(SNP139) Darrell Yarrow and John P. Lillard interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Sharon G. Marston

Darrell Yarrow

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Recommended Citation
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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATORS: Mr. Darrel Yarrow
Mr. John P. Lillard

INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith

PLACE: Etland, Virginia

DATE: July 31, 1979

TRANScribed BY: Peggy C. Bradley

COMPLETED DATE: July 4, 1984
D.S.: We are interviewing Mr. Darrell Yarrow and Mr. John P. Lillard, both of Etland. Right? Uh, ... you used to live at Nethers Mill, didn't you Mr. Lillard?

J.L.: Yes.

D.S.: And, did you live at Nethers Mill also?

D.Y.: I lived up there six years, ... at Nethers.

D.S.: What years were those?

D.Y.: Uh, ... was twenty-seven to thirty-two.

D.S.: Oh, those were the important years.

D.Y.: Yea, twenty-seven to thirty-two, I lived there.

D.S.: You had a store there, didn't you?

D.Y.: No. No, ma'am, I had the store right down here.

D.S.: You had a store down here?

D.Y.: Yea. I left up there in thirty-two and came over here and bought the store at Etland.

D.S.: What did you do at Nethers Mill?

D.Y.: I drove a school bus.

D.S.: Aaaaah!

D.Y.: After I was married ... I stayed up there with my wife's people six years. My wife was workin' in the store up there, helpin' her father there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: I stayed up there about six years and drove the school bus to Frederick.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: That was before this road was ever finished buildin'.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: No gravel or anything. Man, it was something then.

D.S.: Mr. Lilliard, you were saying something about the Corbins
where they came from.

J.L.: I always heard that they come from down Tidewater, Virginia.

D.S.: From Tidewater. I wonder, do you have any idea what brought them here?

J.L.: No indeed, I have no idea at all.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: I don't know and I really don't believe I ever heard anyone say, but they claim some of those people down thar was wealthy people.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: Some of them got strayed off or something, and some got back and just kept a'comin', I reckon, a little at a time and moved back in that Corbin Holler.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Have any of you heard, ... Mr. Edward Nicholson, Sr. told me at one time that his family came from England in 1715, would that sort-of bear out anything that you have heard?

D.Y.: No, I don't know anything about that.

J.L.: Edward Nicholson, Sr. said?

D.S.: Edward Nicholson, Sr.

J.L.: That wuz, be a brother to Vernon. ...

D.Y.: I knew Vernon, but ...

J.L.: This wuz one of the youngest.

D.Y.: Yea, I know. I never did know them.

J.L.: That's the only Edward I know of.

D.Y.: Yea.

D.S.: He lives in Front Royal now.

J.L.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: He's a stone mason.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. Do you know how these people learned the trade of stone work?

J.L.: That's all they had to walk on all their life and, I reckon they had to work them up or pile them up or do something to get rid of them. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea. They built such beautiful stone fences, didn't they?

D.Y.: Yea. ... Houses and like of that. Now, you take ole Charlie Sisk, he wuz a powerful good stone mason too.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: He lived up in thar too.

D.S.: Yea.

L.J.: Had a brother. Had a brother too, Wilbure.

D.Y.: Yea, Wilbure too, that is right. But, he didn't do carpentry.


D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, ... the families that you was familiar with, were they mainly the Corbins and Nicholsons, or ... were they ....

D.Y.: Well, Corbins, Nicholsons, Weakleys, and ... uh, .. let see ... one got killed, .... oh, Smith. Smiths, I think, Ben Smith ... Mazie Smith, I knew them and I knew old man Elliott Bugs, and knew...

D.S.: Who?

D.Y.: Old man Elliott Bugs, he wuz raised up thar in the holler.

J.L.: He wuz a Jenkins, they called him Bugs.

D.S.: He was a Jenkins? Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Elliott Jenkins, I reckon wuz the way you , we always called him Elliott Bugs.

J.L.: He use to bootleg in Luray.

D.Y.: Yea.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Oh now, you know it was nothing wrong with bootlegging... uh, ... it

J.L.: Not a thing, man! (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughing) Well, it made a lot of sense, rather than carrying barrels of apples to carry a few bottles.

J.L.: You heard at one time this... Thar is three hollers up thar, from the forks of the road they called it. One wuz Nicholson Holler and then the next one you get to, right hand; that is Corbin Holler and then Weakley Holler goes on across the Rag and whar we said.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: That three holler, but the people in Weakley Holler, most of them wuz intelligent people, had no more education than they did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: They had good common sense. But, in Corbin Holler, they wuz just as dumb as a monkey. Nicholson Holler wuz kind of split, there wuz some very intelligent people in them I know, never went to school a day in their life, but they had a lot of wit about them. They had common sense.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: But, in Corbin Holler they didn't even know how to keep anything to eat. And, when the deepest snow I ever seen fall, back years ago, that's the day they would come out to find something.

D.S.: (Laughing) Oh!

J.L.: Somebody would give them something.

D.Y.: They didn't, ... they didn't... They had anymore to buy anything with, they didn't buy the best of food neither,
something rough; soup beans, or cornmeal, or something like that. They didn't buy all ...

J.L.: Fatback.

D.Y.: ... I mean, and stuff like they eat now.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: It wuz either, fatback, soup beans ...

J.L.: Right.

D.Y.: ... or cornmeal, something like that, what they bought if they had any money.

J.L.: And the ones in Corbin Holler positively WOULD NOT WORK! Only, just barely enough to do, to do. Now, down in Nicholson Holler people, they raised their own food.

D.S.: Yea.

J.L.: In Weakley Holler wuz intellighent people.

D.Y.: Thar wuz old man Will Corbin, I reckon he wuz ...

J.L.: See, though he wuz in Nicholson Holler, back on the top back thar, wasn't, I mean this Phil and Amos bunch.

D.Y.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yes, how was it so many Corbins lived in Nicholson Hollow? Do you know?

J.L.: How wuz it, did you say?

D.S.: Yea.

J.L.: Well, they just go'in the holler, I reckon, like all the others. They married some, ... Corbins and Nicholsons.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: From what I have heard of the people in Nicholson Hollow, they all planted good gardens and dug trenches to keep the vegetables over the winter, is this true?
J.L.: I think it is about right.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: Rough though, rough stuff.
D.S.: It was hard work.
D.Y.: Take soup beans, and cabbage, and stuff like that ...
D.S.: Turnips?
D.Y.: ... they didn't have no nick-nacks ....
D.S.: No.
D.Y.: ... like you have now.
D.S.: No.
D.Y.: What they had wuz mostly wuz rough food.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: What I mean, it wuz good food.
D.S.: Sure.
D.Y.: Beans and taters and ...
J.L.: When they wuz doin' all of that, thar wuzn't whoever heard tell of a bean beatle or anything to bother nothin' up in thar, it wuzn't any then.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: If they planted a hill of something, they got something.
D.Y.: Yea.
D.S.: Yea, it weren't the insects were there?
J.L.: No.
D.Y.: No, it wuzn't no insects.
D.S.: Of course. Well, how did they keep rabbits out of the gardens?
J.L.: Well, in that holler, I reckon, it wuzn't too many.
D.Y.: (Laughed) I imagine they kept a dog or if they caught one around the garden they shot him and eat him.
D.S.: Yea. (Laughed)
D.Y.: I feel like.

D.S.: Yea. Right. Would the Corbins then, that lived in Nicholson Hollow, the one that I interviewed, ... were pretty enterising people.

J.L.: That's right. The only ones, ... Uh, ... that wuz in Corbin Holler wuz the one never did, ... I reckon never been in a school house door. I don't know ...

D.S.: How did they survive.

J.L.: ... I know they didn't.

D.S.: How did they survive, do you suppose?

J.L.: Well, they

D.S.: If they never worked?

J.L.: They would go out and beg a lot, and they had a trade, they made baskets.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: They hauled them to Skyline, when the season wuz opened up thar, and sell them.

D.Y.: Them people up thar made powerful good baskets and some of them would make sorry baskets.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: And some of them made real nice baskets, good ones.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: I use to buy some off them when I started, see I started at the store down here in thirty-two.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: I run that thirty-three and a half year. I just got out of it in sixty-five, and-a ... I use to buy a lot of b baskets off of them.

D.S.: Yea.

J.L.: You're finally goin' to tell your age after all. (Laughed)
D.Y.: Well, I don't mind that. That don't make you no younger or no older.

D.S.: (Laughed) When you, ... You was mentioning they would come in the store and buy beans and stuff of that kind ... 

D.Y.: Yea.

D.S.: ... uh, ... did they pay cash for that or was they given credit?

D.Y.: Well, some of them you credited and some of them you couldn't. Some of them had credit, why you would have trouble ever gettin' it.

D.S.: Uh huh.

D.Y.: But now, some of them I made credit to for awhile and some of them not.

D.S.: Uh huh.

D.Y.: Now, long after I come over here, you see, the WPA come around, you see? And, the ones that would work, would work on that, some you know, you might give them credit to the end of the week or something like that on some stuff. Now, use to be a family in particular that I can think of right now, that use to live up here whar you ... at the foot of the Rag. You go on up here and hit seventeen and go up thar, whar Mr. Thomas built all them new houses, I don't know weather you been up thar or not? It wuz one feller lived thar, he wuz along in his thirties, I think he wuz around thirty-five or thirty-six. And, I think that family, a man and his wife, and I think it wuz four children, I'm not sure, four or five. Do you remember Lovie Seal?

J.L.: Lovie Seal?

D.Y.: Yea, that's who it wuz.

D.S.: Lovie Seal?
D.Y.: And, I sold him, now these lake herrings come in brine, ... 
I think it wuz a one hundred to one hundred thirty pounds keg it came in then, and it wuz either three of them I sold him one winter, and two hundred pounds of soup beans or three hundred pounds of soup beans and two of the fish, but I don't know which way it wuz. But, I know it wuz three of one and two of the other, that I sold that family that winter.

D.S.: That must have been a large family?
D.Y.: No, I think it was six of them or seven of them in a bunch.
D.S.: Oh?
D.Y.: But, I reckon it wuz fish or beans ever meal, I reckon. (Laughed)
D.S.: Oh. (Laughed)
J.L.: Do you remember that Joe?
D.Y.: Yea. They use to really eat.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: And, you take most of the people around here, when I first went into the business, I say a good many of them, not the most of them then. If they didn't buy a hundred pound of soup beans, that's the dried hull beans, you know? They didn't think they wuz startin' in with anything at tall. Some of them would buy a one hundred fifty pound right off, startin' off with in the Fall.

J.L.: They .... they never did, then they call cornbread, they called it cornpone.
D.S.: Yea. ... Did the people in Corbin Holler, they didn't even raise vegetables?
D.Y.: Well, I wuzn't up in thar, I wuz up in thar too, you know, before they left out'a of in thar. I use to go up thar with my Father along through early Fall and late Fall. They kept a few cattle, he'd go up in thar and buy a few calves off of them. I wuz just just small, just eleven or twelve years old, something like that. I use to drive them out, you know put a rope on them and drive them out. They use to bring me out of there in a hurry sometimes too. (Laughed)

D.S.: Have you any idea how much they got for a calf?
D.Y.: I just don't remember right off. But, I wuz sort of small and young then. But, I don't think it wuz over, oh, seven, or eight, or ten dollars, something like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: And, maybe not that along earlier. I heard my Father say he use to buy them four, or five, or six dollars, along in thar.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: I think along about then, I think they wuz paying somewhar around seven or eight or maybe as much as ten dollars.....

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: ...just depend on the size of the calf.

D.S.: Uhhuh. With those beans that you said the fellow bought the barrels of, do you recall how much that was per barrel?

D.Y.: No sir, I couldn't tell you, but in a little while I could tell you. I could go down and look on my bill, I have most all my bills down in the basement......

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: ...that I started in the store business. I go down thar and look, I could just about tell you.
D.S.: O. K.

D.Y.: But, I didn't put profit on the stuff then like they do now. If I made forty or fifty cents on a bag of beans, why I thought I done pretty good. They wuzn't, you know, I imagine around three dollars seventy-five cents, something like that, a hundred, see?

D.S.: Now you see what you have been telling me, both of you, has been entirely different from what I have been hearing. I always heard they dried their own beans and ...

D.Y.: Well, they did dry a lot of them.

J.L.: They did, ... the ones that paid enough of attention to a'livin' did. But, some of them didn't know, didn't care ...

D.Y.: No.

J.L.: ... enough if they had hilling beans. They eat them as long as they last and that wuz all of it.

D.Y.: Yea. Yea, they didn't know how to save anything, take care of anything, last.

J.L.: Didn't know how to put up nothin'. You talkin' about that calf business. I've heard old man Corbin, call ..., lived on the home place.

D.Y.: Yea.

J.L.: And, I always heard him coming up the road sayin', "Well, goin' up in the holler to buy, ... goin' up in the holler to buy me half a cow for a dollar and a half."

D.Y.: Well, that wuz way back 'cause I wuz only about, I think, between four and five years old when he died. I can remember the old way. We wuz livin' down the old place and I know Mr. John Brown was living.
J.L.: Wuz you that old when he died, four or five?

D.Y.: Something like that, yea. 'cause we moved up thar, see we bought that place, and I don't think I wuz about five and I think, and I don't think it wuz long after he did before we bought that place and moved up thar.

D.S.: Did most of the people in Corbin Hollow owned their own land? Do you know if they paid taxes on it?

J.L.: No, they bunch you are talin' about, I imagine in Corbin Holler, they didn't own any land that wuz the Big Survey.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, ... the families... Were the families large families they had?

D.Y.: Well, I don't think, ... as well as I can remember, not too large a family. Was it Johnny?

J.L.: How's that?

D.Y.: The size of families. It wuzn't too large of families, many of them, wuz it?

J.L.: Well, ... I ... the biggest family wuz ever up thar wuz old man ... uh, ... uh, ...

D.Y.: Will Corbin.

J.L.: ... old man Will Corbin, yea.

D.Y.: Yea, he had a big family.

J.L.: Twenty-one wuz all he had. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Whistled) TWENTY-ONE! All with one wife?

D.Y.: I couldn't answer that, I know he had a big family.

J.L.: He wuz the one that got killed at Nethers Mill. A man come down the road riding horseback, John Nicholson ...


J.L.: He wuz a moonshiner and he claimed this man, Will Corbin reported him. He and old man Ted Weakley wuz sitting in the garden on some fodder and the old man had been shuckin'
Korn thar, you know, his garden korn?

D.S.: Yea.

J.L.: And, he called him. Road up to the fence and called him, and said, "Come here a minute, John." Hadn't spoke for twenty years and when he walked up to lay his hand on the wire fence, that wuz a new wire fence ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: ...just put it up. Shot him off the horse, shot him dead, right thar. Do you remember those bullets? ... One of those bullets hit one of those rocks in that stone wall, above that ole

D.Y.: No, I don't know that I ever noticed that. But, I wuz a'livin' up thar at the time.

J.L.: Right whar he shot him.

D.S.: What did the Sheriff do about it? What did the Sheriff do about that shooting?

D.Y.: Well, they didn't come up thar.

J.L.: Well, he went to the penitentiary.

D.Y.: Went to the pen for so long, I forget how long it wuz.

D.S.: He did?

J.L.: He got thirty-five years, but I don't think he pulled anymore than about, ... I think he pulled twenty years. I believe. You know the first time I seen him when he come back? ... We quz workin' that road on the Hazel, and it came up a terrible storm, we went in that church. ... It begin to lighting up a bit. ... I never seen him since he come back. He gone

D.T.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: Thar set someone over thar in the corner and I walked over thar and it wuz John, he had never said a word. Come out of the storm. He had done pulled his time and come back here.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Were they clean shaven, the men? Were the men clean shaven?

D.Y.: Mmmmum, some of them wuzn't. Some of them wore long whiskers way down like that.

J.L.: Seen them down to here.

D.Y.: Old man Gus Nicholson and Aaron and.

D.S.: Aaaah, you seen Aaron Nicholson?

D.Y.: Yea. I wuz just a small kid though. I can remember him though. A old feller with great long whiskers down to here.

D.S.: Was he a big man as they say?

D.Y.: Well, ... as well as I can remember, it's been a long time, but well as I can remember he wuzn't too overly large a man, was he Johnny?

J.L.: I don't think so. You know whar he wuz buried?

D.Y.: No, I don't.

J.L.: He married a young woman over at Wolftown and died over thar.

D.Y.: Yea.

J.L.: Albert Nicholson showed me whar his grandpap was buried at. Great long grave, rocks just to his grave then.

D.Y.: Yea. Right back over here about a mile use to be a doctor, Dr. Sims, praticed over thar. And, one of them called one morning real early ... to see him, you know? Said he wuzn't feeling too good. Doctor said it wuzn't
long before breakfast wuz ready. Said he told him to come on in and eat ... while he wuz thar. Said he come on in, you know, and said ... Oh, said he eat a awful meal and he said, he didn't have much appetite. He said he eat an awful meal. Said, well he set thar and talked awhile. Said, he told the doctor, 'Well, Doctor if you give me a little medicine I believe I'll knock on back toward home.'

Said, the doctor looked at him and laughed, you know, said, 'I don't believe you need any medicine such a meal as you eat.' He said, 'Well,' says, 'I don't need any for your food, but I need some for mine like I have.' He said. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing!)

D.Y.: I heard them tell that. I knew the ole feller myself.

J.L.: That wuz ole Aaron?

D.Y.: Yea. One or the other wuz Gus, I forget which it wuz.

J.L.: That wuz Gus, that old man's uncle?

D.Y.: Yea, one or the other.

D.S.: Was Gus, Aaron's son?

J.L.: Russ, too.

D.S.: Gus and russ.

D.Y.: Well now, maybe I'm wrong ... The two that I knew wuz two about long the same age.

J.L.: Well, that wuz ... that wuz, ... ole Gus wore a tremendous long beard ...

D.Y.: Yea.

J.L.: ... you know, and rode the Genny mule......

D.Y.: Yea, had a little ole mule.
J.L.: ... and'a, Russ had a beard, great beard too.
D.Y.: Yea. Well, them the two that I knew.
J.L.: Yea. Well, ole Aaron we talkin' about wuz their father.
D.Y.: Well, I didn't know him. No.
J.L.: I didn't either.
D.Y.: No. ... I didn't know him.
J.L.: He died before I wuz born.
D.S.: Yea. I wuz thinkin' he would have died before ...  
D.Y.: Yea.
J.L.: That's right.
D.Y.: Yea. ... I didn't know him. ... The other two we knew.
J.L.: The two wuz the one we knew, wuz his sons.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Was there much intermarriage among the  
Nicholson's?
D.Y.: Well, I don't know. ... I wuz young then.
J.L.: How's that?
D.S.: Was their much intermarriages?
J.L.: Uh ... Well, they married close, some of them.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. They did visit back and forth between  
hollows, didn't they?
J.L.: Well, I don't know weather it wuz much visitin' goin' on  
then or not.
D.Y.: I thought it wuz too much.
J.L.: And, the Corbins visited nobody and nobody visited the  
Corbins. Unless it wuz somebody to pick up something or  
put
D.S.: The Corbins made moonshine, didn't they?
J.L.: They never had ... Some did, but not close kin to the ones  
we are talkin' about. They didn't have knowledge enough.
D.S.: Oh!
D.Y.: It wuzn't many from up in thar that wuzn't into it at one time.
D.S.: Yes.
J.L.: You take the Weakleys and Corbins in Nicholson Holler, and the Nicholsons and Dodsons, it wuz some Dodsons up in thar too.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: They were real, they were the old timey moonshiners.
D.Y.: Uhhuh.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: I can remember when I wuz small, old Mr. Lewis, he remember everybody. He didn't know nothin' on me, remember none as well as I do, for I knewed nearly everyone. Well, they just use to haul liquor from out of that mountain, out from up thar regular. (Laughed)
J.L.: Mmmmum, car loads.
D.Y.: Yes, indeed.
D.S.: They had cars?
D.Y.: Yes, they had some cars then.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: It wuzn't too many around then.
J.L.: One thing, it brought ... took a lot of the liquor out of the hollers, people from the city would come. ... uh, ... places like, towns like, Winchester, Front Royal, and even from Washington. They hauled liquor out of them hollers.
D.S.: Oh!
J.L.: Use to be a red ... Did you see that red Cadillic up thar?
D.Y.: Mmmmmum!
J.L.: They had it built specially for the business.
D.Y.: I reckon, I have.
J.L.: They put a fifty gallon barrel in the back of that.
D.Y.: Sssssh!
D.S.: (Whistled) Oh, boy! Did they make it mainly out of apples or rye?
D.Y.: Anything they could get a'hold of. (Laughed)
J.L.: Anything they could make alcohol out.
D.S.: (Laughed)
J.L.: But, most of the business wuz sugar, after they got the people. ... I remember years and years ago they didn't even use sugar.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: But, after ... along in about the teens, last of, along and up in the teens they made it with sugar. I believe that bunch over here in Georgetown started that before anybody else did.
J.L.: So, they would make apple brandy and grain whiskey, you know?
D.S.: Uhhuh. They all had apple orchards, didn't they?
D.Y.: Well, they had small, most small ones. But, I don't think they used too many apples. Most of them used rye and corn, ... grain.
J.L.: Yea.
D.S.: Do you know how they got their apple orchards? Did they know how graft?
D.Y.: No, I don't think so. Probably got them, pick up a few
trees somewhere, maybe just ...

J.L.: Well, the seedlings, you called them then.
D.Y.: Yea.
J.L.: You know, you could go around apple trees years ago and find plenty little switches come up around the apple tree. You don't see them no more.
D.Y.: Yea. They use to
D.S.: That was with the Milons, right?
J.L.: Milons and Sunday Sweetners, they called them, a white apple, and all that kind of stuff.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: Winsaps and Yorks.
D.Y.: Most of them made it out of sugar and rye meal.
J.L.: Most of it wuz sugar. I know ... My Father use to haul up thar, I wuz just small. I told my wife just the other day, I use to go to Culpepper with him, two days make a trip, four horse team. Go down and bring a full load, all load it up thar at Nether's and James's store, up thar together. And, go back the next day and do the samething a lot of times.
D.S.: What was this, sugar you would be hauling?
D.Y.: Sugar and rye meal.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: A lot, you know, it would be a lot of groceries along with it, too.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: But, you would bring in a right smart supply of that. Bring it back the next day.
J.L.: You know that is why.

D.Y.: That wuz when the road wuz so bad, thar wuz a few trucks and like of that around then.

J.L.: That's why ole man Jenkins and Wes made all their money that they had one time. Got away from them, you know, right quick. They ... they go, ... they had a apple-butter kettle, ... fourty gallon ones, you know?

D.Y.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: Then they would take a wooden barrel, fifty gallon barrel, cut it into and make a cap for it, you know?

D.Y.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: They made liquor in that. They sell them kettles to them fellers up thar for a dollar a gallon.

D.Y.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: Fourty dollars for that and then they would give them about two dollars and a half for a gallon of liquor. They would say it wuz worth it.

D.Y.: Yea.

J.L.: That's right. They got rich right quick.

D.Y.: Yea. I've always heard that.

J.L.: That's right!

D.Y.: I've always heard that.

D.S.: Ooooh!

J.L.: Yea.

D.Y.: And, you take a lot of times, ... you go down thar then toward the last, they got a pretty good road built up fer us. Besser and trucks would haul it up thar and put it in a warehouse down thar, and a wagon would go down thar and get it.

J.L.: Yea.
D.Y.: When the roads wuz so bad up here they couldn't make it, you know? And, they would bring all this sugar and rye meal, and all this stuff up thar.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: All load them, a lot of them would be standin' right thar and some of them, many front wheel, front part of a wagon and put it on and some of them with just a slide. Put it on that and drag it on up in the mountain. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea.

J.L.: You take that store up thar robbed those people, ... it wuz awful. See, they didn't know, ... some of them didn't even know what a quarter wuz, you know?

D.S.: Yea.

J.L.: And-a, ... uh, ... I've heard Adam and , they would sit around up thar and a lot, you know and watch Wesly Jenkins when he wuz weighing on the scales ....

D.Y.: Weighing his hand!

J.L.: ...Say they would go in thar, (Laughed) They go in thar and want a pound of meat, you know. If he got a half a pound, said he could hold his hand and on thar and make it weigh. They wuz watching the scales, you know, make it run on that pound.

D.S.: Nooooo!

D.Y.: I've heard that many a time.

D.S.: Ooooh! (Laughing) Those poor people.

J.L.: Brother Frank use to say, ... Frank says, ... weight that ole rusty fist and balance and sold it. (Laughed)

D.Y.: You take my first wife's brother, ... I mean her daddy, ... run a store over thar at that ole mill, it ain't standin' thar now. He would ... He wuzn't that kind.
J.L.: He wuz a honest man.
D.Y.: Yes.
D.S.: That store was very, very useful, ... not only as a store, but there was a telepone there, too.
D.Y.: Yea. Yea, ... Well, both of them, I think, had a telephone then.
D.S.: They would come down and use that to call Dr. Ross.
D.Y.: Yea.
D.S.: Oh, ... did any of you ever see Dr. Ross?
D.Y.: Oh lord have mercy, I reckon so!
J.L.: (Laughed)
D.S.: What did he look like? There isn't a mountain person that I talked to that hasn't mentioned calling him. He must have traveled.
D.Y.: Traveled all night long some time.
J.L.: Do you ... Did you ever seen his son Hugh Ross, out at Madison?
D.S.: No.
J.L.: Look at him, that's the doctor.
D.S.: Really?
D.Y.: I use to live up here whar Pichem lives, right at the forks of the road. House on that high hill, but it don't look like it did when I had it. I sold it to him in Fall of sixty-four. I had that nice shape, clean and everything. And, I use to ... I never did stayed in the main part of the house when I wuz young, you know. I had a two rooms up over the tater cellar.
J.L.: You lived thar when you got married.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: And, I use to be thar and I'd come in anytime of the night I wanted to, you know. Had some ole bulldog thar, come out like he wuz goin' to eat me up. ... All I had to do wuz whistle or something and that wuz all of that. And, I've layed right thar many-a nights, through the winter and hear him a'come around that road and the ole mud be so deep you couldn't get around it with a car, ... with his ole black horse. Sometimes it would be midnight, sometimes it'd be two or three o'clock in the morning. Travel alnight, ... and start out long durng when that flu wuz around so bad and killed so many of them ... Why he couldn't even make his rounds.

J.L.: You know what he told me, sitting over thar in the office once, ... before he, it wuz along toward the last, you know he didn't talk too much because he wuz getting kind of ... a little bit weak minded. He told me that when the flu, the first flu in 1918, said anybody hear about it, you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: You see, he had a little two wheel cart, you know?

D.Y.: Yea.

J.L.: Said, he left them over Crigersville and threw his saddle in the back of that, you know, or in thar with him. And, rode as fer as you could up Dark Holler, ... and then he took the horse out, pulled the ... put it in the cart, put the saddle on ... 

D.Y.: Put the saddle on.

J.L.: And, went back to Big Meadow and taken the Ridge and come down each holler and when he came out he came out down here off the Hazel, off the Hazel run ... and through by
Bob Miller's and all the way round down to you know, and back through this lower country down in here and back to Creigersville.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: He wuz ... he wuz gone three days, ... uh, two days and two nights. He told me when he got back home all the pay he had wuz sixteen dollars.

D.S.: Ssssh! He was the most dedicated man I think I ever, ever heard of.

D.Y.: Yea, when you call him ...

D.S.: He went.

D.Y.: ... he wuz a'comin'. I tell you that.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: Unless something powerful happened.

J.L.: You know he use to come from over Creigersville on horseback over to the ole homeplace, charged a quarter.

D.Y.: Yea. Yes, indeed!

D.S.: Uh, ... what diseases did they have? Do you know any particular diseases that they had, like ...?

J.L.: Well, they had diseases that everybody have today.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: But, the flu killed a lot of people, you know.

D.Y.: What wuz goin' on then at that time we are speakin' of is that they had so much of this flu.

D.S.: Yea, how about rickets? Was there much rickets that you knowed of?

D.Y.: Uh, ... I don't understand exactly what you mean?

D.S.: Uh, ... rickets, you know where the bones are not quite properly formed because of lack of milk, calcium and ...
D.Y.: Yea, not ....

Tape was blank here.

D.S.: A lot of hogs and chicken, and did they fish?
D.Y.: Not much.
D.S.: Not much?
D.Y.: No, I can remember my Father use to own a place over thar

what I had, I sold in sixty-four and now and then you

might see somebody come down thar fishin', but not like, ...

nothing like ti is now.

D.S.: Uh, ... they ... Of course, they killed rabbits and squirrels...
D.Y.: Yea, something like that.
D.S.: ... to augment their diet, but did they eat beef?
D.Y.: Naaa, they didn't know what beef wuz.
J.L.: I dought some of them old people up in thar ever eat a

piece of beef in their life, along in them times.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: They didn't keep no stock, much you know, maybe one or two
cows, like that you know?
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: But, what they had would do good up in thar, had good cold
water, you know, and bushes they liked. But, I know my
Father bought one of those cows in thar one time and the
ole man tell him, I never will forget what he told him, I
wuz just a little kid, but I can remember that as good
as it wuz today. Well, it wuz ole man Jim Poke Nichols, ...
know who it wuz? ... "Well, son I tell you," says, "This cow
gives such rich milk," says, "Cream stands on the jar so
thick that a cat can walk across on it and wouldn't make
a track."

D.S.: (Laughing)
D.S.: (Laughed)

D.Y.: (Laughed) I can remember that just as good as it wuz today, when he told my Father that. Yea, they use to have what cows liked, they done mighty good up in thar. They didn't have much grass, but they had plenty bushes and plenty good cold water.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: And, they done real good.

D.S.: I was wondering about that, because it wasn't any real pasture land, was there?

D.Y.: No. No. ... I been up thar and drove many-a calf out of the mountains back in thar ... all up in Nicholson Holler and I been clear on back around up on behind the Rag, from here. One day I went up thar to ole Mr. Henry Smith, lived back up thar, over thar ahead of Weakley Holler. Yea, and we bought one from him and come on over in Weakley Holler ther and ... he bought another one from, I don't remember if it wuz Ben Smith or Major now. And, this one he bought from Old man Smith wuz just as wild as any deer, ... man when I started out with him, he need took me hog huntin', it's no use to talkin', he jerked me, I wuz just small you know. Man, he jerked me about scandalus, so I thought when I got over to ole man Smith's so I thought I had him 'bout run down, and this one over ole man Smith's wuz gentle, you know. I just tied him to this wild one, you know, and just kept my main rope on this wild one. Well, I made it on down, went on down pretty good, you know, about, I imagine three-quarter of a mile down, comin' back down Weakley Holler,
you know, and the first thing you know this gentle one jumped up on the bank, you know, and run' around behind a bush ... 

D.Y.: (Laughing) 

D.Y.: ... and, I didn't have my halter quite tight enough on this wild one and he hauled off, I knowed dern well if he ever got out of my reach it would never get hold of him as wild as he wuz. I just dropped the rope, let the other one drag and just had him by the tail. I remember I had on a pair of ole gum boots, ... and right down that mountain he went. Half the time he had me down dragging me, but I kept holdin' on to him until I had got him sort-of ... I'd pulled back on him just as hard as I could, I thought if I could get him slowed down and get him turned back up the mountain I could hold him, you know. But, finally I got him sort-of broke down. I got him turned back up the mountain and I still had him by the tail, you know, with no rope on, nothin' on him. The other calf had gone back up to his mother, you know, back up thar to ole man Smith's. So, I kept on easin' back up the road with this one, you know. Finally, I met old man Smith and my Father, he wuz standin' up thar talkin' to him, you know, I met him. He had done caught this gentle one, bring him on back to meet me. I still had that one by the tail, holding on to him. (Laughing) 

D.S.: (Laughing) 

D.Y.: Right good size calf too, I reckon, two hundred or better, but I taken him then. When my Father told you to catch something he meant to catch and hold it, he didn't mean to turn him loose.
D.S.: No. ... (Laughing) Uh, ... did they let their pigs run loose in the mountains?

J.L.: Some of them did

D.S.: Uhhuh. And, how would they gather them up?

J.L.: Well, I ... I reckon they had pens that they.

D.Y.: What they you use hogs?

D.S.: Hogs.

D.Y.: Hogs?

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: Well, I tell you about them. They didn't bother much about gathering them up until they got ready to butcher them or something like that.

D.S.: Yea. So then how would they gather them?

D.Y.: Oh, they probably feed them a little something now and then so, you know, just to couch them around in the pen. Something until they got ready to butcher them or something like that. Why, I can remember ... oh, ... way back yonder in the teens, ... my Father bought a place right back up here about two miles against the Park line. Thar use to be some up this holler here, Rosser Holler, they called it, had a whole lot of hogs and they run out in the mountain and it wuz nothin' but a barb wire fence around this place then, and that wuzn't very good. ... Well, them hogs, them ole big sows come over thar, you know and man just tearing up the grass. ... Father would send them word: they had to take care of them, they didn't pay no attention to him at tall. So, we had a couple of them Bulldogs, so everytime we would go up thar we would take the
ringer along and them Bulldogs. They got so they would just run them dern hogs just as same as running a fox. And, when them ole big hogs, them ole big sows would fight them you know?

D.W.: (Whistled)

D.Y.: And, they would just stand thar and bark at them until you got up close to them, and you got close to them and tell them to take him. ... Man, they would take them right by the jaw or right by the ear and go on and ring them. ... He would have him, hold him right thar.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Yea. Lot of time, you know, ... we'd make them let loose and catch the hog and throw him and go on and ring him good. I don't know how many we didn't ring that away. ... Whenever we would catch any up thar, you know, a 'ruttin', ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: ... why we would catch and ring them.

D.S.: That was good. How about it, did you ever go to any of their applebutter boilings?

D.Y.: No. ... No, we didn't?

D.S.: Did you?

J.L.: Oh, once in awhile.

D.S.: What were they like?

J.L.: Well, ... sometimes it would be a few people around, you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: Stirring.
D.S.: Did they play any music while they was doing it?
J.L.: Uh, ... No, not very much, I don't think.
D.S.: No?
D.Y.: I never wuz around up in thar at night or nothing like that at tall. When I went up in thar, I went up thar in the daytime, you know, with my Father. I wuz small then. Oh, after I got on up in age, just before the Park taken over, I use to go up thar and haul post, stakes, stuff out with the team, out from up in thar. My Father use to go up in thar and buy post and stakes, one place up in thar they called the Seal place. That's on up in thar in the left hand holler on up above the forks of the road. He use to get out a lot of them on shares up thar and I use to go up thar and haul them out.
D.S.: Well, they have told me that they use to make a real party out of doing the applebutter boilings. That they would have food, and they would have drinks, and they would dance, and of course keep stirring the applebutter. And, it was a real festive occasion. I was wondering if this is by thinking backwards that they, you know, everything is always more fun ... many years ago?
D.Y.: I ... I never did do much running around when I wuz small. I never wuz up in thar.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.:
D.S.: Did you hear any of their music at anytime?
J.L.: Sometimes.
D.S.: What would they play?
J.L.: Banjo, ... guitar, ...
D.S.: Uhhuh. Do you know any of the tunes?
J.L.: Well, just ole timey dancin' tunes, I reckon.
D.S.: Turkey In The Straw?  "" Turkey In The Straw?
J.L.: They were old tunes.
D.Y.: I reckon most of them, just so it wuz makin' a fuss they thought they were havin' powerful music anyhow. (Laughed)
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: How about church, did they go to church much?
J.L.: Some of them. Some went and some never even had one.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Where was the church?
J.L.: Well, thar wuz two up this Weakley Holler.
D.S.: Two in Weakley Hollow?
J.L.: One on the left, one on the right.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
J.L.: Then it wuz one in Nicholson Holler.
D.S.: Now, was those churches used as a school also?
D.Y.: Yes. Nicholson Holler, I think, did. I don't know. ...
J.L.: Yes.
D.Y.: ... weather the other one did or not.
J.L.: No, the other one didn't.
D.Y.: I know Willie May taught up thar. Wasn't it Willie?
J.L.: Yea.
D.Y.: Yea, it wuz Willie.
D.Y.: Yea. ... Yea. I know some of them asked one of the old women up thar, how she wuz getting along. "Well," she
could do pretty good. She could write pretty good, but she just couldn't read a damn work after she had. (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughed)

D.Y.: Use to laugh at Willie about it, you know. Yes, said she could write pretty good, but she just couldn't read a damn work of it. (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) Yea, they didn't have school that regularly, did they?

D.Y.: No, I don't think so.

D.S.: No, that is unfortunate because all these people that I have been talking to have, their children has gone on to become Professors, and so on, so the intelligent were there.

D.Y.: Yea. Yes, some of them up in thar would catch on to anything pretty quick and some of them just the other way.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Yea.

D.S.: Yes. The Corbins never bothered to go to school, did they?

J.L.: I don't think so.

D.Y.: I never did hear of none goin'.

D.S.: Is it true that the Corbins you could tell them by their eyes? That they all had a cast to their eyes?

J.L.: Oh, some did and some didn't.

D.S.: Some didn't. Huh? Well, what else can you think of about these people that ... I am asking the questions and you are the ones that know. So, uh, ...
D.Y.: Well, I just don't know ... pretty much more.

D.S.: How did they dress?

J.L.: Well, just like all other mountain people.

D.S.: Alright, but how?

J.L.: Just ... What they had. They didn't get too many different changes.

D.Y.: No. A pair of overalls or something like that. A overall jacket. You never seen none of them much dressed up in suits or nothin' like that.

D.S.: No. Was they handmade clothes, mostly?

D.Y.: Well, I imagine they wuz way back.


D.Y.: Not many of them bought ... even ...

all the clothes wuz made in them times. Not even out in this section here, ... most of them made their clothes way back yonder when I wuz a kid.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did any of you know Noah Nicholson?

D.Y.: Know who?

D.S.: Noah Nicholson?

D.Y.: Oh yea.

J.L.: Oh yea.

D.Y.: Knowed his daddy.

D.S.: What was he like?

D.Y.: Well, about like Noah, I reckon, near as I can say.

I remember one time ... after that drive, they had part of that through, they hadn't moved him out up thar. ...

He come down here and I had a cow and he had one he wanted get shut of, so me and him got on a cow trade. And, I taken mine up thar and got the one I traded him for ...
As fer as I can remember I went out the drive.

J.L.: It wuz on the ?

D.Y.: Yea, that wuz back up here, when he lived back up
here ... on the land, you know.

D.S.: Where ... Did he live in Nicholson Hollow?

D.Y.: Yea. Well, as I can remember it wuz way back up on ...
nearly to the drive, wuzn't too fer down on the drive,
wuz it Johnny?

J.L.: Whar Noah and them lived?

D.Y.: Yes.

J.L.: They lived around on that Robertson side, like you goin'
to Skyline, down in thar.

D.Y.: Yea, that's what I remember. Around to the right of
the Nicholson Holler, wuzn't it?

J.L.: No, it wuz on the left of Nicholson Holler.

D.Y.: On the left?

J.L.: When you get on what they call the top, you know, you
goin' up that mountain to Skyline.

D.Y.: I believe wuz the only time I wuz ever wuz up
thar.

D.S.: Was he a fairly honorably man?

D.Y.: Well, who do you mean, Noah?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Well, ... I don't know what, how to answer that. He
wuz somebody that lived on the Welfare, near as I can
say, every since ... I knowed him.

J.L.: He lives right down the road here just a little ways.

D.S.: (Laughed) I know he does. I know he does. The reason
I am asking is that I do know that he has been one of those
that set the fires in the Park, after the Park too over.
D.S.: So, he could get money to put the fires out.
D.Y.: Yea. ... Yea. Him and ...., they always claimed him and a Corbin boy use .... to do right much on doin' that.
D.S.: Uhhuh. ... Yea. ... Uh, ... herbs. ... Uh, did you ever hear any of them talking about any use of herbs? For sickness or anything of that kind?
D.Y.: I don't know as I did. If I did, I don't remember it.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever hear that, it sounds horrible, that if you had a sore throat take some kerosene and sugar?
D.Y.: Well, I believe I have them talk of that.
D.S.: Uhhuh. ... Sounds if thought they were trying to commit suicide. (Laughing)
D.Y.: Yea. ... I don't know if I hadn't taken a little of that myself when I wuz small. Take a little sugar, a spoon full of sugar and pour a few drops of kerosene on it.
D.S.: Did it help?
D.Y.: Oh, it's been so long I just don't remember.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: It seems like to me when I wuz small that I had the soar throat so bad one time, ... and they gave me some sugar and put some kerosene on it. Now, I wouldn't say for certain that wuz right.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: But, it seems like to me it wuz.
D.S.: Did they have any superstitions?
J.L.: Some of them did, right much. (Laughed)
D.S.: They did, what?
J.L.: Didn't have much to say around what you wuz at.

D.S.: You mean they wouldn't tell you what their superstitions were?

D.Y.: Yea, they didn't do too much talkin'.

D.S.: Why is it that they were so quiet and secluded?

D.Y.: I don't know. I suppose they are sort of like we are, I reckon, and didn't have too much education and ... Didn't know how to bring anything out and tell it ...

D.S.: Oh?

D.Y.: ... like it should be, probably.

D.S.: Oh. I wish we knew some of those superstitions. You never heard a single one from them.

J.L.: No ... I don't think so. By their reactions? some of them you couldn't tell how they were going how to act. (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughing)

?.. How did they tell about the weather? Did they have any signs about the weather?

J.L.: Most all of them did.

D.S.: Well, what were they?

J.L.: Well, some of them watched the stars.

D.Y.: Yea. ... Certain sign they had about the weather.

J.L.: When the moon wuz up or if it wuz down.

D.S.: Uh, yea. ... did they have that idea that you don't plant potatoes at a certain time with the moon and stuff of that kine.

J.L.: They didn't have it only just amongst the old people.

D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: I expect they had some signs, some them didn't know one sign from another.

D.S.: The Indians, they went by by all the signs.

D.S.: That's right, and I am wondering if a lot of these people picked up somethings from the Indians? Because, there were some Indians still up there, weren't they?

D.Y.: No ... I don't know.

D.S.: I think they even married enough so that they ...

D.Y.: I don't remember any, do you Johnny?

D.S.: ... disappeared.

D.Y.: Indians, I don't know of any.

J.L.: Ain't no Indians in this holler since I lived around here.

D.Y.: I tell you about time when we did come up in thar ... The colored or the Indians better not come up in thar. (Laughing) I tell you that, if they do they'll get out of thar quick.

D.S.: (Laughing)

D.Y.: Yes, sir! No, sir ... Well, a stranger better not come up in thar, then if he did he better act very nice.

D.S.: That's ...

D.Y.: Mighty nice!

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: If he didn't act mighty nice, he wouldn't get by Nethers Mill, I can tell you that right now.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Yes, they were highly suspicious of all strangers, weren't they?

D.Y.: Yes, I wasn't into any of that stuff myself, ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: ... but, I knew plenty of them that wuz. If a colored feller come up in thar he wuz a **drummer** or a grocery truck driver or something like that. He had to get out from thar and get out quick. They ... 

D.S.: I've heard that!

D.Y.: ... they run on out thar on foot. I seen plenty of them go out thar a foot, come out thar in a truck and a buggy or something and they'd get out and he wuzn't workin' no drummer, he'd leaving out ... 

D.S.: (LAUGHING!)

D.Y.: ... some of them would tell me they would run clear back to Culpeper, twenty miles. Yea!

D.S.: Oh. ... Oh, boy! Uhhuh.

D.Y.: I tell you, a colored person didn't have no use 

D.S.: I wonder why they had feelings about the colored?

D.Y.: I don't know, they just didn't like them.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: Just didn't like them.

D.S.: They knew something that we should have known a long while ago. (Laughed) Oh, dear!

D.Y.: Yea. I wished that everybody wuz that away now, they could run them off and get them seperated to themselves.

D.S.: I ... do too, ... Gosh, yes! But, they had actually, when you think about it ... Uh, ... not a bad existing, these mountain people. They were healthy ... 


D.S.: ... and, were they jealeous of their wives?

D.Y.: No, ... I don't think so.

D.S.: Protective of them?
D.Y.: No, I don't think so.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Of course, all those left up in thar, the most of them. I wuz just young, you know. If I had to go up in thar, I went up thar for business, after a load of stakes, or post, or after a calf, something like that. I never got up in thar to visit or nothin' like that.

D.S.: Did you ever hear from any of them, their reaction when they had to move out because of the Park?

D.Y.: Well, not too much. Now, see I believe it was thirty-five or thirty-six, it wuz right many of them moved up here at Flint Hill. But, they started up in thar on homesteads.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: ...and, I went up thar and worked for the Government a few while, a few months. Plowing and ordering land, and ordering the garden, and plowing the gardens, and like of that. Course, some of them people in thar, maybe, they bought them up a couple of old horses, they didn't even know how to put the harness on a horse or hook them up or nothin' else.


D.Y.: I know one feller went up thar once, Well, wuzn't he been out longer than some of them. Then he went up thar and bought him a tractor, old tractor, a old model. Old model T-Ford, that wuz the tractor. And everything he plowed up the field, the feller. I wuz plowing back on the other side of him. I done plowed up, I don't know how many fields, different one thar.
And, he didn't know too much about it, he didn't know too much about the plow, he made a terrible mess, plowing you know?

D.S.: Hummmmm.

D.Y.: And, the boss man come over and wanted me to go over and plow that over, I said, "No, sir, I ain't goin' over such a mess he made out of it." What great long skips, as fer as from here to the road, it wouldn't be a bit of dirt threwed over in the ferrow, at tall. I said, "That ain't nothin' but a mess." I said, "I wouldn't plow it over." I'll tell you what I'll do, if it will help you, I'll take a harrow and go over it several times."

D.S.: Yes, I've heard that before and I think that is a very fasinating thing they did not like them. Now, the Indians and the people themselves then uses stars and the moon for their planting. That is very interesting, isn't it?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Yea, I believe it is a whole lot of in the signs to plant by.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: I never did pay no attention to them much, but I believe it is a right smart to it.

D.S.: Yea. Did they ever take time out and look around and say, "Gee, this is a Beautiful country. that I'm in, these mountains are lovely?"

D.Y.: I don't reckon some of them ever, ever come out of the mountain 'til they wuz grown, likely. ...
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: ••• up in thar.
D.S.: They must have been strong people to walk up and down those mountains the way they did?
D.Y.: I've seen these people come down to the mill time before, put a bushel ••• a bushel and half of meal on their back, walk on up thar and meet somebody and stand thar and talk for half a hour or hour, never layed it down and ready to go ••• practically head up the holler, with it that away.
D.S.: Shoooo!
D.Y.: Well, most of them just strong as mules.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: Then people up in thar.
D.S.: Yea. ••• That ••• That does take strength. Uh, ••• Would you say ••• that the majority, ••• Well, I guess we'll goin' to have to leave the Corbin Hollow out, maybe some of them in Corbin Hollow, but they were honest people?
D.Y.: Well, ••• most of them, I reckon, you could say. Wouldn't you say, Johnny? You know more about them than I do. I would say that most of them wuz pretty honest.
D.S.: Did they think ••• anything ••• What if a person stolef a ••• things. ••• Did they ever do anything like that?
D.Y.: Well, ••• now and then you'd stra& somebody, maybe take a little something that didn't belong to him, but not too much.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: Well, back them times, why, you could go twelve months and it wouldn't be as much stealing as it is now in a week.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: No, sir!
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: When they stole something then and they caught them, they knewed something about it, but now, don't do a dern thing but just run the officers all over the county everywhar spending the tax payers money ...
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: ...throwing it away. Take and catch them, take them in and the jury and commonwealth turns them loose, and they go on back home.
D.S.: Sure.
D.Y.: That's just the way it goes now, around here.
D.S.: How about plowing, did they plow very much.
D.Y.: No, they didn't have very much to plow.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: They might have a little ole one horse plow, maybe one horse.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: I use to plow tater patches and corn patches.
...: Did they use oxen then, did they have cows or oxen then?
J.L.: They use, mostly of them hardly then had a team, they just had one horse is all.
D.S.: Uhhuh. I've heard they planted corn using stones, like they would plant a kernal of corn right next to a stone. And, they said you just could see the corn grow, because of the heat retained by the stone and the moisture.
J.L.: Well, in a lot of theplaces it wuzn't nothing else to plant it by. (Laughed)
D.Y.: Most all of it wuz stone.

D.S.: (Laughing) Yea. Uh, ... did any of them ever mention anything about that they were glad they was there because it gave them some extra money?

D.Y.: Well, I expect they got a whole lot of money out of Skyl...nd.

D.S.: Yea.

D.Y.: Because it use to ... A whole lot of them people worked up thar, you know, when Pollöck wuz up thar, ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: building up thar. A lot of them people worked up thar.

D.S.: Did either of you ever go up to Skyl...nd to enjoy those parties of Pollock's?

J.L.: I have been.

D.S.: You did?

D.Y.: I never did.

D.S.: What ones would you go to?

J.L.: That's been a long time ago, though. I've been to dances up thar.

D.S.: Yea.

... They tell me (Laughing)

D.S.: (Laughed)

J.L.: They had a dance hall up thar, you know?

D.S.: Were you there at any of those Indians pow-wow that he had ...

J.L.: Oh, yea.

D.S.: ... using those mountain people? Were you there for that disastrous one where they all got fighting each other.
J.L.: Well, I seen fights up thar, but I don't remember if it while they wuz having a party.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well, tell about some of the fights?

J.L.: Been a long time ago, better not say anything more about it. (Laughed)

D.S.: Oh, come on! (Laughed) Statue of Limination is beyond What are some of those storeies, he doesn't telling about that you can tell.

J.L.: That's an old saying, Water over the dam. (Laughed)

D.S.: You're just not going to talk? You know actually they will tell

D.Y.: You know, up Nicholsons Holler, why he killed two or three, they claimed.

D.S.: Really?

D.Y.: Yea.

D.S.: Why? Just didn't like them?

D.Y.: Just get out, you know, get a drinkin', and get fussin',... shoot them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

J.L.: Well, thisis nice. I'm sorry I've got to go.

D.Y.: Don't hurry, Johnny!

J.L.: No, I've got to go.

D.S.: That was there in Nethers Mill?

D.Y.: No. ...

D.S.: No, that was here.

D.Y.: Yes, that wuz here. I use to sell some of them people, back up in here right smart stuff when I first come over here
D.S.: Alright, yea. How would they get to your store here?

D.Y.: Well, they probably walk over or sometime they would catch a ride and ride over, and maybe if they would buy right smart stuff, I would carry it up in thar to them, in the pick-up.

D.S.: You'd take it like to the bottom?

D.Y.: Well, most they would buy, would be just what I would call rough food such as that, you know, didn't buy no fancy stuff.

D.S.: No. Kerosene?

D.Y.: Well, very little of that. Very little kerosene, they would buy. Most would be this say, cornmeal, or something like that, you know, or meat uh, you know, something to live on, beans, fish, or something.

D.S.: You know that is surprising that they didn't have thier own beans?

D.Y.: Well, they did a lot of them, you see. But, something maybe they would have a failure, wouldn't have a crop, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Why, some of them would come over and buy some.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

D.Y.: Why, yes. You take some of them they use this sack what we called soup beans, hull beans, they'd just have them things by the barrel full. I know somebody, I forget who it wuz I heard tell it. That they went up
in thar one time, wanted to buy some beans, and one of the
Nicholsons and said, 'well, he did have, I believe, but
two barrels full or three barrel full, I forget which
he said it wuz now. Said he'd, keep them in case of
sickness.

D.S.: Ooooh! (Laughed)
D.Y.: Oh, they might have just told that.
D.Y.: Use to tell all kind of tales on them.
D.S.: There was ... a regular mill there at Nethers Mill,
wasn't there?
D.Y.: Yea.... Yes, ... just ground ... Uh, Well, stuff like
rye, and corn, for feed and grain meal ...
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: ... they didn't make no flour.
D.S.: Did he, ... do you know if he, the people paid him to do
it or would they give him ten percent?
D.Y.: Well, now some of them would. ... Uh, I've run a mill
myself, for there a lot for them ... Ground a lot of
stuff for them out of there ... Some of them would want to
pay for it ... and some of them just would let you always
taken a gallon ... like if it wuz shelled corn, you take
a gallon./* You had a little gallon measure ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: ...take that full out of a bushel or ground.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: That's the way, you did it.
D.S.: If they paid for it, have you any ideal how they got the
money?
D.Y.: Well, ... probably they worked up on the Stoneyman or somewhat like that, you know?
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: Or, maybe sold a calf, or cow, or something like that, now and then, you know.
D.S.: Yea.
D.Y.: ... Get a few dollars.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: But lord, you taken then, why ... you take back at that time, a dollar would go as far as twenty dollar would now.
D.Y.: Right. Did they wear shoes?
D.Y.: Some of them. Some of them I seen pratically grown men out of thar barefooted.
D.S.: Uhhuh.
D.Y.: Women and all.
D.S.: Yea. They didn't seem to be much by snakes, did they? And, yet there were snakes all in there?
D.Y.: Snakes all in thar, but I guess they had their regular paths that they traveled, you know, and just watched for them, I guess.
D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Huh! Well, they are very unusual kind of people. ... Uh, it's too bad that so many of them have gone that would be ... simply great to get their story, but ...
D.Y.: Yea.
D.S.: ... they're gone.
D.Y.: Yea, I tell you, at one time it wuz a lot of people back in that mountain.

D.S.: Yea, four hundred seventy-five families actually, all together.

D.Y.: How many?

D.S.: Four hundred seventy-five.

D.Y.: I knew it wuz a good many of them.


D.Y.: Good many of them.

D.S.: Yea. Well, I have some maps here ... I think that is so cute.

D.Y.: He wuz born there at Nethers, lived thar until he wuz married.