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(SNP062) M.M. Hitt, Jr. interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

M. M. Hitt

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mr. M. M. Hitt
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy N. Smith
PLACE: Luray, Virginia
DATE.

TRANSCRIBED BY:
Peggy C. Bradley
COMPLETED DATE:
June 23, 1984

D.S.: *This is Dorothy Smith interviewing M. Hitt.*
M.H.: *Having named Hitt, I'm junior. When I was born I was so cute they named me after him.*
So, that's the way I became a

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: To tell the truth, I've gone all the way, you know this coming September, I'll be ninety years old. (Laughed)

D.S.: Oh, my goodness!

M.H.: Now, you don't believe that, I don't expect?

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

M.H.: I don't blame you if you don't, because I don't look like, I never looked, I never have looked my age. I never have looked my age. What I mean by that is that I have always been older than a body would take me to be, see?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Most of my life.

D.S.: Well, now

M.H.: Well, anyhow

D.S.: Well, ... Mr. Hitt lives in Luray and he had a store ...

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: ... and his father owned a store. Am I right?

M.H.: Yea. Well, ...

D.S.: Where was the store located?

M.H.: Well, ... Uh ... my store was located on East Main Street, right ... uh, ... right at, a little bit East of the ... uh, ... location was there at the Main Street Baptist Church.

D.S.: Oh?

M.H.: The old church, before this one was built. The old church occupied less of that space, and there was a

store room that was on the opposite side, uh, ... of the street today; was moved over there years later.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ...but, that same building was over on that side of the street, and the Mr. Vernon Ford ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... uh, ... who owned, of course he is not living, ^{or} his people. He has a granddaughter a'living over in the finest house in Luray, or Page County.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Over here, the Ford home ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... well, there is two homes there. One was built for V.H., Vernon Ford, and the other one for his son, Will.

A Anyhow, ... uh ... in 1911 ... Mr. Ford had run a store ... uh, ... next to the old church....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... before ... uh, ... this present one was built. Uh, ... ^{he went} as is usually the case, when somebody follows ~~is~~ another man in as a merchant ... uh, ... I bought out his ... uh, ... tail end of his stock, you see?

out of business

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: When he was closing out. Sold the stock down and so on, and then probably buy out, buy the clothes out, a portion of it, for so much on a dollar. See?

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, I started there in 1911.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, ran the store there until nineteen ... uh, ... thirty, you might say, the tail end of twenty-nine, so on.

D.S.: What did you have in

M.H.: From eleven to thirty.

D.S.: What did you have in your store?

M.H.: EVERYTHING!

D.S.: Well, what is everything?

M.H.: Well, everything even took in a Millinery ... Uh, ... Department.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: In those days there was a Millinery ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... you know, ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... women hats?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, a Millinery .

D.S.: Did you have shoes?

M.H.: Well, I had a sister who made a good milliner, ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Sister Virginia. In fact, she and I are the only two left in our family today.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: And, In 1911 I bought out the tail end of V.H., Ford's ... uh, ... business, and started there and ran it until I'd say 'bout until 1930.

D.S.: Alright now, did you have shoes there?

M.H.: Have what?

D.S.: Shoes?

M.H.: Shoes? Aaah yea!

D.S.: And, did you have yard good?

M.H.: Oh, yes. Yea!

D.S.: Alright, now ...

M.H.: Had, ... in other words, did have groceries and millinery and everything that would go between ^{those} two items. Those two items

D.S.: Oooo. K.!

M.H.: ... which took in everything.

D.S.: Alright.

M.H.: When it was run, it was run. I ran it as a ^{cash} ~~cash~~ and trade store. For instance, I took in eggs, and butter, and dried apples and all that kind of things.

D.S.: Hams?

M.H.: Yea, ... uh, ...

D.S.: Chickens?

M.H.: Yea. Yea, ... uh, even took in chickens. And, ... uh, ...

D.S.: So, would mountian people come down to your store?

M.H.: Oh, everybody came there ...

D.S.: Could you tell a . . .

M.H.: ... from all around.

D.S.: Could you tell a mountain person from another?

M.H.: Well, I don't know if I could tell them if unless I, ... well, I learned,

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: For instance, like the Corbins, say ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Say, Woody and George Corbin as an example.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: I remember when, ... one time they came to town ... uh, *they had*
two little horses, I think, hitched to what was ordinarily
a one horse wagon.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Uh, ... which of course, had a ... It wasn't a spring
wagon, it was just one of the other kind of wagon that
... And, they had ... uh, ... meat.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Hogs ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... which ... uh, ... was butchered, I'd say, when they
didn't weight more than about a hundred pounds or a little
over, so on like that. That was probably raised nearly
altogether on acrons, you know?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Mountain doings.

D.S.: Yes.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, I bought that meat, you see?

D.S.: Can you recall how much you paid for that meat?

M.H.: I couldn't say for sure.

D.S.: Roughly?

M.H.: Well, ...

D.S.: Just an estimate.

M.H.: Take ... uh, ... all around for instance, the shoulders
and hams and sides all together. For instance, I think I
bought it that way, so much a pound ... for ... for ... for...
Of course, we'd ... uh, ... sell the hams for more than
the shoulders or the sides ...

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: ... and like that. But, I bought that meat, I'd say for twenty cents.

D.S.: A pound?

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: So, then what did they do then, buy from ... trade that?...

M.H.: Oh, yea.

D.S.: that for things like

M.H.: Yea. ... Well, for a great extent, yea.

D.S.: Or did they build up credit with you?

M.H.: They spent ... I forget now. ... At that time I had a money of my own.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Hitt's was a store which is a form of twenty-five, fifty, and a dollar piece.....

D.S.: Yes.

M.H.: ... about the size of a quarter or a little bigger, or something like that.

D.S.: Chips, they called them, didn't they?

M.H.: Huh?

D.S.: Chips. Did they call them chips?

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, that was ... I'd give that ... I'd run as cash and trade. For instance, I'd give that in place of money to people that I bought a lot of things from.

D.S.: Sure. And, then they could use that when they came back to the store.

M.H.: They came and used it the same as money.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... in my store.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Did most of the mountain people come by horse or did any of them walk here?

M.H.: No, I think they came by horse ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... as far as I know.

D.S.: Then there were hitching posts around?

M.H.: Oh, yea.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh, ...

M.H.: There were hitching post at certain places on Main Street.

D.S.: Did you ever find that the mountain people would buy things and couldn't pay for them?

M.H.: No. No, I never .. No, I never credited anybody that I didn't get any money from. But, ... I ... uh, ... My ... my ... uh, ... but, my store went as cash or trade.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: I didn't keep accounts. See?

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

M.H.: Others, ... some merchants, of course, kept accounts and all that kind of things....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... but, I did not.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, that away it was ... it was ... uh, ... the matter of

the use ... of a ... of that money of my own ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... for instance ...

D.S.: Yea. Right.

M.H.: ... I would give ^{for} trade.

D.S.: How much were shoes at that time, do you recall? A pair of shoes?

M.H.: Yea. A pair of shoes, oooh! Huh! Well, of course it depended on the quality and this, that, and other, and so on. But, anyhow, then ... you remember. You don't remember, but then was such a thing of a woman shoes with a top that come up like this

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... and buttoned.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

M.H.: A buttoned shoe.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, most women wore shoes then ... instead of what we call slippers.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Sure. Uhhuh.

M.H.: That was back there ... uh, ... when that was a custom.

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: There was a button shoe, for instance, or a women shoes and some different size heels and all that kind of thing.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea, ... so on.

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Did they buy many yard goods?

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea?

M.H.: Yea, I sold quite a lot of calico gingham or calico percale.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: For instance, calico was twenty-four inches wide and-a, it was bolted, wrapped double. Uh, ... uh, ... percale was a yard wide.

D.S.: Huh!

M.H.: Gingham was mostly twenty-seven inches ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... but all that kind of all of those, for instance. Sold a great deal of that in a lot.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: People did a lot of their own sewing, you know?

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: Dresses and so on out of calico ...

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: ... percale and gingham.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, then of course, others ... uh, ... liked wool goods, or part wool, and all like that.

D.S.: How about overalls, did the mountain people buy their overalls or make them?

M.H.: Well, mostly bought them. But, you could buy a good, a pretty good overall back there, at one time, for a dollar.

D.S.: WOW!

M.H.: Believe it or not.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I know. ... I know there was a overall called Allen, Allen's Overall, was made in North Carolina, I think. Somewhere, made in the South, and-a, and I remember selling those overalls. And, you could buy overalls with a bib, Bib Overalls, of course there were bib overalls ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... and then without a bib too, ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: But, ... the (Laughed)

D.S.: When these mountain people came down, were they dressed differently from the other people?

M.H.: I don't think so, to a great extent, except they were dressed very plain.

D.S.: Were they men shavened?

M.H.: Huh?

D.S.: Were the men shavened?

M.H.: Men? (Laughed) Not altogether, no. I think there were more beards then than there is today.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. I oftene~~d~~ wondered if the men did shave. Did some of them?

M.H.: Well, ... well, ... uh, ... Huh! Well, (Laughed) some did, I think to some extent.

D.S.: Unhuh. Did ...

M.H.: But, it was more that wore a beard.

D.S.: Did any of the Nicholsons come down?

M.H.: Who?

D.S.: Nicholsons.

M.H.: Nichols or Nicholsons, yea.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea, I remember that name ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... some by that name, ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... people by that name.

D.S.: How about people from Tanners Ridge, did they come to you?

M.H.: Tanners Ridge? Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Would they walk?

M.H.: Oh, I don't know. Huh! Probably some of them did that didn't have any other way.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: No, I'm ... I'm most sure that some of them did.

D.S.: Yea. They thought nothing of walking.

M.H.: Huh?

D.S.: They didn't think anything of walking?

M.H.: No! Heck, no indeed.

D.S.: Uh, ...

M.H.: Keep on a waling. (Laughing)

D.S.: Yea. Uh, ...

M.H.: That's like the doctor told me when a few years ago, I got into a wreck on Main Street and I was put in, put in the bed. And, I had this leg in a cast where my ankle, ... this right ankle was splintered, ... and for five weeks I layed with that ankle in that cast. And, anyhow, a little later when I ... uh, ... was able to ^{BEAR} bare a little weight on it and walk with a walker, you know? Uh, ...
(Laughed)

D.S.: Boy!

M.H.: ... the doctor told me, ... uh, ... when I got a good deal better and so forth and so on. He told me to keep on a walking. (Laughing)

D.S.: Yea. Just to keep walking, right. (Laughed)

M.H.: Keep walking.

D.S.: Your father had a store, didn't he?

M.H.: Oh, yea! He had a store off and on. Uh, for ... oh well, when I was ... say from ... I always said for most boys ... had a time of play .

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: I ... from about seven years on didn't have a time of play.

D.S.: Ooooh!

M.H.: See? For instance, uh, ... there on Main Street now, on the West side of the bridge ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... on the South side of the street from the ... from the brick building up here, which is an office building now and a flower, florist, flowers and so on.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Uh, ... there was a dwelling house next to that, toward the creek, ... and then from the dwelling house on toward to the creek there wasn't any buildings.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, my Father built a ..., a store room there that just had a thirty foot front. ... Thirty foot front and then a porch. A porch to go out to the boardwalk. There use to be a boardwalk from that corner up there ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... clear to the bridge.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, that was the time when it was a wooden bridge and a iron bridge and then the present bridge, see?

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, at this time ... uh, ... when this store room was first built, ... thirty foot front and only went back twenty feet. See? But, followed the boardwalk, had a *wide* porch ... filled ... filled in all that and so on. And, ... uh, ... what?

D.S.: Did you have to take care of the storeroom?

M.H.: Oh, yea. When ... I worked. I had ..., I didn't have play time.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: That's right. And, I did ... uh, ...

D.S.: Did you ever help in your father's store?

M.H.: Oh! ... (Laughed) that's what I did.

D.S.: O. K. . Now, ...

M.H.: Yea, I spent, as I say, ... uh, ... for instance ... uh, ...

uh, ... up the creek, ... a couple of hundred yards from the house, there the road goes on around that way, ... there's a swimming hole up there, you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Where the boys went in swimming...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... and so like that. Well, uh, ... I'd like to get up there myself, you know?

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: But, (Laughing) I didn't have the off time, you might say.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right.

M.H.: That most of them had that could to there and go in and all like that, and so on.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: But, I was kept pretty close to this... To this Confectionery Store that my Father built there and so,, and ran for a certain number of years.

D.S.: Did any mountain people come to this Confectionery Store?

M.H.: Well, ... (Laughed) I think everybody did. One thing, ... that we had there, ... that my Father kind of specialized in was ... uh, ... high grade peanuts. He bought the best big peanuts you could buy. Come out of Baltimore, of course, in one hundred pound sacks.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: See?

M.H.: And, they were roasted in a big roaster where all of them were exactly alike, you know? They weren't roasted, for instance, up town ^{WITH} where a store would have a little roaster, you know, roast a gallon or two at a time, at a time you know?

Where a lot a little bit burnt and another lot wouldn't be quite roasted enough.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: All that kind of thing. ... But, these peanuts were ... uh, ... were roasted ... uh, ... in a big roaster that roasted a whole hundred pound sack at a time and they were always perfection. See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, ... we had a galvanized iron ... a ... whatever you want to call it, thing made. Made about this deep, ... about that wide, and about that long, and set up, you know, high enough, and about that deep. Then he put those peanuts on there and had a lamp underneath to warm *them*.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... to heat them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: When a peanut goes tough, you can't bring it back.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: See? You know like that? Well, we had a system that when he would get a sack of them peanuts, he had a double barrel. What I mean by that, a big sugar barrel in those days and then a flour barrel was smaller. So, the flour barrel was put in the sugar barrel and all around between the two was filled with slack lime, to keep it prefectally dry, you see.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And-a ... uh, ... he would get those peanuts out of Baltimore and-a ... keep them then in this Sales box, you might say, or Sales stand ... Sold for so much a cup. The cup was between a pint and a quart.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, he had on ... on part of this galvanized, uh, ...
contraption, so on ... "Best You Ever Eat".

D.S.: (Laughed) Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea. So, the question was ^{WHETHER} ~~weather~~ that was correct.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Weather it ought to be "The Best You Ever Eat" or
"The Best You Ever Ate"?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: So there was some question. (Laughing) So, our ... our
preacher, Mr. ^{KENARD} Garbo, was a Baptist Preacher, and he was
a educated man and so some said we'll ask Mr. ^{KENARD} Garbo if
that is correct or not.

D.S.: (Laughing)

M.H.: (Laughing) "Best You Ever Eat"; or if it should be "The
Best You Ever Ate"? He said, I reckon that's been the
best you ever eat when you're eating them. (LAUGHING!)

D.S.: Yea. (Laughed)

M.H.: So, that's one of them old things, you know? (Laughing)

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: That happens in a life time, you know.

D.S.: Yea. Right. You know, one question I was wondering ...
You mentioned George Corbin ...

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: ... and the Nicholsons.

D.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Now, did ever they bring any moonshine down to your store?

M.H.: No.

D.S.: No?

M.H.: Huh-un. Not, that I knowed of.

D.S.: Well, you would have known.

M.H.: Well, I say not ... Not, they didn't.

D.S.: You never took that in trade?

M.H.: Huh-un. No, indeed. No, they never offered that to me.

D.S.: Did the Corbins ever bring any baskets to you?

M.H.: Baskets?

D.S.: They use to make baskets.

M.H.: No. The baskets that came to town was from over here in the Massanutten, by the people of the name of Cooks ... and ... Cooks and Nicholson. Nicholsons.

M.H.: Cooks and Nicholsons over in Massanutten made baskets of all different kind and all, and came ... sold them in town.

D.S.: Would you ever buy any of those? Did you ever buy any of those?

M.H.: Oh, yea. Yea.

D.S.: Did the Atkins. ... Atkins from around Thornton Gap ever come down?

M.H.: Atkins?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: No, ... I don't remember people by the name of Atkins, in ... You said Thornton Gap?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: That's in ... that's in the Blue Ridge?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea. Atkins? No, I don't remember knowing any....

D.S.: O. K..

M.H.: ...people from that section.

D.S.: Alright. Did any of the mountain people buy hats from you?

M.H.: Buy what?

D.S.: Hats?

M.H.: Hats? Huh. (Laughed) What do you mean, women?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Oh, I think they did. ... Probably, ... because when we had a millinery department ... uh, ... from 1911, from that period of time and on for some time later ... and so on. Why, ... uh, ... it was ... aaah, it was customary for women, all to wear hats.

D.S.: So, then the women would come down from ^{the} mountains too?

M.H.: Yea. Yea! Well, I thing ... (Laughed) as well as I can remember ... uh, ... why at that time women's hats were very important.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I know everyone had to ^{be} different from every other one.

D.S.: Yea. (Laughed)

M.H.: You know?

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: For my sister... trimmed hasts especially ... then. Armstrong Carter was wholesale people in Baltimore ... I bought the hat frames ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ...and hats, and ribbons, flowers, feathers, and all that stuff, you know?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: To trim the hats.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: See? I remember that.

D.S.: If children came along with their parents, how did the children act? Would they run wild all over the store?

M.H.: Oh, I don't think so. Huh-un.

D.S.: Huh-un. Were they different from children today?

M.H.: I don't think so.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: To a great extent, I think.

D.S.: Well, children today are pretty wild.

M.H.: The only thing is, that is there more of them then was barefooted.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I know that my Mother would never let me take my shoes off to go barefooted until May came, you see?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: For instance, no matter how warm it got in April and so on don't go barefooted until May. (Laughing)

D.S.: Right. (Laughed)

M.H.: Because ... which is

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... just a custom you know?

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: I mean, that was a key time to start to go barefooted.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: Because you probably wouldn't have any really cold weather anymore.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Which it would be too cool to go barefooted.

D.S.: You were telling me , before we started this that you had been up there at Skyland working

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.:for several month~~s~~

M.H.: Yea. That was ...

D.S.: Would you tell about what kind of work you did and what all went on?

M. H.: Oh, that was when Pollock was really enlarging. ... Uh, ... for instance, ... he ... he put a tall tower, windmill down at the spring.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, then built ... We built ... a ... a wooden reservoir, you might say, back ~~where~~ where the kitchen and dinning room of his resort was. That was higher than the rest of the ... of the ~~tank~~ ^{CAMP}, you see?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, then ran a line from down at the spring up to that, ... uh, ... to that tank.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: A large wooden tank. I wouldn't know just how much ^{water} that tank would hold, but I'd say eight or ten ... Oh, it was at least ten feet ... uh, ... through and so high and holds thousands of gallons.

D.S.: So, you'd go up on a Monday morning?

M.H.: Go up on a Monday morning.

D.S.: Would you walk up?

M.H.: Uh, ... No, we ... Well now, tell the truth, I believe we did. A feller in Luray, that ran a Delivery Stable, by the name of Emerson ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... and, he had a stable at the foot of the mountain.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: We would ride up to the foot of the mountains and walk the rest of the way up.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: That was the old way ... old road up, of course ...

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: ... before the drive was ever made.

D.S.: Did you ever stay there for any of his parties,.... that he had?

M.H.: No. No, I don't believe I ... I don't believe so. I know he had ... I know he had a dance hall.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: And, you never stayed to any parties?

M.H.: No. Once in awhile he'd put on something in the ^{DINING ROOM} ~~Dance hall~~.
I forget now how that was. Huh!

D.S.: Did you have much chance to talk to any of his guest?
Any of the people that stayed there?

M.H.: Well, he ... a ... Let's see now, ... he had a, I'm trying

to think. ... Mrs. Boyd, I think. B-O-Y-D.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Mrs. Boyd was like ... a house keeper, or as soon as I think she was some kin to Pollock, anyhow, she had a son or two.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And-a, ... one of them was about my age and I would talk with and all like that.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Uh, ...

D.S.: Did you ever see any of the people who lived near, the mountain people who lived near Skyland?

M.H.: Oh yea, ... there was some that worked for Pollock.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Can you think of any?

M.H.: Yea, there was a feller named Parks.

D.S.: Right. Sam Parks.

M.H.: Parks worked for Pollock a lot.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: Well, anyhow, when Pollock was building some, ah.. cottages and-a ... a ... a certain number of carpenters was working there, building these cottages and bath houses and different things that he was improving with, you know, at a certain period of time, so on. Uh, ... It was one carpenter ... uh, ... who was, ... I lost his name. One carpenter ... was known as doctor, ... it wasn't Long. ... Doctor, somebody ... (Laughing)

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... I can't think, I just can't think of the name.
Anyhow, Doctor ... and, ... He liked his boozes right well,
you know?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: So, of course, he got in touch, I suppose, where he could
get all he wanted.

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: I imagine ... Uh, ... Well, ain't that funny how I lost
his name?

D.S.: Well, that's alright.

M.H.: Well, anyhow, ... he ...

D.S.: Would he go down to the houses?

M.H.: Would he what?

D.S.: Would he go to the houses, to ^{get} the ... moonshines?

M.H.: Oh, ... I suppose he could get it easily. Uh, ... did I
mention a feller that worked for Pollock by the names
of Parks?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Sam Parks. ...

N,H,L Well anyhow, Doctor so and so would get a little boozes,
you know and a ... I remember he and Parks fell out.

D.S.: Oh?

M.H.: That was the thing.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: He and Parks ... fell out and ... uh, ... (Laughed) he carried a pistol around with him, and all that kind of thing, you know? Uh, ... Uh, ... to scare Parks, I suppose and so on and ... Uh, ... What did he ... (Laughed) ... Oh!

D.S.: Did he ever shoot Parks?

M.H.: No, he didn't shoot him. But, what I was trying to think of ... uh, ... what he called Parks ... uh, in relationship to himself.

D.S.: Oh? Uhhuh.

M.H.: Oh, he said he was a full blooded so and so.

D.S.: (Laughing)

M.H.: This doctor, what you call him ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... told Parks he was, ... And, told Parks he was a scub. (LAUGHING!)

D.S.: (Laughing)

M.H.: Parks had sense enough that made him mad, you know?

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: (Laughing) Oh, Doctor Walker.

D.S.: Doctor Walker?

M.H.: Walk~~er~~.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: W-A-L-K-E-R, was his name.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Doctor Walker, ... he was a carpenter up there that summer at that time, and so on. He told Parks. ...

D.S.: Did you ...

M.H.: ... told Parks that he was a full blooded, whatever he called himself and told Parks he was a scub. (LAUGHING!)

D.S.: (Laughing)

M.H.: So, that's the reason he carried a pistol, to protect himself from Parks. (Laughing)

D.S.: Oh, that's great.

M.H.: But, it wasn't any shooting done at him.

D.S.: Did you ever see Fletcher?

M.H.: Fletcher?

D.S.: Fletcher. The outlaw, Fletcher.

M.H.: Huh?

D.S.: The outlaw Fletcher, who lived near Stoneyman.

M.H.: No, I don't know if I ever heard of him.

D.S.: Pollock talked about him a lot in his book.

M.H.: Yea?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, that was somebody that ... that Pollock, of course, knew. It might have been a character that lived there and all like that.

D.S.: Did you ever see ... uh, ... Charlie Sisk?

M.H.: Charlie ~~who?~~

D.S.: Sisk.

M.H.: Sisk? I think so.

D.S.: He was a big man, wasn't he?

M.H.: Yea, ... I think so. There were Sisks up there.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: He was a stone mason.

M.H.: I expect he was, and so on.

D.S.: Do you remember him at all?

M.H.: Well, not personally . What I mean, I can't, there's

nothing special I can remember about him.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: But, that name is familiar to me.

D.S.: Yea. Yea.

M.H.: That name Sisk.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How long did you work up there?

M.H.: Oh, nearly all of ... of one summer.

D.S.: How much money did you get?

M.H.: I was working for Frank Stover, who was putting up, as I said, these improvements, you know?

D.S.: Yea. How much money did you earn that summer?

M.H.: Oh, I (Laughed) ... I don't ... I couldn't even tell you what I was even paid, I just don't remember.

D.S.: (Laughing)

M.H.: Tell you the truth, I don't know what I was paid. No, sir.

D.S.: Did you enjoy it up there?

M.H.: Very much.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea, it was just at a time ...

D.S.: Did you ever take time to go visit any of the mountain people while you were up there?

M.H.: No.

D.S.: No?

M.H.: No, I don't believe so.

D.S.: You never went in ^{to} Park's house? It was near.

M.H.: No, I don't believe so.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever go to Big Meadows?

M.H.: Uh, ... Big Meadows. What do you mean, at the time was there?

D.S.: When you ~~was~~ ^{were} a boy?

M.H.: When I was up at Stoneyman?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Well, I don't remember anything being at Big Meadows then.

D.S.: Cattle?

M.H.: Of course, there was.

D.S.: There were cattle there?

M.H.: Cattle?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Oh, yea!

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Yea.

M.H.: It was then cattle there and there was a ... It was a man, ... lived here up about Marksville named Koontz ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... that owned ... uh, ... some ground up at Big Meadow.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, each year he would raise cabbage and he would have a mountain of cabbages like that.

D.S.: Sssssh.

M.H.: And, I remember Koontz use to have customers in town that a certain time in the fall ... he would bring wagon loads of cabbages to town and sell to these people to make kraut. See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: That he raised up on the mountain.

D.S.: Mmmmmum.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Gosh!

M.H.: And, I'm sure he had cattle up there.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Koontz did, I think.

D.S.: Hey, speaking of that, did people that ... Mountain people that used your store, would they bring cabbages to you?

M.H.: No. ... I ...

D.S.: Huckleberries?

M.H.: No. ... Huckleberries headquarters was at Stanley. Stanley use to ship piles of huckleberries.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: That was closer to the mountain people who picked huckleberries, or gathered huckleberries and all.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And-a, I remember that from Stanley lots of huckleberries were shipped to Washington or somewhere, wherever they shipped them!

D.S.: Yea. O.K..

M.H.: The huckleberries.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: You know the best way to pick huckleberries?

D.S.: How?

M.H.: Take a umbrella, open it up and lay it down and shake the ... (Laughing)

D.S.: Really?

M.H.: ... shake the vines over the umbrella, you know, and gather ... the huckleberries. ^{Then} Get them in the container the best way you can. (Laughing)

D.S.: Is that a good way to do it?

M.H.: Yea. (Laughing)

D.S.: It doesn't bruise them then?

M.H.: No. No.

D.S.: And, it saves picking each one individually then, doesn't it?

M.H.: Well, it's slow-go picking them ... in a sense.

D.S.: Mmmmm.

M.H.: They are small and all like that.

D.S.: Yea. Yea.

M.H.: Very slow-go.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: (Laughing) Yea.

D.S.: Did you ever hear of any problems that the mountain people had ... uh, ... like did you, just talk around town, you know? ... Like ... would you hear like Oh, the Sheriff had to go up there in the mountains on anything of that kind?

M.H.: Oh, ... I know when Pine Grove ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: You know where Pine Grove is?

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: And, the Episcopalian have a ^{MISSION} meeting there ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... and , all like that. I know when Pine Grove had a pretty bad reputation.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, one thing that I think was the ... uh, ... Episcopal Mission project aim was to kind-of to civilize Pine Grove.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: And, they did too, didn't they?

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, they did.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: And-a, ... Yea.

D.S.: I was just wondering ...

M.H.: And, before, ... before that Mission was set up and built there, I was just trying to think. Can you remember the lady that was there, ... I can't think of her *NAME*.

D.S.: Deconess Hutton.

M.H.: Hutton? Deconess Hutton, that's right.

D.S.: She's still there.

M.H.: Oh, you can't tell me!

D.S.: She is still there!

M.H.: Is that so!

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, I haven't heard anything about Pine Grove in recent years and so on. But, Deconess Hutton, I knew her.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Uhhuh. (Laughed) Huh!

D.S.: A beautiful woman.

M.H.: Yes, indeed!

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Oh, yes indeed. Huh!

D.S.: Yea. ... Uh, ... I was just thinking ...

M.H.: Well, that changed that place, that locality and all.

M.H.: The people from there, I think was very much changed.

D.S.: Yea, they were.

M.H.: After that was established ...

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: ... and so on.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, no ^{doubt} ~~doubt~~ about that.

D.S.: How about Jewell Hollow. Did you hear of any problems in Jewell Hollow?

M.H.: Well, I heard of Jewell Hollow, but I do not know. I'm not familiar with any certain thing about any conditions ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... and so on. But, ...

D.S.: Mountain fires. Was there many mountain fires that you remembered?

M.H.: Oh yea, we use to see mountain fires quite often.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea. ... Do you think they were set deliberately?

M.H.: Uh, ... it was claimed, I think, to some extent, that at a certain time of year ^{There} they were some of those fires were set, ... to clear^v up for huckleberry time.

D.S.: Right. Do you recall what time of year that was?

M.H.: Well, I can't ... I imagine it was in the ... uh, ... setting the fires ... was the ... must have been in the Fall before the Spring growth. Beginning of the growth of the huckleberries.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Well, I know it was claimed ... to some extent, that some of these fires were set in order to clean off for the growth of huckleberries.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea, if it was true or not. It might have been true to some extent ...

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: ... I expect it was.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Well, I know we use to see mountain fires quite often ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... but, in recent years you don't see them anymore.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I mean, some years back there hasn't been any that I know of.

D.S.: No. No. ... Did, ... I just happened to think. Did you have nails and things like that in your store?

M.H.: Nails? Yea.

D.S.: Did the mountain people buy nails?

M.H.: Well, (Laughed) I think they did when they had some nailing to do. (LAUGHING)

D.S.: Yea. Did they buy axes and stuff of that kind?

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Saws?

M.H.: Oh, yea. ... Yea.

D.S.: Huh!

M.H.: Hardware.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: If they brought in a dozen of eggs to you, how much did you give them for it?

M.H.: Oh, I just don't remember exactly. ... I know when I use to buy butter, of course this wasn't from mountain people, but country people around. Uh, ... I bought a good deal of butter. I bought butter as cheap as fifteen cents a pound.

D.S.: Will you go back in business, please! (Laughed)

M.H.: (Laughed) Yea.

D.S.: Huh!

M.H.: Uh, ... butter. ... And, it use to be a lot of country butter made, but it's not today, you see?

D.S.: No.

M.H.: But, it use to be.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Because, ... uh, ... uh, .. it's just like the ... I know when I was growing up, for instance, where did I buy milk? I bought it where, ... from whoever was the closest who had a cow.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: See?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Now milk is two dollars a gallon, ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... then it was twenty cents.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: It was better too.

M.H.: We bought ... We ... bought milk for five cents a quart,

Now, it is two dollars a gallon, fifty cents a quart.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: (Laughing) But, that's ... uh, ... come about more or less quite recent and still it has been some time since you could buy... uh, ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... buy milk from the closest cow ...

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: ... that you could find.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I know my ...

D.S.: Did you ever know of the mountain people eating any beef?

M.H.: Eating any beef?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Oh, I don't know. Huh! I guess, ... I don't know how it was years back, ... seems like to me it was a set up custom when a ... a farmer would butcher a beef that he would have sales in some way for portions of it, you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

M.H.: You could buy ... uh, ...

D.S.: When you were little ...

M.H.: You could buy beef. ... You could buy beef, for instance, in ... they would, ... they would ... uh, ... saw it up ... and-a, ... and freeze it for you and so on. You could buy it to put in your own freezer.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: That's the point I was making. A few years back, I

hadn't heard any of that going on lately, but I don't know why. Weather it is any law to prohibit it or anything or not. But, I mean a few years back ...

D.S.: Mmmum.

M.H.: ... it use to be that you could, ... uh, ... uh, ... at times buy ... uh, ... beef that was prepared to put in your freezer.

D.S.: When you were a young man, very young

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: ... did you ever hike through the mountains?

M.H.: No.

D.S.: No?

M.H.: No, I don't think so.

D.S.: You never?

M.H.: The most hiking that I did was, ... was the year that I worked up there.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Yea. ... Well, there use ... I guess they still are, mountain trails.

D.S.: There is. Yes.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea, it's still there.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Mountain trails where some organization, sometime out of Washington, for instance, ^{SAN} see ... will start on a mountain trail with the object of going certain distances, so forth.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Spend certain time on a hike. See?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: A bunch of them, for instance.

D.S.: Well, the trail~~s~~ up to Skyland is still there from where the Delivery Stables were.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. *end track 01*
I was wondering, didn't you
ever go into a mountain home?

M.H.: See, a going in a mountain home and describing somewhat the condions were there.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I just don't have that experience.

D.S.: O. K..

M.H.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Alright.

M.H.: But, it would be a very ... uh, ... I mean I could enjoy, ... uh, ... to some extent ... uh, haveing that experience.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Going in some of those mountain homes, ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... and, ... knowing just how things went on.

D.S.: Right.

M.H.: What they had in there ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... uh, what kind of housekeeper they were. But, I'll tell you one thing in connection with that. Is THAT, you can't tell, as far as people's wealth or lack of wealth is ~~concerned~~
concerned a concept who is a good housekeeper.

D.S.: No.

M.H.: You know that?

D.S.: Uhhuh. (Laughed) Uhhuh.

M.H.: Because I been in a few, a couple, at least, of ... uh, ... houses of very poor people and-a, ... ^{there} ~~it~~ was a good housekeeper there ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: ... and things weresspic and span.

D.S.: Uhhuh..

M.H.: And, you go into another one probably it that looked like you would expect things to be at least ^{entirely} descent, why (Laughed) you find anything else but. (Laughed)

D.S.: That's true.

M.H.: Yes, sir.

D.S.: Very true.

M.H.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: I know that. (Laughed)

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

M.H.: You can find that, of course you don't have to go to the mountains. (Laughing)

D.S.: You don't, you're right. People are people. (Laughing)

M.H.: Yea, that's right.

D.S.: Well, is there anything that you can think of that I have not asked you.

M.H.: (Laughing) Oh, I guess it is a whole lot, but I wouldn't know what. (Laughing)

D.S.: You have been wonderful. ... You are ... You have done so much for us, you don't know how much you have done.

M.H.: Oh! Well, I'm just trying ... I'm just trying to answer a few questions, that's all. (Laughing)

D.S.: Oh, you have helped us tremendously.

M.H.: Oh.

D.S.: I just wished you could remember how much a pair of shoes cost.

M.H.: Oh, ... what you mean, women shoes?

D.S.: Men shoes?

M.H.: Men shoes. ... Well, ... I ... I can say this from experience, ... that a ... I can remember when five dollars was a right high price for a pair of men's shoes.

D.S.: Yea! Yea!

M.H.: Was thought to be, ... you know, a high price.

D.S.: I have heard some of them say it was a dollar and a quarter.

M.H.: Oh well, you could buy ... uh, ... you could buy shoes back there that was very sorry. (Laughing) And-a, for instance, that would have what we called paper or paste board insoles, ...

D.S.: Oh?

M.H.: ... or something like that, you know?

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: And, you would buy them very cheap.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: I remember ... I had a store and sold shoes, of course, and I remember selling a feller, ... uh, ... Gil Grove, who lived up the country here, a pair of shoes ... for a very cheap price. I don't remember what, but, they were very sorry shoes. (Laughing)

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: They were very cheap, very sorry shoes.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: Well anyhow, they didn't wear very good.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: And, he bought them at a price when he couldn't expect them to wear. (Laughing)

D.S.: Yea. And, he had money.

M.H.: Yea! Yea!

D.S.: That feller had money.

M.H.: Yea, he ought of known that those shoes weren't going to wear very well, That then had in what we called paper shoes or card board insoles or, ... I mean on insoles or ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... or what we called paper soles. Paper insoles and so on. But, ...

D.S.: He had a cattle farm up near Skyland ... He had a cattle farm up ... uh, ... beyond ... up in the mountain up Rocky Branch.

M.H.: Gil Grove. Yea, Gil Grove was well to do.

D.S.: And, he had a big farm here.

M.H.: His son lives up there now, is one of the richest... uh, ... men around here.

D.S.: Morris.

M.H.: Yes, Morris. ... Morris and, what is her name?

D.S.: Frances.

M.H.: Huh?

D.S.: Frances.

M.H.: Frances, yea. Morris and Frances, I haven't seen those two people for a couple of years, I don't know for how long, so. ... I don't know, I use to see them quite often and so on. But, they go to the Regular Baptist Church which built a very nice church South of town ...

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: ... on 340, you know?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.H.: Now, when they ... uh, ... attended church over here in town I seen them right often because I'd go there quite often.

D.S.: Yea.

M.H.: So, I'd see them. But, I haven't seen them, I don't expect in four or five years.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Well, they are fine.

M.H.: I'll have to have to go up there to church to see some of those old friends.

D.S.: Sure.

M.H.: (Laughing) Yea.

D.S.: Well, I sure do ...

M.H.: I hadn't seen for awhile.

D.S.: I thank-you .. I thank-you so very, very much.