wasn't all frozen, and different
things, you know, like they do these day.

DS: That's right. Yeah. Where would you get your flour?

PS: Well, I guess my daddy would get it at the store, wherever you got flour.

DS: Probably Lee Judd's.

PS: Well, sometimes, I think, there.

DS: Yeah, right. Because you made your own bread?

PS: Yes.

DS: Best bread in the world, too, isn't it?

PS: You didn't know ( ) preservatives or dyes in it, anyways.

DS: I much prefer the homemade.

PS: Yes, it's better.

DS: Oh, sure is. I think it's better for us.

PS: I think so, too.

DS: Yeah, right. The dried beans, what would you do with the dried beans?

PS: Cooked them in winter.

DS: With what?

PS: Piece of meat.

DS: Uh huh.

PS: Just cook 'em. Soak 'em a while before you cooked the dried beans, and after you cooked them, they're done and they's good.

DS: Sure. Now, see, the beans are supposed to have the top nourishment in the world. So there you were already getting more nourishing food than most people get nowadays.

PS: Well, they don't dry beans anymore.

DS: No, they don't. And the soil was good.

PS: What?

DS: The soil was good.

PS: Oh, yes, everything would grow. What ever you set out, it didn't have these bugs that eat your beans up and everything, and them things.

DS: Did you have a spring?

PS: No, we had a well.

DS: Did you have to dig it, have it dug?
PS: I guess they did, I don't remember when they, when they started, but, I, I was small. But I reckon they'd have to dig it. Sure, have to dig it.

DS: Not, not like Burner does now, though.

PS: No, it was dug, a big round ( ).

DS: Yeah, umm hmm. It was really more a spring.

PS: Umm hmm.

DS: And that's pure water.

PS: Yes, it is.

DS: 'Cause it came right straight down the mountain.

PS: It was good, though.

DS: Did you ever see Pollock, from Skyland?

PS: No, but I read about him.

DS: I was just wondering, sometimes he would bring parties, you know, down along that way.


DS: Sure. And then your neighbors went up, walked up to Skyland, too?

PS: Oh, yes, some did. But I just don't remember who.

DS: Did they go up there to work, or to just enjoy themselves?

PS: Just enjoy themselves, I reckon.

DS: Uh huh. Because there was work up there for people.

PS: Well, I guess there was.

DS: Yeah, he was always using stone masons and painters and people like that, yeah. But none of the people that you know of went up there to work?

PS: No.

DS: No, umm hmm. Yeah, it'd be, it'd be pretty, pretty far to go.

PS: Oh, yes.

DS: (laughing) But if you could walk, from where you lived, to the Smith's house, where that was . . . Do you realize that that . . .

PS: Cutting through the woods and ( ).

DS: Yeah. Weren't you worried about rattlesnakes?

PS: We didn't think about it.

DS: 'Cause there were a lot of rattlesnakes.

PS: It was a good path all the way.
DS: Uh huh.
PS: And a road.
DS: Yeah, umm hmm, yeah. Well, can you think of anything else?
PS: No, I (   ).
DS: You're the one that has the memories.
PS: We had a comfortable home when we had to leave the Park. A six room house. And of course, in them days you didn't have Fridgidaires, you had to have a spring house and a spring box. And that's where you kept your milk and butter and cheese. We had running water that run all the time from a spring.
DS: Ah! Wonderful!
PS: It was comfortable.
DS: Yes, it was. And then you came here and you had to have plumbing and you had to have all the rest.
PS: Yes, yes.
DS: Yes. Umm hmm, yeah. (gives loud sigh) But you didn't feel any resentment whatsoever.
PS: No, indeed, I didn't. But a lot of (   ) did.
DS: Who were your neighbors after you were married and lived up there?
PS: Where we had moved from last?
DS: Umm hmm.
PS: John Beahm, and Phillip Ellis, were my closest neighbors, one on either side.
DS: John Beahm--
PS: He's dead.
DS: Yeah.
PS: And so is Phillip Ellis. They're all dead, but they were my closest neighbors, one on either side.
DS: Is Phillip Ellis any kin to Arch Ellis?
PS: I think so, yes, but I don't know just exactly how that (   ) in.
DS: Do you know if they have any children living?
PS: Oh, yes, they have children living.
DS: Do you know where they are?
PS: Phillip Ellis' children?
DS: Either Phillip Ellis or John Beahm's.
PS: Well, Phillip Ellis' boys, or some of them, lives up Dry Run Road, and some lives in Maryland.

DS: Uh huh. And John Beahm?

PS: Well, his children are scattered all over. I don't know where they're at.

DS: Umm hmm, yeah. Can you think of any other people besides John Shenk? Where did he live?

PS: He lived in the Park someplace up there.

DS: Is he the one that they named Shenk Hollow after?

PS: I think he lived in Shenk Hollow, I don't know whether they named it after him or not.

DS: Umm hmm. Then, in other words, you really didn't have much to do with the people that lived in Jewell Hollow at all.

PS: Oh, yes, I had a sister that lived up there. And I visited Jewell Hollow a lot!

DS: (laughs)

PS: Yes!

DS: Uh huh. Your sister lived up there.

PS: Mmm hmm, I went quite often.

DS: How far up did she live?

PS: Do you know where anyplace is up there?

DS: Mmm.

PS: Do you know where Bud Slye's place is up there?

DS: Yeah.

PS: She lived right across from there.

DS: Uh huh, yeah. They weren't moved out.

PS: Oh, yes. She's dead now, and he is, too. But they had to move out.

DS: 'Cause there are still some families that are living in Jewell Hollow.

PS: Oh, yes.

DS: I guess she lived further up, is that it?

PS: Well, she lived a little farther up than the, the Slye place, not very far.

DS: Yeah, umm hmm, yeah, right. Well, you've been wonderful! Can you think of anything else?

PS: Well, I just sound awful in print! (laughs)
DS: Mrs. Smith, you have my word on it, it will not sound awful in print and it's going to be most interesting. Because number one, you have shown us a slightly different way of life than what was, what we have interviewed so far, a better way of life. And yet, in some ways, things were done sort of the same, too, so that, you know, we like confirmation, and, you know, to, to get the true story. I wish you knew how, what herbs and medicines were used, that would have helped.

PS: (    ).

[tape ends abruptly]

[End audio file, 00:42:25 min]

End of Interview